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I have tried to group all references to a topic in the place where it first occurs, but this is not always possible. Don't forget that there may always be other references to it elsewhere.

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PROGRESS

A History of BLACKPOOL, the FYLDE, and SOUTH WYRE

By

Nick Moore

"A Chronology of Britain's BEST Holiday Resort and its environs"

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Nick Moore
Westby-with-Plumptons, Blackpool

April 2020

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CONTENTS

Foreword

Introduction

CHAPTERS:

1. Pre-history

2. Pre-Roman Times

3. The Romans: 55 BCE to 410 CE

4. The Dark Ages: 410 to 1066

5. The Middle Ages: 1066 to 1493

6. 16th century

7. 17th century

8. 18th century

9. 19th century

10. 20th century

11. 21st century

12. The Future

APPENDICES

Appendix A. Firsts and Bests

Appendix B. Well-known "Sandgrown'uns"

Appendix C. Local Fauna

Appendix D. Ghostly sightings

Appendix E. Translation of Domesday Book names

©

Appendix F.	**Blackpools around the World**
Appendix G.	**Local School Mottos (and internal houses)**
Appendix H.	**Knights and Peers**
Appendix I.	**Listed Buildings**
Appendix J.	**Blackpool's famous four pubs**
Appendix K.	**Mayors and MPs**
Appendix L.	**Famous Ex-pupils of Local Secondary Schools**
Appendix M.	**Famous people buried or cremated locally**
Appendix N.	**Managers of Blackpool Football Club**
Appendix O.	**Blackpool Illuminations - Who switched them on?**
Appendix P.	**Songs and tunes written about Blackpool**
Appendix Q.	**Statues and Sculptures**
Appendix R.	**Who was Mister Blackpool?**
Appendix S.	**Filmed about or in Blackpool, Fylde, and Wyre**
Appendix T.	**Winners of the Blackpool Dance Championships (Professionals)**
Appendix U.	**Sections stationed at RAF Squires Gate and HMS Nightjar (Inskip) during World War 2**
Appendix V.	**Second World War fortifications around Blackpool and Fylde**
Appendix W.	**Air crashes and bombs dropped in Blackpool and the Fylde during World War 2**
Appendix X.	**Honorary Freemen and Aldermen**
Appendix Y.	**Winners of local Beauty Contests and Gala and Rose Queens**
Appendix Z.	**List of Local Blue Plaques**
Appendix AA.	**Local Brass bands and when they were formed**
Appendix BB.	**Local Lifeboats**

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Appendix CC. HMS Blackpool, HMS Ribble, HMS Fleetwood, HMS Singleton

Appendix DD. Mileposts/Milestones in the area

Appendix EE. Pre-Roman relics in the area

Appendix FF. Roman relics in the area

Appendix GG. War Memorials in Blackpool

Appendix HH. Blackpool Clubs

Appendix II. Halstead Best buildings in the area

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

BIBLIOGRAPHY

I dedicate this work to my dear dad and "gentle giant" Charlie Moore who left us on the 20th of December 1995, and my lovely mum Frances Moore, who sadly passed away on the 12th of April 2014.
You were my strength and inspiration. I MISS YOU BOTH xxx

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Foreword

This work is the result of over fifteen years of research on my part. It is a factual and chronological history of the Fylde coast and its towns, focussing primarily upon Blackpool. It is a **FREE** learning resource.

I have verified as much as possible, as some original material was "enhanced" by vivid imaginations. I contacted many people, and most were free with their knowledge, but some were just unhelpful, pompous, and critical. Where is the sense in being an "expert" and not sharing your knowledge? Nor is my work full of stuffy, pseudo-clever analysis, as I see no point confusing the people one is trying to enlighten. Some information was contradictory and rather spurious, so I researched tirelessly to make my data as accurate as possible. I have checked out several long-held assertions, which I consider dubious. For example, several mentions of Marton clearly refer to various other Martons in North Yorkshire, Cumbria, or Cheshire, but were wrongly interpreted as referring to Marton on the Fylde. Similar errors have been made concerning Bispham near Southport, Blackpool Bridge in Devon, and Thornton in Yorkshire. Other, older, references to halls, manors, granges, and houses referred to other places.

Facebook groups covering local history have allowed me to get pointers towards researching certain gaps in my knowledge, and my thanks certainly go to all their contributors.

"To steal ideas from one person is plagiarism. To steal from many is research".

It is not designed to be a printed book, as any index would have to have to be the same size as the main work! It is an Internet-based, searchable document, in PDF format, and is **FREELY** accessible by anyone. Blackpool Borough's Local History Centre also has a bound copy. Simply use the search facility of the PDF software and you will be taken to the item.

Places outside Blackpool are separated within years by a line of "~~~~~~~~~~ ". I have used the A6 Trunk Road as the boundary of the "district" of the title, as this is thought by many to be the edge of the Fylde itself. I have also only ventured north of the River Wyre as far as Cockersand. The traditional Fylde had an eastern limit on an imaginary line from Freckleton to Cockerham.

After suffering from serious depression and anxiety for many years, I needed to stimulate my mind. This work was easily the most therapeutic thing I have done. It got my mind working again, and I recommend it to anyone. Sadly, recent work was severely affected by Osteoarthritis, so please excuse any typing errors, as my hands no longer work very well. My dear wife, Christine, kindly helped with more recent typing.

I have tried not to plagiarise anything, and I have acknowledged in the bibliography **every** book consulted. A great deal of original research was done by those authors, but I have added to that considerably with my own efforts, trying not to use hearsay. **ALL** direct quotes from other works and people are in *"italic type"* within parentheses. The document is already used and acknowledged as a source of reference by many authors of books and learned papers on the area – **EXACTLY** what I intended.

As a historical record, the work contains some words which are not "politically correct" nowadays. I happily repeat these here, as they are a legitimate indicator of what was acceptable at the time. It is NOT our job to censor the real world, or the past – it happened – **live with it**. Those facts are already our history and must not be hidden!

Nick Moore, Peel, Westby-with-Plumptons, **April 2020**

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Introduction

Blackpool. It is not just a seaside resort, it's THE Seaside Resort, and a way of life. Since it first set out its collective stall to attract visitors to the Fylde coast, Blackpool has led the way in tourist attractions - and where Blackpool has led, the others have followed.

The Fylde and Wyre coast does not simply provide Blackpool with a beautiful countryside backdrop. They actively have their own history, life, and customs - and produce people, crops, and other goods to support the whole of the area.

Early Blackpool was a tiny scatter of cottages, but even in those early days, the focus was on persuading people to stay here. The attraction of the sea air, seawater, and (usually) mild weather was soon realised by those first inhabitants, and they quickly began offering places for visitors to stay; first in their own homes and then in purpose-built lodging houses and hotels. Once those visitors had been snared, they needed entertaining, and again Blackpool was not slow in the uptake. Bowling greens, carriage rides, beach walks, fairgrounds, minstrels, and the like were offered. Then, indoor entertainment centres were constructed to accommodate the increasing number of hotel guests and day-trippers – nothing seemed to be impossible for Blackpool. During the 100 years from 1860 to 1960, Blackpool became Britain's biggest and brightest holiday destination. The first true working-class resort.

Sadly, Blackpool has never been entirely self-sufficient, as it has never had the essential infrastructure of manufacturing and industry. As it needs to import such things from elsewhere in Lancashire, it became a service-led town, and almost solely dependent upon the tourism industry for its survival. Visitors to Blackpool contribute £1.33 billion to the local economy, supporting about 24,000 local jobs, and Blackpool is almost wholly reliant on domestic visitors. Only about 1% of its 17 million visitors each year come from outside Britain.

It is a proven fact that more than 2/3 of Britons have visited Blackpool in their lifetime.

The growth of foreign package holidays from the 1960s, forced a reassessment of needs and priorities, and looking elsewhere for income to support the core function of entertaining visitors. However, the economic downturn from 2008, made foreign travel cost-prohibitive to many, and Blackpool began slowly to seem attractive once more. Indeed, travel website Trip Advisor awarded Blackpool the title of Favourite UK Seaside Destination in their 2013 Travellers' Choice Destination Awards. In August 2014, the Visit Britain organisation voted as its favourite holiday day out *"Tucking into fish and chips on Blackpool Pier"*. The town has 54,800 "serviced" beds available.

"In 1919 Thomas Luke celebrated Blackpool as "one of the wonders of the world" and fifteen years later JB Priestley in English Journey proclaimed it to be "'the great roaring spangled beast".

As to what you should call people born in Blackpool, opinion is divided:

- **"Sandgrown'uns"** - is a term first seen in Britain in 1530, when the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster awarded all land south of a battle site to **"Lytham - the land of the Sand Grown'uns"**. Blackpool people usually call themselves **"Sandgrown'uns"**, but the term can be, and often is, applied to natives of <u>any</u> coastal settlement. For example, people from

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Morecambe also call themselves this. The term is occasionally bastardised into the word **"Sangronian"**.

- **"Blackpudlians"** - is the most accurate name for people from Blackpool. Many locals think **"Sandgrown'uns"** are only those Blackpudlians conceived under one of the piers.
- **"Mossogs**" are more specifically, those born on Marton Moss. Mossogs were also called **Moss Ullerts, Mossets,** or **Ullets**; Ullet meaning owl – therefore, wise (?)

Whatever they should be called, they should be proud to come from Blackpool – as are the well-known **"Sandgrown'uns"** listed at Appendix B.

Those from elsewhere around the area rejoice in various names, such as:

- Fleetwood people are lovingly known as **"Cod heads" "Flittys"** or **"Fleetys"** the term cod head is used as an insult by out-of-towners, but as an endearment by locals**;**
- Folk from Lytham call themselves **"Lythamers"** or **"Lidunians";**
- Those born in St Anne's call themselves **"Stanners"** or **"Stannites"**, and;
- Those from Kirkham are **"Kirkhamians"**.
- Those from Poulton are **"Poultonians"**.
- Our "pet" name for our tourists is **"Grockles"**. Grockle is a word now wrongly claimed by the West Country as their own, but it actually appeared in the 1920s, in a story in the Dandy comic – Jimmy and his Grockle - and was used nationwide from then on.

My work describes the growth and progress of Blackpool, Fylde, and South Wyre, from the very distant beginnings, right up to the present day.

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Chapter 1: Pre-history

The Geology of the Area:
About 350 million years ago, the sea covered the Northwest of England, and beds of carboniferous limestone were laid down. River deposits of sand and silt later split these beds, so that where the water became shallow, swamplands grew. Folding of the land about 270 million years ago formed coal deposits in east Lancashire, and many marl pits (pits containing salt) in the west. The marl in the area is classified as *"Keuper Maerl"* - a good example of which is Kincraig Lake at Bispham, which was excavated as 3 separate pits, to extract fertiliser in the 1890s, to be converted into a lake in the 1980s. The nearby Dumfries Close pits were also hand-dug in the 16th, 17th, and 18th centuries for the same reason.

The Fylde now sits in what is known as the Bowland basin – one of the thickest sheets of shale in the UK.

The Triassic rocks which underlie the area were deposited about 230 million years ago, at a time when the British Isles were located some distance north of the Equator, in the tropics. The local environment was very similar to that of the Sahara Desert today, with almost no maritime influence, so there was very little rainfall, and temperatures would have been those of a hot desert climate with a large diurnal range and very little seasonal variation.

Two million years ago, the ice sheet – which was up to 2,000 feet thick in this area – retreated, leaving behind a blanket of glacial till, and boulder clay. Lowland Lancashire received ice radiating out from centres in Scotland, the Lake District, and the northern Pennines, that coalesced and moved southwards. During the latter stages of the "Devensian Flood", as those ice-sheets reduced in extent, local ice source areas became increasingly important, moderating the ice-streams within the main British and Irish ice sheet. The Fylde was affected by three significant ice-streams:

- An eastern Irish Sea ice-stream, that crossed lowland South Lancashire, Cheshire, and southwards towards Shropshire;
- An east Lake District stream, radiating south out of the Lake District, and passing across lowland Lancashire; and
- Another that radiated off the northern Pennines ice divide southwards, and then bifurcated eastwards down Wharfedale and Airedale, and south-westwards down Ribblesdale.

The edge of this ice movement is evidenced in the Kirkham Moraine – a 30-metre deep ridge of sediment from the Quaternary era, which marks the southern edge of the glacial advance. The Moraine also marked the northern edge of a large ice-dammed lake, which covers the lower Ribble Valley.

There are drumlin fields to the south of the River Wyre near Fleetwood: Burn Hill is one such. Drumlins are smooth, streamlined hills made of glacial till, that *"have their long axis oriented in the direction of ice movement; the blunt nose points upstream and the gentler slope tails off downstream"*. The mouth of the River Wyre contains a number of drumlins, all of which are run north-east to south-west. They were deposited during the melt of the last great ice sheet, around 9,000 years ago, and are made of a variety of materials, like sands, clays, and gravels.

Two examples of "marooned" glacial boulders have been on display in the area over the years. One was mounted outside St John's Church in Blackpool with a sundial on the top, and another was in the grounds of the Norbreck Hall Hydro, supporting a birdbath.

©

Beneath the mudstones and other Carboniferous rocks is a massive sheet of Permo-Triassic Sherwood Sandstone. This sheet is non-porous, so holds all the drain off water from the River Ribble and the River Wyre, as well as all the rainwater that falls onto the Fylde Plain. The bulk of the domestic and industrial water supply comes from this, supported by top-ups from the several Victorian reservoirs in the Bowland fells. It is known as the Fylde Aquifer, and has been accessed by hundreds of boreholes. The sheet is covered by a layer of Quaternary Drift - sands, grits, gravels etc. on top of which is the fertile Fylde soil.

The current geomorphological process has been modified by the development of artificial defences, which have been constructed since the 1800s, in response to erosion of glacial till cliffs at Blackpool. These structures have starved the Fylde beaches of a continuing supply of beach material, resulting in a continuous reduction in beach volume, and increasing exposure of defences to wave attack.

When the ice had thawed, the melt water remaining left the sea 120 metres deeper around the world.

At this time – the time of what scientists now call the *"Lytham VI marine transgression"* - the land on which Blackpool and Lytham now stand was a collection of islands. Then, sand was deposited, forming cliffs and rims in the deeper valleys - the cliffs at North Shore are some of these and reach 70 feet in height. After this, the action of the tides transformed the alluvial river deposits into the low coastal flats of the Fylde Coast. It also created many badly drained hollows, which soon became filled with post-glacial peat, and gave rise to the mosses and meres, which dominated the area until only recently. Place names incorporating the words "moss" and "mere" are common today, and the resultant fine sand and peat mosses have proved invaluable to man ever since.

Soft Permo-Triassic mudstones (Kirkham type), siltstones, and sandstones (Sherwood and Mercia types) underlie the mosslands, but the more solid geology is deeply buried by glacial and other drift deposits, in layers of glacially derived sediments. These form a skin of superficial deposits, or till, which in places is so thick that it eradicates all visual clues as to the nature of the underlying solid geology. This drift has been eroded and shaped by fluvial, marine, aeolian and frost processes.
Those glacial drift deposits have been superseded by typical *"Stagnogley soils"* - these are slowly permeable (badly drained), seasonally waterlogged soils.

Lower Triassic sandstones consist largely of red, yellow, and brown sandstones, which represent the deposits of large rivers that crossed the desert plain. These rocks occupy the western half of the Fylde Peninsula.
The upper part of the Triassic sequence is formed by the Mercia Mudstone Group, which comprise mudstones, sandstones and thin horizons of gypsum and rock salt. These rocks, which underlie Blackpool, represent desert plain and evaporated lake deposits.

In summary, then, directly underneath any superficial deposits is rock of the Mercia Mudstone Group. This is a thick unit of generally low permeability and is defined by the Environment Agency as a Secondary B Aquifer. However, in this area it is not used, and it has no use as a source of water supply.
Beneath this is the Sherwood Sandstone Group, which is defined by the Environment Agency as a Principal Aquifer but is also not used as a source of supply, as it contains nod-drinkable saline groundwater.

Next are the Manchester Marls, at over 1.1km below ground level, and then the Collyhurst Sandstone and Millstone Grit, which lie between 1.25 km and 1.5 km below ground level. Finally, the Bowland Shale and Hodder Mudstone layers are over 1.5 km below ground level.

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Small glacial features are evident - for example, Marton Mere came into being when water filled a glacial kettle hole. This was formed over 14,000 years ago, by a large lump of ice, which was left after the glacier retreated, and is one of only two natural lakes in Lancashire.

The development of Life and Man on the Fylde Coast:
The nearest dinosaur fossils to the Fylde were found in June 1838, when *"workmen at Storeton Woods Quarry discovered a fossilised dinosaur footprint in the sandstone they were quarrying. Scientists named the animal "Chirotherium" meaning hand animal"*. Storeton Woods is in the Wirral peninsula. The footprints were left over 200 million years ago in the soft mud. This was possibly at the edge of a lake within the tropical desert covering most of northern Europe.

Scientists name the time between 500,000 and 8,000 years ago the Palaeolithic Period, and this is when relics of "man" found in our region can be dated to. In Palaeolithic times, the sea was 300 miles to the west of the present Fylde coast and the sea was around 20 metres lower. Britain was part of the continent of Europe and early man would have been able to walk from the Ural Mountains in Russia to the Fylde.

DNA analysis has shown that Homo Sapiens have periodically occupied Britain for at least 41,500 years - since before the end of the last glacial period. Then, ice - up to 900 feet thick - still extended for up to 20 miles beyond Blackpool.

Pre-history:
Historians have named the "human" time periods before the Roman invasion of Britain to allow us to identify the relics that have been found. These names and periods are as follows:

- **Palaeolithic** (old stone age) – Up to 10,000 BCE
- **Mesolithic** (middle stone age) – 10,000 to 4,000 BCE
- **Neolithic** (new stone age) – 4,000 to 2,300 BCE
- **Bronze Age** – 2,300 – 700 BCE
- **Iron Age** 700 BCE – 43 CE

Scientists have proved that after 10,000 BCE, most of the "Britons" that arrived in Britain came from Spain, Portugal, and southern France. Their genetic research suggests that the majority of modern Britons can trace their ancestry to these early migrants.

In about 6,100 BCE, Britain broke free of mainland Europe for good. Historians now believe that landslides in Norway - the "Storegga Slides" - triggered one of the biggest tsunamis ever recorded on Earth when a landlocked sea in the Norwegian trench burst its banks. The water struck north-eastern Britain with such force that it travelled 25 miles inland and turned its low-lying plains into what is now the North Sea, and the marshlands to the south into the Channel. Britain became an island nation for the first time, with around 5,000 inhabitants.

The Fylde is formed:
It was not until about 6,000 BCE, that the north-western coast as we know it was formed. Forest covered the tops of the hills, but the sea fell back, and from around 2,000 BCE, much of the forest was cleared. The sand dunes of the Fylde Coast are believed to have formed at this time (these reduced by 84% between 1839 and 2008).

©

Evidence of the woodland beyond the coast is still visible, and the remains of a petrified forest can be seen on the beach just off Jubilee Gardens in Cleveleys. Still more of the forest was revealed in 2008, during the modernisation of the Cleveleys Promenade.
Peat deposits from submerged trees in the channel off Cleveleys were analysed by radiocarbon dating in 2009 and were found to date from between about 13,110 to 12,150 BCE.

The Fylde and Wyre coastal area, when it was first formed, was a mass of bogs, swamps, and oak and yew forests sitting on a foundation of red sandstone; broadleaved woodland was very common.
Many years later, it began to be called the "Fylde", which means either "low lying ground between two estuaries" or "level green plain". The name derives either from the Anglo-Saxon word *"gefilde"*, or from the words *"fild"* or *"file"*, all meaning field.

The Fylde plain is so flat that Blackpool Tower can nowadays be first sighted from above the River Yarrow at Euxton on the M6 motorway!
Geological evidence indicates that the Fylde was originally an island, with the River Wyre stretching all the way from Fleetwood to the River Ribble.

The River Ribble: The name Ribble probably derives from the Anglo-Saxon *"rhe"* meaning fast flowing, and *"bala"* meaning the shooting out from a lake. Another theory suggests that it comes from *"Rhiu Bel"* meaning the Head River. The Romans called it the *"Belisama Fluvius"*. Yet another school of thought makes its name of Welsh origin. The "*River Rybel"* is mentioned in the "Myvyrian Archaeology of Wales" (an 1807 collection of archaic welsh and British texts and poems), and is thought to come from *"rhyferthw"*, meaning spring tide. The Ribble is a river with a strong spring tide.

The actual starting point is at "Gavel Gap" on Cam Fell and is a trickle of water known as called "Jam Syke", which dribbles out from beneath a small limestone outcrop. The river proper begins at the confluence of Gayle Beck and Cam Beck near the Ribblehead Viaduct. It is the only river to rise in Yorkshire and flow westward, and it is now home to a variety of protected species, including the Eurasian otter, the Atlantic salmon, and the White-clawed crayfish.

The Ribble is one of only a few British rivers to boast a tidal bore, and the Normal Tidal Limit of the river is at Fishwick Bottoms, between Preston and Walton-le-Dale, 11 miles from the sea. The total length is just less than 50 miles, and its two main tributaries are the river Hodder and the river Douglas.

Some 24,000 years ago, ice sheets from Scotland, the Lake District, and North Yorkshire covered the area to a great depth (ice covered Winter Hill for example). The ice sheets achieved a more or less flat upper surface, so they were thinner on the high ground than on the lowlands. When the ice melted, it went from the hills faster than from the lowland, so that water flowing away from the uplands had to find a way around the ice to get to the sea.

It is clear that the River Ribble previously flowed along a different route from its current course. It is possible that its old course took it along the northern edge of Longridge Fell to reach the sea near where Blackpool Tower now stands, although this has not been conclusively proved. The fact that Diamict (boulder clay or till) is found at depths in excess of 20 metres beneath the Tower supports the theory.

Never bridged to the west of Preston, the Ribble has always had crossing points. Warton and Freckleton Naze to Longton and Hesketh Bank have always been the most popular, but for many years, crossings were also made from Lytham to the same two places - both guided and unguided. There were also many

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privately-owned ferries which plied the estuary waters from Lytham, until the trade petered out in the 1840s. All crossings from Lytham ended after the river was dredged to allow bigger ships into Preston.

The River Wyre: The name Wyre derives from the Celtic *"uigora",* meaning winding. Other versions of its origin are occasionally postulated upon – that the name is a simple corruption the word Wye, meaning water, or that it comes from the Old Welsh word *"Gwyar"* meaning blood like. The latter tale may actually have a foundation in truth, as the March high tides used to be called "the red floods" by people living near the estuary. These floods were probably caused by red sand in the silt washed upriver from the mouth.

Nowadays it starts 560 metres above sea level, at Ward's Stone in the Bowland fells, and it begins as two distinct tributaries, the Tarnbrook Wyre and the Marshaw Wyre, whose confluence is south of Abbeystead. It is **the only UK river whose estuary is visible from its source**, and **the only one to flow completely within Lancashire**. It is roughly 25 miles in length, and its tidal limit is at Cartford Bridge by Little Eccleston. The eastern part of the Wyre is also a spawning ground for Brown Trout and Atlantic Salmon. At one time, records show that over 12,000 salmon per year were caught in the Wyre.

It used to be thought that the Wyre was merely a tributary of the nearby River Lune, but it has now been proven that the two don't meet. The River Calder and the River Brock are Wyre tributaries.
It has been postulated that in pre-Roman times, a short channel of the Wyre entered the sea between Rossall and Cleveleys. The effects of very high floods add some credence to the idea, as does the overview of that channel by Burn Hall. Indeed, in 2007, contractors constructing the foundations for new sea defences, found ground conditions that indicated that the River Wyre once met the sea at Cleveleys.

The Wyre has been known for centuries as a "safe haven" for shipping of all sizes. As it flows from south to north as it reaches the sea, its estuary is sheltered from the ravages of the open Irish Sea by the tongue of land on which Fleetwood is now built. Its deep channel is easier to navigate than the shallow River Ribble, with its concentration of dangerous sandbanks. Early maps label it Bergerode – meaning safe harbour.

It has been proved that, even in Roman times, the Fylde coast was several miles further west than it is today. The likelihood is that the flow that we call the Lune Deeps was probably the Wyre estuary, and that the land to its east was vast and marshy - stretching as far as Shell Wharf. The farm called Fenny, near Rossall, was rebuilt many yards eastwards on at least 4 occasions, as was the Rossall Landmark.

Until about 1761, the river was known as Wyer Water.

Man comes to the Fylde and Wyre coastal plain:
Whenever it was that man finally came to the Fylde coast, the barren sand dunes of the present coast, the moss lands studded with meres, and the heavy clay soils of the densely forested glacial drift plain combined to make this a seemingly inhospitable landscape not overly conducive to early settlements. However, we now know that those ancient people settled more in the marshy, coastal areas than in the rockier hilly regions. The easy access to fish and wild fowl clearly trumped the negative aspects of the land. Soon, however, the new rivers draining into the sea developed large, flat estuaries. The rich soil in these areas was soon found to be ideal for growing crops. Coastal areas became more popular places to live.

The spear gouges in the bones of the Poulton Elk date to 13,500 years old, so it is clear that man came to this area before then, although the earliest human bones yet to be found in Northern Britain were discovered in Kent's Bank Caves in Morecambe Bay. Those were radiocarbon dated in 2013, at just over

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10,000 years old, although we now know that the pre-Ice Age humans simply retreated southwards and then returned after the thaw.

The land bridge between the Isle of Man and mainland Britain was breached around 9,270 BCE, and the humans again inhabited "Doggerland" (now under the North Sea). When that was inundated – about 8,000 to 7,500 years ago, they simple moved into Britain and the Low Countries. Harpoons and chisels made from bones and antlers have now been found there. There are also beads from jewellery.
That last flooding was due to millions of tons of ice breaking off the North American ice sheet and causing a mass of sediment to break off from Norway. This set off the *Storgegga Tsunami*, which flooded "Doggerland" once more.

Despite a little conflicting evidence, **the Fylde area first appears to have been settled in the Mesolithic period**, **between 8,000 and 7,000 years ago**. A find in Lunt Meadows just north of Liverpool in 2012, - just across the Ribble from the Fylde - confirmed that there was a Mesolithic settlement there about 7,800 years ago.

The notion of Mesolithic clearance in the Fylde, possibly resulting from human activity, is supported by finds, made by the Northwest Wetlands Survey, of typologically-later Mesolithic flint. This was around what is now Peel Hall Business Park, and contained "Black Chert", which has so far only been found in deposits that have been securely dated to that period. This Mesolithic evidence - a combination of scatters and individual stray finds - seems to indicate a significant amount of human activity.

Indeed, during that same survey, the area around the northern edge of Lytham Moss, particularly around Peel, proved to be a key area of settlement from the late Mesolithic to the Bronze Age. A recent study for Liverpool Museum deduced that "*The increase in Late Bronze Age material deposited in the Ribble and wetlands of the Fylde may suggest that strong central socio-political control was established across the landscape"*. The immediate environs of Peel Island, to the south of the A583 road at Peel, have revealed much Mesolithic evidence.

In the earliest part of the Mesolithic, by about 7,250 BCE, the coastline of North-west England was around 20 metres lower than today. The coastline from just west of Anglesey to west of Walney Island formed a belt of now submerged land, about 10 to 15 kilometres wide. It was still possible to walk across to the Isle of Man. That coastline gradually diminished until roughly 5,200 BCE, when it lay at 2 metres below the current sea level. By this time, Britain had become an island, and features such as the submerged forest off Rossall Beach came into existence.

It is now clear though, that our ancestors were familiar with cultivated wheat much earlier than previously thought. Relics found in the Solent have been dated to 8,000 years ago, so they were either farming it or trading it. Also, soil samples taken in various northern moorland locations have recently revealed a deep layer of charcoal, of a consistency that could not come from natural fires – the vegetation on that land must have been set alight by man, possibly to clear space to attract in animals. This is a clear sign of early farming/husbandry.

From 4,500 BCE, evidence of small-scale land clearance for cereal growing exists, but unfortunately, around 4,000 BCE, the sea level rose around 5 metres, and much of the Fylde and West Lancashire was again flooded, creating islands.

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Potential Later Mesolithic human relics have been identified within the area of the former coastal zone, and in large scatters to the north side of the Ribble estuary around Peel. These people may have been attracted to the area by the salt, which was readily available from the shorelines after the sea had receded. New evidence found in Blick Mead in Wiltshire suggests that these early humans were not simply hunter-gatherers but were beginning to clear land for settlements and to herd and domesticate animals, such as aurochs (which was almost twice the height of modern cattle). For example, they stayed in Blick Mead for over 3,000 years.

The first major influx of Celtic folk came between 2,600 BCE and 2,000 BCE, when the tribes that we call the Beaker Folk arrived. This was the start of the Bronze Age, and the Beaker Folk introduced metals to this country, along with the distinctive pottery for which they are named. A sherd of their pottery was discovered at Warton in Cumbria - very close to the Fylde, and a wooden henge of the period stood at Bleasdale, east of Garstang. It is therefore very likely that the Fylde was also populated by the Beaker Folk.

The earliest known written reference to the inhabitants of Britain comes from records of the voyage of Pytheas, a Greek geographer who made a voyage of exploration around the British Isles in about 325 BCE. None of his writings remain, but Roman writers made much reference to them. Pytheas called the islands "*αι Βρεττανιαι*", or "*Prettanike*" which has been translated as the "Brittanic Isles".

Note: Some historians claim that the Greeks called Britain the "Cassiterides", but that name is now know to refer to the Scilly Islands and perhaps parts of Cornwall, from whence those Greeks imported a lot of their tin.

Producing their own food:
Our settlers strove over the years to make the land cultivable, and despite its poor natural drainage, the Fylde has long been called the *"Granary of Lancashire"*. Livestock farming of cattle, sheep, and poultry has always been common, and the Fylde still has the greatest concentration of dairy farms in the country. A report in 1919, states that *"Poultry-keeping is carried on extensively throughout the county, and forms a special industry in Preesall, Pilling, Stalmine, Hambleton, Great Eccleston, St Michaels, Woodplumpton, Barton, and Garstang"*. Indeed, in the 1920s and 1930s, Pilling was one of the two most heavily-populated with poultry, with chicks being flown around the world from Blackpool Airport. In 1955, another writer stated *"The Fylde's 103,000 acres support some 63,000 head of cattle, 40,000 pigs, and 30,000 sheep in the summer months"*.

An early 21st century survey found that *"The principal soil in the Cleveleys area varies between Seasonally Wet Deep Silt and Deep Red Loam, both of which are suited to cereal and horticultural crop production"*.

"The Northern Fylde coast is characterised by a solid geology of Permian and Triassic Mudstones in the western side of the peninsula around Fleetwood and the River Wyre, and Triassic Sandstones to the eastern side of the peninsula around Pilling and Cockerham. The superficial geology is dominated by Devensian Till deposits in the upper reaches of the Wyre Estuary and a narrow band of salt marsh around Pilling. The principal soils along the Wyre Estuary vary from Seasonally Wet Deep Sand at the estuary mouth through to Seasonally Wet Deep silts, Deep Red Loam, and even salt marsh along the riverbanks. In Pilling, salt marsh forms the predominant coastal soil type backed by Deep Red Loam inland. These soil-types are suited to cereal production and seasonal animal grazing".
There have been - and still are - several world-famous herds, such as:

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- The Weeton Holstein Frisian cows, the Ballam Holstein cows, and the Gorst Farm Holstein cows at Elswick;
- Lancashire longhorn cattle were nationally famous, being bred in the Fylde until the 1850s, when shorthorns were introduced;
- The Fylde was renowned for its Shire Horses in the 19th century;
- At the beginning of the 20th century the Fylde had over 1.75 million egg-laying hens – the largest concentration in England; and
- The Ballam Landrace Pigs are unfortunately at just one of the few commercial piggeries remaining.

Indigenous Fauna:
In Prehistoric times, Britain was rife with such animals as the European Hippopotamus (became extinct about 100,000 years ago), Scimitar-toothed Cat (c30,000 years ago), European Ice Age Leopard (c26,000 years ago), Cave Bear (c17,000 years ago), Narrow-nosed Rhinoceros and Cave Hyena (c13,000 years ago), Cave Lion, Woolly Rhinoceros, Straight-tusked Elephant, and Saiga Antelope (c12,000 years ago), Southern Woolly Mammoth (c11,000 years ago), Wolverine and Irish Elk (c8,000 years ago), Tarpan – Eurasian Wild Horse (c9,000), Elk (c3,500 years ago), and the Wisent – European Bison (c3,000 years ago).
Now-extinct animals after these times were the Auroch (last survivor died in Poland in 1637), Eurasian Brown Bear (extinct by the 6th century), Lynx (7th century, Wild Boar (c1200), Reindeer (12th century in Scotland only), Beaver (15th century), and Grey Wolf and Wild Pig (both last seen in 1680).
The existence of these animals locally is borne out by the discovery of these remains locally:

The Thornton Wolf: In May 2015, Simon Ferguson was digging a hole, to prepare the land for a water feature in the garden of his ex-partner Susan Arthurs in Thornton-Cleveleys. When his spade struck bone, he suspected something sinister, but as he dug further, he found teeth and fangs, and it became clear the items belonged to an animal, buried 11 feet underground in blue clay.
They proceeded to unearth a 92%-complete skeleton of what is named the European Timber Wolf, or "*canis lupus lupus*" - a sub-species of the grey wolf.
Experts have estimated the wolf could be as much as 20,000 years old. Scientists believe that it was around three years old when it died and would have been the size of a Labrador dog.
The family donated the skeleton to Manchester Museum.

The Highfurlong Elk: The earliest evidence of human habitation in the Fylde was found in July and August 1970. A 13,500-year-old Elk (*Megaceros hibernicus*) skeleton was discovered by workmen in a pocket of peat in John Devine's garden next door to Tony Scholey's, opposite the Blackpool Sixth Form College at Highfurlong.
Mr Scholey and Jim Audus assembled the skeleton, and it became known as the Highfurlong Elk (or Poulton Elk, or Carleton Elk, depending on where you live!) The animal was approximately three years old, and weighed about 650 lbs.
It had been wounded 17 times by weapons, and the bone tips of the hunting barbs were still embedded in its ribs and in one of its leg bones. The barbs were found to be identical to those on Gallic spears discovered elsewhere.
The skeleton (which Mr Scholey's daughter Diane christened ***Horace***) is now displayed in the Lancashire Conservation Gallery of the Harris Museum in Preston, after being donated by the Devine family.

Several species were introduced to Britain by various immigrant tribes. For example, goats and some different breeds of cattle and sheep were brought over from Europe about 3,000 years ago by some of the first farmers.

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The local fauna today is many and varied, and regulars, together with regular visitors to the area, are listed in Appendix C. The Ribble Estuary is now one of the most important wildlife habitats in Europe, and the foreshore includes areas designated as the Lytham St Anne's Dunes Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

Also, local farmers and landowners have recently begun to breed and sell, more exotic animals, such as deer, llamas, alpaca, wallabies, emus, and ostriches. These are becoming more established and are beginning to break into the food market, both locally and nationally. The diversification enables local businesses to increase their own turnover and market visibility.

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Chapter 2: Pre-Roman times

The pre-Roman occupants of the region were mainly farmers, with much evidence of farming, grazing, and the remnants of wooden buildings being found. They also fished and hunted the local wildlife. Evidence suggests that massive clearance and arable land cultivation took place in the late Iron Age.

The Ribble valley seems to have been a main artery for the trade in bronze axes from Ireland, and villages and towns in the area were always built either on small hills or on the banks of the rivers.

There are "ridge and furrow" patterns in the fields near Weeton - beside the M55 - that indicate ancient farming, where land was ploughed into strips with ridges known as *"seliones"* or *"seillons".* This word originates from the Anglo-Saxon *"seelung"*, meaning "plough land". Regular indentations in the surface of the earth thereabouts could also be signs of Neolithic cultivation. Signs such as this may also be evident around Rossall and Fleetwood – perhaps indicating that the *"barren warrens"* were not so barren after all! Another school of thought however considers these phenomena (I think wrongly) to be the relics of Victorian drainage.

Fenton Cottage on Stalmine Moss has a great amount of evidence of human occupation and agriculture and has been extensively excavated and mused upon.

Knowle Hill at Warbreck was long thought to be the West Fylde's highest point (117 feet), being an ancient beacon hill. Originally named *Beryl Hill*, the Druids of the Ancient Britons may well have used it as a holy site. It was later known as *Berol Hill* and then, in 1279, as *Warthbrecka* - the name probably coming from the Norse words *"varth"* – be on one's guard, and "*brecka*" - a slight rise. The hill was the first to be used for triangulation purposes in Lancashire's first Ordnance Survey in 1841.
Whitprick Hill near Weeton is now known to be taller, at 125 feet high.

Aldwath: was an ancient ford over the Wyre, joining a route which lead northwards to Lancaster at the current Point Shard. It was a South to North route which crossed the Ribble at Freckleton, the Wyre at Shard, the Cocker at Pilling, and the Lune at Sunderland Point, avoiding all main centres of population. It was later used by monks travelling to and from their various holdings in the area.

A natural crossing has been in existence at Aldwath for at least 2,500 years, and a tribe of Ancient Britons is thought to have constructed the first crude fording-place there about 400 years BCE. The word "*Aldwath*" was Saxon for "old ford". The ford was only possible at the lowest of tides. It was later known as "*Aldwater".*

Aldwath led to an oak plank track way over the river Cocker, known as Kate's Pad. The track has the earliest evidence of metalwork in the Northwest – long iron pins which secured it to the peat. Early records describe it as *"formed of split oaks, hollowed by use, lying on cross-sleepers, and pegged together"*. The records show it running from Haile's Hall, in the direction of Pilling Hall, and potentially terminating in a field called Penny Hales.

Another school of thought places the causeway later, and as being built by Roman troops under Severus in 207. He was known for constructing such causeways across marshy ground for his troops. It seems likely that at the same time, those Romans destroyed Pilling Moss (and many others) as it was a well-used hiding

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place for rebellious Britons. It is also recorded that in 83, Roman engineers improved Aldwath ford, which then lasted until it was rebuilt in the 14th century.

The route's existence is confirmed in a Charter given by Geoffrey de Hackensall to the monks of Cockersand in the 1260s, which states *"Moreover, he confirmed to the said Abbot and convent, that when they had desire or need to do so, their carts should pass and repass without let from henceforth by the sands below the bank, and by Hackensall Knott to his mill, and so to the highway, saving only to him and his heirs all wreck of the sea"*.

Shard Bridge was later built on the site Aldwath – *"shard"* meaning "the narrow part of the river" – even though the river is 500 yards wide at that location.

Windy Harbour was another fording point over the Wyre, later supplying the Roman garrison at Kirkham with farm goods from over the river. The name Windy Harbour is thought to have originated from the shelter (or arbour) that was probably built there, as an unheated, stone, roadside shelter, by the Romans. Other Wyre fords were at Min End (Knott End), Bulker, Larbreck, and Cartford.

The Brigantes: The dominant Iron Age group in the future Lancashire, Yorkshire, and Cumbria were the war-like *Brigantes*, who were, territorially, the largest of the country's tribes – Tacitus called them the *"most populous"* in Britain.
The word *Brigantes* means "the people of Brigit" and the name Brigit actually comes from the old Celtic "*briganti*" which was itself derived from the Indo-European word "*bhrghnti*". Brigit (or Brigantia) the Celtic goddess was a bringer of fertility and prosperity, a patron of the arts and associated with healing.
We now believe that the Brigantes were a collection of Brigit-worshipping tribes which covered all of the North - from the North Midlands up to the current Scottish Borders. They ruled more territory than any other Iron Age group in Britain.
The tribes were pagans, worshipping gods of the land, sea, and air. There were also different branches of Brigantes in Ireland and in the Alps.

An alternative origin for the name could be that the Gallo-Brythonic word *"briga"* forms the root - meaning "hill or high". In branches of that language that descend from Proto-Celtic this became *"bryn"* in Welsh, and *"bre"* in Cornish, Breton, and Cumbric. Then this was extended to refer to "the goddess of the home/main fort on the hill".

Note: The Egyptian scholar Ptolemy wrote his own geography of Britain, and produced an accompanying map. The map is most frustrating, as its dimensions and distances are very approximate. Most of the early and Roman locations are placed where future scholars have interpreted them to be. Many have since been proven by archaeological finds.

Ptolemy sets out the main centres of the Brigantes as being:
The Principal Tribal Centre at *"Isvrivm Brigantvm"* (Aldborough, North Yorkshire), with the nine main tribal settlements as:

Epiacum	(Whitley Castle, Northumberland)
Vinovia	(Binchester, Durham)
Cataractonium	(Catterick, North Yorkshire)
Calacum	(Burrow in Lonsdale, Lancashire)
Isvrium	(Aldborough, North Yorkshire)
Rigodunum	(Castleshaw, Greater Manchester – or Ingleborough)

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Olenacum	(Elslack, North Yorkshire) – possibly Ilkley
Ebvracum	(York, North Yorkshire)
Cambodunum	(Slack, West Yorkshire)

The future towns of Ribchester and Kirkham were more minor settlements, supplied by small ports on and around the Fylde coast.

The Setantes - or Segantes: A sub-tribe of the *Brigantes* inhabited the Fylde and South Wyre, and the Romans knew them as *Setantii* (or *Sistuntii*, or *Seguntii)*. Ptolemy shows that *"Setantiorum Portus"* (or *Portus Sistantiorum*) the "Port of the *Setantii*" was near the mouth of either the Ribble or the Wyre, and it is likely that Kirkham was the *Setantii's* main settlement of *Setantu* before the Romans arrived, with the harbour on the Wyre being their main trading port. Recent studies propose that the *Setantii* were both farmers and mariners, and the Romans later used their seamanship skills to their advantage at the Northwest's only port.
The southern boundary of their territory was the Seteia – today's River Mersey, and the northern boundary was in southern Cumbria, where their Old British tongue survived until the twelfth century.

Some historians believe that the word Setantii is a misspelling – by one or several ancient writers – of the words "*sedos"* - meaning a stag, and *"anati"* - meaning soul, thus making their name mean "Souls of stags".

The capital of the *Setantii* was called *"Caer Cocciu"*- meaning the "City of Supremacy". Also spelled *"Caer Guochi",* specialists in their history know this as the early settlement at Kirkham.

They may even have been the originators of the type of Celtish language that first went to Ireland in about 100 BCE. This is now called *Goidel Celt* and is the root of today's natural Irish speech. The "proof" of this link with the Fylde area is said to come from the anciently named *"Castle o'Trim"* to the south of Dolphinholme. The "*trim"* part of the name may well derive from the Goidel word "*druim"*, meaning "a ridge" - the place stands on a significant ridge.

The legendary Irish hero, Cuchulain, was possibly a Briton, given his true birth name of *Setanta Beg*. As Ptolemy places the *Setantii* tribe in the Ribble Valley, this supports some claims that Cuchulain was British, born about 142 BCE, and that the *Setantii* of the Fylde were his tribe. In addition, Cuchulain began to use the war chariot, a device that was unknown in Ireland, but was common with the *Brigantes*. The name of Cuchulain may well have been kept alive by later local Britons, under the name of Gawain - by the medieval descendants of the Setantii *"around their stronghold in Heysham"*.

The *Setantii* worshipped nature, forecasting the seasons by the use of standing stones, examples of which can be seen locally at Roseacre and Wharles. Their religious leaders were Druids, and their "Druid's Eggs" (stone neck ornaments) have been found in several places on the Fylde.
When preparing for battle, the Setantii warriors would paint their bodies in indigo blue dye made from the woad plant, which they grew as a field crop, and processed to be stored ready for later use.

Roman historian Cassius Dio Cocceianus (aka Dion Cassius) wrote his Roman History in the 3rd century and mentions the Setantii, describing them as a tribe which hunted animals and foraged for fruit. He says they lived in marshy area and could *"continue several days up to their chins in water, and bear hunger many days"*. He states that the men had long hair and moustaches, and the people lived in wicker and mud huts, dressing in animal skins or painting their bodies in blue woad.

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The Celts: The Gauls had begun to cross into Britain in about 500 BCE.

It used to be thought that the local tribes began gradually to absorb Celtic influences between then and 200 BCE. **These people were not called Celts, as that word was an 18th century invention.** The name had never been used until then, and the idea came from the discovery, in about 1700, that non-English tongues in Britain actually relate to the speech of the ancient continental Gauls – the real Celts. The word "Celtic" was soon applied to monuments, art, culture, and peoples.

Other historians believe that the root for the "Celtic" languages is that they arrived in Britain as early as 4000 BCE, having been brought from Europe by the first of the people known as "*Keltoi*" (by the Greeks) or, "*Celtai*" (by the Romans), and probably as "*Cymry*" by themselves. It is now clear that there were people of "Celtic" origin living in Britain BEFORE the main influx of 500 BCE, as weapons found in our isles have been carbon dated to much earlier than that.

It is now clear that the many regional cultures of the British Iron Age grew out of the preceding local Bronze Age, and they did **not** appear as the result of influxes of "Celtic" invaders from Europe. Whatever the origins, the main influx of the "Celts" took place about 500 BCE, and with the increasing incursions of Germanic peoples, they were later driven to the north, and west of the country. For now, though I shall call those ancestors Celts, for ease of reference.

The original tongue was spoken over a wide area – including the Fylde, gradually dividing into *Goidelic*, now spoken in Ireland, Scotland, and the Isle of Man, and *Brythonic*, spoken in Wales and Cornwall. The name Wales comes from the Anglo Saxon *"wealas"* or *"waelsc"*, meaning "stranger" or "foreigner".

Some historical linguists suggest the "*nt*" element in "*Brigantes*" and "*Setantii*" confirms that the tribe were Brythonic Celts descended from the Iberian "Beaker Folk".

The six Celtic languages of modern Britain can be divided into two parts:

1. The Goidelic languages of Irish, Manx, and Scottish Gaelic; and
2. The Brittonic languages of Breton, Cornish, and Welsh.

Another language or dialect, Cumbric, is now extinct.

Note: Many tribal names we use now were devised by the Romans, with a basis in Latin (history is always written by the victors), so it follows that the *Setantii* will have had an unknown Cumbric name for their people, as their own language was more like modern-day Welsh.
Unfortunately, the pre-Roman inhabitants left hardly any written evidence, and I prefer to think of them as Setanta's people. Another example of this is the name "*Brigantii*" – a Romanised version of the word *"Brigantes"*.

Many pre-Roman historical relics have been discovered locally over the years, and I have produced a comprehensive list of these at Appendix EE.

In about 60 BCE, the Roman historian Deodorus wrote:

> *"Britain, we are told, is inhabited by tribes which are autochthonous and preserve in their ways of living the ancient manner of life. They use chariots, for instance, in their wars, even as tradition tells us the old Greek heroes did in the Trojan War, and their dwellings are humble, being built for the most part out of reeds or logs. The method they employ of harvesting their grain crops is to cut off*

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no more than the ears and store them away in roofed barns, and then each day they pick out the ripened ears and grind them, getting in this way their food. Supplement As for their habits, they are simple and far removed from the shrewdness and vice which characterize the men of our day. Their way of living is modest, since they are well clear of the luxury which is begotten of wealth. The island is also thickly populated, and its climate is extremely cold, as one would expect, since it actually lies under the Great Bear. It is held by many kings and potentates, who for the most part live at peace among themselves".

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Chapter 3: The Romans: 55 BCE to 410 CE

Most of what we know about the Romans in our area comes from the writings of Roman historian Cornelius Tacitus, and this is mainly in his work "*The Life of Agricola*" - Agricola happens to have been Tacitus's father-in-law. In his work, Tacitus also states that the language of the Britons differed hardly at all from that of the Gauls.

During the period from 55 BCE to 43, a more permanent pattern of rural land settlement emerged, with regular boundaries that suggest a more regular and established tenure. This is clearly the basis of later, regular land division.

55 BCE
On the 24th of August, as part of his Gallic Campaign, Julius Caesar led the first Roman expedition to Britain. Comprising two legions, in 80 ships, it lasted just a few weeks before being forced to return to Gaul before the winter set in.

54 BCE
Julius Caesar returned to Britain in July, with 800 ships and 5 legions, before seemingly giving up and returning to Gaul in late September.
The Latin name for the country in this Early Roman Empire period was *Britanni* or *Brittanni*.

1 CE - Whereas BCE means "Before Common Era", CE means "Common Era".
The Julian calendar was designed by Julius Caesar to create a calendar that stayed aligned to the sun, however, the familiar AD dating system, beginning from the year of Jesus's birth, was not developed until 525. Roman philosopher Dionysius Exiguus decided that the entrance of Jesus into the world must be recognized as being the turning point of history. Unfortunately, he got the date wrong, as Jesus was actually born in about 5 BCE.

In this work, I have used the current method of dating, which replaces the BC and AD labels with BCE and CE respectively. The recent change is really one of semantics, so AD 100 is the same as 100 CE, and only the label changes. The change has been done mainly to allow non-Christians to all use the same method.

43 CE
Emperor Claudius sent a second army of 40,000 troops (four legions) to Britain, under Aulus Plautius. Within months, they had subdued vast parts of the country, winning many bloody battles. Cartimandua, the queen of the *Brigantes*, soon allied with the Romans, led by Didius Gallus, and helped them to secure a northern frontier, so the Romans could therefore afford to ignore the country north of the Ribble.

51
Cartimandua betrayed Caratacos (or Caractacus), the leader of the southern Celts, to the Romans. However, her relationship with the Romans soon soured, and she and her husband Venutios (or Venutius) of the Cumbrian *Brigantes* then led the resistance of the newly reconciled northern *Brigante* tribes against the Romans.

52 to 57
Venutios rebelled against the Roman oppressors, only to be defeated by troops led by Caesius Nasica.

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To make matters worse, between 51 and 57, Cartimandua not only took his own bodyguard, Vellocatus, as her lover, captured some close family members of Venutios, which caused him to invade Brigantia. Amongst the subsequent battles, Cartimandua had twice to call for Roman aid.

61

The Battle of Watling Street took place. Queen Boudica's revolt against Roman rule in Britain ended, when a large British force was routed by a heavily-outnumbered force of Romans, under the command of Gaius Suetonius Paulinus. Roman sources put the losses at 80,000 British and 400 Romans. It effectively ended all southern resistance to Roman rule, leaving only the northern tribes to continue their fight.

69

Venutios tried to take advantage of the Romans being distracted by Rome's civil war, and its legions were obliged to invade *Brigantia*, whose tribes were again divided. Venutios's anti-Roman *Brigantes* attacked the pro-Roman *Brigantes* of Cartimandua simultaneously on many fronts. His much-expanded army began to win convincingly, and she was saved by Rome, moving away from *Brigantia* - as Tacitus writes *"Then she asked the Romans for protection, and some of our auxiliary troops, cavalry and infantry, after meeting with indifferent success in a number of engagements, finally succeeded in snatching the queen from danger. The throne was left to Venutios, the war to us"*. The Northern frontier of the Romans was no longer secure.

Current research appears to place Venutios's base just to the west of the Pennines, and Cartimandua's to the east - in the Vale of York. Venutios's victory finally gave him all *Brigantia* - united against Rome.

The Roman general, Agricola, said of Britain in about 70, *"It is a savage place as are the fierce, inhospitable Britons who live there. Those near the coast in Kent may be more civilized, but in the interior, they do not cultivate the land but share their wives with family members, live on milk and meat, and wear the skins of animals—behaviours so foreign to the Romans".*

71

A two-year campaign by Legion IX (known as *Legio IX Hispana*), under Governor Quintus Petillius Cerialis, eventually broke Venutios's rebellious *Brigantes*, and the legion then constructed a new base at York to oversee the unsettled northern tribes. Governor Cerialis then ordered Gnaeus Julius Agricola - commander of the Legion XX *(Legio XX Valeria Victrix*) - to exert his authority on the tribes.

It seems that the Romans had halted at Chester to concentrate on subduing the last vestiges of Welsh resistance, based on Anglesey. Agricola's tried and trusted method of subduing rebels was to march half his army inland, and then to disembark the others from galleys in major estuaries - a pincer movement. This would dishearten the enemy. The Romans sailed out Chester from the Dee Estuary, and landed in the estuaries of the Ribble, Wyre, Lune, and Kent. Their effect on our area of interest then began when they struck inland - definitely from the Ribble, and probably from the Wyre. It is very likely that as well as taking their galleys up the Ribble, they may even have stopped at Kirkham on their way overland to Ribchester, earmarking its hill as the ideal site for a future outpost.

72

Although just outside the remit of this work, I have included this information as background.

Ribchester Roman Fort: A *"substantial"* timber fort was built at Ribchester this year by infantrymen of Legion XX, for use as a cavalry fort, and they named it *Bremetenraco.* The early defences of its 5 ½ acre site were built in about 78 and consisted of two external ditches and a rampart of turf blocks - each about 1-

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foot square *"laid upon a timber corduroy foundation, and interleaved with brushwood. A single gateway was constructed of timber and controlled egress through a single carriageway"*.

After 175, the name was changed to *Bremetannacum*. It was first used by 500 Spanish Asturians from *Ala Secundae Asturum* - the Second Wing of Astures, and later by a contingent of Sarmatians the *Ala Primae Sarmatarum* - the First Wing of Sarmatians. Ribchester may well have later become a military horse-breeding and training centre, which drew upon the particular tribal skills of the Sarmatians.

In the 3rd century a centurion from Ribchester was regularly appointed *"praepositus numeri et regionis"* over the Fylde, where the heavy horses for the Sarmatian cavalry were reared. Also, *"When the men of the unit stationed at Ribchester were retired from service, it appears that they were granted the use of the marshland lying close to the fort in the nearby Fylde country. They cut a system of drainage channels and thereby recovered large amounts of rich arable land which was used to grow abundant crops, and to raise cattle and horses"*.

This land was previously owned by the Brigantes tribe, and may have confiscated during the reign of Antoninus Pius (c.AD154-5)

We know that the fort was damaged in around 196/7, with the HQ building being destroyed. However, a *Severan* inscription records the restoration of both the fort and at least one temple erected outside the defences. Both those main buildings were destroyed between 301 and 306, and they were again repaired during the 4th century.

The fort was rebuilt in stone in the 2nd century, and this was used until the 4th. Before they vacated the camp, the Romans renamed it *Bremetannacum Veteranorum* – as it had by then become a centre for retired veteran Roman soldiers.

The fort's first mention is in *Iter X* of the *Antonine Itinerary*, which states that on *"the route from Glannoventa (Ravenglass, Cumbria) to Mediolanum (Whitchurch, Shropshire). The name is recorded as Bremetonaci, some twenty-seven miles from Calacum (Burrow in Lonsdale) and twenty miles from Coccium"* (Kirkham or Wigan). Then, the *Ravenna Cosmology* of the 7th century shows the name as *Bresnetenaci Veteranorum*.

Legend has it that *"it is written upon a wall in Rome; Ribchester was as rich as any town in Christendom"*.

The Ribchester Museum of Roman Antiquities was built above the remains of the headquarters building of the Roman Fort in 1914, and opened to the public in the November 1915, by Professor FJ Haverfield, after being conceived by local woman Margaret Greenall of the well-known brewing family.

77

The Romans, under the now-Governor Gnaeus Julius Agricola, had conquered the Scottish Borders and began to consolidate by building more forts and roads. They did not just invade overland, but also used larger estuaries, including the Wyre and Ribble. Agricola also made strenuous efforts to convert the local Brigantes to the Roman way of living - building streets in towns and laying straight roads between them.

Between now and 79, the Romans founded towns such as *Luguvalium* (Carlisle) in order to lay more substantive foundations for their control of the North. In about 160, the "*Civitas Carvetiorum"* was formed out of north-western Brigantes territory, with its capital at *Luguvalium*.

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Roman road to the Fylde: The first evidence of the road came in September 1928, when the gazette and herald reported that *"The discovery of a Roman road leading into Kirkham has aroused much interest in the Fylde" It was made at the Mill Hill on the Preston side of Kirkham by the old ruined windmill. To a "Gazette & Herald" representative Coun. Burrows stated that the road runs either from Ribchester or Walton-le-Dale, where there were Roman camps, and it may be found that it goes to Lytham. The foundations of the road, which are about 28 feet wide, consist of extremely hard concrete, over which are laid successive strata of rammed gravel to a total thickness of 14 to 18 inches. "It is quite equal to anything we have at present", said Coun. Burrows. "The concrete foundation after nearly 2,000 years, during which time, low-lying as it is, it has been exposed to the water, is still so hard that a pick is necessary to make an impression on it". He stated that the old channel of the River Dow, over which the road had been carried by a wooden bridge, was discovered. Alongside it a pathway of heavy cobbles had been formed for horse and wheeled traffic. Coun. Burrows stated that fragments of Roman and Romano British pottery were found lying in a ditch by the roadside, and these, a Roman nail, Roman brick, tiles and glass and a fragment of wood off the bridge he showed to the "Gazette & Herald" man. He hoped to have the old river bed cleared out as it was almost certain that a number of interesting objects would be found in the mud. "The hill", he states, "has been traditionally thought to have been a Roman settlement".*

In 1963, further evidence was found of a road, built by Agricola's Romans, which runs from the fort and settlement at Ribchester, westwards towards the coast. It was known by the Romans as *"Magnam Stratam"* and by the locals as *"Wattelinestrete"*. This road from Kirkham to Ribchester fell into disuse during the 2nd century.

The main Roman route from Ribchester went directly to Preston and then turned north towards Lancaster, but this other road continued west to Kirkham and beyond. It is quite possible that the Roman place name *Rigodonum* was at Bilsborrow, with the road now being the A6.
The now-infamous Broughton crossroads – Four Lane Ends – Probably originates from when the road to Lancaster crossed the road from Ribchester to Kirkham. Toll Bar cottage was built there soon after the 1663 Turnpike Act.

A charter in 1190, between William, son of Richard of Biscopam and Cockersand Abbey gives them land in Newton, naming, among other boundaries *"sicut magna strata se extendit de Dalebrig apud le Lund"* – meaning "the great street stretching from Dowbridge to Lund". A field in Lea was known as *"Wattelingstrete"* in a charter dated to 1285, and another document from 1300, mentions a field near Dowbridge, called *"Watlingstreet Field"*.
This road, for some reason, makes a sharp, sixty-degree turn to the north about three miles beyond the Kirkham fort, and heads almost directly towards Fleetwood. Evidence for the road disappears beneath Poulton-le-Fylde and Thornton (Briar Road), but it is certain that it continued to the northern end of the Fylde. The road later became known as the "Dane's Pad". Indeed, close to Elswick there are said to have been a set of probable tumuli known as the "Dane's Hills".

As ALL Roman roads led somewhere of importance, this one must have had a western terminus, and this one was likely to have been at *Setantiorum Portus*, from where they planned to invade Iceland.

Recent investigations using the LIDAR method have find absolutely NO evidence of any kind to support a road to the west of Kirkham and seems to suggest that past "evidence" was likely to have been old field boundaries and gravel bankings.
In 2015, LIDAR also suggested that there was an as-yet-undiscovered Roman road from Ribchester direct to Catterall. Perhaps this will later prove to be the direct route to the Portus.

©

Clear evidence has been found of another Roman road, stretching from Preston via the western boundary of Stanzaker Hall, Fowler Hill Lane, Cabus crossroads (where there is the stump of a Roman milepost used as a gatepost at Turnpike Cottage), Kiln Trees Lane, to the west of Forton Hall Farm, through the River Cocker Bridge, along Cockerham High Street, and on to Lancaster.

Note: LIDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) is a detection system on the principle of radar, which uses light from a laser.

My own opinion, based on what I have found until now, is that the Dane's Pad probably did exist, but the Roman road from Kirkham did not.

Setantiorum Portus: Many people believe that *Setantiorum Portus* may have been to the north of Fleetwood, either in the area of North Wharf, or two miles north of the present town, at the point where the River Wyre discharges into the Lune Deeps, probably at King's Scar.
It would since have been eroded by the Irish Sea, given the rise in sea level since the Romans, and the nature of the Wyre itself, which floods every winter and spring.

Another possible location could be Castle Hill, at Thornton, which is buried under the former ICI plant. Some other scholars see the site as being in the Ribble Estuary, but this does not fit with the geography.

A Roman port on our coast would have been the ideal embarkation point for the large Roman fort, settlement, and temple recently discovered at *Alauna* (Maryport), and possibly to a garrison at Ravenglass in Cumbria. *Alauna* was a supply and command base for Hadrian's Wall, and the fact remains, that the port at Fleetwood is the deepest and best natural harbour in Lancashire and would be the only place on the west coast suitable for a commercial port. We know that the Romans often made use of existing harbours used by the native populace.

Mr Thornber wrote that *"in 1840, between Rossal Point and Fenny, some brickmakers discovered a treasure of 400 silver denarii, consisting of the coins of Trajan, Adrian, Vespasian, Titus, Domitian, Antoninus, Severus, Caracalla, Sabina, Faustina, &c. I possess 40 of them, and myself and brother here saw destroyed, for the sake of its materials, a large paved platform, which I had often fancied had been used for a landing-place. At this spot I have heard old people speak of the ruins of a rude, thick-walled, circular building, round which it was uncanny to sport"*.

Sentantiorum Portus is often written the wrong way around, as *Portus Setantiorum*!

"In 1920, William Ashton, in his Evolution of a Coastline, published an elaborate theory accompanied by a convincing map, quoting Thornber, Porter, Glazebrook Rylands and others, and even accepting Richard of Cirencester, which firmly placed the Portus at King Scar.
His not unreasonable idea was that when changes in the coastline over the centuries are taken into account, this point would originally have been the confluence of the Wyre and Lune.
In 1914 he had attempted to prove his theory with an expedition to King Scar, where he saw curving stone embankments which he thought were probably man-made" – Gordon Heald 2018.

My own opinion is that it would be more likely to have been at the end of the Roman road from Kirkham, in the region of Skippool and Wardleys.

©

Roman Forts at Kirkham: Kirkham's three temporary Roman turf-built marching camps and a signal-cum-watch tower date to 78 or 79 CE, and are thought to have been founded by troops led by Agricola himself. They were built on the highest point in the area, thus affording excellent views of the Ribble and the land approaches. The Romans then carried on building their cavalry fort of *Bremetenacum,* which we call Ribchester.

The original Kirkham emplacements were replaced in about 100, by a stone-based fortlet, or signal tower, at Windmill Hill, Dowbridge. It appears to have reused the old signal tower as a flanking tower to a gate, and the defences of the new fort appear to have been a substantial red-sandstone wall retaining a clay and turf rampart. The eastern gate of this fort has been found to have lain just to the north of 36 Dowbridge Close, and evidence shows that this area was where the attached housing and traders were based - in the *vicus* - along the road to Ribchester.

Both forts are thought to have been built to support patrolling soldiers from the fort at Ribchester. It is also likely, however, that the base at Kirkham could have been a staging post, manned by cavalry, to support sea-borne landings on the Fylde coast by Freckleton Naze. They may also have provided a mobile guard presence for landings and embarkations at nearby *Setantiorum Portus* on the Wyre, possibly from a "marching camp" where Poulton now stands, on its 18-metre hill with a view over the Wyre.

There is a mysterious reference, on some copies of early maps, to a station named Rerigonium on the route east from the port of the Setantii. Was this Kirkham? Or was it Ribchester? Nobody knows.

The size of the *"fort garrison is not known, but its size suggests that it was built for one of the larger auxiliary regiments of the Roman army, such as a 1,000-strong infantry unit (cohors militaria) or 500 cavalry (ala quingenaria)".* It is clear that an inhabited *vicus* under military control surrounded the fort. Some mineral compounds found in the area were possibly associated with industry, as areas of burning and, probable industrial residue have been uncovered. Other enclosures outside the fort were almost certainly associated with keeping horses, since deposits of what appeared to be horse bedding and hay were found in the ditches.

When St Michael's Church was rebuilt in 1844, a tombstone showing a figure that was of a "cavalryman and barbarian" type was found and destroyed. The word cavalryman suggests Roman.

The remains of Roman Baths from this period were also found during excavations in Kirkham at the beginning of the 20th century. Smaller archaeological finds in the town include a shield boss (or *Umbo*), tent pegs, post holes, refilled defensive trenches, sandstone and turf ramparts, industrial, metalworking and pottery remains, and the skeleton of a short, bandy-legged dog! This later fort had its own cemetery. There was also a large bow-like object, which is either a stake from a "*cheveux de frise*" (chariot trap) or a "*pilum murale*" (wall javelin). The object is 1.25 metres long, square in section, and tapers to a point at both ends, from an irregular, bulbous handgrip. These objects have only been found on five other sites in the Roman Empire, and only three others are known in Britain.

Excavation in 1996 in Poulton Street revealed many shards of Roman pottery that were sealed beneath a compacted layer of medieval material. It seems clear that the Roman settlement at Kirkham stretched over a larger area than at first thought.
In August 2009, more excavations - at 46 St Michael's Road - revealed larger parts either of the fort's bathhouse or of the bathing room of a *"mansio"* (the *mansio* was the building where military or civilian officials worked). The report of the dig states "*masonry structure, which was constructed of red sandstone*

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and brick and contained (or comprised) an apsidal or circular heated room, was clearly a building of some pretension and significance. It was, in all probability, the fort bathhouse, built and occupied at the same time as the fort itself, cAD 120- 50/60".
A report in 2010 confirmed *"That the interior of the structure had been heated was clearly indicated by the presence of tile-built hypocaust stacks (pilae). Four complete examples (126) and fragments of what may have been a fifth, lay within the site"*.

The Roman sites at Kirkham were abandoned by the end of the 2nd century, with the area being policed as needed, by patrols from the cavalry contingent from Ribchester.

It is also likely that Romans would have used Warbreck Hill's commanding position as a lookout. There are other signs of Roman activity in the form of a possible Roman settlement at Poplar Grove Farm, on the edge of Rawcliffe Moss.

There is no mention of Roman occupation of the immediate Blackpool area, although relics have been found over the years, dating from this year onwards. I have listed these at Appendix FF.

79
There is tangible evidence of a small Roman fort being built on Naze Mount around this year, guarding a port on Naze Point at Freckleton, where the river Dow met the Ribble. This would have supplied the fort at Kirkham, which covered it by line of sight, with goods and water. The remains of a small bathhouse were found here before 1899. Some scholars consider this to be the foundation of Freckleton village, and there is a more recent theory that the River Dow may also have been navigable at the time, particularly as the Ribble's waters stretched further inland towards Kirkham at the time. It is likely that the Romans forded the Ribble here, in order to shorten their journeys from Ribchester fort to Kirkham fort.

84
The "Pilling Enigma" – a series of up to 185 rectangular, man-made pits were discovered at Beech House near Fluke Hall in Pilling in 1970. Initially thought to be graves, they are now believed to be "*lilia*", or stake-lined mantraps, dug by the Romans in about this year.
Near to the "enigma" are many peculiarly shaped clay extraction pits, known as "penny pits" which were left after the excavation of as much clay as could be removed by a man for a penny. The field is thus known as Pennyholes field.

Roman remains have also been found just outside the area that I cover. At Nateby, 3 brooches dated circa 50, were found in 2004, and sections of a Romano-British road were excavated in 1995. Add to this the Roman milestone at Forton, and the Roman presence in the area was clearly important.

Rabbits: The Romans are thought to have introduced rabbits to the country about now, keeping them in runs for their meat and fur, as radio carbon dating of a bone found at Fishbourne Roman Palace in Sussex, show the rabbit was alive in the 1st century AD. Marcus Terrentius Varro wrote that the legions brought rabbits from Spain, where they were reared in walled enclosures and then served up as a gourmet dish. The warrens in the dunes where Fleetwood was built may well date from Roman times, as might those in the dunes at Lytham.
Others however prefer to believe that rabbits came with the Normans. Wherever they came from, by the time that Clifton Drive was being cut through the sandhills in the 19th century, literally thousands of rabbits were disturbed, and became regular hazards to, and casualties of, the trams.

©

Due to the spread of the devastating disease Myxomatosis in rabbits, the Pest Act 1954, made the whole of Lancashire a "Rabbit Clearance Area". Local had to ensure that *"occupiers of all land"* destroyed ALL rabbits thereon. The local rabbit population has recovered since then.

118
The Romans of Antonius Pius Caesar suppressed a revolt by the *Brigantes*, who after this date seem to have become known as Britons. Several place names in the Fylde are left from the Britons – unusually for Lancashire as a whole. These are Eccleston (Great and Little), Inskip, Preesall, Preese, Rossall, and Treales.

122
Hadrian's Wall was begun this year, taking another six to complete. It was constructed on either side of the existing rock mound of Whin Sill by 3 Roman legions - 15,000 men. After its construction, the Romans were more able to concentrate on suppressing the Britons to the south. Hadrian's later biography said he *"put many things to right and was the first to build a wall, 80 miles long, from sea to sea to separate the barbarians from the Romans".* A 2nd century souvenir of Hadrian's Wall found in 2003, suggests that it was originally called the *vallum Aelii* - Aelius being Hadrian's family name

139
Emperor Antoninus Pius decided to follow a new, more aggressive path against the Britons, with the appointment of a new governor, Quintus Lollius Urbicus, this year he ordered Legion II (*Legio secunda Augusta)* to suppress all revolts, and to push Roman control throughout the whole of the North of England. The army then went on, as far as the Firth of Forth in Scotland, where they began building the Antonine Wall in 142. This wall stretched across the country to the Firth of Clyde.

141
In Rome, the Egyptian Ptolemy was the first to mention the Fylde, in his geography of Britain.

150
The Romans seem to have abandoned their stations in the Fylde, possibly due to an as-yet-unsubstantiated revolt by the local *Brigantes*.

154
The *Brigantian* revolt intensified, and the Antonine Wall was abandoned. Hadrian's Wall was hurriedly restored, but a constant sequence of revolt and suppression rolled on into the 160s. Roman authority was eventually restored behind the Antonine Wall, and Northern England was held by over 25,000 Roman troops, which was over half of the army in Britain.

182
The *Brigantes* joined with many Northern tribes, and Picts from Scotland, to start a mass revolt against Roman rule, which lasted until 209. The name "Picts" comes from the Latin "*Picti*" meaning painted and appears to have been a nickname given to them by their Roman foes.
The earliest evidence of Christianity in Lancashire was found in Manchester, when a fragment of pottery was dug up. It was inscribed with coded letters, which, when re-arranged spell *"PATERNOSTER"* or "Our Father". It was dated to 182 - a time when Christians were being persecuted by Rome. The Church struggled on in secret and isolation until the mid-sixth century.

©

196
During the Northern Revolt, relations between the various tribes became unstable, and this year, the Picts first invaded the Fylde from Scotland, also raiding in 296 and 367.

207
Septimus Severus was sent around the North to quell further potential rebellion, and his troops are known to have patrolled the Fylde and Wyre areas. He next invaded Caledonia in 208, but died in York in 211.

211
Roman Britain was divided into *Britannia Superior* (south) and *Britannia Inferior* (north), with the Fylde area of *Britannia Inferior* being ruled from *Eburacum* – York.

214
There had slowly evolved a greater sense of community between the Roman troops and their neighbours, and the hostility of the Brigantes faded.

225 - 235
The temple at Ribchester was built.

285 - 293
"Carausius establishes himself in Britain and declares himself Emperor. He strips the province and Hadrian's Wall of troops prior to his defeat and death. This results in the usual uprisings among the Picts, suppressed by a punitive raid in 306, and the restoration of Hadrian's Wall".

296
The emperor Diocletian conducted a major reorganization of the Roman Empire. As part of this, the newly named Diocese of Britannia was subdivided into four provinces, *Britannia Prima, Britannia Secunda, Maxima Caesariensis, and Flavia Caesariensis*.
Britannia Inferior itself was broken down into the provinces of *Britannia Secunda*, with York as its capital, and *Flavia Caesariensis*, with Lincoln (*Lindum*) as its capital - the Fylde still being ruled by York.

300
By now, almost everyone in *"Britannia"* was Roman, both legally and culturally, even though they were of indigenous descent, and still mostly spoke "Celtic" dialects. The Romans totally changed the culture and behaviour of the people of their part if the islands.

303
Although we do not know the exact date that Christianity was introduced to the area, there are records of widespread persecution of the county's new Christians in this year. However, in 314, Christianity was legalised throughout the Roman Empire.

335
The Romans built a base at *Calunium* (Lancaster), where they stationed an Irish Sea marine force to repel the Picts and Irish who were raiding the coastline.

350
Old King Cole: Coel Hen was born. Otherwise known as Coel the Old, he is widely acknowledged the "Old King Cole" that we all know from nursery rhymes.

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He was the Celtic "High King" of Northern Britain and lived until 420, during which time the Romans withdrew their forces from Britain. Historians suggest that he may have been the last of the Roman *Duces Britanniarum* (Dukes of the Britons) who commanded the Roman army in Northern Britain. He may even have taken over the northern capital at *Eburacum* (York), to rule over what had been *Britannia Inferior*.

Coel Hen is traditionally accepted as the first king in, and of, Northern Britain. He seems to have overseen the transition from direct Roman rule to an independent Britain which defended itself at last.

Upon Coel Hen's death, his lands were split between his sons, Garmonion and Cunedda II, and later his grandsons, Dunwal Moelmut, Cunedda III, and Gwrwst Ledlwn, thus creating the many old northern kingdoms of Britain. These included Rheged, to the west of the Pennines, and Ebrauc, to the east.

367
Scots and Picts from Ireland, and Attacotti from Germany began to co-ordinate their attacks, and launched raids on Roman Britain. Many towns were plundered throughout the province, and Britain fell into a state of anarchy, with the Britons also starting to rebel. The Romans christened this *"the Barbarian Conspiracy"*, and sent a highly experienced "field army", under Theodosius, which was very successful in rebuilding both relationships and buildings.

389-461 the legend of Saint Patrick began at Heysham, starting what was a "golden age" of Irish Saints in the Northwest. That lasted until the Synod of Whitby in 664, when Celtic and Roman Christians joined forces. It included Saint Brigid from c450 to 525.

c398
In response to another northern tribal outbreak, Rome sent a Vandal general, Stilicho. He restored a fragile peace but took a full northern legion back to Rome when he left a couple of years later.

407
Constantine III, a Roman general, declared himself Western Roman Emperor in Britannia in 407, and soon withdrew the last of the mobile Roman troops in order to defend the collapsing empire. He left behind a "skeleton" elite of Roman governors to maintain some kind of rule over the Britons, but in 408, the tribal leaders expelled the last of those Roman officials from Britain.

409 and 410
The collapse of the Roman Empire was caused by the European struggles between Constantine III and Gerontius (probably a Briton), and led to the sack of Rome by the Visigoths. This, coupled with the earlier ruin of Hadrian's Wall, and Emperor Honorius's withdrawal of all Roman troops to bulk up his forces in Spain, left the Fylde open to more invasions by Picts and Celts (otherwise known as Scots).
The Saxons also invaded in large numbers but were defeated by the native Britons. The leaders of the native Britons sent a letter to Emperor Honorius, appealing for help, but as his struggling empire had no troops to spare, he told the Britons they must defend themselves. They did so, repelled the Saxon invaders, and then went on to expel the Romans - **The Romans had gone.**

Historians believe that some of the first people to start draining and cultivating the Fylde were Roman veterans who had stayed behind to settle. We know that retired Romans were often granted plots of land, and these were always the best farmland available: *"When the men of the unit stationed at Ribchester were retired from service, it appears that they were granted the use of the marshland lying close to the fort*

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in the nearby Fylde country. They cut a system of drainage channels and thereby recovered large amounts of rich arable land which was used to grow abundant crops and to raise cattle and horses".

"King Arthur" and the Fylde?

In many parts of the country, the basics of Roman Civilisation survived for another 50 years, taking Britain into the age of "King Arthur".

In 545, the Celtic Christian monk Gildas, in *"De excidio et conquestu Britanniae"* or The Loss and Conquest of Britain, mentioned the Battle of Badon occurring in about AD 500. He also mentions Merlin (*Myrrdin*) and Mordred (*Medraut*), but not Arthur.

The 10th century document the *"Annales Cambriae"* – meaning "Annals of Wales", is an obscure chronicle of Welsh tales, and Arthur is mentioned in it twice:

> In the year 516, it records *"The Battle of Badon, in which Arthur carried the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ for three days and three nights on his shoulders and the Britons were the victors"*. This tale is clearly unbelievable, but most historians believe the Battle of Badon really did take place. *"Mons Badonicus"* is clearly described, but we still do not know its location; and
>
> In 537, the *Cambriae* records *"The Battle of Camlann, in which Arthur and Medraut fell: and there was plague in Britain and Ireland"*.

Also, the *"Historia Brittonum"* or History of the Britons, ascribed to a Welsh monk named Nennius in 1125, contains the earliest mention of Arthur, and details his life and battles against the invading Saxons. He wrote *"Arthur along with the kings of Britain fought against them in those days, but Arthur himself was the military commander ["dux bellorum"]"*. Geoffrey of Monmouth - known as the Father of the Arthurian Legend for developing the character of King Arthur – expanded upon this in his work *"Historia Regum Britanniae"* or History of the Kings of Britain in 1135.

In addition, *"The Life of Saint Cardoc"*, written c1130 by Caradoc of Llancarfan, shows Arthur more negatively. It tells of how he contested Cardoc's right to give 7 years of shelter to a man who had killed 3 of his soldiers.

Allegedly, *"Arthur was related to a member of the Setantii, alongside whom he fought in various battles. (One of which was at the River Douglas...just opposite Kirkham.)"*.

Modern historical thinking has Arthur as Arturus, a Roman officer who remained in England after the Romans left, in order to lead the people back to unity against the invading Saxons. He may well have held the Roman post of *"Dux Brittaniarum"* and as such was the officer in charge of the Romans' defence of the North against the Picts and Saxons.

We know that Arthur's last battle was at Camlann - thought by some to be in South-west England, but by others to be *Camboglanna"* - the Roman name for Birdoswald fort (or Castlesteads fort) on Hadrian's Wall.

King Arthur may even have been Arthwys ap Mar, whose father was a king near York, with a kingdom stretching from Hadrian's Wall to Lancashire. He lived between 470 and 540. Merlin was possibly a northern British bard named Myrddin. *"Arthur held a position of Dux Bellorum - Duke of Battles - that was always garrisoned in the north"*.

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There is clearly more than a grain of truth in the Arthurian legends, and if true, then those grains can easily lead us to believe that Arthur was once the ruler and the leader of the tribes in the Fylde and Wyre area.

Did Arthur exist? Well, on the 24th of May 1184, a devastating fire swept through Glastonbury Abbey, destroying much of the church and cloisters, the treasured books and sacred relics.
"The fire was a catastrophe and the monks urgently needed funds to rebuild the abbey. The apparently miraculous discovery of the graves of King Arthur and Queen Guinevere only a few years after the fire provided a very welcome potential source of income. Modern historians have argued that the monks may have staged the exhumation of Arthur and Guinevere to attract royal patrons and pilgrims and their money to Glastonbury".

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Chapter 4: The Dark Ages: 410 to 1066

The term "Dark Ages" was later used to denote the period in Europe between the fall of Rome and the "Renaissance". This term is now frowned upon by academics, who prefer to use the term "Early Middle Ages". They seem to feel that the word "dark" infers just misery and death, whereas contemporary kingdoms like those of the Lombards or the Visigoths would consider themselves quite cultured. To be honest, who really cares as long as we know the dates concerned? I am staying with the familiar title, as I see the period as having almost no written records, thus leaving us "in the dark".

I have attempted to track the people who were important in the Fylde and Wyre area during this confused time. Some of the detail may appear irrelevant, but its inclusion has helped me to track things. It has also revealed more erroneous assumptions by previous historians.

In western and northern Britain, around the western seas, the end of Roman power saw the reassertion of ancient patterns. Linguistic and cultural trends from before the Iron Age, were rapidly reinstated.

Post-Roman Britain swiftly split into separate kingdoms but continued to fight the Saxons. Not all Saxons were raiders however, and some had simply come to settle. The local folk were Brythonic Celts - the *Cumbri*. Picts and Scots caused so much trouble that historians believe that these *Cumbri* actually asked for help from abroad. The Scots also included Irish warriors, who were also known as Scots until 1400.

Indeed, from about 502, on the West coast of Scotland, there was a settled Pictish kingdom called Dalriada. This *"extended on both sides of the North Channel and composed the northern part of the present County Antrim, Northern Ireland, and part of the Inner Hebrides and Argyll"*. In the mid-9th century, King Kenneth I MacAlpin of Dalraida brought the Picts and Scoti together. Thereafter the whole country was known as Scotland, and incursions into our area continued.

The Kingdom of Rheged: The Fylde area formed part of the post-Roman Kingdom of Rheged. The kingdom was formed from the remnants of the Brigantes, at a time when the Celtic language was undergoing rapid change, *"Brigant"* seems to have become *"Breged"*, then "Brheged", and finally Rheged.

In about 450, Gwrast The Ragged became King of Rheged after the death his father Cerneud (son of Coel Hen). Gwrast is the Welsh form of his name and is therefore probably a later version of his real name, despite the Cumbric dialect spoken in Rheged being closely related to Old Welsh. He is more probably known as Gurgustus, the Latin form of the name Fergus.

The Kingdom of Rheged was divided on the death of Meirchion Gul in 535. Its capital, Caer Ligualid (Carlisle), was kept for North Rheged, and Caer Robais (Ribchester) seems to have been South Rheged's capital. South Rheged encompassed all of modern Lancashire and probably Cheshire, and its first king was Elidyr Llydanwyn "The Stout and Handsome".

Rheged later became the most powerful kingdom in the North under its ruler King Urien, who won several key battles against the Anglo-Saxon rulers of Bernicia in the second half of the 6th century. Urien's conflict with the Saxons was recorded by the 9th century Welsh monk Nennius and celebrated by the bard Taliesin, who refers to him as the "Ruler of Rheged".
Our kingdom was subsumed in the early years of the 7th century into the Kingdom of Northumbria (literally, the Land north of the Humber), and years of uncertainty followed, but South Rheged was finally

conquered in the 10th century by Wessex, to become part of a united England. Llywarch Hen (the Old), was its last king, dying in 634.

After the Romans left, centuries of confusion began. There were battles and divisions, liberally interspersed with periods of calm. The now-settled German newcomers and the native people were all illiterate. Therefore, apart from the "*Anglo-Saxon Chronicles*", few verifiable records exist, and many things, whilst known to have happened, cannot therefore be accurately dated. There are three main written sources of information about life at the time:

1. The "*Anglo-Saxon Chronicles"* were originally compiled by monks on the orders of King Alfred the Great in approximately 890, and subsequently maintained and added to by generations of anonymous scribes until about 1154;

2. "*De Excidio et Conquestu Britanniae"* - meaning "On the Ruin and Conquest of Britain", written in about 520 by the Scottish monk Gildas. This is a 3-part sermon condemning the acts of his secular and religious contemporaries, who he blames for the dire state of affairs in sub-Roman Britain; and

3. "*Historia ecclesiastica gentis Anglorum"* meaning "The Ecclesiastical History of the English People". This was written by The Venerable Bede in 731. Bede was a Benedictine monk at the Northumbrian monastery of Saint Peter at Monkwearmouth, today part of Sunderland.

A 7th century classical text, known as the *"Ravenna Cosmology"* lists *Bremetenacum Veteranorum* (Ribchester) and a place named as *Pampocalia*, whose precise location unknown, but might be Kirkham (although most think it to be near Leeds). That cosmology was compiled by an unknown monk at Ravenna in Italy, and was a list of all the towns and road stations throughout the Roman Empire

The Lancashire area swiftly returned to how it had been, but populated by now-Romanised people of the tribe known as the *Cumbri* (hence - Cumbria). They spoke a Celtic dialect, similar to Welsh, which is reflected in many local place names. The Celtic word "*penno*", meaning a hill, is reflected in names like Pendle. "*Rhe*" meaning swift, or to run, is in the names of many rivers, such as Ribble. "*Rhos*", as in Rossall, means a moor. Cumeragh, near Goosnargh, originates from the name of the inhabitants, the *Cumbri*. Celtic names often start with *pen-*, *wal-*, or *eccles-* and sometimes end in *–keth*.

Random Fact: Pendle Hill, when translated fully, actually means hill hill hill! In the 13th century, the hill was mentioned as "Penhul" - apparently from Cumbric "*pen*" and the Old English "*hyll*", both meaning "hill". The modern English word "hill" was appended later.

Norse is reflected in many place names, such as places ending in "*by*" (Westby etc.). Norse immigrants were converted to Christianity as we can see in their religious place names, such as Kirkham – "*kirkja*" being the Norse word for church. The name of Bradkirk near Kirkham means "board church". Norse names abound in the Fylde and Wyre - like the Bispham Carrs (*kiarr* being Norse for marsh). Anywhere with a name starting with *grim-* or *kirk-*, or ending in *–by*, *-ness*, *breck, slack,* or *-thwaite* is Norse. The word "*breck*" is very rare in Britain and must indicate a great number of Norse settlers in the Fylde.

Anglo-Saxon and Viking origins are also seen in local coupled names such as Inskip-with-Sowerby, in both of which the first name is of British origin, and the second Scandinavian. Inskip means "Bowl island" and is from *"ïnïs"* (Primitive Welsh) for an island, and *"cȳpe"* (Old English) for an osier-basket (for catching fish). Sowerby means "Sour-ground settlement", from *"saurr"* (Old Norse) for mud, dirt, or sour ground, and

©

"bȳ" (Old Norse) for a farmstead. This would suggest that the two peoples co-existed peacefully in the area. However, there are tales (unproven) of a battle between them, near Anchorsholme, where many human bones were found in the 19th century. The name Anchorsholme is thought to come from the Norse word "*holmr*" - a piece of dry ground in a marsh forming an island, with "*anchors*" meaning a place to fasten a boat. Even in 1875, the area was still being called *Angersholme*.

The Vikings: The word Norse is used to describe a variety of peoples, Angles, Jutes, Saxons, and Vikings included. The Vikings did not start to invade Britain in earnest until 793.
The Vikings came from Scandinavia, but the countries of Scandinavia as we know them today, did not exist until the end of the Viking Age. Wherever they lived, the Vikings shared common features such as house forms, jewellery, tools, and other everyday equipment. The names we now know those countries by are Denmark, Norway, and Sweden, and the Viking age in European history was from about 700 to 1050.

The word Viking comes from the Old Norse word meaning a pirate raid, from either *"vikja"* (to move swiftly) or *"vik"* (an inlet). It was only actually used to describe those Scandinavian men who went on raids - they called it "going viking".

A study on the language of the Isle of Man – *"Manx English"* - by Alexander Ellis in 1889, noted close similarities with Lancashire English. He classifies it as a dialect of the Fylde around Blackpool, with many words originating from the same Norse and Danish roots. Also, many local place names, such as Sowerby and Nateby, also occur on the Isle of Man, rather than in Ireland.

An investigation by the Medieval Village Research Group in 1973, records "evidence" of a medieval settlement near Rossall School. There are also several farmhouses in Elswick and Woodplumpton, which have medieval origins, and there is a well-preserved medieval field system just outside Catforth. Circumstantial evidence is also available to support medieval villages at Westby, Greenhalgh, and Medlar.

The settlement at what is now Lytham began to develop, as did the ones at Kirkham and Poulton. Lytham has had many spellings – *Lidun, Leddun, Lidum, Lethum, Lethun, Lichun, Lythum, Hlidtun, Lythcomb,* and *Lythcombe* being some. However, the name is thought to be derived from the Anglo-Saxon *"Hlidtun"*, which means "town in the hills" - sandhills?

There is sporadic evidence for many Christian churches existing well before the Norman Conquest, including, possibly, St Chad's at Poulton.

410

Saxons: These warlike Germanic tribes – from the Lower part of Saxony in northwestern Germany, began to inhabit parts of Britain from after the Romans left, in about 410.
By 421, a Roman chronicler was declaring that most of Britain was a *"Saxon kingdom"*.
The Saxons are named after their *seax* hand axe – *Seaxons.*

Saxon words also appear - in old maps of the era, a tract of land on the west side of the River Wyre is shown as Bergerode. Bergerode stretched between Shard and Fleetwood and could provide us with further justification for the location of *Setantiorum Portus* in the area. A sailors' lookout station was later based at Bergerode.

©

This word Bergerode is either a combination of two Saxon words "*beor*" and "*grade*" meaning a refuge/shelter, or a shallow harbour, or a combination of the words "berge" – a barge and "rode" – a safe place to harbour.

The expulsion of the Romans resulted in the appearance of many rich and powerful local leaders – named *Tyranni* by later Roman visitors. Britain became a fractured, but strong country again.

429

Angles: From about now, Angles from what is now eastern Denmark settled as *laeti* (which means they were allowed to settle, as long as they provided warriors) along the coast of the British territory of *Dewyr* (the coastline east of York) to help defend the coastline against raiders. They were led by Saebald.

By 560, under their leader, Ælle, the Angles had quietly taken total control of *Deywr*. In their northern Teutonic tongue, they pronounced *Deywr* as Deira, and a new, and hostile, kingdom was formed on Britain's east coast, soon spreading westwards across the Pennines.

The Battle of Degastan in 603 and the Battle of Chester in c616 were both won by Ethelfrith of Deira and effectively brought the Lancashire area under the Angles, who had previously colonised small parts of it by means of the valleys of the Wyre, Ribble, Lune, and Mersey.

Their "*inga*" settlements locally can be recognised as the roots of place names such as Staining, Bryning, and Pilling – all of which were slightly elevated above the surrounding marshland. *Inga* usually meant the tribe or family of a certain chieftain. For example, Melling means "the Inga of Moll". The next wave of Angle settlers, from 570, began the names we know as "*ingaham*" – the home of the Inga – such as Whittingham, which means "the *Inga of Hwita"*. These names later contracted to such as Bispham, from Biscopham, meaning "*the ham of Biscop"*.

History seems to show that the native Britons were almost completely overwhelmed by the Angles. They were probably either enslaved or forced into serfdom, and there are very few examples of British place names remaining today. River names are the main exception to this, apart from Treales. The name Treales is derived from the Celtic British word *"tref"* – meaning hamlet, and the Welsh *"llys"* – meaning court.

Anglo-Saxons: The Angles and the Saxons had long been used as mercenaries by the Romano-British leaders of the country, and in 442, they joined together and mutinied. As Anglo-Saxons, they continued to fight their former masters until the Battle of Badon, where they were defeated.

Anywhere having a name ending in –*ham*, -*ton*, or *ley* is Anglo-Saxon in origin. Two particular local examples of this are Cleveleys and Winmarleigh, both of which include the Anglo-Saxon word "Leah". A "leah" was an area of cleared woodland.

449

More Germanic warrior tribes arrived in England. British King Vortigern had invited the Jutes, under brothers Hengist and Horsa to help fight the Picts, and they landed at *Eopwinesfleot* (Ebbsfleet) near Thanet in Kent. The Jutes came from the Jutland peninsula, which is modern Denmark.

The English: The Jutes, Saxons, and Angles first began by fighting for the local *Cumbri*, but then turned against them, finally decimating them at the battle of Aylesford in Kent this year. The three tribes began to

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call themselves Anglo-Saxons, or **Englishmen.** For the next 150 years, the three Teutonic tribes became master of the whole of the country.

The English we speak today was originally the language of those 3 Germanic tribes. The language was brought to Britain by them, being also influenced by earlier Greek and Latin, and later transformed by the French speaking Normans.
The Angles had the biggest influence on the language, which can be seen in the name we now give the language - **English**, coming from *"Angle-ish"*. The name of the country - England - comes from *"Anglaland"*, meaning "the land of the Angles". *Anglaland* was eventually bastardised into *Englaland*, and finally to **England**.

c500
North Lancashire's first Christian church was built at Whalley, although Christian monks had travelled the area for many years beforehand.
570
Angles crossed the Pennines from the east, and Danes came from Northumbria and the West, to settle the Fylde's fertile farmlands.

596
Sent by Pope Gregory the Great, his envoy Augustine landed in Kent with 40 missionaries, charged with converting every Briton to Christianity. Thousands of baptisms followed, and many of these are known to have been carried out in the River Ribble. Soon, churches began to be founded around the country, and the new religion began to replace the old gods like Tiw, Odin, Thor etc.

600
Historians think that the Anglo-Saxons first settled in the Lytham area about now.

605
The two kingdoms of Bernicia and Deira united as Northumbria – including the Fylde area. Northumbria then annexed Rheged. Northumbria was then the most powerful kingdom in Britain.

607
"And this year Ethelfrith led a troop to Chester and there murdered a huge number of Welsh people and thus was fulfilled Augustine's prophecy when he said, "if the Welsh don't wish peace with us, they shall perish at the hands of the Saxons"".

616
It is said that Ethelfrith "*rampaged through the Fylde"*, before again defeating the local tribes at a battle at Chester, and in fact, the Battle of *Legeceaste*r (later shortened to Ceaster and finally to Chester) was a great victory for the Anglo-Saxons over the native tribes. At the battle, King Aethelfrith of Bernicia annihilated a combined force from the Welsh kingdoms of Powys, Rhôs, and the Briton kingdom of Mercia. The battle signalled the virtual wiping out of Christianity from the North and annexed the whole area to Northumbria. It divided the Britons of Wales from those in Northern England, including Lancashire, Cumbria, and south west Scotland.
However, "*his successor, King Edwin, reintroduced Christian worship to the area, when he designated the area as part of the diocese of Paulinus. The 7th century thereafter saw a massive increase in the take up of Christianity in the region, and this is evidenced today by the remains of stone churches, which supplanted the earlier wooden ones".*

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635

The Christianisation of our area took a great leap this year, when King Oswald of Northumbria made Birinus the first bishop of the West Saxons.

642

St Michael's Church, on Wyre: There are local legends of a church being built at St Michael's-on-Wyre this year, but conclusive proof has not been found. It may even have begun in 627. It was listed in the Doomsday Book in 1086, however. In about 1190, Theobald Walter *"gave the advowson of St. Michael's to the Cistercian Abbey of Wyresdale, an offshoot of Furness, subject to the appointment of a vicar"*. There has definitely been a church on the site from at least 1195 (the date of the earliest entry on the Vicars' Board), elements of which remain in the current building. Another early relic is a 13th century mural in the sanctuary, which was discovered in 1956, after being plastered over in the 19th century. In 1204, *"the advowson remained with the honour of Lancaster till 1409, when Henry IV gave it to the newly founded chantry or college of St. Mary Magdalen at Battlefield, near Shrewsbury. A vicarage was subsequently ordained"*.

Cheetham's survey of the church in 1905, surmises that parts of the church date from the 13th century *"These consist of part of the walling on the north side of the chancel, including a flat buttress, and some masonry at the north-west angle of the south aisle adjoining the tower, where there is a small built-up lancet window. The masonry in both these cases is of red sandstone, and differs from that of the remainder of the church"*.

The present church was possibly built in the 15th century, with alterations in the 17th century, and consists of a tower at the west end, a chancel, and nave under a continuous roof, and a chapel to the north.
The trapezoidal tower is said to date from 1549, and is broad and low with a west window, and has three stages, the upper of which (added later) is inset. The date 1611, and the coat of arms and initials of Henry Butler are carved into the parapet, and the tower has angled buttresses. The organ was installed in 1799, and sited in the west gallery.

One of the bells in the belfry is inscribed *"In the year 1458 this bell was made and given by Catherine de Bernieules Lady of Neufchatel"*. This treble "French Bell" is the Fylde's oldest bell and may have been brought there as spoils of war. The other two bells were cast in 1663 and 1742 respectively. A clock was added to the tower in 1671, and replaced in 1850.

The Butler chapel at the northern end probably dates from 1480, and was founded as a chantry of St Katharine. It was repaired in 1797, and repainted and restored in 1854. It has a pitched roof with an embattled parapet, which dates from the 19th century.
A gallery was added to the west end of the church in 1800. 1831 saw a hearse house erected to the southwest of the church. It was used to contain the parish hearse, which was hired out to mourners.
Also, in 1854, the western path was built, after a ruined cottage and attached joinery shop was removed.

In 1836, a schoolhouse was built next to the southwest corner of the churchyard. This was later used as the village museum, which housed a collection made by Hugh Hornby.
Where the church car park now stands, there was originally a short run of cottages.

Similar tales exist of a church being built at Mill Hill (Carr Hill) in Kirkham. This may have been the beginnings of St Michael's Church, and is thought to have been made from stones from the Roman forts.

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In its earlier years, it was allegedly visited by Roman general Paulinus – this reference though could equally mean St Michael's Church at the village now bearing that name. Paulinus was the Bishop of York.

661

Amounderness: The first mention was made of the Hundred of Amounderness - the Norse for "a ness or promontory sheltered by oaks". A Hundred was one hundred *rouds*, with a *roud* being 1½ square miles of cultivable land, including the rough land in between. It was also equivalent to the ancient *Wapentake* - meaning "weapon take", an area that the local Head Man had to keep clear of outlaws and marauders. This also accorded with the Saxon idea of a community of about ten families being under the control of a senior man called a *"tythingman"*. Senior to him in pre-Norman England was a *"hundredman"*, as a geographical area occupied by a hundred or so families was called a *"hundred"*.

In 705, the area was said to have been called *"Hacmunderness"*, and Amounderness was granted to Wulfstan I, the Archbishop of York in June 934, by Æthelstan, King of England. Domesday lists it as "Agmundrenessa". The area is also seen written as *"Andernes"* or *"Andernesse"* in earlier histories.

The Bailiwick of the Hundred was originally granted to the Singleton family. It then changed to the Banastres and the Balderstones, before being assigned to the Earl of Derby in 1564. The 3-week Wapentake Court of Amounderness was finally ended in 1857.

There is an alternative view, that the word Amounderness was derived from the Ness of Agmund – a "ness" being a headland where the moot was assembled. This is NOT possible, as the Agmund in question did not arrive until the late 800s. He was a Norse warlord, and vassal of Eowils, Halfdan and Ingwaer, co-kings of Jorvik. All three kings died at the Battle of Tettenhall in August 910, and Agmund died of his wounds in 911.

In 1577, William Camden, a renowned historian described Amounderness as *"for so the Saxons called this part of the country between Ribill and Cocar and forms a promontory resembling a nose and afterwards called Agmondernes"*.

664

The Synod of Whitby was held to decide if all the English kingdoms should follow the Church of Rome or the Ionian version of Christianity. The Roman version was chosen, and with Christianity came literacy.

670

The Norsemen, who earlier invaded Ireland and the Isle of Man, crossed the Irish Sea to settle peacefully in the area. Many of their words survive today – for example in Great Eccleston, there is still a small road called the *Weind*, which is the Norse word for a narrow passageway from the main street.

672

St Chad died in Lichfield on the 2nd of March. After having been made the British-Celtic Abbot of Lastingham, Chad was disciplined by Theodore, the Archbishop of Canterbury, in 669. Chad accepted Theodore's charges of impropriety with such humility and grace that Theodore appointed him Bishop of Mercia. Chad was renowned for walking everywhere *"as Our Lord did"*, and because of this, he was venerated as a saint straight after his death. Poulton's first church was later dedicated to him.

©

680

Christianity began to take a firmer hold in the area, and St Cuthbert founded his ministry at *Kartrmelr* (now called Cartmel). He had been "gifted" the land in 677, by King Egfrith of Northumbria. The building was rebuilt as Cartmell Priory, between 1188 and 1190, by William Marshall, Baron of Cartmel and later the 2nd Earl of Pembroke.

684

St Michael's Church, Kirkham: There is evidence of a church in Kirkham on the site of the present St Michael's Church, but tradition states that the first Anglo-Saxon church in the town was actually at Mill Hill.

In 1421, John Kirkby founded a chantry to the Virgin Mary at St Michael's Church. Another chantry – to St Katherine was also founded there in 1480. This developed into the parish church of today, and still has parts built in the 13th century. There was a dispute as to its ownership in 1203, and it appears to have been a wooden Anglo-Saxon church originally. There was a *"grammar skole"* next door at this time.

In 1512, Cuthbert Clifton left money for a steeple and north aisle to be built.

In 1679/80, a bone house was built at the Northwest corner of the church, and in 1698, buttresses were built along the north side. A vestry was added in 1713, and in 1802, the west end of the church was rebuilt. By that time, the church consisted of a chancel, nave with north and south aisles under one roof, and a west tower.

The present St Michael's Church, designed by Edmund Sharpe, was begun in 1822. It consisted of a chancel with a south aisle, and north organ chamber, and nave. The West Tower and Spire was added in 1844, as was a set of bells, and the chancel followed in 1853.

Kirkham Vicarage: The parsonage of Kirkham is mentioned in an ordination made by Cardinal John Thoresby in 1357. It stood in a field called the Close, at the west end of the church, and the buildings around the court included a barn, a hay-house, an ox-house, and a stable all under one roof, and another house of four bays with a poultry house.
When Cuthbert Clifton erected a new parsonage in the early part of the 17th century, the old building was not demolished but was probably let. No sign of it now remains.
A third vicarage was constructed in School Lane in the early 16th century. This was a plain rectangular building of two floors, with a garret. It measured 40 feet along the outside of the south wall, and 29 ½ feet outside the west wall, which abutted onto the churchyard. At the back of the building were the offices, and its garages were converted from the previous house. In 1816, an east wing was added. This building was sold in the 1980s and replaced by a modern red brick affair.

The earliest grave now surviving is of Jenet Johnson, who died in 1653.
The church bells were replaced in autumn 2017.

705

The Hundred of Hacmunderness was entered in King Athelstan's "Ripon Grant" of land in Lancashire to the Church of St Peter in York.

©

757
Offa became king of Mercia and went on to become the most powerful king in England by 776 - Northumbria was the only kingdom he could not subdue. The Fylde was in Northumbria. Offa first used the title "King of the English" in 774, but still did not have Northumbria.

787
The Danes used the Ribble valley as a trading route between Ireland and *Yorvik* - York, from where they later began to invade the rest of the country. They later linked with the more numerous Norwegian Vikings who first arrived in 793.

793
The first recorded Viking raid in the North took place on the island of Lindisfarne, where, the *"Anglo-Saxon Chronicles"* tell us that *"on the Ides of June the harrying of the heathen destroyed God's church on Lindisfarne, bringing ruin and slaughter"*. They went on to capture other places, including the Isle of Man, from where they later came to the Fylde area.
The Vikings had first attacked Portland, on the South Coast, in 787.

The Fylde was vulnerable to occasional invasions by Scandinavians for some time, and tales tell of Vikings beaching their longboats in the small cleft in the cliffs at the Gynn and raiding inland to Poulton. It is also likely that the settlement at Knott End has Viking roots. The invaders called their beach landing markers "*knots"* - large boulders or heaps of stones that they would move into position to aid navigation. Knott End has several of these Knots off the beach, and we already know that the River Wyre was a Viking route. Another local tale however claims that the name of the town actually came from the birds, called knots or dunlins, which roost on St Bernard's sandbank offshore.

828
The seven Saxon Kingdoms of England were merged under the rule of Egbert. In 830, he also subdued the Welsh, to become what is now acknowledged as the **first King of England**.

866
The year of the Viking Conquest caused cultural, linguistic, and political changes to the North and made southern Northumbria the Danish Kingdom of York. In Northern England, the conquering Danes settled mainly in Yorkshire.

867
The Vikings killed the Northumbrian kings Osbert and Aelle, ending their rule of the Northwest.

869
A terrible famine struck the Lancashire area and massively reduced the population.

878
King Alfred (The Great) ruled from 871-899, and this year, he defeated the Vikings at the Battle of Edington, after which he converted the Viking leader Guthrum to Christianity.

The lands, which now comprise Lancashire, were excluded from the Danish kingdom of Northumbria after the "Peace of Wedmore" in Somerset. The Fylde area however, was still too British and wild.

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882

St Cuthbert's Church in Lytham: The body of St Cuthbert is alleged to have rested at Lytham on its way to Durham Cathedral this year. There is no evidence to support this. A stone cross was later erected on the site, now standing in a hedgerow on Church Road. In the 20th century, Canon Hawkins presented a modern cross to be fixed in the ancient base, and it was dedicated by Archdeacon Hornby of Lancaster in 1931. St Cuthbert's Priory was soon established nearby by the Benedictine monks.
It now seems just as likely, that a cross was actually erected at that point to mark the boundary of the Lytham Priory lands delineated in the original charter.

St Cuthbert had died in 687, and the major "miracle" upon which his canonisation was founded was that in 698, his grave was opened and his body was found not to have decomposed. Miracles reported at his grave became so numerous that Cuthbert was called the "*Wonder-worker of England*". Between 875 and 995, a group of monks from Durham carted his mouldering remains around the North of England, ostensibly to avoid Danish marauders. One of the stopping places was said to have been at Lytham.

The first, wattle and shingle church was said, by the hagiographer Reginald of Coldingham, to have been pulled down by Ravenkil, who built a new one of stone. He may perhaps be the Ravenkil son of Ragnald who witnessed the foundation charter of Lancaster. That particular Ragnald is, I suspect, the "Ragnahald" who was allegedly lord of the manor of Lytham in 1066. I can find no trace of any Ragnahald in contemporary writings. The above-named Viking Ragnald - or Raegnald - is one who led an invasion of the North between 914 and 918. He was a Norwegian from Ireland.

There were two 12th century miracles ascribed to Saint Cuthbert by Reginald of Coldingham. In the first, Richard himself, when "*apparently sick unto death and carried into the Lytham church to die, marvellously recovered, and in the second, the life of his infant son was preserved in the same way*".

The "Priory Charter of Lytham" in 1387, indicates there was a parish church before 1190, and that it was used by the Benedictines. That second church was a low, cobble-built, building with *"thick walls, believed to have stood since the reign of Henry VII"*. It is recorded that *"This ancient church was built of cobbles, and was very low but local custom dignified it with the name of "Galilee". The pulpit was against the south wall. The seats were of old oak. The porch was built askew"*. It had *"five windows, including the east window, and a porch. Within, the seats were of black oak ornamented with scrolls, and were arranged in four rows. The pulpit was fixed against the south wall and there was an old canopied seat for the Clifton family"*. A Galilee was a porch or chapel which was used as the entrance to an abbey or church. It was the place where monks would gather to assemble for processions.

Note: The cobbles were such a precious resource that permission to take them from the shore had to be given by Squire Clifton. However, the Holcroft family had built both the church and its one-foot-thick walls out of those same cobbles.

In 1770, that original church was demolished and rebuilt in stone. Thornber says of this third church *"its walls were above a yard in thickness, the main door having a small porch; it received its light through an Anglo-Saxon window at the east and four others of the same order on the sides"*. It had a *"whitened"* white tower at the western end, which contained a single bell.

The fourth, and current, St Cuthbert's Church was built in 1834, around the previous building's remains, and was dedicated on the 2nd of November by the Lord Bishop of Chester. The church was enlarged in 1872, by the addition of a new chancel, the north aisle, a vestry, and the organ chamber, followed by new

©

seating and a new front to the gallery in 1887. It was further enlarged in 1909, by the addition of a bigger vestry, and the Memorial Chapel was built in 1931.

Near to the church porch is a sandstone pedestal sundial, undated, but probably from the 18th century. It has a gadrooned base with a fluted collar. The plate and gnomon are copper, and the plate is inscribed with the words *"Dum spectas fugio"* – meaning, "While you watch, I fly".

St Cuthbert's Parsonage (now known as the Vicarage, but originally called the Dower House) was built in 1836. The parsonage was almost totally re-built in 1885, by Canon Taylor and from 1921, was maintained by the Parish Council. Henry de Vere Clifton finally sold it to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners of England (it was NOT sold by the Council) in 1933, for £1,500.

The Victory Hall was dedicated next to St Cuthbert's on the 20th of October 1920, by the Reverend EA Knox, the Bishop of Manchester. It had been designed by F Harrison of Lytham, and cost £7,000 to build. During World War 2, it was used as a receiving centre and schoolroom for many of the children evacuated from Manchester.

886
King Alfred signed a treaty with Guthrum, which partitioned England between Vikings and the English. The Viking territory became known as the "Danelaw", and comprised the North-west, the North-east, and the East of England. In this area, which included the Fylde and Wyre, people would be subject to Danish laws. Alfred became king of the rest.

890
England was divided into counties for the first time. The Fylde and Wyre became part of Lunecastershire - the word "*shire*" being an Anglo-Saxon word meaning a part of land that is "shorn" from a larger tract.

900
Irish-Norse Vikings were expelled from Dublin by the Irish under the King of Leinster, crossing the Irish Sea to form new fishing, farming, and trading communities in Lunecastershire and modern-day Cumbria.

Kilgrimol: was to the north and west of Lytham. Also spelled *Kilgrimhow*, *Kelgrimesargh*, *Kilgrimmoles*, and *Kilgmoles,* it is thought to have been near to a sandbank where trading took place. Nearby, on dry land, the actual settlement of Kilgrimol is first recorded this year.
The small Kilgrimol church had its own burial ground, and this early Viking/Christian site defined the western boundary of Lytham Manor.

The monks at the small church followed the "Culdee" faith and were led for many years by Oswald the Gentle, who had seen them through a vicious storm and the great plague of 869. Culdee worshippers were "anchorites", who, in complete seclusion from society, sought the perfection of sanctity. They then turned into communities of hermits and were finally brought under canonical rule with the secular clergy.

There have been several explanations of the meaning of the name Kilgrimol. Some say it is from the Irish/Norse *"Kelgrimelr"*, meaning "Kelgrim's sandbank", and others think it means *"a nook in the sand hills"*. My own preference is that Kilgrimol refers to the "*keeill"* belonging to a Norseman called "*Grim*", which stood on the site of an old burial place. A "*keeill"* was a part Pagan/part Christian church. They were named after the keels of the upturned boats that they were first made from.

©

"The Book of Saints" describes Kilgrimol at this time as being in a forest, rich in wildlife, and set in an area known as the *"Fieldlands"*. This is more than possible, as we know that much of the Fylde landscape was like this at the time.

Local people sheltered from floods with the Monks of Kilgrimol, and after it disappeared beneath the waves, there were tales of coffins being unearthed and washed up on the shore. Legend has it that on the eve of the winter solstice, when the moon sinks low in the sky, if you listen very carefully, you can hear the ghostly monks chant their litany as they make their way to vespers!

The site of Kilgrimol was originally thought to have been between St Cuthbert's Church at Lytham, and Commonside at Ansdell, and it may or may not have been further west than the present shoreline. However, by the correct interpretation of a grant of land by Maud and Quenelda Fitz Roger, to Lytham Priory, its location now seems clear. That second grant describes the land as lying between Kilgrimol burial ground (to the South) and the cross at Cross Slack, which is in the dunes between St Anne's and Squires Gate. The 1960s bungalows of Kilgrimol Gardens reflect it.

902
The native Irish completed their expulsion of the Norwegian Vikings from their fortress at Dublin, and those Vikings, led by Ingimund, then began to cross the Irish Sea. They were allowed by Queen Aethelflaed of Mercia to settle near Chester. The River Ribble was the northern boundary of the kingdom of Mercia.

907
Those Vikings from Ireland attacked Chester but were defeated and moved off to the Wirral. From there, they slowly moved northwards into West Lancashire and beyond - Formby was a large Viking settlement. After moving, these Vikings later became overlords of the Lytham area, and Viking place names such as Kilgrimol and Kellamergh date from now.

911
A Danish army, returning to York after sacking the South, was caught by King Edward's combined army of West Saxons and Mercians. The ensuing battle killed thousands of Danes, including 2 Danish kings and 5 earls or "holds", one of whom was Agmund, the Governor of the Fylde. The British army "*overtook them on their return at the village of Wednesfield, not far from Theotenhall, and overthrew them again in another bloody battle, wherein he killed Eowills and Halfden"*.

921
We know that the western coast, from the Ribble northwards, had a "*dense population of Britons, who preserved their national language and customs"*, although they were ruled by Saxons.

926
King Athelstan bought the entire area of *Hasmundernesse* from Agmund's heirs when he married his sister to Sihtric of the Viking kingdom of York.

927
Sihtric died, and Athelstan annexed York – which ruled the Fylde. He then drove all the Danes out of Northumbria. After almost every ruler in the land attended Athelstan's peace conference at Eamont Bridge in Cumbria. Signatories included King Owain of Strathclyde and Cumbria, Constantine, King of the Scots, Hywel Dda of Deheubarth (southwest Wales), and Ealdred of Bamburgh. Soon afterwards, Athelstan decided to call himself "King of all the Britons", and added the words *"rex totius Britanniae"* to his coinage.

©

934

Carleton: was listed when Athelstan granted Amounderness to St Peter's Church in York on the 7th of June. The name of the village means "the settlement of the free peasants", derived from the Olde English pre-7th century word *"ceorlatun"*, which became adapted to *"karlatun"* with Viking incomers. The elements of the name are the Old English *"ceorl"* (the Old Norse *"karl"*), meaning free peasant, and the Old English *"tun"*, meaning village or settlement.

It was split into two parts: Great Carleton stretched from Norcross to Highfurlong, and Little Carleton from Highfurlong to Layton. The centre of the township was at what we now know as "Four Lane Ends", where most of the tradesmen and artisans that served the 30 plus farms were based.

By the time of the 1842 Ordnance Survey, their map shows Little Carleton as being based at today's Kincraig Primary School, but Little Carleton (Detached) as around Carr Road and Mossom Lane – and including Horseman's Hill. In 1875, Horseman's Hill was officially transferred from Carleton to Bispham council ownership. On the hill, today are built Sheringham Avenue, part of North Drive, and Kelvin Road. The 1st of April 1918 saw 31 houses, holding 128 people, transferred to Blackpool Borough.

937

The Battle of Brunanburh: The rebellious Irish, Welsh, and Scots invaded England, and were joined by the Northumbrians.
King Athelstan, defeated their forces – led by Anlaf - at the battle of "Brunanburh" or "Brunadane".
This is a place whose location is much disputed, but wherever it took place, it was one of the bloodiest battles ever fought on British soil and was a great victory for a combined Anglo-Saxon army. That army came from Mercia and Wessex, and was led by Athelstan, King of England, and his brother Edmund. They defeated the allied forces of Olaf III Guthfrithson, the Norse-Gael King of Dublin, Constantine II, King of Scots, and Owen I, King of Strathclyde. Welsh warriors from Strathclyde were also part of the defeated army.

Burn Naze is just one of the claimants to its location, being as it is the site of the Saxon village of Brun, which was located at the bottom of Burn Hill, towards Burn Naze. Most historians support the location as Bromborough in the Wirral, but as Brunanburh translates as "Bruna's Fort", and the Domesday Book refers to Burn near Thornton as "Brune" - maybe? A more recent contender is Barndale bar in Yorkshire.
My own opinion is that the Thornton Burn is too far away from the area where most Vikings entered England from Ireland. For what it is worth, Bromborough in the Wirral gets my vote.

Note: Contemporary Welsh records place the battle in 935.

954

Eric Bloodaxe was expelled for the second and final time, and King Edred of Wessex and England gained control. From then on York and Northumbria – by now, once more ruling the Fylde area - remained part of a united Anglo-Saxon kingdom. The last Viking ruler had been removed from England.

1002

King Ethelred ordered the killing or expulsion of all Danes in the country. In retaliation, the Danes under King Sweyn invaded the North of England in 1003, and colonised the Fylde area, marching in along what soon became known as the *Dane's Pad* (see below). For 4 years, the Danes ravaged all the northern lands.

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The Danes's Pad: this track way ran westwards along the path of the Roman Road from Ribchester, starting from Dowbridge in Kirkham, across Ribby Brow (the site of Westby Reservoir) to the North of Great Plumpton, south of Weeton, and petering out near Puddle House Farm, to the south of Poulton. The route probably led across Aldwath Ford and on to Knott End, where Viking ships would make first landfall.

The best example of the Dane's Pad to be seen today is the footpath from Todderstaffe Hall to Staining, and in the 1838 tithe award, a former field north of the Main Dyke is identified as "Dains's Path Carr". A survey by Oxford University in 2010, found probable evidence of the route - a wide line of pebbles stretching through fields of Dover Lodge Farm by Staining Hall.

Recent research suggests that the Dane's Pad may be named after the *Dannan* - a Druidic/Christian Celtic sect of powerful wise men.

Older residents of Freckleton and Kirkham used to tell of the Dane's Pad running from Freckleton Naze to the River Wyre, via Kirkham and Poulton. Who knows for certain?

Saxon women from Poulton allegedly chased the Danes out of the village, towards Skippool. The little port on the Wyre is written as *Skippon* on old maps and is otherwise known as *Skiffe-Pool* and *Skip Pool*.

Other Danes are said to have been killed at Weeton, in a battle with the local Saxons at Lane Ends. There is no physical or written proof of such a battle, but it is more than possible that, after Brunanburh, the northern army turned and fought at Bryning, facing the Saxons as they crossed the sands of the Ribble at low tide. The Danes then headed up across the Fylde, fighting another battle at Weeton, before making again for sea from Knott End. They could equally have made for their defensive positions at Heysham, and a thence to a possible escape route across the sea.

A ghost, or boggart, was said to have haunted the Weeton battlefield for years thereafter, and there is still a pond on Mains Lane, called "Boggart Pit". Another spectre – a coffin – is said to glide across Greenhalgh Lane, and Weeton is also associated with the oldest ghost of the Fylde country, *"the hairy ghost"* - the Celtic equivalent of the ancient satyr. This, the Fylde's oldest boggart, is first reported in 1851, when it is stated *"I must take you to a cairn not far from Weeton Lane Head, in a field called Moor Hey, on the side of the highway leading to Preston. I relate the strange tale of its discovery. The farmer was ploughing on the spot, when the horses took fright and fled from the field — would the fatty ground smell? — and the man in dismay ran after, being pursued by the demon of the Fylde — something in the shape of a calf*". The cairn is on Weeton Hill near Stanley House Farm.

For interest, a list of reported local "ghosts" is provided at Appendix D – take with a large pinch of salt!

Note: There was a tale of a water dragon in Marton Mere, which roamed around the mere decimating the herds of sheep and pigs kept on the farms. It was killed by a monk from Kilgrimol Abbey, who hid a spring in a side of bacon, which forced the jaws of the dragon open and made it drown. It sank to the bottom of the lake never to be seen again. The monster of the Mere could possibly have been a salt-water crocodile, as the Mere links to the sea by many small ginnels or brooks, along which the crocodile could have swum. In 1980, after the M55 motorway had been completed, a motorist swore he ran over the tail of a crocodile and saw it crossing the lanes and heading towards the mere.

1014

The nobility of Northumbria and the Danelaw supported the invasion of King Sweyn's Danes.

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1016
Canute (or Cnut) had invaded England in 1015, becoming King from November the 30th. On his coronation, he appointed a Norwegian called Eric Hlathir as Earl of York, and Eadulf Cudel of the house of Bamburgh as the Earl of Northumbria (as he then called his land north of the Tees).
Canute had begun to divide England into earldoms, and the Fylde was yet again ruled from the Northeast.

1019
Ealdred became Earl of Northumbria on the death of Eadulf, sometime after 1019, and peace reigned until 1035, when King Canute died at Shaftesbury.

1038
Ealdred of Bamburgh was killed by Carl, the "Hold of York". He was succeeded by Eadulf of Bamburgh, who then met his end - possibly at the hands of Siward, who then became Earl of all Northumbria.

Who are WE?
A study of British DNA in 2015, discovered that while the Romans, Vikings, and Normans ruled Britain for many years, none left their genetic calling cards behind in the DNA of today's Caucasian population. The only invaders to leave a lasting legacy were the Anglo-Saxons, who, as well as giving us the English language, account for between 10 to 40 per cent of our DNA.
Before the Romans came, Britain was a highly-Balkanised cluster of culturally and genetically isolated tribal enclaves. The Romans dissolved many of these barriers in what is now southern and eastern England – partly through building roads – and that same area was then occupied by the Anglo-Saxons from 450 onwards.
In the North and West however, the tribes managed to hold on to their isolation - including genetic isolation from the Anglo-Saxons.
So, the Fylde's genes remain greatly Balkan in basis, mixed with some Iberian types.

1054
Siward defeated the Scots under King Mac Bethad mac Findlaích - who we know now as Macbeth.

1055
Siward passed away and the Earldom of Northumbria, including its Fylde lands, was given by King Edward the Confessor to Tostig Godwinson, brother of soon-to-be King Harold, the Earl of Wessex, as part of his *"Preston Fee"*. Tostig lived at Hougun (High Haume in Furness).

1060s
Broughton: The manor of Broughton was originally part of the land owned by Earl Tostig. It was later held by Uhtred, a Saxon thegn whose family took the name Singleton. It was known then as *"Brochton Agemundr naze (hundred)"*, or Broughton-in-Amounderness.
In the time of King John, the manor was seized by Theobald Walter, but was restored to William Singleton by Henry III in 1261. By 1325, it was the home of Gilbert de Singleton, and in the 16th century it was sold to the Langton family. The estate was gained, through marriage, by the Rawsthorne family in 1735.
About 3 miles north of Preston there was a "strong tower", built of stone, and surrounded by a moat fed by Sharoe Brook. The tower was demolished in 1800, and Broughton Tower Farm was built on its site.
Then, during the 1930s, during water works, the tower's moat was filled in, and the farmer, Mr Rogerson, reported seeing *"several large foundation stones and oak posts, for the tower, still in good condition"*.

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The Parish Council was formed in 1888.

1061
King Malcolm III of Scotland quarrelled with Earl Tostig and invaded the North. There is a tale - unproven, and highly unlikely - of the Scots coming south through the Fylde during one a raid.

1065
Morkere (or Morcar), Earl of Northumbria, replaced Tostig as ruler of the Fylde. Tostig went into exile.

1066
The final Viking invasion of England came, when Harald Hardrada – aided by the exiled Tostig - sailed up the River Humber, captured York, and marched to Stamford Bridge in Yorkshire with his army of 11,000 men.
The English king, Harold Godwinson, marched north with his army of 15,000 and defeated Hardrada in a long and bloody fight on the 25th of September at the Battle of Stamford Bridge. The Vikings had arrived in 300 ships, but they were so decimated that only 24 were needed to return them. Hardrada and Tostig were both killed whilst fighting, and Harold recovered Northumbria.

Unfortunately, just three days after Stamford Bridge, William and his Normans invaded England. The victorious Harold was obliged turn his army around, to force-march them down to the South Coast. His army had lost many men, together with a great number of his experienced House Carls (leaders), but it had been reinforced to 8,000 by men conscripted from the South and Midlands.

No matter what came next, the English had repelled the last major invasion from Scandinavia.
There were a few later incursions, but all were repelled successfully. They included the armies of King Sweyn Estrithson of Denmark in 1069 and 1070, and those of King Magnus Barefoot of Norway in 1098, and 1102 to 1103.

However, it is rather ironic that William the Conqueror was descended from Vikings. We could say that, when he was crowned king in 1066, the Vikings had finally conquered Britain after 250 years of trying.
The title “Norman” is a linguistic corruption of the earlier “Norsemen”.

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Chapter 5: The Middle Ages: 1066 to 1493

After the Norman Invasion, religion played a large part in the area's development, with much land being given, leased, bought, and sold by abbots, priors, and the landed gentry. Land was parcelled out between these rich people in many ways, and provable records are scarce; indeed, many of the details of development can only be worked out from records of property deals. Information for the 11th century is particularly sparse. Superstition and legends were rife, and natural disasters were common, but the foundations of the future towns of the Fylde and Wyre began to be laid.

The Normans: The Normans that invaded England in 1066, came from Normandy in Northern France, but were originally Vikings from Scandinavia. In 911, King Charles the Simple, of France granted some land in northern France to a Viking chief named Rollo, in the hope that by giving the Vikings their own land in France they would stop attacking his country. That land became known as "Northmannia", which was later shortened to Normandy.
Those Vikings intermarried with the French locals, and by 1000, they were no longer Viking pagans, but French-speaking Christians. Although the Normans were fearsome warriors, they also showed remarkable skill in government, and established many schools, monasteries, cathedrals, and churches in both Italy and England. A conquering England, they built many castles to defend their new land.

At the time of the Norman Conquest, the area we now know as Lancashire had a population of just 10,000, and the small town of Preston was its only significant community.

The Norman influence can be seen in various places, but of particular interest to us is the name Poulton-le-Fylde; the "*le*" element harks back to the old French.

It was now that the Fylde's two most important towns began to develop:

Poulton: A township of sorts appears to have begun at Poulton in Roman times, probably around a small garrison of troops. This year, the village had a Moot Hall in the town square, where the area's Justices met. The word "moot" is derived from the Saxon *"mote"* – a meeting place. It was usually on a prominent hill: Constable Hillock, on the banks of the Wyre near Garstang, was used for the purpose as late as 1816.

The name Poulton comes from "pool town"- derived from the nearby Skip Pul, or Skippool Creek. Poulton was also known as Poulton Magna and Kirk Poulton at the time, with Little Poulton (or Poulton Parva) and Compley also being first mentioned about now. In the 19th century, it was dubbed the *"Metropolis of the Fylde"*.

Poulton was the port of the Fylde, having the local Custom House and the twin wharves of Skippool and Wardleys. The trade on the River Wyre is its real foundation as a market town.

The town held regular markets; an annual horse market; a thrice yearly cloth market – on the 6th of February, 13th of April, and in August; a fortnightly cattle market (by 1830, this had become an annual cattle fair on the 3rd of November) and a weekly corn market on Mondays (by 1850 this had become a general market). It also had its own "Shambles" – next to the Moot, and a tithe tarn, which was demolished in 1968, and replaced by a car park.

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The Poulton Tithe Barn was one of several such buildings in the Fylde: Bispham, Stalmine, Preesall, Little and Great Eccleston, Layton, Kirkham, Bispham, Thornton, Carleton, Lytham, and Little Marton all had Tithe Barns. They were buildings where local farmers would pay a "tithe" or tenth of their produce in tax. By 1822, the Poulton Tithe Barn was being used as a theatre and was hosting productions mainly by travelling groups of actors.

Although the town has held a market for many centuries, Poulton was never officially granted a market charter. Its name is not seen in writing until 1673.
The town later became known fondly as the *"Old Capital of the Fylde"*. It began as a nucleated village and was concentrated around the 7 original streets: *"Tithebarn Street and Ball Street on the north, Chapel Street (formerly Bank Lane and then Bank Street) to the east, Queen's Square (formerly Higher Green) and Blackpool Road to the south, and Church Street and Market Place to the west"*. *"Building plots, or tofts, were laid out around these streets. The rear boundaries of the plots formed a well-defined edge to the settlement, still observable on 19th century maps"*.
Local Poulton folk call their town *"Pewton"*, reflecting the old Fylde dialect.

Kirkham: A village of sorts was at Kirkham in at least Roman times, but strangely, there is no recorded Roman name for Kirkham. I have my own suspicion - as yet unproven - that Kirkham may have been the Roman town of Coccium. The names sound rather too similar, and its proximity to our Watling Street would make it an ideal stopping point. In addition, Mr Whittaker in the 19th century stated that the Setantan capital "Caer Cocciu" means the "City of Supremacy": the Setantan capital "Caer Guochi" is considered, by specialists in their history, to have been Kirkham. Others consider that Wigan or Walton-le-Dale were Coccium.

Usually, however, its name is thought to have come originally from the Anglo-Saxon *"Circeham"* and was partially changed by the Norse to *"Kirkham"* - from the Norse "*kirk*" and the Anglo-Saxon "*ham*" - meaning "church village".

By 1066, Kirkham also had a Moot Hall in the town square. It had been built on what was known locally as *"The Waste"*.

Kirkham is often called The Metropolis of the Fylde and *"in an undated deed circa 1300, a landowner of that town attests it by the name of "Araaricus de la Campton"* meaning the town of the field. In common with most other northern towns, Kirkham had a Townfield. This was an area of common, arable land which was divided into strips for grazing. Kirkham's contained *"18 oxgangs of arable and meadow at the rate of 16 customary acres per oxgang"*, and extended for more than 580 statute acres. Each of the town burgesses owned an oxgang. Oxgangs later evolved into the individual sowing strips called furlongs or roans (in Freckleton "the old roan" was a long, furrowed strip of ground, which was cultivated to become famous for its garden peas in the 1900s). Additional to this was approximately 168 acres of former glebe land and the common pasture known as The Moor. Kirkham Moor was open for grazing until enclosed in 1553/4. There was also the Kyrkholm, which was a piece of marsh ground. It was some of the best arable land belonging to the glebe, and was made up of the vicar's carrs, below the church.

In 1269, the old town of Kirkham was granted a charter by King Henry III, to hold a weekly Royal Charter Market every Thursday, one annual Royal Charter Fair for five days each June (St John), and a Manor Charter Market for five days in October (St Luke). June the 24th was for *"cattle and horses"*, and the 18th of October for *"toys and small ware"*. This charter was superseded in 1287, when on the 21st of January, King Edward I granted another charter, to the Abbot and Church of Vale Royal, to hold a Thursday Market at the

manor. The same charter also gave permission hold a Midsummer Fair on the 24th of June - the feast of the Nativity of John the Baptist. The charter was then confirmed on the 2nd of July 1401, by King Henry IV. Besides market rights, the charter bestowed the rights to *"hold a free guild, with a prison, pillory, and ducking stool"*. The location of the prison is unknown.

The town was also allowed its own gibbet, which stood at the corner of Mowbreck Lane and Esprick Lane in Wesham - then known as *"Bloody Lane Ends".* The Old Thatched House Tavern (known locally as the Bloody House) stood opposite here from the early 17th century, at 31 Weeton Road. John Brown was proprietor and auctioneer there in 1842. The Lane Ends Hotel was built on the site in 1901, and its first landlord was Thomas Wilson.

In 1570, Kirkham Moot Hall was built in the market place by James Browne. It stood at the junction of Preston Street, Poulton Street, Freckleton Street, and Church Street, and was two storeys high. The ground floor was filled with butchers' shops, and the upper floor, with its large council chamber, was approached by two flights of stairs at the north and south ends. On the west side, a wooden penthouse overhung the street.
The stalls in the moot hall were patrolled and checked by 2 officials who had to swear the following oath *"You shall swear, ..., to take care that no butcher, victualler, or other person, shall sell or offer to sell, any corrupt, unsound or unwholesome flesh, fish, or other victuals not wholesome or fit for man's body and you shall take care that all bread and beer sold be right weight and measure"*.

The moot hall was again rebuilt in 1577, and from about 1590, the Court Leet met there, the jurors retiring to the adjacent Eagle and Child Inn for refreshments. After being briefly used as a flax heckling shop, the smell became so oppressive that the whole building was burnt down in 1780. The Shambles remained. The burgesses of Kirkham petitioned in 1794, for the removal of the burnt-out shell, and the last of the moot hall was demolished in 1795.
The town seal consisted of a dove with an olive branch in its beak.

In 1692, a *"public lamp lighted with oil at the town's charge"* was erected in the town square. Another lamp was first lit in 1837, and the current incarnation, paid for in 1872, by Thomas Birley, may well have replaced it.

The town stocks were in St Michael's churchyard. They were later removed to the Market Square near the fish-stones, where they gradually crumbled away. They were last repaired and painted in 1749.
Kirkham also had its own ducking stool. In the fields, immediately to the east of Mellor Road, to the west of the Fylde Cottage Homes is a pit, where the old ducking stool was situated. It is today called the Cuckstool Pit. The "cuckstoole" is mentioned in 1722, and the "cuckstoole gutter" in 1709. In the chicken runs behind today's houses, is a distinct depression, filled with bushes and rubbish, apparently, the remains of the Ducking Stool pit.
Kirkham was allowed to keep and use a "Brank" or "Scold's Bridle", used to encase a woman's head in an iron frame which had a metal spike in the mouth. This would injure her at the slightest movement of her tongue.

The Abbot of Vale Royal held the charter and controlled Kirkham from Cheshire until the Reformation, when King Henry VII took the Manor away from the Abbot and gave it to the newly created protestant Christ Church in Oxford. Christ Church remained Lords of the Manor of Kirkham until it was decided to lease it to Sir Richard Fleetwood and the Clifton family. The Birley family were the first "private" Lords of

©

the Manor, paying £8,000 for the privilege. The Penney family purchased it from the Birleys, and the Sergeant family purchased the Manor from them for £300 in 1933.
A Christmas tradition for many years was the playing of a football match through the town. All men and boys could take part.
Halfpenny tokens were issued in 1670 and 1671 by Kirkham traders, and the town's first printing press is said to have been in use in 1790.

Fylde Cruck cottages: Cruck-built long houses and other buildings began to appear in the Fylde, becoming the main local design for several centuries. The idea appears to have been Celtic in origin.
The cruck, around which the design was based, was begun by cutting a curved tree trunk. This was then squared and cut in to produce two matching cruck-blades, which were then erected to form an A-frame with a main tie beam. This joined the two blades and projected out to the level of the eaves, and the whole roof was then fully supported by the crucks. The walls were made of whatever materials were available at the time, but usually, mud, peat, or animal dung. The roofs were of either thatch or shingle. Most had just a single room inside, with an open fire at one end, and often accommodated the family's animals as well.
They could also be recognised by their "sentry box" porches and slit, unglazed windows.

In 1957, Fishwick reports that *"The Fylde abounds in three-bay cruck houses, although most of these are condemned and will not survive much longer. Until recently at Hodgkinson House near Elswick, the entire twelve bays of the farmstead were supported on cruck trusses. The "T" shaped house here is built on crucks and when some repairs were being carried out some years ago a silver coin of the first Elizabeth's reign was found embedded in the clay. This farm passed by descent for over three hundred years, which seems to point to the survival of this farm's buildings, to a recent date. Unfortunately, the buildings were destroyed in a severe gale a few years ago"*.

1066
At the Battle of Hastings on the 14th of October, Harold Hardrada's English army of 8,000 was defeated by the 12,000 invading Normans. William the Conqueror, was crowned King of England.

Mains Hall, Singleton: Also known as Maynes Hall, this was now built by monks, as their grange and as a refuge for travellers to Cockersand Abbey. Modern research indicates that a moated hall of some kind had been on this site before this date. It may have been called *Monks Hall* or *Means Hall* originally, and legend tells of 12 monks who died of the Plague and were buried under 12 trees behind the hall. Allegedly, their ghosts still haunt the grounds.

The hall originally faced the river and was made up of a central range with two side wings, but the second hall faced south, and was built around a quadrangle of open ground, with the chapel on the right, and the kitchen on the left. The Great Hall was in the centre of the quadrangle, which was at various times fully roofed over.

In 1536, Mains Hall became the property of the Earl of Derby, who then sold it to staunch Catholic William Hesketh in 1602. Several "priest holes" were built around then, to hide the Catholic priests from the Protestants – one was discovered in 2006. When Thomas Hesketh restored the original chapel and barns, he and his wife Margaret left their mark in the brickwork in the form of their initials "THM" and the date – 1686.

©

It is probable that a member of the Hesketh family reinstated the original Great Hall during their time. In 1853, that original Tudor banqueting hall was described by a local historian as: *"the west, the wing now destroyed, a very antique building, within which was a hall-part, having a huge open chimney, and wainscotted with fluted oak of the reign of Henry VIII, now rotting unheeded in the garrets of the hall".*

On the north side, between the house and the Wyre, is an octagonal brick pigeon-house with pointed roof. The last Hesketh, Thomas, inherited the manor of Claughton in Garstang and in 1751, Mains, like Claughton, was devised to a relative by marriage. The Hesketh family then left Mains Hall for Claughton Hall, changing their name to Brockholes. In due course, Mains Hall descended to its long-term recent owner W J Fitzherbert-Brockholes.

During 1818, Mains Hall for two days became an alternative summer home of the Prince Regent (George IV), when he paid a visit his "secret" wife, Maria Fitzherbert, a Roman Catholic widow and relative of the owner. Shortly after this visit, the West wing was pulled down – to be rebuilt as a 3-storey wing, and in 1846, the interior was virtually gutted.

A visitor to the hall in 1853, was told by the architect that a peculiar feature was the walls. He said that they were *"the walls of a castle; some of the interior ones being more than a yard in thickness—a useless expenditure of room"*. He also mentioned *"hiding places; for between two walls we disclosed a secret recess, most adroitly concealed"*.

During the latter part of the 19th century, the hall became derelict, but after it was bought in 1912, it was fully restored. The restoration included the installation of imported Jacobean panelling.
Another future owner was Arthur Hall, who once owned theatres and cinemas in Blackpool.

Bought by Roger and Adele Yeomans in 1989, the Great Hall was completely rebuilt in 2004, to replace the original 14th century banqueting hall. A secret chapel was also discovered, hidden behind original wattle and daub walling.
Mains Hall then became the first place on the Fylde coast (other than a church) to be licenced for marriages under the 1995 Marriage Act.

TV programme "Most Haunted" visited the hall in 2006 and claims to have filmed a ghost on television for the first time, when a face appeared to move across the screen.

Burn Hall, or Burn Hall, or Bourne Hall: The manor of Burn is recorded as having 2 ploughlands.

"Burn was among the possessions of Roger de Heaton's heir in 1212. Roger had had it taken from him by Theobald Walter, but recovered it in 1199–1200, after John became king. It descended in the Heaton family till the 15th century, when it passed on partition to Westby of Mowbreck".

In 1324, Adam Banastre was said to hold Burn, but was probably a mere trustee. 1345 gives us the first written mention of an actual Hall in the manor. In 1346, William de Heaton "*held in Thornton in the place which was called Burn one plough-land in socage".* Just how much of that original hall was left before it was demolished, nobody knows, but most scholars believe that John Westby of Mowbreck Hall built the final Burn Hall in around 1470, just after he had purchased it - he died in 1512.

The Westbys used Burn as a hunting lodge and summer retreat, but in 1556, the family rebuilt the hall, for use as their new main home - they had moved there from Mowbreck. Burn stayed in the Westby family

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until 1722, when John Westby died and it passed to his daughter Anne, who had recently married Reverend John Bennison. He was apparently the one who ripped out and "modernised" most of the ancient parts of the building.
Burn later passed to the Fleetwood family, and at one time, the squire of Burn Hall was the biggest local landowner, with around 360 acres.

The hall itself was enlarged by Bold Fleetwood Hesketh in 1784, and in 1786, was rebuilt as two tenements for farmers. Over the porch was the date 1786, with the initials of Bold Fleetwood Hesketh. This large farmhouse was later described as "*being of two storeys, constructed in brick (plastered over), a slate roof and 'modern' doors, windows and chimneys. The outbuildings were constructed in cobblestone with brick dressings. There was a 'Chapel room' on the upper floor with a fine plaster ceiling and fireplace with coat of arms"*. That domestic Catholic chapel had an oak wainscot richly carved with small statues, shields, and foliage, and bearing on a projecting portal the motto *"Elegi abjectus esse in domo Dei mei, magis quam habitare in tabernaculis peccatorum"* meaning, "I would rather live as an outlaw in the house of my God, than dwell in the tents of sinners". In 1850, the owner is shown as James Winnerah.

In 1904, the Fleetwood Estate Company bought the Thornton Estate - including Burn Hall - from the estate of Thomas Horrocks a textile magnate from Preston, making their holding a total of 2,000 acres of prime building land. By 1914, the Cowell family were farmers there, and they bred shire horses, and maintained a prize herd of Friesian cows.
Finally, the manor became the property of Thornton Cleveleys Council, who officially renamed it Bourne Hall in 1926 – it had been known locally as that for over 20 years. The council's last tenant farmer, arriving in 1947, was Mr RW Edmondson, who left in January 1975.
On the 9th of December 1950, was the shock discovery of the skull of a whale in the grounds.

Burn Hall was also known locally as Hillhouse, although the later ICI plant was actually named after Hillhouse Farm, which it replaced. The last remains of the buildings were demolished by ICI in August 1978, but the chapel ceiling was preserved, and taken to the County and Regimental Museum in Lancaster. It has now been restored and is held in the Harris Museum in Preston.

The Horrockses built two gamekeeper's cottages to the east of where Springfield terrace now stands on Fleetwood Road, as they used the Thornton Estate mainly for hunting and shooting. They also built their hunting lodge nearer to the middle of the estate, naming it the Towers.

Weeton: Widetun, Preese, and Mythop, which were assessed as three, two, and one ploughland respectively, formed part of Amounderness. The name *"Widetun"* derives from the Old English *"wiðig"* (willow) and *"tūn"* (settlement), meaning "The place where willow trees grow". The name Mythop came from the Old Irish word *"midr"*, meaning "middle" and the Norse word *"hop"*, which meant "enclosure". There is another theory that the name is based on the name of a Saxon lord, Wada.

In 1067, there is a highly-disputed record of Herverus de Walter de Houghton (Hervey Walter Houghton) being born at Weeton between then and 1070. His father Herverus had been born in Normandy in 1045.

The manor of Weeton in 1080, was owned by Warinus Bussell, Baron of Penwortham and Weeton. It later "*continued in the renowned noble family of Theobaldus Pincerna"*, who we now know as Theobald Walter.

"*Theobold le Botiler owed Richard fitz John in 1297, the sum of 560 marks, and he gave him the manor of Weeton, which he held of Edmund of Lancaster, with all its yearly issues (worth £30) until the debt was*

paid". By 1307, Richard fitz John held half a knight's fee in Weeton, and since 1400, Weeton and the surrounding land has been held by the Stanley family. By the 19th century, Lord Stanley was styling himself as "The Baron of Weeton".

Today's village is clustered around the old, triangular village green, where the Weeton Fair was held in past years – Weeton Fair Cakes were a staple of the day (a type of shortbread made with caraway seeds and beer). Weeton fair was always held on Trinity Monday, and was reputedly the Fylde's biggest cattle fair. A writer in 1881 recorded that *"The fair of Weeton, near Kirkham, began on Palm Sunday, and was characterised by the plentiful consumption of bragget, a hot, sweet ale made without hops"*. Even after the fair ceased to be held, a farmer from Inglewhite walked a cow from there every Fair Day and stood on the green to maintain the charter.
Near the centre of the village was an ancient landmark known as Proude Bridge.

Lytham Priory and the beginnings of Lytham: Lethum was assessed as two ploughlands, and was part of Theign Tostig's Amounderness Lordship, until this year, it was held of the Crown in "*theignage"* by the lord of Woodplumpton.

In 1189, Richard of Woodplumpton, son of Roger (Richard fitz Roger), decided to donate all his lands at Lethum to a priory for religious purposes. He first approached Shrewsbury and Evesham (who owned Penwortham Priory). Shrewsbury showed little interest, but Evesham went as far as sending one of their monks, William, to set up a cell.

The lands were eventually donated to the Benedictines of Durham Priory, probably by way of thanks for St Cuthbert's previous healing of Richard. The grant reads: "*Grant in free alms by Richard son of Roger, with the consent of Margaret his wife and his heirs, for the safety of his lord Count John and the souls of his father and mother, himself and his heirs, to God, the BVM, St Cuthbert and the Durham monks, to build a house of their order there, of all his land of Lytham and its church with their appurtenances - from the ditch west of the graveyard of Kilgrimol above which he has erected a cross, to the sea to the west, again from the ditch and cross across eastwards by the Cwisidmere beyond the great moss and the stream to Balholm - the stream running towards Swinebrigge - from Balholm straight across beyond the moss divided between John, Count of Mortain, and himself, to the northern part of Eastholmker, following eastwards to the edge of the water coming from Boicheholm and dividing Eastholmker and Briningker, following the edge south to the medium between Eastholm and Cuburngh, and so following eastwards and going round towards the south beyond the moss to the pull beyond Snartsalt as it falls into the sand of the sea, and so southwards across to the middle of the Ribble, and following its mid-stream west to the sea and so to the ditch and cross - the prior and monks of Durham putting and removing priors and monks there"*.

Richard (aka Richard Fitz Roger) had been granted Lytham by King John. He was the last of Lytham's overlords to descend from a Viking, his new name being evidence of the Anglicisation of Viking names.

Many of the Benedictine and other monks came to Lytham by crossing the River Ribble from Hesketh Bank.

The estate of Lethum - known as the Hawes - amounted to over 5,000 acres of land stretching from Lytham to the Black Pool (Manchester Square). Richard gave 3,600 acres of this to his daughters Maud and Quenelda, and it is that portion – stretching as far north as *"the cross in the Hawes"* (Cross Slack) - which was eventually confirmed in 1230, as having been granted to the new priory.

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The monks built a cell, or priory, that was inhabited for many years by a small cell of just 3 monks (although in 1307, there was just one), a few servants, and a prior. The priory was dedicated to "*The Blessed Mary and Saint Cuthbert*".

In the mid-13rd century, the monks were granted a great deal of land in Warton, Kellamergh, and Freckleton, after the deaths of several landowners from those villages. By 1338, the cell had clearly expanded, as the priory is shown as owning *"55 cows, 39 plough oxen, 213 sheep, 1 bull, 28 bullocks, 46 pigs, 60 geese, 80 chickens, and 10 horses"*. Even so, there was still only the prior and two monks, but they were served by many pages and other staff.

The Benedictine priors at Lytham were initially under the purview of Durham Priory, but in 1443, the monks at Lytham severed their own links with Durham and began to manage their own affairs. *"Documentary evidence suggests that the Priory was on hostile terms with the locals. Several priors asked to be returned to Durham during the late 14th century because the hostilities became too much for some".*

In 1479, York Priory granted a licence to hold services in a new priory, on the site of Lytham Hall, to replace the original one, which had stood near to the future site of St Cuthbert's Church. The original was described as *"totaliter destructa est"* – is totally destroyed. The new priory was designed like a manor house. When dissolved, it was listed as having a hall, bakehouse, Brew house, granary, horse mill, and a wind mill. Richard's grant states "*all my land of Lytham with the church of that town and all things appurtenant to that church, for the establishment there of a house of their order*".

Although dissolved in 1534, until 1539, a single monk remained. After that lone monk left, they still controlled coastal matters for many years, and there followed a 10-year spell where the manor lost 600 acres of land to the encroaching sands. At the dissolution of Durham, Lytham priory was taken over by the Crown and let to the sitting tenant, Thomas Dannet, on the 4th of March 1539. In 1545, he sold his lease to Ellen Rogerly, who was born a Clifton, and then, in 1554, Queen Mary granted the manor to Thomas Holcroft. His heir sold it in 1597, to Sir Richard Molyneux, and in 1606, Molyneux sold it to Cuthbert Clifton, the owner of the nearby Westby Hall.

Lytham also had a small "grange" - probably a simple farm - that was held by Evesham Abbey, although strangely, its papers were held at Durham.
This is a complete list of the Priors of Lytham, according to the chapters of Durham Cathedral, and completed by my own research. They were:

William le Butler, occurs after 1205 and before 1226,
John, occurs before 1233 possibly a John of Kirkham,
Helias, occurs after 1205 and before 1240 - may have been Helias de Hoton,
Roger, occurs after 1217 and before 1249,
Thomas, occurs 1250,
Clement, occurs before 1258,
Stephen of Durham, occurs January, 1259, and February, 1272,
Richard of Hutton, occurs between 1285 and 1288,
Ambrose of Bamborough, occurs 1288,
Henry of Faceby (Faysceby), occurs 1291,
Robert of Ditchburn, occurs 1307,
Hugh Woodburn, occurs 1310-11,
Roger of Stanhope,
Roger of Tynemouth, occurs 1316-25,

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John of Barnby, occurs 20 March, 13
Emeric de Lumley, occurs 1333,
Hugh of Woodburn, occurs 1338-42,
Robert of Camboe, admitted 31 October 1342, occurs until 1349, when he died, probably of the plague,
Robert of Kelloe, inducted 9 July 1351, occurs until 1361,
John of Normanby, inducted 3 July 1362, left 1373,
Richard of Birtley, instituted 29 October, 1373, left 1379,
William of Aslackby, occurs 1379-85,
John of Lytham, occurs 1385- 1388,
Thomas of Corbridge, occurs 1388-1402,
Robert Masham, occurs 1408 - accused in 1411 of fornication,
Richard of Heswell, appointed 1412, occurs until 1431 - in 1425, he worked on the construction of a new work at Blackpool for preventing the tides from destroying lands and tenements of the cell of Lytham,
William Partryke, admitted 20 June 1431, removed 11 January, 1444,
Henry Heley, appointed 17 April 1445, instituted 21 March, 1445-6,
John Barley, admitted 12 September 1446, occurs 1456,
William Dalton, 1456-8,
John Middleham, admitted 13 July 1458, last occurs 1459,
Thomas Hexham, admitted 16 May, last occurs 1465,
William Cuthbert, occurs 1465-72,
Robert Knowt, occurs 1474-9,
William Burdon, occurs 1479-84,
William Cuthbert, occurs 1486-91,
Richard Tanfield, occurs 1491-1510,
Robert Stroder, occurs 1514-16,
Edmund Moore, occurs 1525-30,
Ralph Blaxton, occurs 1533-5,
Finally, the lone monk was left in place until 1539.

Except, that we know that from 1794 to 1804, Dom Richard Pope *"resided here for about eight years"*.

The priory buildings were said to have been flattened to enable today's hall to be constructed, but later examination found that there are some elements of the priory incorporated into the hall. An archaeological dig in 2015, discovered an almost-complete late Cistercianware cup, dating to around the time of the Dissolution.

Freckleton: The origin of the name is thought to have been the farmstead of a man called "*Frecla*", coupled with the Old English "*tun*" - meaning "settlement". Through the years, its name has been spelled as *Frecheltun*, *Frequekon* (in 1212), *Frekelton* (1242), and *Frekilton* (1244).
The village began because of the potential pastureland on the nearby marsh. Cattle and sheep grazing was the main activity and a survey quoted in 1912, stated "*There are 230½ cattle-gates on the marsh, but 231 are let yearly, the odd half-gate existing by a fiction for the benefit of the charity*". The locals soon began to expand the dock facilities at the Ribble inlet, also starting to make and spin cotton and flax. The control/ownership of the manor passed through many hands, and even went as far south as the Earl of Lincoln, who in 1292, claimed wreck of the sea at Freckleton and Warton.

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The village gave rise to its own surname - de Freckleton.
A charter, dated between 1153 and 1160, confirmed that Warine Bussell gave two thirds of his tithe in Freckleton to his son Richard Bussel. Then, in a second charter after 1160, Richard's son, Jordan is first described as the lord of the manor. The family name soon became "de Freckleton", and the earliest member of it known is *"Roger de Freckleton, tenant in 1199, when he confirmed to Richard de Freckleton"* .... *"the sixteenth part of a mill and fishery in the township"*.

1068

The Honour of Lancaster: Count Roger de Poitou (or *Poictivin,* or *Poictou*, or *Pictavencis* as it is sometimes spelled) was granted the first *"Honour of Lancaster"*, although it was not called this. The actual grant gave him land which was *"in what was then called inter Mersam et Ripam"* – meaning between the Mersey and the Ribble. Roger was the third son of Earl Roger de Montgomery II, and his lands became known as the *"Honour of Roger de Poitou"*.
The city's name is first recorded in the Domesday Book in 1086 as "Loncastre".
Henry I, in 1168, gave what was by then officially called the "*Honour of Lancaster"* to his nephew Stephen – the next King, and this was the first true drawing together of lands in the region.
In 1164, the lands of the Honour passed back to the Crown.

1069/70

Hugh Lupus, the Earl of Chester, who also held most of the northern coast of Wales and both sides of the Dee and the Wirral, was the military ruler of Lancashire, which came under the rule of a single lord for the first time. During the Barons' Rebellion in these years, Duke William of Normandy and his army of 40,000 men ruthlessly reduced parts of Cheshire and most of Lancashire to rubble. We now know this as the "*Harrying of the North"*.
By the time of the Domesday survey, only 16 of the 62 known villages in the area were still inhabited.

1072

After Morkere and the other Barons unsuccessfully rebelled against the Normans, land, including Amounderness, was granted to Roger de Poitou (which was a town in France). Duke William of Normandy had made the grant in reward for Roger's father's assistance when he was in command of a wing of troops at the Battle of Hastings. The Duke duly made his son, Roger, the first "Earl of Lancaster". Roger then built his primary castle at *Peneverdant* (Penwortham).

1086

The Domesday Book:
William the Conqueror (aka William the Bastard) demanded a complete record of the holdings of everyone in the land and despatched his surveyors to make a tally of every building, all property, every person, and even their livestock holdings. He tasked them to assess the extent of the land and resources being owned in England at the time, and the extent of the taxes he could raise.
The tally became known as Domesday Book - but not until the 12th century, when the irreversible nature of the information collected led people to compare it to the Last Judgement, or "Doomsday", described in the Bible, when the deeds of Christians written in the Book of Life were to be placed before God for judgement.

Before this tally was made, the land we now know as Lancashire was divided into six Hundreds. These were now recorded in Domesday under the heading *"the King's lands in Yorkshire"*. They included:

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- The Hundred of Lonsdale, which takes in the north - Furness District including Lake Coniston and about seven eighths of Lake Windermere, Lancaster, Morecambe, nearly as far south as Pilling and across to the Yorkshire Border.
- The Hundred of Amounderness, taking in Pilling and Over Wyre district across to the Yorkshire Boundary, the Bleasdale Fells, Garstang, in the south across County, cutting Preston out, including Ashton on Ribble, then following the Ribble to its mouth. Biscopham was listed with 8 carucates – the largest township in Amounderness.
- The Hundred of Leyland, south of the Ribble and including Southport and halfway across the centre strip of the County.
- The Hundred of Blackburn, taking up the eastern half of the centre strip.
- The Hundred of Salford including Manchester and all of southeast Lancashire, and
- The Hundred of West Derby in southwest Lancashire, including Liverpool.

The local entry describes how, except for a few specific place names, the Fylde was sparsely populated and had been laid waste after the Norman Invasion. Evidence suggests that the King's surveyors did not even visit the area, as it was so barren. Amounderness's entry shows the following vaguely familiar places, and describes each one in detail:

> "*Agemundreness. In Prestune comes Tofti. Eftun. Lea. Saleuuic. Clistun. Neutune. Frecheltune. Rigbi. Chicheham. Treueles. Westbi. Pluntun. Widetun. Prestun. Wartun. Lidun. Meretun. Stainighe. Carlentun. Bifcopham. Rushale. Brune. Torentun. Poltun. Singletun. Greneholf. Eglestun. Alia Eglestun. Edelesuuic. Inscip. Sorbi. Aschebi. Michelefcherche. Catrehala. Clactune. Neuhufe. Pluntun. Broctun. Witingheham. Bartun. Gufanfarghe. Halctun. Trelefelt. Watelei. Chipinden. Actun. Fifcuic. Grimefarge. Ribelcastre. Bileuurde. Seunefat. Fortune. Crimeles. Chereftanc. Rodeclif. Alia Rodeclif. Tcia Rodeclif. Hameltune. Stalmine. Preffouede. Midehope. Roger pict habuit*".

For interest, why don't you try to translate these ancient names into their modern equivalents? If you cannot wait, or just want to check your answers, please see Appendix E.

The survey detailed the size of each settlement, and as it was a register of the land resources of the time, the land available was tallied in "*bovates*" or "*carucates*". A "*bovate*" (or *oxgang*) was the area that one ox could plough in a year; a "*carucate*" an area that an eight-ox team could plough in a morning. The amount ploughed depended upon the nature of the geology.
Where Blackpool now stands was then within the township of Layton-cum-Warbreck, in the manor of Layton (*Laa Ton* - meaning a watercourse). This, with Bispham (Biscopham - named the *"ham"* - or village - of the Biscop Family of the 7th century) and Norbreck (*Nor Breck*), formed the parish of Bispham, which covered 920 acres - larger than any other settlement in Amounderness. The chemist's shop behind Bispham Post Office on Red Bank Road was called Biscopham for some years.

Rossall: The manor of Rushale consisted of two carucates, and it is generally assumed that it was included in the land later taken from Roger de Poitou, together with Little Bispham and Norbreck. An offshore sea navigation landmark off the present town of Fleetwood is also mentioned.
Rossall has been known as *Rushale*, *Rossall (1212), Roshale (1228), Rushall*, *Roshall*, and *Ross Hall*.

In 1206, King John gave the lands of Rossall Grange to the Abbot of the Cistercian Abbey of Dieulacres in Leek, Staffordshire. He also gave Amounderness to Edmund Crouchback, Earl of Lancaster. A charter

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dated the 28th of July 1247, granted *"to God, the Church of St Mary, and the Abbot of Dieulecrosse and his successors forever, the manor of Russal with its appurtenances, and with wreck of the sea". The Hall (Rossall) is recorded as "an extensive and valuable grange"*.

The Rossall Estate was taken from the Abbey by the Crown in 1539, during the Dissolution of the Monasteries. Queen Mary then sold it to Thomas Fleetwood in 1553, as evidenced by a later writer, who said *"Fleetwood purchased of the king the fee of Rossal Grange—how he deprived the Cardinal's nieces of the estate of Todderstaff, the gift of one of their uncles—how the deeds were stolen when Rossal was plundered at night by the sheriff and his people—how the sisters escaped, during this outrage, in a boat across the Wyre, and after wandering about for two weeks, by chance found their mother—and how, when by the instrumentality of a spy, £500 of their money had been discovered in a meal tub, at the house of one Anion, and confiscated, they were compelled to seek safety with their uncle, on the continent"*.
Fleetwood soon leased the estate to George Allen of Brookhouse - a cousin of the then abbot. That began the period of ownership by the Allens, but the last of the family was ejected from Rossall in 1583. Edmund Fleetwood evicted Allen's mother and her daughters from the grange, taking up residence there and changing its name to Rossall Hall Grange. While the grange was being altered by the Allens, workers digging a field at Fenny discovered *"an ancient hand stone mill, some monkish figures in alabaster, andc., and in the churchyard field, adjoining, some human bones, within the foundations of a fabric, running east and west, and supposed to have been the site of the chantry of the grange"*.

Rossall Grange Farm was built just less than 1 mile from the hall, having been set up by the Allens to provide fresh meat and vegetables to the occupants of the hall. Originally farming 281 acres of land, by 1928, it had a mere 117 acres, due to sea ingress having caused the ground to become too salty. The farmhouse itself stood opposite where the clubhouse of Fleetwood Golf course now stands.

In 1733, Margaret Fleetwood, heiress to the Rossall estate, married Roger Hesketh of North Meols and Tulketh Hall, bringing Rossall into the Hesketh family and creating the Hesketh-Fleetwoods. Roger is thought to have rebuilt the hall by 1737, which has been described as a "*great rambling whitewashed house", with irregular wings. By the 19th century, it had five family bedrooms, nursery rooms, a drawing room, dining room, libraries, and an organ room, as well as servant accommodation and service rooms. The grounds included a workshop, four stables, a shippon, a coach house, an ice house, and a gazebo"*.

Note: The correct format of the name is Hesketh-Fleetwood, and **NOT** Fleetwood-Hesketh. A female Fleetwood married a male Hesketh, and therefore her name was appended to his. In 1831, Peter Hesketh officially changed his name by royal license to Hesketh-Fleetwood, incorporating the better-known family name of his ancestors into his own.

Bold Hesketh-Fleetwood became High Sheriff in 1797 and moved from Rossall to Meols Hall. The name "Bold" derives from his mother's family from Bold Hall near Lancaster.

Rossall Hall Farm was built by Bold Hesketh-Fleetwood. By 1891, it had been renamed Fleetwood Farm. It is now covered by a housing estate after being demolished in the 1960s.

The motto of the Hesketh-Fleetwoods was *"Quod tibi, hoc alteri"*, meaning "Do unto others what you would want done to yourself".

In 1820, Ross Hall and its accompanying buildings had to be abandoned due to sea erosion, and a new Rossall Hall was built further inland. Unfortunately, because he had spent so much of his fortune on

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building Fleetwood, Sir Peter Hesketh-Fleetwood was obliged to sell first the contents and then, the buildings during two weeks from the 3rd of June 1844, to settle still more debts. Sir Peter moved to the south of England straight after the auction and died on the 12th of April 1866.

Rossall College was developed from the original hall and opened on the site in 1844. All that now remains of Rossall Hall is a small tower or gazebo on a mound. Once there were two of these, and legend has it that Lady Fleetwood's ghost frequents them every 31st of October, and that there was a secret passage from the gazebo, leading to the hall.

The last vestiges of the original Rossall Hall were demolished in 1927, and the site of the hall is occupied by the Dining Hall, built in 1928, and by the first lawn to the west of it. Some of the outbuildings remain, formerly stables and stable boys' lodgings above. In addition, there is the 17th century watchtower, which is *"in the Renaissance-style, built of brick, with ashlar quoins and parapet. It stands upon a little grass-covered mound, and is 3 metres by 4 metres in size, and approximately 5 metres high. The entrance in the east side, with a stepped extrades above, gives access to stone steps which lead, clockwise to the roof, which is of stone flags. In the other three sides are recessed semi-circular shelters with rounded tops*".

Marton: The settlement of Marton (or *Mertun*, *Meretun*, *or Mertune*) was listed as *"a parcel of eight carucates of land near the Mere"*, and it anciently belonged to the Butler family, who were descendants of Theobald Walter. There were three settlements, set on rising ground among the swamps - they were Great Marton, Little Marton, and the Peel. A legend born in 1086, tells of a boggart living in Marton Mere, which was cast into waters of the mere by a local priest.
From early in the 12th century, Great Marton formed part of the honour of William Peverel of Nottingham. This was forfeited in 1153, and in 1189, land in Marton was granted to William, son of Swein, by Matthew of Meretun.

On the 26th of April 1200, King John granted to Gilbert, son of Roger, son of Feinfr, the right to hold a Wednesday market in Marton.

In 1212, Adam de Marton held 3 ploughlands by knight's service, and by 1236, he held the 4th part, with the 20th part of a knight's fee in Marton *"of ancient feoffment"*. Therefore, 10 ploughlands in Marton made that knight's fee.

1297 saw the word "Marton" first seen spelled as such, with Great Marton rendering 5 shillings a year to the Earl of Lancaster, and Little Marton 10 shillings.

In 1700, Thomas Fleetwood managed to procure a second market charter, allowing three fairs to be held at Marton Mere, on the 23rd and 24th of April, the 22nd and 23rd of June, and the 27th and 28th of September every year.

Cockerham: was originally clustered around the village church, but that was re-sited after many floods. The name Cockerham means "place by the Cocker" – the name of the River Cocker comes from the Anglo-Saxon word *"cocre"* which means a quiver. In the Doomsday Book, it is shown as "Cocreham", and as belonging to Roger de Poictou.

The manor and church of Cockerham were given by William de Lancastre to the canons of Leicester, in the latter half of the 12th century, and in 1291, the value of Cockerham rectory was estimated at 26 marks, and

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that of the vicarage at 5 pounds. However, after a destructive raid by the Scots in 1322, the former was reduced to 5 pounds, and the vicarage became too poor to be taxed.
The Medieval life of Cockerham Manor was recorded in the *"Custumal of the Manor of Cockerham"*, which was compiled in 1326/7, and revised in 1463. This was *"a record of rents and services owed by the tenants to their landlord, combines a local code of laws with an inventory of all resources of the land, from peat fuel, cattle and sheep, to shoreline mussels. The tenants were forbidden to trade local fuel to the "strangers" who collected mussels on the shore"*.
The hamlet was destroyed by a fire in the 17th century, and most of the village records were destroyed in another fire in 1860.

The Manor Inn: There were once two inns in Cockerham – The Manor Inn in the middle of the village, and the Plough at the northern end (a former-16th century barn). The original Manor Inn became a private house, and the Plough took the name of the Manor Inn when it was rebuilt in 1871. After that, it became the focus of the village, which then became known for its boisterous sporting events, such as cock fights, greyhound coursing, and horseracing.
The new inn was soon taken over by Lancaster brewers Mitchell and Butler and had been renamed the Manor Hotel by 1888.
In 1981, a solarium was installed. This was run commercially until the pub was modernised in 1984.
The pub now has a large beer garden with swings and slides, an aviary, and a fish pond with waterfall.

1090s
King William II added Lonsdale, Cartmel, and Furness to Roger de Poitou's estates, thus giving him control of all land between the River Mersey in the South and the river Duddon in the North. Roger chose Lancaster as the site for his next castle and the centre of administration for the lands that he controlled. The Saxon Aschetil de Bulmer retained some land at Little Bispham at this time. Little Bispham was/is located on today's Norbreck Road, and boasted Bispham Lodge, Lodge Farm, and Bispham Grange.

1093
Galfridus (Godfrey), Roger de Poitou's first Sheriff, gave Kirkham church and manor to Shrewsbury Abbey. Criminal matters and disputes were dealt with by the *"hundredman"*, who would refer more important matters upwards to the *"shire reeve"* - or sheriff.

1094
St Chad's Church, Poulton: Roger de Poitou presented St Chad's Church in Poulton to the Benedictine Priory of St Mary at Lancaster. The church at Poulton may have been referred to in 1086, as one of just three churches in Amounderness. It is likely that the town had possessed its own church for many years before this, as in 1096, the church was declared to be the 3rd richest in Lancashire at the time (with a worth of £68 13s and 4d). Also, the Normans would not have allowed a church to be dedicated to one the Saxon's most important saints.

In 1196, Theobald Walter was made to relinquish his claim to the church.

Poulton Vicarage was built, in extensive tree-filled grounds to the east of the church, in 1287. Tithes for the vicarage were collected and stored in the tithe barn, a 2-storey thatched building with a cruck roof. The tithe barn was rebuilt in 1674, and again in 1835, on the lane that was later named after it (Tithebarn Street). It was demolished in 1955, and the tennis courts of Vicarage Park now stand on its site.

©

In 1602, the church chancel collapsed due to lack of funds. It seems that the tower was built in 1636, as there is a carved stone in the choir vestry today which appears to commemorate that fact.

St Chad's was extensively reshaped in 1751 after it had collapsed. That first church was described as *"being built of red sandstone with double-gabled roof, supported down the middle by four octagonal pillars and semi-circular arches, and lit by round-headed windows"*.
Some of the original walling is now thought to still exist and experts now believe that the church was not *"completely demolished but rather drastically re-ordered inside and the outer walls, which are built of red sandstone, were faced with grey ashlar at the same time"*. It is now apparent that the tower was retained, and the original main church building was simply modernised, with its basic shape and size unchanged. However, the eastern gallery was moved and rebuilt on the western wall, with two new side galleries added.
From the 25th of August, services were briefly held in the Tithe Barn whilst the work was done. Marton and Bispham worshippers walked there on Sundays.
St Chad's had its nave rebuilt in 1753, and its semicircular apse added in 1868. In 1883, a baptistry was built, the organ was moved to its current position, and choir stalls were built in the chancel. Some work was done to the interior of the tower in 1908.
The "Pancake Bell" in the tower has been rung on every Shrove Tuesday for many centuries in order to call the local people to the Market Place. There they would make and serve pancakes to the town's apprentices.
Renovations in 1955, included the addition of a central aisle, and the replacement of the Victorian pulpit.
In 1973, the churchyard had become almost completely covered by horizontal gravestones, so most were lifted and made into today's pathways.
A small extension was added north of the tower in 2005.

A unique feature of the churchyard is the gravestone of Edward Sherdley, which shows an hourglass, and some carved skull and crossbones. This is mysteriously known by locals as the *"Pirate's Grave"*, although Sherdley was actually a rich Poulton merchant who died in 1741.

In 1881, the first Poulton Cemetery was opened in Moorland Road by the Poulton Burial Board. The first burial was not until the 8th of December 1884, when the churchyard at St Chad's Parish Church was closed for burials on the 30th of June. The new cemetery had been consecrated on the 19th of November 1884.
The cemetery chapel was replaced in 1972, by a garden of remembrance, and a columbarium was added in 1973. The original cemetery lodge still stands, as 40 Moorland Road.
Since the 1950s, the ashes of the cremated have been interred in a dedicated area to the west of the church.
Poulton's second cemetery was opened on Garstang Road East in 1929, to take the overflow from Moorland Road. The cemetery had to be extended in 1994.

Godfrey took the tithes of Biscopham for Lancaster.

Hackensall Hall: This Norse longhouse was the seat of the Lord of the Manor of Preesall and served as a fort to repel any further invaders. It is named after *"Hacunesho"* or *"Hacun's Hough"*, Norse words meaning "Hacun's Hill". *"Hacun"* is the Anglicised version of the Norse name *"Hakon"*, and *"ho"* is Norse for a burial mound, so Hackensall is therefore the place where Hacun was buried. The place is listed variously in the Pipe Rolls as *Haccumeho*, *Hacumeho*, and *Akenesho*. Later spellings are *Hacounshou*, *Hacunsowe*, *Hakensall*, and finally Hackensall. Local folk know it as *"Hackensha"*.

©

In 1189, King John granted Hackinsall and Preesall to Galfridus Arbalastarius – otherwise known as Geoffrey the Arbalestier (an arbalest was a wheeled crossbow, of which Geoffrey had two). At Hackensall, he erected a proper stone-built hall in place of the previous Anglo-Saxon fort, becoming known as Geoffrey of Hackensall. Geoffrey was an ex-Sheriff of Lancaster and regularly stayed at Staining Grange.

The Abbott of Cockersand sent a monk to the chapel at Hackensall, to pray for the soul of King John, in the early 13th century.
The occupant of the hall also owned the nearby tide mill. The earliest reference to this is found in several grants of land to the monks of Cockersand Abbey, which were made by Geoffrey de Hackensall between 1260 and 1268.

The last sole Lord of the Manor, James Pickering, died in 1479, and the manor was split forever into four parts – one to each of his daughters:

Margaret, and her husband Richard Butler, received the eastern part in 1456, and lived in Parrocke Howse (Parrox Hall);
Mabel, and her husband, Thomas Aggleby, got the western quarter, living at Hackensall itself;
The southern quarter is likely to have been held by Joan, and her husband, Nicholas Aggleby, who probably lived at the predecessor to the Fernhill of today, and;
The final, and northern, quarter must therefore have been held by Isabel and John Leybourne, at Quail Holme.

In 1656, Hackensall Hall was rebuilt for Richard Fleetwood of Rossall Hall, so he and his family could stay there after their home had been flooded. He had it re-built as a moated building - the longhouse of the Norseman Haakon had burnt down. Hakon's Mound is now the site of Preesall War Memorial.

The hall became the home of the Bourne family, and was again rebuilt in 1873, with the servants' quarters becoming Hackensall Farm.

Hackensall had its own ghost, a boggart in the form of a horse, which ploughed fields and worked round the farm in return for a place to spend the night.

Lancaster's Priory of St Mary was founded by the Abbey of Seez, in Normandy, and was mainly used as a rectory – a base for those serving at outlying churches and chapels, such as Kirkham.
Lancaster Castle began to be built on the site of the old Roman Fort. It was constructed to allow the nobles to better rule the land to the south of the river Lune; they had previously ruled from the more distant Halton Castle. Lancaster Castle's Great Keep was added in about 1150. There is a local tale around Preesall, that there was once a castle in Churchfield in the neighbourhood, and its stones were carried away by *"some daemon"* for the building of Lancaster castle.

1100

The Clifton Family: The genealogy of the famous local Clifton family began to be traceable, as William de Clyfton left land in Salwick to his son, also called William. This early Clifton gentleman was a "Collector of Aids". In other words, a taxman for the King.
"In 1170, the manors of Clifton and Salwick were in the possession of Walter son of Osbert, whose son William was the first to take the surname Clifton. It may well be that at the same date the manor of Westby-with-Plumpton was also held by the family, though it is not mentioned in documents until the early 1200s".

©

In 1606, the manors of Lytham and Little Marton were acquired by purchase, while the manor and rectory of Kirkham were held on lease from the Dissolution until the 19th century.
By 1258, another descendant – William de Clyfton of Westby - was bailiff for the Earl of Lincoln's land, which stretched from Clitheroe Castle to the Fylde. William de Clifton was the first to take the Clifton surname, and by 1279, he was being referred to as a knight. It seems to have become official when he was elected knight of the shire in September 1302.

The most influential member of the family was Cuthbert Clifton – born in 1586 in Westby. He was knighted in 1617 and died in 1634.

The Clifton coat of arms is described:

ARMS: Argent, on a bend sable three mullets of the first.
CREST: An arm embowed in armour proper, garnished or, holding in the gauntlet a sword argent, hilt gules.

According to local folklore, the crest's hand holding a dagger originated from ownership of the Lytham estate being disputed between two families. The matter was to be decided by "trial by ordeal". The two families each chose a champion, and the trial would be won by the champion whose hand first touched a sandbank in the River Ribble. When the trial began the Clifton champion drew his dagger, cut off his hand and threw it at the sandbank, thus winning the trial.

The Cliftons have remained major landowners in the area. Indeed, by the mid-19th century, the Clifton estate was one of the largest in Lancashire. It was over 16,000 acres in size, and stretched along the whole of the coast of south Fylde, from Clifton-with-Salwick to Blackpool.

Salwick: The name of the village originates from Old English: *"Sahl"* means sallow, a species of willow, and *"Wic"* means a dwelling. However, as it stands near Savick Brook, there is every likelihood that either the village is named after the brook, or vice-versa – with Savick being a bastardisation of the word Salwick.
In the Domesday Book it is referred to as Salewic.

1102

Roger de Poitou was banished by King Henry I, who then gave Amounderness to Theobald Walter, another Norman. He founded the Hospital of St Mary in Lancaster.

1112

St John's Church, Broughton: The first church was built in Broughton village this year, although there had been a small chapel in the village as early as 1441, with Henry de Broghton being listed as its priest.

The current Anglican St John's Church and tower date from 1533, with the nave and chancel being added in the 19th Century. The church contains a Saxon font, stoop, and a carved crucifix. New bells were cast for the church in 1533, 1632, and 1681. The nave was replaced in 1826, and the chancel was added in 1906. In front of the church are the stocks that originally stood by Broughton Crossroads.

Broughton Church School was endowed in 1527, on land given by Lawrence Stadaugh. It was one of just 27 grammar schools in Lancashire and Cheshire. The school was free for children from Broughton, Barton, and nearby Haighton, other pupils had to pay. In 1823 there were 100 pupils.

©

The original school building now forms part of the Church Cottage Museum. That cottage was built in the early 19th Century, and in 1810, part of the building served as the local inn.

1120

Pagan de Villiers, Baron of Warrington - also written as Paganus de Vilars - gave the tithes of Layton to the Abbott of Shrewsbury.

1125

The Stanley family: Adam de Stanley was born. He became Lord of the Manor of Stanley in Staffordshire, close to the Cheshire border.

In 1385, John Stanley married Isabell Lathom, beginning the dynasty that became the Earls of Derby – the uncrowned *"Kings of Lancashire"*. Thereafter, the Derbys were great local landowners and patrons of much development in the Fylde.
Isabella's father, Thomas Lathom, is said to have hidden an illegitimate son of his under a tree where an eagle nested, then arranging for it to be "discovered" by a faithful retainer, allowing him to adopt the child without having to acknowledge paternity. This gave rise to the "Eagle and Child" on the Lathom family crest, which was inherited by Sir John Stanley, and after which many local inns were named.

He was invested as a Knight, Order of the Garter in about 1405, to become Sir John Stanley.

The Stanley coat of arms is:

> ARMS: Quarterly: 1st and 4th, sub-quarterly, i and iv, Or on a Chief indented Azure three Plates (Lathom); ii and iii, Argent on a Bend Azure three Buck's Heads cabossed Or (Stanley); 2nd and 3rd, Gules three Legs armed and flexed in triangle Argent armed Or (Lordship of Man)
> CREST: On a Chapeau Gules turned up Ermine an Eagle with wings extended Or preying on a Child proper swaddled Gules in a Cradle laced Or

The Stanleys also came to own extensive lands in the Isle of Man, where, in 1405, Sir John Stanley became First Lord of Man. Eventually they were to hold extensive lands in Lancashire.

In 1485, the title of Earl of Derby was re-created for Thomas Stanley (2nd Baron Stanley), by his stepson King Henry the 7th, after the Battle of Bosworth Field. The title derives from the family's extensive lands in West Derby in Lancashire – NOT the town of Derby. Lord Derby's subsidiary titles are Baron Stanley of Bickerstaffe and Baron Stanley of Preston, and the courtesy title of the heir apparent is Lord Stanley.
The Stanleys/Derbys became a family with much influence over the Fylde Coast in the centuries to come.

1127

The County of Lancashire: The name Loncastra was first recorded, stemming from the Brythonic/Anglo-Saxon meaning "the Roman fort on the River Lune". The local English population called any Roman settlement "ceaster" - hence Luneceaster, which became Lancaster, after which its county was later named Lancashire.

From 1164 until 1189, the Honour of Lancaster was held by the crown. The region was first termed "the County of Lancastershire" in 1168, under the rule of King Henry II, although it did not yet actually exist as a separate entity.

©

In 1182, the King's audit provides the earliest evidence of our region as a separate Shire, or County, in its own right. It mentions Lancaster specifically, but only as *"Lancastra, quia non erat ei locus"*, meaning "Lancastra, because there is no place for it in Northumberland". Lancashire was the last English shire to be created, and it became a separate entity in 1194, when it was made distinct from Cheshire and Yorkshire.

In 1265, King Henry III gave the baronial lands of Simon de Montfort to his son, Edmund. Then, in 1266, the king added the estate of Robert Ferrers, the Earl of Derby, followed by the *"honour, county, town, and castle of Lancaster"*. 1267 saw Edmund Crouchback - called that because of the Crusader Cross he always carried on his back - created the 1st Earl of Lancaster.

The County of Lancaster was officially formed on November the 27th 1295, when Edward I summoned two knights as the county's first representatives to the new "Model Parliament" at Westminster. November the 27th is now celebrated locally as "Lancashire Day".

Henry Grosmont, Earl of Lancaster, was made the first Duke of Lancaster by King Edward III on the 6th of March 1351, beginning the Duchy of Lancaster. He possessed palatine jurisdiction within the county, but as the palatinate was only valid during his own lifetime, it lapsed on his death in 1361. *"A county palatine was one in which the king transferred most of his royal powers to the subject who possessed the county"*. The offices of the County – and the County Seal - were in Preston, and they have remained so.

In 1362, John of Gaunt was made the second Duke, making Thomas Thelwell his first chancellor.
On the 28th of February 1377, the king recreated the palatinate for John, because of its strategic position in defending England from the Scots. John of Gaunt persuaded the king to grant this for his own lifetime, and on the 16th of February 1390, that grant was extended to include John's heirs. As the King's writ had no power within the palatine county, the Duke appointed his own Sheriff, answerable only to himself.
In 1461, Edward IV decreed that the County Palatine should become part of the Duchy of Lancaster.

Finally, in John Paston's letter to his father on the 1st of March 1464, he first uses the word Lancashire - as a contraction of Lancastershire, when he wrote *"the commons in Lancashire and Cheshire were up to the number of 10,000 or more"*.

After Henry VII defeated Richard III at Bosworth in 1485, the houses of Lancaster and York were briefly united, but a charter then confirmed the Duchy of Lancaster as separate from other Crown lands, and under its own management. It has remained that way since.

The emblem of our county is the Red Rose of the House of Lancaster, and a county coat of arms was first granted on the 31st of August 1903. Its design is as follows:

> ARMS: Gules three Piles two issuant from the chief and one in base Or each charged with a Rose of the field barbed and seeded proper.
> CREST: On a Wreath of the Colours a Lion passant guardant proper charged on the body with a Mascle Gules and resting the dexter forepaw on an Escocheon of the above said Arms.
> SUPPORTERS: On either side a Lion proper gorged with a Collar Vair pendent therefrom an Escocheon of the following Arms Viz. Gules three Piles two issuant from the chief and one in base Or each charged with a Rose Gules barbed and seeded proper.
> MOTTO: *"In Concilio Consilium"* – meaning "In council is wisdom".

Furness Abbey was founded by the Savignac monks from Tulketh near Preston. It became Cistercian in 1147, buying land all over the Northwest, including much on the Fylde coast.

©

1137
The Shrewsbury Monks were granted a Charter of Protection of their lands in Bispham, from King David I of Scotland.

1138
King David invaded the land north of the Ribble, ruled by King Stephen. Although defeated in battle on the 22nd of August, at Northallerton in Yorkshire, David was given possession of that land until he died in 1153.

1140

All Saints' Church / All Hallow's Church, Bispham: Most historians believe that there was church or chapel on the site from the 11th century. If not, the first church at Bispham MAY well have been erected this year.

There is, however, only one surviving item of written evidence of its origin. That document shows the date as between 1185 and 1189, when Theobald Walter gave his rights to Bispham Church (and Poulton Church) to the Monks of Sees in France and of St Mary at Lancaster. Then, Bispham Church was recorded, as a chapelry attached to Poulton Church, the first church being a simple building made of sandstone.

In 1296, records first show All Saint's Church on the site of today's All Hallow's. It had a low tower, a nave and one aisle. In the belfry at one time, was a wooden "penance" stool.

By 1530, the church was being referred to as All Hallow's instead of All Saint's, as it is recorded that "*George Allen of Rossall desires to be buried within the church of "All Hallow's*". Nobdy knows why the name change occurred.
In 1531, the Archdeacon of Richmond travelled to the Fylde, to see whether there were enough people in the area who would attend the church, and to judge whether it was worth maintaining the chapel in Bispham. He decided that the church and, the land that it stood on, should remain as a place of worship. The Baptismal Registers go back to 1599, and the Marriage Registers and Burial Registers to 1632.

In 1773, the church had its unsafe pillars removed, the interior gutted, and the roof raised. Records that year show that the church was constructed of red sandstone, with a double-gable roof, supported by black oak crooks (pillars) laid down in the centre of the nave. Built by Richard Higginson, there was a separate chancel, black oak pews in the nave, with three lancet windows in the east end and a low tower at the west. By 1857, the outside of the church was whitewashed.

Until 1821, Bispham was the only church serving Blackpool, and All Hallow's is considered the *"Mother Church of Blackpool".*

The current, much larger, limestone building was built on the site of the old one in 1883, having been designed by architect John Lowe of Manchester, and being the 4th incarnation on the site. The original doorway was demolished at the same time, and the church builders found an old Norman sandstone arch. They then used the chevron-shaped stones from this to support their own replacement Zodiac carving over the new main porch way. Those builders also discovered a Saxon piscina (a shallow stone basin used for washing the communion vessels). Many of the Zodiac signs are weather-beaten, but the emblems of Taurus, Cancer and Virgo are still recognisable.

The last service in the old whitewashed church was held on the 20th of May 1883. It was demolished by June, with the first service being held in the new church on the 28th of November.
The famous Lych Gate was opened on Whit Sunday in 1901.

©

The new Rectory for All Hallow's Church was opened on the 9th of March 1957, after the original was demolished.
An ancient sundial, in the graveyard, is mounted on a 12-inch-high stone stump. The stump is said to be the base of a former cross and is a Listed Building.

"The churchyard contains the tombs of many shipwreck victims, including the captain and crew of the Brig Favourite, which sank off Blackpool in 1865, and passengers from the Ocean Monarch, which caught fire in the Irish Sea in 1848".

The name All Hallow's is seen in three varieties of spelling: All Hallows, All Hallow's, and All Hallows'.

1153

Singleton: The first mention of the name Singleton is found, when a Richard de Singleton is listed as being born at Little Singleton. However, in 1169, it was spelled *Schingelton* - meaning "*tun*" or farm with a shingled roof.
In Mains Lane for many centuries was the "cock main", where cock fighting was practiced by the local gentry.

St Michael's Church, Cockerham: The Church of St Michael was given to Leicester Abbey by William of Lancaster this year but may have been founded as early as 1134. The oldest surviving part of the original church building is the 16th century tower, which has a beam dated 1589. The oldest gravestone inscription is 1570, and the parish registers begin in 1595. In the churchyard is a plague pit dating from 1650.

The body of the early church was rebuilt in 1814, and the current church of St Michael and All Angels was opened in 1911. The building consists of a "*five-bay nave with a clerestory and a two-bay chancel under a continuous roof, north and south aisles, a south transept with a vestry, and a West tower. The tower is in three stages with diagonal buttresses and a battlemented parapet. On the south side is a stair turret, and the tower has a west doorway with a round arch, a three-light west window, and three-light bell openings*".

The rectory was built for vicar John Dodson in 1843, to a design by Edmund Sharpe. It is a Listed Building, being built in sandstone with a slate roof. It has two storeys plus attics, and has a symmetrical front, with gabled outer bays. The central bay contains a doorway with a Tudor arched head, and above it is the datestone. At the top of this bay is a shield carved an open Bible and the motto *"Lucerna pedibus"* – meaning "the word of the lord is Light". Its windows are mullioned and transomed.
The rectory became a nursing home and has been now divided into separate apartments.

1154

Rawcliffe Hall: The hall was built by the Boteler (Butler) family as a monastic hall.

When it was bequeathed in 1577, it had "*20 beds and a great deal of furniture*". It was extended in 1619, after the death of William Butler. His son Henry wrote of the hall in 1621: *"All the buildings on the south side of the gates, the chamber over the gates, the chappell, the east buttery with the chamber over it called the lower Heigh chamber, the closet in the same over the porch, the kitchen, the larder, the old rye barn, the slaughter house, the slaughter house barn, the old stable, and the kiln', also the 'chamber where my son William usually does lie"*.

©

It was sold off in September 1723, when the Butlers left for the Isle of Man. It was bought by Reverend Richard Crumbleholme, John Leyland, Cornelius Fox, and James Poole, and in 1729, Thomas Roe bought it. His daughter and heiress Elizabeth married John France of Eccleston Hall in the 1730s.
After his earlier marriage to Sarah Crosse, John had adopted the name of Ffrance, and when he died in 1774, he stated in his will that the south side of the hall must never be altered. In 1817, the Wilson family came into the estate and took over the name Ffrance.

Note: The spelling of the France surname as Ffrance was common in earlier English usage, in order to distinguish that the letter F was the actual beginning of a pronoun. In later times, it became merely an affectation for the sake of self-aggrandisement. The correct spelling uses a single F.

The ghost of a servant girl "Miss Kitty" is said to wander the grounds.

Rawcliffe Hall was sold in 1928, by owner Cornelius Bagot of Marton, becoming an 18-bedroom hotel called Sharples Boarding Establishment. It was then requisitioned as an Army base during the Second World War, becoming the Rawcliffe Hall Country Club in 1962.

Rawcliffe Hall Country Club and Caravan Park was opened in the 1990s, with a licensed club and five self-contained apartments.

Fording the River Ribble: The Ribble can be crossed at low tide from Freckleton Naze, and the earliest recorded history, this year, commences with a deed concerning Far Banks. It relates to a Guide House for travellers who forded the River Ribble from the Fylde to North Meols. Although dangerous, the low tide crossing shortened the journey from Chester to Lancaster and the North by 28 miles, removing the need to use the inland route, which crossed the river at Preston.

In 1655, the incumbent guide, William Tomlinson of Warton, who had been in post for 40 years, petitioned for a new horse. He stated that *"in his years of service he had lost above the number of ten to his great impoverishment"*. The guide carried on, and by 1815, they had improved the journey by proving a cart for the trip.

In 1656, the Guides House Inn was built by the Ribble ford on Pool Lane at Warton, and 250 years later, a café was added, together with several fields containing houseboats, caravans, and cabins.

In 1828, it was a tavern known as the Ferry House, and its landlord was William Cross. Another Ferry House tavern existed in Freckleton at the same time, run by Robert Breakall. Both landlords were river guides.

For many years, the Warton Races were held on the sands in front of the Guides House, with dozens of horses being raced. In June 1844, there was also a foot race over 150 yards - prize, a new hat. By 1851, Henry Gornall was the victualler there.

In its later years, the Guides House had its own café, a separate wooden building. It also flew warning flags from the rooftop.
The Guides House and its buildings were demolished in 1945, to make way for runways, last being owned by the Clift family.

©

1157
All land in Northumberland was reclaimed by King Henry II.

1164

Layton Hall: Richard Butler (Botellor) succeeded to the Barony of Warrington and held Layton, where it is believed that he built the first manor around this time, near the present Hollywood Avenue.

By 1416, some of the younger sons of the Butler family were living in the manor house at Layton.
In 1543, Thomas Butler, being short of money, sold the manor to John Browne, but in 1549, it was conveyed back to Butler from the Crown. On the 19th of March 1554, Thomas Fleetwood was granted it by Queen Mary as the seat for his own "Lordship". Bridget Fleetwood, then Thomas's widow, leased what was now known as Layton Hall to John Massie of Carleton in 1577.

In 1583, John Massie (Massey) left Layton, after letting the hall fall into ruin, and went to live at Whinney Heys. The new owner, William Fleetwood, sold it (complete with its lands, windmill, and fishing rights to the mere) to Edward Rigby of Burgh, near Chorley. Rigby then had the hall rebuilt in Tudor style in 1592, and it was described at the time as a *"massive gabled building. At the bottom of the main staircase was a gate, or grating, of iron, the whole of the interior of the Hall being fitted with oak panels"*.

In 1629, Sir Alexander Rigby moved to the hall when his father Edward died, but the Rigbys left the hall for a new town house in Poulton in 1693, and it again passed into the Fleetwood family by way of a lease.

Layton Hall was rebuilt as a three-storey farmhouse in 1754, but in 1767, it was demolished yet again, and replaced by a large farmhouse, behind which was a water pump – used by many locals as the source of *"especially clear"* water.

On the 10th of September 1833, *"That Capital Mansion House"* called Layton Hall and its farm, cottages and 478 acres of land was sold by auction at the Lane Ends Hotel. It was bought by Thomas Clifton of Lytham, from whom it was bought by Peter Hesketh Fleetwood in 1841.
By 1872, now called just Layton Hall Farm, it belonged to John Fisher, whose land stretched from Bryan Road across Stanley Park and up Foggy Lane (now Whinney Heys Road) to Whinney Heys, feeding 80 cattle, 20 horses, and 600 sheep. By the time he sold it in September 1889, the land had reduced to just 370 acres – the result of land sales for house building.

When Layton Hall farmhouse was demolished from the 6th of September 1927 by Herbert Vickers, its gateposts, with their carved stone pineapple gate tops were mounted at the south end of the tennis courts at Stanley Park. They stayed there until September 1957, when the same posts were rebuilt at the park's south entrance until being taken down in the 1980s – the pineapple tops being stolen in 2006.

At the time, the nearby Layton Lodge still stood behind the Number 4 and Freemason's Hotel, on the site of today's 84 Birchway Avenue.

Until 2011, all that remained of Layton Hall was a small pear tree on Collingwood Avenue, and even that has now gone.

Note: for many centuries, the word "manor" referred to an area, not necessarily to a single building. Similarly, many "granges" were actually simply larger farms.

©

1165

Stalmine Grange: Robert de Stalmine is listed as having given a portion of his lands to the Monks at Cockersand for the building of a monastic residence. This was built shortly afterwards and possessed its own saltpan and water mill.
By 1535, it was owned by Furness Abbey, as the Abbot of Furness complained of trespass on his turbary at Stalmine Grange. One Nicholas Butler and others were digging turves without permission.
It was demolished in the 19th century, to be replaced by the current building, known by then as Stalmine Grange. In 1862, the grange became the Grange Farm of today.

1175

Staining: John de Lacy, Constable of Chester gave the village of *"Staininghe"* to the Cistercian Monastery of Stanlow, on the Wirral. Staining became a grange and a centre for the abbey's Fylde estates, including those at Marton, Carleton, and Elswick.
Stanlow Abbey was founded by John FitzRichard de Lace, Baron of Halton, in 1172, dedicated to St Mary, and colonised from Combermere. Sometimes listed as Stanlaw Abbey, its buildings stood too close to the southern bank of the River Mersey and were virtually washed away in the mid-1270s. Its monks then moved to and merged with Whalley Abbey in 1296.
Staining is a name that is both rare and difficult to trace, but it is thought to originate from the Old Norse "*stane*" and "*ing*" - meaning "stone place".

1180

Cockersand Abbey: Hugh Garthe (Hugh the Hermit) was introduced to *Kokersand* (called *Cocressand* by 1213) by William of Lancaster, who described him as "*an heremyt of great perfecc'on*". In the next 4 years, Hugh built and developed a hermitage at what we now call Cockersand, which was also a hospital for lepers and others. He had a "staff" of two canons (known as the Black Canons). It seems to have been known by the locals as St Mary of the Marsh, but by 1190, the hospital was known as the Hospital Monastery of Cockersand and was run by Premonstratensian monks under a Prior. It was soon elevated to abbey status, and the first abbot was a monk called Thomas, who was known as the "*Abbot of the Marsh*". Those monks represented Croxton Priory in Leicestershire.
The abbey was built from locally quarried sandstone and was begun on the site of Askell's Cross - an ancient sacred site at the seaward end of a solitary track.

The abbey was granted the perpetual right to use a baulk - a huge barrier of stones, wooden poles and willow or hazel panels - as a massive fish-trap. The baulk was maintained by generations of locals, with the rights changing hands many times. Later, the "tithes of the baulks" were given to the Vicar of Cockerham, who received the catch from the tides following the new and full moons each month.
The baulk was built to the southwest of the Plover Scar lighthouse, and *"as the tide ebbed, fish were corralled into the centre and caught in nets or stranded in shallow pools. As well as salmon and sea trout, there would be mullet, plaice, codling and even the occasional seal. The rights were finally acquired in the 1950s by the Lancashire River Board"*. Recent scans near the ruins have revealed 2 more medieval fishing baulks or slipways, probably built to service the abbey.
The name Cockersand is simply a combination of the words *Cocker* (the local river) and *sands* (the estuary sands).

The abbey was built in a cruciform shape and was not small, being roughly the same size as the Lancaster Priory Church we see today. It had its own paved and columned cloister, and dormitories, kitchens, and ancillary rooms.

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Its 13th century Chapter House is all we can see above ground today. There also appears to have been an early tower, called King John's Hall in 1536, built right by the cliff edge outside the boundary wall. It seems to have been lost to erosion.
At its height, Cockersand owned over 12,500 acres of land in the Northwest. By 1200, this land included local self-run granges at Pilling, Newbigging (Singleton), and Medlar. The grange at Pilling is now Pilling Hall Farm. In addition, by 1207, a small Augustinian priory had been built at Cockerham, by canons sent by Leicester Abbey, who were anxious to protect their own local influences from the Premonstratensians. The Abbey also had the title of Convent, in respect of its resident nuns.

The monks of Cockersand later founded a separate leper hospital, whose remains are today in the grounds of Thurnham Hall (which is itself a 13th century Pele tower).

The abbey was raided by Scots invaders in 1316 and 1322, but the damage they caused is not recorded. However, in 1372, the boundary wall, protecting it from the sea *"which was stated to be so near to the sea that the walls built for the preservation of its buildings were being worn away and destroyed by the waves"*, was repaired. It was also reported that coastal erosion would regularly wash skeletons out of their graves and into the sea.

Monetary returns in 1501, show 487 people at the abbey, with another 350 bondsmen - a clear indication of its size and importance. However, by 1536, its stature was decreasing. It then had "*22 canons, 57 servants and 5 old men who were either resident in the hospital or conversi, lay brothers who did manual labour and were responsible for the maintenance of the monastery*".
In 1537, set of illuminated letters patent was issued by Henry VIII to the Abbot of Cockersand, making the Abbey exempt from the Act of Suppression. Cockersand was the only Abbey in Lancashire to be exempted in this way.

Cockersand Abbey was dissolved on the 29th of January 1539, and in 1543, its lands were sold off and bought by farmer John Kitchen. At the time, the abbot had 21 canons on site. This ended its many years of ownership of land in the Fylde area, and it was then demolished in 1593. This was the time known as the Dissolution of the Monasteries. The abbey's chapterhouse was spared because it was also a hallowed burial place.

The chapterhouse was in ruins by 1727, but in 1750, it was renovated by the local Dalton family. It was then used by them as a mausoleum until 1861, and still shows the inscription "*monument, inserted in 1819*". After that, it became a cowshed, until becoming a tourist attraction. The abbey site and remains are now a Scheduled Ancient Monument (RSM 27844).
Abbey Farm was built nearby in the late 18th century.

The monks of Cockersand rented land at Hoo Hill, calling it "Epiphany Land". Some think that the name Hoo Hill comes from the Old English words "*hoh*" - a spur of land and "*hyll*" - obviously meaning a hill.

St Helen's Church in Churchtown: was mentioned in Domesday and had been first built on an ancient burial mound, as a Celtic/Roman "*keeill*". Leant against the wall of the vestry, is stone slab, engraved with an early form of Keeill cross, known as a *"Chi-Rho"* cross.

Churchtown was originally the home of the parish church for Garstang, but has become a village in its own right over the centuries. Originally called Garstang Churchtown, Churchtown is an Anglicised version of

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Kirklund, a Norse word meaning the "church in the sacred grove", and the lands around the village are called Kirkland (church land).

The original church was enlarged this year. It originally stood between two branches of the River Wyre, but one was diverted away from the church in 1736, after severe flooding. The oldest parts of today's church date from the 13th century, and these are the piers and responds in the chancel, and the arch piers in the nave. The church was rebuilt in the 15th and 16th Centuries, when the vestry was transported there from Cockersand Abbey. In 1811, the roofs were replaced, the walls were raised, and a clerestory added. Further restoration work took place between 1866 and 1869.

The churchyard contains a 17th century stone sundial, from which the villagers originally took their time. This bears a date plate showing 1757, seeming to indicate a restoration.
There is also a renowned "Lepers' Squint "in the church wall - a hole at the bottom, where passing lepers would plead for food and alms without touching and infecting the clergyman inside.

St Helen's rejoices under the title of the "Cathedral of the Fylde".

St Helen's Vicarage: The vicarage was built in 1698, and is called Churchgate House, and was built on the site of a much earlier building.
The second vicarage is called the Old Vicarage, and dates from a century later. To the north west of the Old vicarage is a Listed Building: *"Barn, 1755. Brick and sandstone with tile roof. South wall has canopy with cheeks at left, the lower part of the cheeks of stone. To the right are breathers set in diamond patterns, and 2 doorways with stone lintels, the right-hand one blocked. At the right the lower part of the wall has stone quoins. The right-hand (east) gable wall has a doorway with stone lintel. Above is a pitching door. Below it is an oval plaque inscribed: 'JP Vicar Anno Domini 1755'. Inside there are 2 softwood king-post trusses"*.

Near to the church stands a cross. *"This is an 18th century dial post which was formerly the village clock. It was restored several years ago by the Churchtown Society, who had the numerals re-cut and a new pointer installed. The sundial can be seen on the south face of the cross"*. The steps and shaft were added during a refurbishment in 1930.

A single-storey, brick and sandstone Sunday school stands to the South of the church, dating from the early 19th century.

1181

Larbrick Hall / Larbreck Hall: Richard de Molyneux granted land at Larbreck to Cockersand Abbey, and this large house may have been built around now. A moated house until at least 1860, it was variously called, *Larbreck*, *Layrebreck*, *Lairbrec*, or *Laierbroke*.
By 1359, it was being described as "Layrbroke Manor" and was in the possession of the Molyneux family until 1601, when it passed from William Burgh (the "holder").
The hall was used as a court for many years. For example, in 1627, Richard Burgh judged the case of Dorothye Shawe, wife of Thomas Shawe of Skippool. She was accused by her neighbour of being a *"witch and a demdyke"*. This was a mere fifteen years after the Pendle Witch Trials. She was found to be innocent, and was buried on the 4th of March 1633, at St Chad's Church in Poulton.

William Burgh died - a lunatic - in 1640, and the hall passed to Sarah Woodhouse, and soon to the Shuttleworths who held parts of it until 1673.

©

Most of it was sold in two parts, to clear debts, in 1664 by Edward Shuttleworth. On the 6th of July 1737, Larbrick was bought for £1,207 by William Harrison, but between 1704 and 1747, the two parts both came gradually into the possession of the Pedder family, who held it for over 90 years. In 1848, the hall was owned by Mr Whiteside, and possessed 1,064 acres of land.

It was extensively rebuilt as a farmhouse in 1855, after having been bought by James Slater, but then had a mere 88 acres of land. In 1873, the building was described as "*refronted with brick. Over the old porch is a stone let into the wall and bearing the initials (and date) S E R 1724 which refers to Edward Styth, who at that time was the owner of the place. The interior of the building shows signs of age; its walls in some parts are five feet thick, and the plan of the old hall with its snug chimney corner can still easily be traced. Some of the doors are of oak, the blackness of which has been the growth of centuries, and the places where the old-fashioned mullioned windows have been are yet discernible. The moat so lately as 1860 surrounded the hall except where it had been filled up to make a cart-road to the house*".

By 1907, it was owned by George Whiteside, and by 1935, had become known as Larbrick Hall Farm - run by Henry Sherlock. It was completely demolished in the 1970s, and rebuilt on the same site. Now known as Larbreck Hall, it is the home of a site for static caravans.
Nearby, on Wallpool Brook in later years, was a water mill.

Old Castle at Larbreck: Nearby are the ruins of what is shown on old maps as an "Old Castle". Its origins are as yet unknown, but in 1358, William de Molyneux was paying rent for *"the castle ward"*.
In 1934, Thomas Rich was tenant of Castle Farm, which is now called Old Castle Farm on Garstang Road. It has been in the hands of the Rigby family for many years, specializing in livestock and taking in boarders.

Larbreck hamlet itself is an ancient hilltop settlement, which retains its essence of traditional vernacular cottages clustered around a meandering country lane.

1189
Theobald Water gave 45 acres of land in Norbreck to the Abbott of Shrewsbury.

Lytham Windmill: Lytham's first windmill was built this year. It was a peg and post mill and was actually located between where Lytham Hall and St Cuthbert's Church now stand, **not** on the green as otherwise reported. It is described elsewhere as an "*ox-mill*".

Note: The Lytham Windmill is often **wrongly** touted as Britain's oldest.
Chesterton Mill near Warwick has that honour, being built in 1632.

The windmill was rebuilt on the green (then known as Lytham Marsh) by Squire Clifton from 1803, and was finally let in 1805, to Richard Cookson for 7 shillings per year – it is described in the lease as the Windy Milne. The mill had three pairs of grinding stones - one French pair, one grey pair for meal, and one pair of shelling stones. Attached to its rear was a corn drying kiln, which was used until 1881, when a new one was built at Kiln Street at East Cliffe (which had previously been called Gas Street and was called Wharf Street by 1891). The kiln *"housed a furnace fired by peat or wood, over which was laid a floor of 12" square tiles, each perforated with a series of small holes. The grain was spread out on the floor and the warm air percolating through the tiles soon rendered it dry enough for milling*".

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It has been suggested that Lytham Windmill was originally built in 1762, but this has not been proven, although the original central shaft bore an inscription, which read *"this shaft is of Baltik Oak and it has done its work for 150 years"*.

The plinth we see today around the mill was added about 10 years later. *"It was built to protect both people and wandering animals from approaching too near the sails. It also served as a platform from which the miller could adjust the sailcloths and cap".* Ships would drop anchor by the mill, and offload oats or corn for processing and return.
"The farmers would trundle their heavy sacks of grain by pony and cart along the narrow track which led across the Marsh from Mythop Road, the wheat and oats were left for milling and later collected in the form of flour, meal or bran".

A brick kiln was built next to the mill in about 1840. It stood just to the North of the mill, but in 1849, the East Beach homeowners complained of the smell and the smoke. The kiln was moved to Kiln Street (now called East Cliffe). *"The kiln played an important part in the milling process for grain had to be dry before it was ground into flour. The building housed a furnace fired by peat or wood, over which was laid a floor of 12" square tiles, each perforated with a series of small holes. The grain was spread out on the floor and the warm air percolating through the tiles soon rendered it dry enough for milling"*.

In 1860, the mill gained a "new" grinding stone – it had been used in Wrea Green Windmill for 150 years beforehand. Many grinding stones for local windmills were made in Tarnbrook. The mill's fantail was added in around 1870, thus saving the miller from having to turn the cap by hand, using a rope and pulley system.

In an unfortunate accident on the 4th of April 1894, 8-year-old Joseph Nottingham of Westby Street was killed when he was hit by a sail and received a fractured skull.
In 1900, the mill was given a set of self-reefing patent sails. Instead of the old sailcloths, these had shutters, which operated automatically to spill the wind. They were much longer than the present dummy sails. At over 40 feet in length, they almost touched the top of the plinth, and in 1909, this proved fatal to one small boy from Manchester, who grabbed one of the sails as it went past. He was carried up but lost his grip and fell to his death.

In 1907, public conveniences were built just to the east of the windmill - one each for men and women.

The mill was worked continually, until a fire on the 2nd of January 1919 burnt out the interior. A strong wind had turned the sails too quickly and a spark had ignited. Its last miller was William Swann.

The windmill was given to the people of Lytham by Squire Clifton in 1921. The burned-out the shell was finally restored and given a new cap and a set of dummy sails. Over the years, it was used as a café (1930-33), as the HQ for Lytham Cruising Club, the Motorboat Club, and the Sea Cadets, an Electricity Board substation until 1964, and lastly as part of a Tourist Information Centre.
During World War 2, it was painted in camouflage colours.

In July 1988 the cap was removed, re-built, and re-installed. Then, in 1989, the windmill was restored by Fylde Borough Council, and opened to the public on the 20th of March, by the mayor, John Taverner. The mill is now a museum, run in partnership by Fylde Borough Council and the Lytham Heritage Group.

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Saltcoates and Saltwellers at Lytham: By now, Saltwellers had begun to refine salt at Lytham Pool, and a yeoman named John le Saltwaller is referred to in a contemporary charter. In addition, the foundation charter of Lytham Priory mentions "Snarlsalte" - the first firm mention of salt works in the South Fylde. Then, in 1335, there is a reference to Swartesalt near Lytham Poole.

By 1764, the area of Saltcoates had appeared, named after the farmhouse "Salt-Coates" which had been owned by Geoffrey Gillett (who had built his own saltpans there). Saltcotes farm and its cottages began a pure clay buildings, supported on a cruck-truss frame. New walls were put in as they became necessary, built from whatever was available. Closeness to the coast meant that they were repaired with carefully-selected, flat cobblestones, which were laid in neat rows like bricks.

Other local inhabitants included the Crookhall and Salthouse families. The saltwellers would collect salty sand from the beach and carry it back in two-wheeled carts, known as "*sand coupes*". The seawater was strained through the sand inside large troughs in order to extract the salt, and the resulting brine was then boiled to remove the liquid. "*Saltcoat hills*" were the mounds of used sand.

In later years, salt was produced by the *"direct boiling"* process and by *"sand washing"* or *"sleeching"*, whereby salt-impregnated tidal silts were filtered through a bed of turf or peat. The resulting brine was then boiled in small pans, often cast in lead.

The discovery of a Roman saltpan at Foxhall shows that the practice locally is indeed ancient.

All lepers from the area were permitted to be accommodated in St Mary Magdelen hospital in Preston. They were placed by King Henry 1 under his *"hands, custody and protection",* under the terms of his Charter made about this year. Prior to this date, they had been forced to shelter in and around the local forests and woods, where they were regularly *"molested"* by the local gentry.

1194

Theobald le Boteler of Ireland supported his brother Hubert during his actions against Prince John, and Theobald received the surrender of John's supporters in Lancaster. He was rewarded with the office of Sheriff of Lancaster, which he held until Christmas 1198. He was again sheriff after John took the throne in 1199, and swiftly began to obtain lands in the Fylde.

> **Note:** Herveius Fitz Walter had accompanied William the Conqueror into England. His son, Theobold, went to Ireland with Henry II, where, he was rewarded with large possessions there, and made it his home. The king afterwards conferred on him the office of "Chief Butler of Ireland", and his descendants, the Earls of Ormond, and others, took the surname of le Boteler. Centuries later, after years of both names being used, the name was Anglicized to Butler.

There was a dispute recorded, between the Abbott of Shrewsbury and William de Bispham, over 90 acres of land in Norbreck.

1199

Cross Slack: The slack, which is named after the Norse word *"Slakki"*, referring to a shallow dell, was originally known as Church Slack. It took its current name from the boundary cross which was erected by Richard FitzRoger about now, to mark the limits of Lytham Parish, which was then granted by him to the monks of Durham. That cross was erected at the northern edge of the village of Kilgrimol.

Saxon fishermen are known to have fished from Cross Slack.

Additional land was granted to Lytham Priory in 1230, a new cross was erected, known as the Cross in the Hawes. The land had previously belonged to William Butler of Layton, and the hamlet of Cross Slack later developed there. After almost 40 years of disputes over that land, a commission was held in 1272, to finally establish the boundary. As a result, a second cross was erected at the Weyngate – meaning wagon gate, at Pod's Nook on Marton Moss, on the road to Layton. The path between the two crosses became known as Division Lane.
A new boundary cross was erected at the western end of the lane in 1532.
The place is still known as Cross Slack, as were the cottages that were later built there, and at the northern end of the slack for many years, stood a small public house, known as Stony Hill.
Division Lane itself used to run right down to the sea and its remains can still be seen near the hump-backed bridge on the St Anne's Nature Reserve. Today, Lytham and St Anne's are traditionally separated by an unseen boundary – at Smithy Lane in the east and King Edward Avenue in the west.

In 1636, a lease agreement was signed for a Trinity Salthouse of Cross Slack.

At Cross Slack Farm in 1796, Nicholas Gillett, an infamous "wrecker", built a new barn, complete with a stone inscription showing the date of construction. After his last descendant, Bill Gillett, died in 1963, the farm building became derelict, and (by then standing on Highbury Road in St Anne's) its demolition began on the 27th of February 1964.

Keeper's Cottage nearby was provided by Lytham Hall Estate for their gamekeeper. The gamekeeper's descendant became green keeper at the nearby Golf Club, and the 1911 Census shows that club professional Herbert Stor was also a boarder at the Cottage. Keeper's Cottage remained the home of the head grounds man until the 1940s.
Another nearby cottage, Granny Fisher's, was destroyed by fire in 1964, but the ruins remained until several years after, when they were demolished to provide the base for a new 16th tee on the golf course.

In 1825, an order was placed for the erection of a "land-mark" at Cross Slack, to serve as a guide for vessels entering the River Ribble. Then, in November 1870, a railway halt was built at Cross Slack, being renamed as St Anne's in January 1875. Another halt opened, not far away, at Gillett's Crossing in 1913.

The tiny hamlet's biggest event however, was on the 2nd of February 1876, when the first sod of the new town of St Anne's-On-The-Sea was dug at Cross Slack.

Freckleton Water Mill: Records state that "Roger de Freckleton, tenant in 1199, confirmed to Richard de Freckleton (who appeared by a brother, Adam) the sixteenth part of a mill and a fishery in the township". So, this means that the mill and its two milldams were already in existence, where Dow Brook enters Freckleton Pool - near where the Marsh Gate on Preston Old Road now stands.
Remains of the stone weir can still be seen at the merging of the two waterways. Because of its position, the water mill could only operate when the tide ebbed, because the mill floor could be submerged by a high tide. Dow Brook is known locally – and with tongue slightly in cheek - as the River Dow.
In 1427, the mill is recorded as belonging to William Huddleston. He built the mill house in 1433 (recorded on a stone mill post), and the millstones were then replaced in 1444.

Freckleton Water Mill was one of only three in the Fylde.

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On the 8th of April 1609, Arthur Sharples obtained a lease from the Earl of Derby to build a new mill and drying kiln. The mill was duly rebuilt by 1615, and its wooden wheel was completely rebuilt in 1701. Until demolition, the mill was made of brick and the wheel was enclosed in a brick compartment.
The mill remained in the Sharples family for over 100 years, as an indenture in 1829, states that "*Thomas son of the late James Battersby of Clifton, Farmer, aged eighteen years "a messuage," with a Water Corn Mill, Drying Kiln, and two Mill Dams containing in the whole three Roods and thirty-six Perches of Land of eight yards to the pole or perch being in Freckleton, and now in the occupation of the said James Sharples and Thomas Sharples*".

"After being in the possession of the Earls of Derby for a period of 354 years, Freckleton Water Mill was sold on 25 April 1850, by Edward Earl of Derby to Thomas Clifton and John Talbot Clifton, both of Lytham". The miller was Thomas Battersby. The mill was sold again in 1882, when the trustees of the John Hornby Charity School bought it with the intention of closing it. February 1883 saw it let by them to Christopher Dobson, but it was let again, to Robert Cardwell of Treales windmill, on the 11th of February 1885. By 1886, Richard Pritt was miller, and by 1888, it was Mr Cartmell.
In 1891, the Freckleton Marsh Company bought the mill for £350. Under their tenant miller, Mr Pritt, it worked at full capacity until 1918, but closed in 1922. It was finally demolished in 1968.

The channel of the "River Dow" is wider to the south of the mill site and leads down to the remains of Freckleton Docks.

1200
There is record of a small chantry chapel in Layton. A chantry was a type of trust fund, set up to employ priests to sing a mass for the soul of a specified deceased person.

St Oswald's Church, Preesall: The chapel of St Oswald at Stalmine is recorded, as a small hospice for the care of the sick, set up by the monks of Cockersand Abbey. Its cemetery was consecrated in 1230.

The chapel was rebuilt between 1806 and 1808. There had been some kind of place of worship on the site as far back as 1246. It was then dedicated to St James.
In the churchyard is a sundial dated 1690, which is a converted preaching cross.

St James's Church was refurbished in 1884, rebuilt between 1896 and 1899, and refurbished again in 1991. The current church consists of a nave, a chancel with a south aisle, transepts, and a bell turret (covered in shingles and with a short spire) towards the west end. There is a porch to the south. The new church was consecrated in 1899.
Later, the church became a united benefice with the parish of St John the Baptist at Pilling.
A two-storey extension was built, and this was officially opened by the Bishop of Lancaster on the 22nd of July 2007.

Around the outside of the church in the 1980s, ran Bob Jackson's miniature railway.

Pilling Hall: Pilling Grange existed this year, as Theobald Walter granted the whole of his Hey of Pilling in memory of his late brother Walter, Archbishop of Canterbury, to the Abbot and the Monks, who later moved to Cockersand Abbey.

©

In 1538, John Kitchen, lived at Pilling Grange, and in 1543, he obtained a grant from Henry VIII of the dissolved Abbey of Cockersand and the Grange and manor of Pilling. In 1577, Pilling Hall is clearly shown on a map - the name had changed.

In 1649, the entire Pilling estate was partitioned. The hall and one third of the demesne were assigned to the Banastres, another third of the estate to the Hesketh, and the remaining third to the Ashtons.

In 1750, Pilling Hall was rebuilt as a large country house, close to the site of the original Pilling Grange on Horse Park Lane.

The hall was rebuilt again at the start of the 19th century, when owned by the Hornby family. In 1825, the lords of the manor of Pilling were Edmund Hornby, John Gardner and William Elletson. By 1850, Edmund Hornby, was the sole owner of the hall. Nothing remains of Pilling Hall, but in 1879, Fishwick records that *"in making excavations near the present hall (which is used as a farmhouse) many beautifully carved stones have from time to time been exhumed . . . and about ten years ago in the centre of the barn was discovered an oval hole or pit, some 18 ft. deep and from 6 ft. to 9 ft. wide, covered with rafters having over them about 3 ft. of sand. Above the door of one of the barns was a stone dated 1675"*.
It is now a brick-built house with 3 bays and is known as Pilling Hall Farm - the house is a Listed Building.

Winmarleigh Hall: The manor of Winmarleigh was first mentioned, as *Wunermerleye*.
By the 16th century, it was held by Sir Gilbert Gerard, the Attorney General, and Master of the Rolls. By marriage, it then passed to the Spencers of Ashton, near Lancaster and on to the Stanleys. The Stanleys then had to sell the manor to clear one Lady Derby's debts, and in the mid-18th century, it was bought by John Wilson-Patten.

In 1871, Winmarleigh House was built in the Elizabethan style, on the site of the old hall, for Colonel John Wilson-Patten, to the order of the Duchy of Lancaster, who considered that he required a grander residence. Lancaster architects Paley and Austin had been employed to design the hall.
In 1874, on his retirement from the House of Commons, Colonel Patten was raised to the peerage as Baron Winmarleigh, of Winmarleigh - the first and last Lord Winmarleigh.

The house later changed its name to Winmarleigh Hall. It was bought by Frank Reddaway in 1912, and then enlarged and altered in 1915–14, by Henry Kirkley of Manchester. It was virtually rebuilt again in 1927, following a fire on the 29th of November 1926, which severely damaged all but the main building.

On Reddaway's death in 1945, the estate was bought by Lancashire County Council, and in 1949, Winmarleigh Hall was opened as the Lancashire County Institute of Agriculture, an extension of the County Institute at Hutton. Many Fylde gardeners and farmers trained there and at its descendant - Myerscough College – between 1969 and 1998.
Since 1998, it has been used as a children's adventure centre. It comes nowadays with a 50-acre estate, making it half its original size.

1201
Matilda Stockhord held one carucate in *Kelgmersberg*, and by 1253, Ralph Beetham held *Brininge* and *Kelgermsarche* etc. In 1561, James Bradley claimed for a windmill in Kellamergh and Bryning, and by 1641, James Middleton held both *Brining* and *Kelkamergh*. Bryning Windmill is thought to have been by a crossroads, adjacent to the current Bryning Hall Farm.

©

1206

Woodplumpton Hall: Robert de Stockport was Lord of the Manor of Woodplumpton at his death in 1206, and the Stockports retained the lordship until John Warren of Poynton obtained it through marriage – pre-1356. During the years of 1509-47, the Duchy of Lancaster records attest to the Manor of Woodplumpton being held by John Warren, who was the resident of *"an ancient manor house in the area known as Woodplumpton Hall"*. The date the hall was built is not known.

The Warrens then held the lordship until 1777, when Viscount Bulkeley succeeded to the title via marriage. Its tenants in 1820, were the Jackson family. In 1822, Sir John Fleming-Leicester became lord, before Charles Birley of Bartle Hall acquired the title which then passed to his son and grandson. The Reverend Thomas Jackson Calvert, Warden of Manchester, owned the Hall from 1823 to 1840, but it was occupied by William and Ann Jackson. William died in 1825, but Ann remained there until her death in 1859.

In 1844, the hall was at the western end of the modern road called The Orchard, and the cobbled road still there almost certainly served the Hall. In 1838, the property consisted of house, outbuildings, garden, fold, and orchard. In 1851, the associated farm consisted of 190 acres.
By 1890, a map shows the hall opposite the village church, possibly where the current playing fields now stand.
The manor steward John Turner, lived at Woodplumpton Hall Farm in the 16th century. The village tithe barn stood in a field behind the farm. By 2010, Woodplumpton Hall stood derelict.

The actual township of Woodplumpton was extensive, and incorporated the quarters of (Wood) Plumpton, Bartle, Catforth and Eaves.

1207

Lea Hall: The manor of Lea is first written of. It had previously been divided into two distinct parts - French Lea lay between the Savock Brook and the Ribble, and is where Lea Hall was built, and English Lea was to the north of the Savock. In this year, the two were united under Henry de Lea.
A later Henry de Lea became Sheriff of Lancashire and was buried at Lea Hall in 1289.

Lea Hall was expanded at the start of the 14th century, when the de Hoghton family acquired the manor through marriage, from the de Leas. The Hoghtons used it as their main home until they had Hoghton Tower built in 1565, but in 1589, Lea Hall was the centre of a violent disagreement over cattle. It was in the possession of Thomas Hoghton, who was executed for his part in the altercation.
There is a tale of William Shakespeare briefly living at Lea Hall when he was taken in by the de Hoghtons in around 1580.

By 1609, the hall is recorded as being held by Robert Bourne.

The hall became a farm in the 19th century, and that building is now Grade 1 Listed. It is described as "*Old Lea Hall Farmhouse, adapted from the only surviving domestic range of a late-medieval manor house of the de Hoghton family (probably in the late C17 or early C18); with an early C19 addition which is of less interest. Timber frame subsequently re-clad with handmade brick, steeply-pitched slate roof*".

Lea is actually pronounced locally as "LeA" – with an emphasised "a" at the end.

©

1209

The Church of St John the Baptist, Pilling: There is record of a small chapel to St John being built at Pilling, and in 1493, the chapel of St John the Baptist was recorded on the site (just to the south of Pilling Hall), being consecrated for baptisms and marriages in 1630. The Bishop of Lichfield granted a licence in 1493, to a devout nun, named Agnes Shepherd, to live as a solitary in a cell at Pilling Chapel, under the control of the Canons of Cockersand Abbey.

That first tiny chapel was demolished in 1717, and a second chapel was built near Newers Wood on School Lane. It was 28 feet long by 19 feet six inches wide and was consecrated in 1721. The ceiling was added in 1813, and a small first floor was inserted. Excavations in 1952 showed that the site was an oval of approximately 300 feet in length and 180 feet wide. It was surrounded by a moat, which was crossed by means of a causeway at the northern tip. Digging found the bases of two altars and the top stone of one, along with bits of stained glass, and a stone basin, which is now used as a font at Eagland hill church.

That second chapel was replaced by a new church, which was built 100 yards away, with the first building becoming redundant. There is a vertical west declining stone dial at the south door of the old church, with an inscription from 1766, which reads *"This eternity approacheth"*.

The current Church of St John the Baptist was consecrated on the 24th of June 1887, and seats 410 people. It has a five-bay nave with clerestory and north and south aisles, a south porch, a two-bay chancel with a north vestry forming a transept, a south organ chamber, and a west tower with a recessed spire.

1214

Dieulacres: On the 22nd of April, some Cistercian monks, led by their abbot, Richard of Poulton, arrived near Leek, in Staffordshire, to establish a monastery on land granted to them by Ranulph de Blundeville, Earl of Chester. The Earl laid the foundation stone, saying the Anglo-Norman words *"Dieu l'encres"* - meaning "May God prosper it". This became adulterated into the name *Dieulacres* - sometimes spelled *Dieulecrosse* - and the Abbey of Dieulacres later became owner of many Fylde manors.

1215

The Magna Carta was drawn up to provide rights for all.

Singleton Grange: is mentioned in deeds granted by King John, although, according to other papers, it was founded in 1240. First known as Newbigging, it passed to the Abbot of Cockersand Abbey, who employed a local grainger to run it for him. By 1505, the Singleton family were the incumbent graingers - that year is listed as the birthplace of a George Singleton. In 1543, after the Dissolution of the Monasteries, it was granted to William Eccleston. It has been found to have been an oak timber-framed building with a moat.

After 200 years of different owners, the grange was bequeathed to Richard Harrison in 1738. He lived in the large 1670s house called Bankfield in the grange grounds (destroyed by fire on the 26th of December 1963). It then passed though the Leigh, Harrison, and Gladstone families, before finally it came into the hands of Charles Atkinson.
Singleton Grange then became a simple farm, farmed at first by George Greave then by the Swarbricks. It is long since demolished and its place is taken by the Kings Close housing development.

©

1220

Nateby Hall: was in the hands of the Travers family, their most famous member, Sir Thomas Travers, being born there in 1250. He was present at the Lincoln Parliament in 1301, was Sheriff of Lancaster in 1302, and died at the hall on the 1st of August 1334.

By 1574, it was owned by Gilbert Gerard, the Attorney General, and by 1613, it had again become the seat of the Travers family when rented it from him. The Leyburnes owned it from about 1650, and Bishop Leyburn is written as having confirmed 1,052 Roman Catholics there. In 1700, it was confiscated from them by the Crown.
The hall was just south of Bowers House, and both buildings sported secret Catholic chapels. There were tales – unproven - of a recusants' (Catholics') tunnel between the two.

In 1868, the hall was bought by John Wilson-Patten, but most of the original building was destroyed by fire in 1870, and it was rebuilt and sold to John Stewart. It then became simply Nateby Hall Farm.
Nateby Hall was demolished in 1969, but Nateby Hall Farm is still in business today, owned by the Gardner family.

1226

Wrea Green: The twin villages of Wrea Green existed before the time of the Domesday Book, as *Ricksby* (*Rigbi* in the Domesday Book, *Riggebi* by 1226, *Rygeby* in 1246, and *Ruggeby* in 1249), and Wra (1226, then *Wraa* by 1329).
The name Ribby was also spelled as *Ribi*, *Rigby*, and *Riggebye*n and probably derives from the Old Norse *"hryggr"* - meaning "ridge" and *"byr"* - meaning "by".

Wray lies at the northern border of today's village boundary, with Ribby to the east.

By about 1624, Ribby-with-Wrea was owned by Alexander Rigby.
In 1235, *"The king's demesne of Ribby (three plough-lands) was" "granted to Master John le Blund, king's clerk, for life"*.

In 1517, it was found that the free tenants of Wrea had always had right of pasture on Ribby Moor.

"The principal messuage in Ribby seems to have been that called Counton or COMPTON; it was acquired by the Parkers of Preston and Bradkirk, and on the sale of their estates about 1720 passed to a descendant of the above-named Alexander Rigby, and then to Richard Hornby, who sold it to his nephew Joseph Hornby; from him it has descended to his granddaughter Miss Margaret Hornby".

The village originally comprised a number of individual farms and thatched cottages, surrounding a village green complete with pond. The majority of the space is now a Conservation Area.

The villagers requested that a chapel be built as early as 1650, but nothing was constructed until St Nicholas's Church in about 1721.
By 1742, Townley Parker owned the manor of Ribby-cum-Wrea.

For many years, one of the Ribble Guides was stationed in Wrea Green.

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The Green of Wrea Green: The village green is the largest in Lancashire, and the village has always been a *"traditional rural settlement once comprising of individual farms surrounding a green, and now containing a mixture of Victorian, Edwardian, and more contemporary development forming an attractive peripheral enclosure"*. Before the 19th century, the green was known as the "common", and the surrounding farms and thatched cottages all opened directly onto this common land, which they used as free pasture.

The Grapes: At the northern edge of the Green was the Dumpling Inn, named in honour of the annual apple dumpling fayre held there. There had been a beer house-cum-inn on the site for many years, and it had housed the village stables. With the coming of the first rudimentary post service, it was called the Letters Inn. Its long-standing landlord in 1868, was Henry Kirkham, and by 1910, it was called The Grapes Hotel. The landlords between 1825 and 1870 were local joiner John Noblett, his son John, and then his daughter Agnes, and by 1906, it was John Marquis.
The inn was re-furbished at the end of the 19th Century, with an extension being added on the eastern side, to house a small brewhouse. Its address was changed to Station Road after the railway arrived. After many years as a Boddington's pub, The Grapes is now owned by the Chef and Brewer group.

The bench opposite the front door of the Grapes is dedicated to local man Carey Redman.

Outside the inn was (and still is) a ring used for cock fighting. Known as the "Cock Sod" it was found in 1969 to be a perfect circle, thirteen feet in diameter.

The Dub: the large village pond was probably named after the "daub" that the villagers used to dig from it to make the walls of their houses. It became its current size due to clay being excavated from it for the village brickworks. The Dub was used at every annual Field Day as the venue for a greasy pole competition, where losers were unceremoniously dumped into its muddy waters.

In 1875, the name Wrea Green officially replaced the old village name of Wray Green.
Wrea Green won the Lancashire's Best Kept Village competition for the first time in 1959. The village has since won the competition in 1965, 1966, 1968, 1972, 1980, 1986, 1987, 1993, 1996, 2001, 2005, 2009, 2010, and 2012. In 208, Wrea Green was the Best Medium Village.
In November 2005, Wrea Green was twinned the French village of Saint-Bris-le-Vineux in Burgundy.

1227

Warton: The name of the village of Warton is first seen spelled this way, having been known previously as *Wartun* or *Wartuna.* It probably derives from the Old English words *"weard"* – guard, and *"tun"* - village. By now, the village was in the hands of Sir Thomas de Beetham (sometimes spelled Bethum), having been acquired from Quenelda, the daughter of Hugh son of Acard Bussel, who was married to Roger le Boteler. By 1567, the manor had passed to the Queen, and after 1592, to Thomas Holcroft, and finally to the Clifton family of Lytham.

1230

Henry, a priest of Wytington (Whittington near Preston) requested that a chapel be built at Karleton (Carleton). He also agreed to pay the monks at Poulton for his water mill in the village.

1232

Pilling mill was built next to the Broadfleet river. A windmill replaced this in later years.

©

1233
William Butler gave the Abbott of Dieulecrosse the right to *"cut peat in Anglemoss and to wash sheep in Little Bispham Mere"*. This mere may have been located near Fleetwood Road recreation ground.
There was also mention of a right of way from Little Laton to Staining and Carleton.

Staining Grange and Staining Hall: Cecile de Laton, of Staining Grange - recorded as *"a timber-built moated hall, near Marton Mere"* - owned a dyke running to Poulton. The grange was later bought by the Abbot of Stanlaw, and by 1296, the *"vill"* of Staining had been given by the abbey to John de Lacey.
In 1297, Staining Hall belonged to Whalley Abbey. The monks from Whalley agreed to hold a half share of the marsh between Staining and Layton. They could draw water for their mill but could not take fish.

After the Reformation in 1543, Staining Hall was granted to Thomas Holt and was described as "*The house of Stayning is in length xxvii. yards, and lofted ou'r and slated; ye close called ye little hey contains by estimation halfe an acre, and ye said house payeth yearly, 6s"*. Parts of the original moat survive to the north and east of the present outbuildings.

In 1575, it was bought from Mr Holt by George Singleton, and the Singleton family owned the hall for many years, until it was bequeathed to John Mayfield in 1719. In 1810, it was bought by George Birley, who sold it to William Hornby. Eventually it was turned into a large farm.

1236 **The first mention of the Pool**
A place named "the Poole" was described as being in the Manor of Layton. This is not the same feature as the Black Pool of later years but was what we now know as Marton Mere.

1237
Maud de Wardley was born in Wardley.

1240
Little Carleton Mill is mentioned in contemporary papers, and a dyke was cut between Marton Mere and the mill.

St Anne's Church, Woodplumpton: The first mention is found of the Chaplain of Woodplumpton this year, and the church itself is first mentioned in an inventory of its goods taken in 1552 (rebuilt in 1630). Without conclusive proof, we should perhaps assume that today's building dates from its 1748 rebuild, although there are also tales of its existing in the 12th century.

A roof truss carries the date 1639, and the unusual, wall-mounted sundial is said to date from 1637. The oak communion table bears the date 1635, but the church register started in May 1603.
There are stocks and a mounting block near the south entrance to the churchyard, and the gateway is said to have been rebuilt by utilising the old stone stocks pillars. A later set of wooden stocks still stands by the lychgate in the churchyard.

Between 1899 and 1903, architects Austin and Paley made additions, and carried out a restoration of the church. This included the installation of new windows, re-roofing the north aisle, repairing the arcades, and extending the vestry. The church has a nave with north and south aisles, a chancel, a west tower, and a vestry to the northeast. The nave and aisles each have their own distinct gabled roofs.

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1241

Richard de Freckleton sold 45 acres in Norbreck to Richard de Dutton. Norbreck was spelled *"Norhicbiec"* at the time – the "*biec*" part possibly originating from the Saxon word "*beion*" – meaning a beacon.

1242

Preese Hall: The *"Testa de Nevill"* of 1242, was a record of the testaments of knights and of various inquests. It gives a picture of 13th century England in feudal times, and in its pages, it is recorded that *"William Dep's held the fourth part of a Knight's Fee of the Earl of Lincoln in Prees"*. It soon came into the hands of Shuttleworth family.
Somewhere between 1350 and 1356, Adam de Skilycorne was granted the stewardship of the property, which was also mentioned during the marriage of John de Prees. John was the son heir of William de Prees, the holder of the Manor of Prees, whose father Richard had been given Prees from the Shuttleworths by Henry Duke of Lancaster. It was then in the hands of his own family. Adam was the Coroner of the County of Lancaster, and *"while passing through Depedale Wood (now called Deepdale - the wood has disappeared) in the year 1360, he was waylaid and shot at — with bow-and-arrow, of course — by John le Botiller of Merton"*.

By 1401, this *"grand house"* at Weeton was occupied by Margery de Prees. When she died this year, it passed to her nephew, Edmund Skillicorne (also spelled Skillicorn), and it remained in the Skillicorne family until about 1612, when the Jolly family bought it. It is said to be linked to nearby Swarbrick Hall by a secret tunnel, built to give refuge during the Jacobite rebellion. The Hall is also known as Prees Hall after the founding family.

In a deed of 1653, the hall is described as follows: *"the ground parlor in the west end, the lower Closett on the south of the ground parlor, the chamber over the ground parlor, the upper closett over the lower closett, the ould house adjoining the ground parlor, the garden adjoining the south side of the ground parlor and lower closet"*.
The hall was severely damaged by fire in 1732, after the Swarbrick family fled to France during the reformation. The chapel was destroyed, but it was described at the time as *"a venerable mansion, with many priest holes"*. Its foundations and charred timbers were seen for many years.

It was sold in August 1805 and pulled down in 1864. The hall was almost immediately rebuilt, on the site of Preese Hall Cottages in 1864, when it belonged to T Miller – after whom the Miller Arms at Singleton is named. The current farmhouse was built nearby shortly afterwards.
Thomas Smith of Poulton described the hall as having *"the great shuffleboard table"*, and a *"copper urn inserted in the wall not holding tea but claret for visitors"*.

Weeton Army Camp was later built on the grounds of Preese Hall.

Swarbrick Hall: or Swarbreck Hall, stands near the site of the original Preese Hall, and was the home of the Swarbreck family. Thomas Pyke died there in 1629, and by 1729, the large Georgian house was owned by Elling Whiteside, and shortly afterwards became a farm.
In 1818, the farmer was Thomas Hodgkinson, in 1838, Richard Wilding, 1881, Richard Hall, and by 1934, it was farmed by John Winstanley.
Now called Stanley Bank Farm, it is owned by JT Smith and Son, and is on Singleton Road, opposite Weeton Camp.

©

1245
William, son of Alan de Singleton, had a water mill and fishery at Singleton.

1246
William de Lancaster was listed as the Lord of Scotforth, Witul, Garstang, and Merton (Marton).

1248

Mowbreck Hall: The manor of *Moulbret* belonged to Theobold Le Botiler, and the spelling "Mowbreck" was first recorded in 1249, with two other spellings, *Moulbroke*, and *Mulebrec,* appearing around the same time. In 1286, Mowbreck was held by the Heaton family, the immediate tenant being Adam de Bradkirk. The Heatons themselves moved there in about 1329.

Note: Later claims that its name is "*a corruption of the word "mouldbrick" as it was the Fylde's first brick-built house"*, are somewhat doubtful. Bricks did not begin to be made in England until the 1400s.

The first "Hall" was built by the Westby family in around 1485, and by 1567, had been was greatly extended. The Westby family were then seated at Mowbreck until 1893, also owning Burn Hall near Thornton. They originated from Westby in the West Riding of Yorkshire and have **no** connection with Westby village in the Fylde, which was the seat of the Cliftons.

At Mowbreck on All Hallow's Eve 1583, Vivian Haydock is said to have seen the "gory head" of his son George rising above the altar in the chapel. The skull was saying *"Tristitia vestra vertetur in gaudium"* - meaning "Your sorrow will be turned to joy". George Haydock was martyred shortly afterwards and his skull is preserved at Cottam Hall.
How the skull's words are known, when Haydock died hearing them, I can't guess!
In more recent times, the dim and vanishing figures of priests and monks are said to have been seen in rooms adjoining the chapel.

Mowbreck Hall began to be rebuilt in 1730, when owned by John Westby, and from the early 1800s, the hall also had a West Lodge and East Lodge guarding its entrances. It had gained a Catholic chapel by 1724, and this was rebuilt in about 1731, as a purpose-built chapel with its own quarters for the incumbent priest. By 1774, it had a Catholic day and boarding school. All this although Catholic public worship was not allowed in England until 1791.

In 1786, Robert Bannister opened a Catholic day and boarding school there, which was intended partly as a Junior Seminary to prepare boys for the colleges abroad at Douai, Rome, Valladolid, and Lisbon. By 1788, Catholic priests were being trained there.

The estate was inherited by Joscelyn Westby in 1842, and on the 7th of December 1893, the Earl of Derby bought the hall from his tenants, Mr Doughty Brown and Miss Tempest, for use as a hunting lodge. The Prince of Wales once stayed there as his guest.

Kirkham and Wesham Golf Club: For a brief period after about 1910, the short-lived Kirkham and Wesham Golf Club was at Mowbreck, with its secretary being C Dunkerley and the treasurer WP Hull.

Mowbreck Hall later opened a caravan site, which was expanded to include static caravans in 1978.
For about 10 years from the early 1960s, it was used as a restaurant and country club, owned by the Newby family, and run by Elias Kit (known as Ellis) until he was declared bankrupt in 1970.

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The hall was ravaged by fire in 1972, and pulled down completely between 1979 and 1981. Its grounds are now filled by caravans owned by Mowbreck Holiday and Residential Park.

1249
Thomas de Beetham gave 24 acres of land on Layton Hawes to Cockersand Abbey. The Beethams at this time owned around 120 acres of land in the area.

Bradkirk Manor: A manor was built this year at Bradkirk near Kirkham.
The Parker family of Brightmet Hall in Bolton, moved to Bradkirk in the late 16th century; there is a record of William Parker from the hall being buried at Kirkham in 1609, and the last Parker to live there, Christopher, died in 1723. His descendant, Alexander, did not live there and he had no children, so the line died out.
Bradkirk was known as Bradkirk Manor from 1630, and in 1644, Captain Bradkirk of the house was ordered by Prince Rupert to hold Clitheroe Castle against the invading Scots.

In 1764, Bradkirk Hall was rebuilt on the same site by Edward Hurst of Wesham, and it is now a Listed Building. It was once described as *"a large and lofty structure, over which are the letters 'EH' and the date '1764', evidently pointing to its rebuilding"*, and *"is a gabled house of two storeys with attic, built of brick in the Georgian style. The outbuildings appear to be contemporary with the farmhouse and are of brick with Ashlar foundations. No traces are to be seen of a preceding structure on the site"*. It was sold to Robert Hornby of Ribby Hall in 1797.

The complete stock and contents were sold off in September 1838, when the owners went bankrupt.
The Hall building is now a farm, but a survey in 2007 found *"Earthworks north and east of Bradkirk Hall Farm, possibly including the remains of a moat or other defensive earthwork"*.

1250
In the Charter of Cockersand Abbey, there is another reference to "the Poole".

1252
William de Newton, son of Richard de Biscopham, licenced the Abbott of Dieulecrosse to wash sheep in the *"pool of Little Biscopeyn"* – Bispham.

1253
King Henry III granted a Market Charter to Rossall. Evidence points to Sir Peter Hesketh Fleetwood having used this charter to justify his opening of Fleetwood Market.

1257
Layton Market: On the 26th of October, King Henry III granted Robert Le Botyller (Butler) the right to hold a weekly Wednesday market, and a three-day annual fair on the festival of St Andrew the Apostle, on the 30th of November in Layton High Street. Layton also received the right to *"wreck and gallows"*, and the regulation of assize of bread and beer. The assize regulated the price, weight, and quality of the bread and beer made and sold in towns, villages, and hamlets in the country.
In 1292, it was confirmed that the Butlers had held a market at Layton from time immemorial.
Layton Market was still held well into the 17th century, as were the associated stocks and market cross. It is known to have been a large area in the centre of the village.

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1260
Richard Butler's grandsons still held Layton but did not live at Layton Hall. They gave the Abbey of Dieulecrosse some land that Richard had bought from William de Norbreck, called Houkberch, Holme, and Faldworthings, which were located around the present Woodridge Avenue at Norbreck.
William Butler began dividing the land by giving to Cockersand Abbey:

- *Walter of Carleton's rent for another twenty-five acres;*
- *The right to take peat from Great Marton Moss for their grange, along with a right of way along what are now Vicarage Lane and Whitegate Drive;*
- *Fifty acres of "Threplands" - land lying alongside Marton;*
- *A road to the sea – part of a path across "Fisher's Big Field" near Bryan Road, part of "Bonny's Lane" near Reads Avenue, and part of Chapel Street near the sea;*
- *Twenty acres of land in the Wythroom – between Church Street and Talbot Road.*

1266
Richard Butler – or le Boteler (of Rawcliffe Hall) was made High Sheriff of Lancashire. Several le Botelers had filled the post, as did others later.

1267
Myerscough Hall: This year, the manor of Myerscoe became the possession of the county of Lancastershire, which was mainly concerned with the forest and its deer. In 1536, Mr Leland refers to it – "*Ere I came to Garstang by a mile and a half I left Myerscough, a great park partly enclosed with a hedge, partly (all on the moor side) with a pale. On the right, it is replenished with red deer. The Earl of Derby hath it in farm of the king*".

The exact date that any type of hall was built is most unclear, but in 1700, Myerscough Hall was rebuilt for William Greenhough on the site of an earlier building. That hall was described in 1912, as a "*two-story 18th century building with barred sash windows, hipped roof and deeply overhanging eaves*".

The name Myerscough comes from two Old Norse words "*mýrr*" and "*skógr*", meaning "boggy wood". It is occasionally seen spelled as "*Myerscow*". Locals pronounce the name as "myerscoe".

Thomas Tyldesley, the Roman Catholic recusant, lived there in 1712. The hall was extended by William Greenhough in 1729, just before he was made High Sheriff of Lancashire. It is recorded that the deer were all destroyed in 1778. James Greenhalgh (note the altered surname) was the owner in 1824.

In 1858, the hall was in the possession of William Hamber, and was advertised to let as a "*modern built mansion*" with orchards, gardens, pleasure grounds, and plantations. It also had 30 acres of grounds, 111 acres of pasture, and shooting rights over another 517 acres. By 1862, the hall was owned by Major E Cunliffe. An extremely rare Sugar Maple tree was planted at the hall in the 1890s. It was a great status symbol at the time, and in 2002, £10,000 was spent in moving it 150 feet.

The freehold of Myerscough Hall and Myerscough Hall Farm, and the leasehold on Myerscough Lodge Farm (531 acres in total), were purchased in 1962 by Lancashire County Council. Before the purchase, the hall had been used as a remand centre for boys before being converted into flats.
It took 7 years to make the site operational, but Myerscough College opened at Myerscough Hall on the 14th of May 1968, when the Lancashire College of Agriculture moved from Hutton, where it had been founded in 1894. The old hall was completely demolished in early 1969, to make way for the

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administration block of the new agricultural college. However, the two red sandstone entrance piers by the gate survive and are now on the register of Listed Buildings.

The main college complex opened to students in late summer 1969, and the Lancashire College of Agriculture (the Bilsborrow Campus) was formally opened by Queen Elizabeth II on Friday, October the 17th 1969. Its address was by then St Michael's Road. That college accepted its first full intake of students in September, 1969, and initially catered for 127 residential students, with two-storey 'study bedrooms' built in such a way to create a village green feel. A clubhouse was built, and comprised a bar, a games room, a TV room, and a space for *"impromptu discotheque dances"*. There was also the main Lecture Theatre – used daily even today. A large dining room completed the student facility, but was replaced in the 2000s by a modern restaurant complex. Also constructed were a modern, two-storey library, a laboratory complex for scientific research, and a large teaching block. There was an agricultural machinery workshop and store, while the farms were split into two purposes – one for teaching and one for commercial use.

In 1979, the college was re-named Lancashire College of Agriculture and Horticulture, and in 1993, it was incorporated independent of county council as Myerscough College. The Hutton site was sold in 1999. Also, in 1999, a new library and reception building was completed and was named the Fitzherbert-Brockholes Building in honour of W Fitzherbert-Brockholes.

"The main campus boasts facilities including an international equine arena, a golf course and simulated golf training centre, the National Arboricultural Centre, an off-road driving track, a dedicated Animal Studies Centre, a plant centre with tropical and temperate greenhouses, Myerscough Gardens and Arboreta, sports fields and two multi-million pound sports centres, a full size 3G pitch, as well as woods, fields, ponds and a river on the site. Myerscough College houses the Rural Business Centre".

Myerscough College now farms Myerscough Lodge Farm (leased from the Duchy of Lancaster since 1969), Lee Farm (leased from the Duchy since 2004), Gables Farm (the only part of the original holding bought by County Council in 1894), and Light Ash Farm and Primrose Hill (leased from the Duchy since 2002).

Myerscough Mill was next to the hall, and the miller in 1843, was William Swarbrick. By 1880, the miller was William Miles. A site report on the mill in 1977, states that it was a "*disused two-storied water mill built of brick and stone. The remains of a water wheel projects from the N. wall, though the internal machinery has been removed the building is in a reasonable state of repair externally and is used for the storage of farm produce"*.

Henry III granted the lands of Lancaster to his son, Edmund on the 30th of June, and made him the first Earl of Lancaster.

1268
Henry III further granted the manor of Preston, Singleton, and Rigby to Edmund.

1270
The Abbey of Dieulacres received a further "Fee Farm" grant of land in Bispham and Norbreck, next to their Rossall holdings.

Inskip Mills: Richard de Inskip granted to part of Inskip Windmill to Richard le Boteler.
By 1548, both this and the nearby Inskip Water Mill were grinding corn. Mill House was built nearby in 1700. A millrace, about one mile long, ran from the west, and was often used to perform baptisms. The

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water-powered mill was later fitted with a beam engine - the rectangular brick chimney vented that engine remained for many years but has now gone.
The then miller, Henry Cross, died in 1830.
The thatched Mill House still stands nearby and is a Listed Building. The demolished water mill is commemorated by Mill Close.

1272

The boundary between Layton Hawes and Lytham was settled upon and described as follows: -

> *"A declaration of the bounds between Kelgrimmoles and Layton was made by Ranulf de Dacre, the sheriff, and other arbitrators. The old cross on Cross How was the starting-point; from it the boundary line went west to the sea, and east to another cross set up by the arbitrators on the road from Lytham to Layton, and thence through the middle of the great moss between Marton and Lytham on the north side of Miggylund as far as Swinebridge Brook; but Kelgrimmoles and the Northhows were to be common for both Layton and Lytham".*

Peel Castle and Peel Hall: a place named "*Hallstude"* is mentioned in a grant of land by William de Merton, made in this year. Another document in 1292, shows a Hallstude near Hazelrigg, Lancaster, however, so again, confusion is possible.
Documents in 1716, show the village as being called *"Pell".*

Baines' History of Lancashire in 1868, mentions an old tower, set on ground 40 feet above sea level, at the hamlet of Peel. This Pele Tower was used by the Marton folk as a refuge in times of trouble and was in a field called *"Hallstede"* – "*stede"* meant "place" in old English - where an old moat could be traced. He also described "*the finding of two gold rings and the woodwork of a drawbridge, a generation ago*".

This house, otherwise known as Peel Hall, was later described as an "*ancient, turreted, manorial mansion*", which was the residence of the Holcrofts of Winwick and Marton, and in 1460 (possibly), of Thomas de Tyldesley of Pele.

The tithe map of 1839, and another in 1870, show Peel Castle on the corner of Anna's Road, which is to the west of Peel Road.
However, by the time of the 1932 Ordinance Survey Map, it is shown to be 300 yards directly to the west of Peel Hill Farm. This large farm, to the west of Peel Road, was built in the mid-19th century on the site of the ancient village of Peel. It is currently being demolished, having been in the Kirkham family for several generations – Arthur Kirkham being the best know inhabitant. Arthur's brother John owned Ridgeway Farm to the north, and Ridgeway Cottages opposite Peel.

The above site, at OS Map Reference SD356315, is my own preferred location, as it is recorded that there may have been a moat there, which may have enclosed a small house with decorative battlements.

The original Peel Hill, to the east of Peel Road, is also thought to have been yet another possible location for a motte and bailey tower (possibly of Norman origin). This is located a couple of miles away from the Peel Hill (near the M55 roundabout) of today and is to be seen in a field off to the east of Peel Road – almost opposite the site of Peel Castle as shown on the 1932 map. On today's aerial maps, a suitable raised and isolated area of land can be clearly seen.

It therefore seems extremely likely that Peel was once home to a castle or large moated house of sorts, but its exact whereabouts cannot yet be proved.

©

The largest of the local ancient lakes, Curridmere, was near to Peel. It was mentioned in the 12th century Charter of Lytham Priory; "*One Cursed mere was near the priory; another was in the moss. The name was given because many beasts had been drowned therein*" and the remains of a boat were found here in the 18th century - described as being found "near Peel". Curridmere was also known as *Cursedmere*, or *Cwisidmere.*

Peel Hall Farm is the original Peel Farm and is likely to have been built in the 19th century on the site of a much older one, which supplied Peel village across the road. It was owned by the Dean family before it was sold to be turned into the Peel Hall estate.

1276

Prior Ralph de Truno was attacked on the road to Poulton by Sir Adam Banastre and 6 of his friends. He was imprisoned by them in Thornton. Trunnah was named after Ralph.

1278

Westby Hall: Gilbert de Clyfton held the manor of Westby, and his period of residence saw the foundation of Westby Hall. In 1372, Robert de Clifton and his men were charged with having seized one William Garlick at Little Singleton, carried him off to Westby Hall, and imprisoned him there for a fortnight, carrying off also his corn and other goods.

In about 1442, the Clifton family had a rift, and the "junior" half took up residence at Westby Hall, on today's Ballam Road. The house was then let by Peter Carter. The fabric of the kitchen, dining room, and office at the back of today's building date from then.

By 1512, the Cliftons held the manors of Clifton, Westby and Salwick, as well as a large number of other properties and lands around the Fylde. In 1515, however, a family dispute resulted in William Clifton losing his eastern Fylde properties and retaining only the western ones.

Cuthbert Clifton bought Lytham Hall in 1606, and the Clifton family moved from Westby to there in 1626. In 1641, Cavaliers besieged Westby Hall.

Today, Westby Hall Farm owns 700 acres. It was farmed, from about 1901, by William Moore, who died in 1922. It was then taken over by the Taylor family.
A small area of lowland lies just to the west of Westby, containing several ponds and pits. This is known locally as "the Tarns".

There was a weeping cross at Fox Lane Ends, between Westby and Wrea Green for many years. The Boundary Cross at Fox Lane Ends was replaced in 1922 and was dedicated on the 19th of January to the memory of Hutton Birley, JP. It was replaced once more in the 1960s, but Hutton's plaque remains. Weeping crosses were erected for bereaved people to pay their tributes, and for the devotions of penitents.

1281

Norcross: *"prior to 1281, the hamlet of Norcross in Great Carleton, Lancashire, was held by the Norcross family"*, and from 1320 to 1346, Roger de Northcrosse owned land in Thornton. It is also recorded that in 1477, Richard Boteller was given *"a house and fifty acres of land in Northcrosse in the vil de Carelton"* – this is the origin of the modern district of Norcross.

©

For some time, it was owned by Cockersands Abbey – known as Northcross.
Rumours of an actual cross in the area cannot be proven.

Skippool Mill: was in operation. It was a water mill, with a dam on the creek, just to the south of Skippool Bridge. In 1850, a Letting Notice advertised it as "*All that desirable WATER CORN MILL, called "Skippool Mill", in Singleton, in the County of Lancashire, together with the COTTAGE and OUTBUILDINGS occupied therewith. The Mill is situate about one mile from the Poulton Station, on the Preston and Wyre Railway, and contains two pairs of French Stones, one pair of Meal Stones, one pair of Shelling Stones, Groat Machine, Flour Machine, and other requisite Fixtures*". The ruins of the mill can still be traced.

1286

Weeton Hall: Weeton is listed this year as having a "*well-built manor-house; half the land, 12 oxgangs, was in demesne (for the lord's own use), and the other half was held by free farmers at the will of the lord; there were three water mills*".
In 1324, James le Boteler, held the manor of Weeton with Little Marton *"by knight's service and the yearly rent of 10 shillings for a goshawk and 5 shillings for castle ward"*. The manor continued in the Boteler family until about 1400, when it was *"acquired by Sir John Stanley of Laythom"*.
The site is listed by English Heritage as a monument, but whether it was ever known as Weeton Hall is not proven. It does, however, stand on what is known locally as Hall Hill.

1291

The Taxation papers of Pope Nicholas state that Dieulacres Abbey held land in Biscopyne and Norbreck.

1292

Documents of Lytham Priory show that its income was greatly reduced due to raids by Scots. These raiders may well have been from Ireland, as the word Scot wasn't used for the folk north of Hadrian's Wall until after 1400. My own suspicion is that the losses were caused by more northerly lands owned by Lytham.

1294

William Butler held Isabel Butler a prisoner at Great Marton. Isabel, the widow of Henry le Boteler, complained that she was seized at Marton and imprisoned and that her corn had been reaped. William le Boteler of Warrington however, said in reply that she had sold him the growing corn for six marks.

1296

A ship from Ireland, laden with victuals for the King, was driven ashore at Layton. The goods were seized by the people and "*the king's men were ill-treated*".
Whalley Abbey was founded, quickly becoming the owner of many Fylde lands.

1300

William Butler gave an acre of land to Lancaster Priory so they could build a tithe barn by the road from Layton to the mere. This mere probably lay at Kingscote, with the barn situated in the Camden Road area.
A path ran from Layton village to the bank of Marton Mere. It was later called Sandy Lane, running from the present Ridgewood Avenue, and disappearing when Stanley Park was built in 1925.
Poulton church was an important part of the Lancaster estate and by now most of its land was being let to tenant farmers on payment of a tithe.

©

1305
There was also a horse mill in the township of Elswick, and *"for its maintenance five horses or mares might be sent to the common pasture"*.

1307
Robert the Bruce led his Scots army as far south as Preston, before ransacking it, and returning north.

1310
Roger Noel sold five oxgangs in Little Bispham to Walter de Shireburne.

Haddle House: this farm at Little Bispham seems to originate around now, beside Mire Field.
Thomas Hull was farming at what was then named Haddil House in 1780.

When it was sold on the 14th of September 1846, at the Golden Ball in Poulton, the listing (still for Haddil House) stated that it would sell *"with the Barn, Stables, Outbuildings, Yards, Garden, Orchard, and the several Closes of Arable Meadow and Pasture"*. The land totalled just over 77 acres and was tenanted by Gilbert Whiteside.

The farm was demolished in the 1950s, for a housing estate – a bus service began to run to the Haddle House Estate from then until 1967. The site of Haddle House is now number 11 Penswick Avenue.

1320
Dom Robert of Lytham Priory complained to Prior Roger of Tynemouth, and he complained to the Earl of Lancaster that in c1300 *"Sir William of Clifton set his animals, those of his tenants of Westby and those of the count's tenants of Rigby and Wrea in the prior's severality, refusing to remove them and taking them from the pound at Lytham with a force of 200 men and more, having threatened to burn down the priory buildings and killed stock, doing £100 damage"*.

1322
Scots in the Fylde: Unconfirmed tales say that a group of Scots from the army of Robert the Bruce raided Poulton, on their way to sack Preston again. The exact route taken by the Scots after the Battle of Bannockburn is not known, apart from that on the 1st of July, they invaded Furness, crossed Morecambe Bay, and sacked Lancaster. They then looted Preston, and turned back after just 4 weeks - so, a brief sojourn at Poulton is possible.

Fylde incursions were more than likely, given that "*Angus Og's galley-fleet had kept them company, offshore, and now lay in the Ribble estuary nearby, laden with treasure, hostages and prisoners for ransom"*. There is just one written record, which states, "*The destruction wrought by the Scots in 1322 seems to have been unusually great in this parish, for the value of the rectory was reduced by 70 per cent, in consequence of it, while that of the vicarage fell to 40s"*. That record goes on to state that the estimated *"loss through land waste by the destruction of the Scots was £32"*.

Again, we should bear in mind that the term Scot was not used solely for Scottish men until after 1400 - Irish warriors were also called Scots before this.

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1323
There was a dispute when William Butler alleged that his neighbours were invading his turbary (land where peat was cut). The neighbours were William Banastre, Lawrence de Thornton, Randle Gentil - Abbot of Dieulacres, Robert Shireburne, and Henry de Carleton.

Little Plumpton: The villages of the area around Plumpton were listed this year as: *"In 1323 the capital messuage of Westby was worth 40d. a year; in demesne were 72 acres of arable land, worth 8d. each, and 6 acres of meadow, worth 12d. each, a water-mill, a horse-mill, and a windmill, each worth 13s. 4d. Tenants at will held eight cottages, 96 acres of arable land and 4 acres of meadow. In Little Fieldplumpton were eight cottages and 96 acres of arable land held by tenants at will, and in Great Fieldplumpton two cottages and 32 acres, held similarly; Inq. p.m. 17 Edw. II, no. 32. The rental of Westby shows that the demesne was worth £12 a year in 1509; the tenants' rents and services were valued at £12 13s. 7½d. The field-names include Gude Marton, Stanall, Prestoft, Humbur and Smerdell. Peel in Marton and Ballam are mentioned in the account of Clifton"*. Little Fieldplumpton is now called Little Plumpton, having been re-located during improvements which began when Thomas Clifton began the transformation of Little Plumpton from 1845. He replaced the ancient village with a single large farmstead, and estate workers' cottages. The strip fields were rationalised into large blocks, shifting the focus further away from arable use to pasture.
Signs of the strip fields cultivated by the villagers can be seen in the fields now bounding the southern side of the M55 motorway.

Westby Windmills: Westby is recorded this year as having a water mill, a horse mill, and a windmill. The windmill is known to have been used by sailors on the River Ribble as a navigation marker.
The first Norse settlers there had considered the hill sacred, and the early Christians put up a cross on the slope of the hill; its socket remains in a field near Westby Crossroads.

By the 17th century, Squire Clifton had two wooden post mills operating on the hill – hence "Westby Mills". One stood on each side of the road to Plumpton and they could be turned into the prevailing wind by hand. Boats on the River Ribble used them to get the bearings. The first of Westby's two windmills burnt down in July 1874. At the time, brickworks stood on the slope of the hill, supplied by a small railway line down to the main road. Locals knew it as Old Junction Brickworks. The second windmill had gone by 1912, but its adjacent corn kiln lasted another 20 years.
A smithy and wheelwright soon set up shop next to the eastern mill. It was operated for many decades by Thomas Whiteside and then by Hugh Seed.

Westby Mills: The main road to Kirkham ran through Westby Mills hamlet until the reservoir was built, and there had been an alehouse just past St Anne's church since the 18th century.

By the late 17th century, there were *"quite a few"* cottages around the mills, and a couple living in one of the cottages began to brew their own ale and sell it. The cottage was soon an established ale house. In 1837, Thomas Pype, a butler from Kirkland Hall, applied for the "*Publick House at Westby Mills*", but on the 18th of September 1839, William Birley of Kirkham posted a notification that Bennett at Westby Mills "*allows gaming in his House both by day and night".* By 1841, William Bennett was running the *"well accustomed"* Westby Mills Inn, which had 31 acres of land attached, and which used the windmill buildings for storing their stock.
The Roman Catholic Church of St Anne, Westby: By now, Westby had enough cottages to justify its own church, and it was duly built by Edward Pugin during 1860, and was opened on the 26th of August by the

Right Reverend Goss, the Bishop of Liverpool. Recognising the need for a new church at Westby, Father Hines of Kirkham had organised the building of the new church. A site was purchased from the Cliftons through the generosity of Miss Dalton of Thurnham.

The church and presbytery cost about £3,000, and was purposely designed to face North to South, instead of the traditional East to West. Bishop Goss had laid the foundation stone on the 31st of May 1859. The local people gave much by way of their own voluntary labour. The old 1742 chapel near Westby Hall was demolished. Bishop Goss returned to consecrate the altar on the 4th of December 1860. The church itself was eventually consecrated by Bishop Whiteside on the 8th of November 1900.

The cemetery was approved for burials on the 18th of April 1864, and the first burial recorded is that of Catherine Whiteside on the 24th of May 1868.

The first annual Colt Show was held in a field next to the Westby Mill Inn in February 1871, and by 1887, the inn had been renamed as the Clifton Arms, with James Edge as the tenant landlord. In 1903, the Beesley family became landlords, and during World War 1, then under landlord Henry Beesley, flourished under some lucrative new trade, becoming a favourite drinking den for the soldiers from Weeton Camp. The Beesleys left in 1924, just before the inn was dismantled.

In 1873, the Fylde Water Board decided to flatten the village and build a reservoir, but they soon realised its cost and deferred the decision.

"By the later 1800s Westby Mills consisted of a row of three cottages in addition to the church, school and inn. One of the mills had fallen into decay and the other used only sporadically. They later became part of a 40-acre farm and used to house dairy stock. The farm also had an orchard which came down to a bowling green".

In 1889, the church was declared structurally unsafe. Twelve buttresses were added to the exterior as additional support, while cast iron Gothic-style columns were added to the inside. Six stained glass windows were installed in the church sanctuary in 1894.

A Scout troop was started at Westby Mills in 1908, by Father Park of the church. This was the first scout troop on the Fylde coast.

In 1913, the Clifton Estates issued all inhabitants of the village with Notices to Quit by the 1st of May 1914. However, these were placed on hold in 1914, so that they could supply food to local soldiers.

A reservoir was begun at Westby in 1923, to boost the coast's water supply. The main road was diverted and the village was compulsorily purchased in order to start building the reservoir on the site of the demolished village. The brickworks (whose foundations can still be found), the Clifton Arms, the remains of the two post mills, and a row of three cottages were soon pulled down - the hamlet of Westby Mills had disappeared, as had part of the Dane's Pad road to Whinbrick. The remains of the lane can still be seen beside Whinbrick Cottage on the A583 road.

The reservoir came into use in 1929.

Barton Hall: Thomas de Barton held the manor of Barton, but by 1332, it was a Gilbert Barton who held it. By 1516, the manor was held *"of Sir William Molyneux"*, and in 1554, Thomas Barton died *"holding the*

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manor by a like tenure, the mesne lord being Henry Halsall". After the death of Richard Barton in 1600, the hall passed to Richard Shuttleworth, who sold it to George Jackson. Richard Barton was the last of the Bartons of Barton Hall, and the family became extinct in 1600.
Jackson's death saw it pass to Alderman Smith of Newsham Hall, and 1603 saw the manor *"held of Sir Cuthbert Halsall in socage"*. By 1616, however, it had passed back into the Shuttleworth family.

In 1786, the *"200-year-old farmhouse called Barton Lodge, which had stood on the site, was rebuilt as Barton Hall"* - as a *"Manorial residence"*. Barton Park, which surrounds Barton Lodge, was probably established at the same time, with the transfer of the manorial residence. James Shuttleworth, sold the manor to George Jackson of Preston in 1833, and it passed to his son Charles Jackson. When he died in October 1893, *"having no issue, he directed the manor and lands to be sold"*.

In 1910, it was bought by John Booth (of the local grocery company), and then by David Miller, from whom the hall was requisitioned for the Royal Air Force in July 1940. It was then known as RAF Barton Hall.

By the 9th of August, Group Headquarters began to form, and set up the Northwest Filter Room. *"During World War 2, the RAF's 9 Group Operations Centre was housed here in three buildings (Operations Room; Filter Room; Communications Centre), which were partially buried for protection" ... "The Filter Room contained a map table showing the British coast from north Wales through western Scotland"*. The hall became Air Traffic Control Centre and Aeronautical Information centre Preston in 1942 and operated in various RAF guises until its closure in 1975.
In November 1985, it became home to the laboratory services of the Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Food, later renamed as the Animal and Plant Health Agency.

1324

Woodplumpton Water Mills: William de Hollande "held a messuage, lands, and a watermill in Newsom, in Amounderness". In later years, the mill had the inscription "I.W. JOHN WARREN. E.W. ELIZABETH WARREN. 1702".

Woodplumpton later had two mills; one at Hollowforth, and one in the village close to the site of the original Woodplumpton Hall. Both are now ruins, *"were small, powered by a stream flowing under the mill wheel rather than over, and for both the mill race was a tributary of a larger brook and the water was controlled by sluice gates rather than a mill pond"*.

Hollowforth: The water mill at Hollowforth was sold in 1859. Its listing shows *"grinding stones, going machinery, stables and drying kilns"*. The tenants were the Helm family, who ran one or other of the two Woodplumpton mills in the late 19th and early 20th century.

In 1845, a cow wandered in and *"being a large cow, and fat"*, it fell through the floor into the "Hell Hole". Part of the kiln wall had to be knocked down to release the cow. The last tenant was John Rigby, *"who was declared bankrupt on September 28, 1898, and though he continued to live at the mill into his 80s, the mill itself gradually fell into disrepair, finally collapsing, possibly in May 1920, when there was a major flood in the area"*.

Woodplumpton Village: The mill at the village itself was built in about 1668, for the tenants of the Woodplumpton Hall estate. In 1728 William Billington was recorded as the dryster at Plumpton Mill.

In 1848, owner Richard Jackson, had the mill converted from grinding corn to grinding bones for fertiliser.

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Preston engineer, Joseph Clayton, designed and made the new machinery.
"Woodplumpton Mill is commonly remembered as the Bone Mill. In the over-crowding survey of 1936-8, Bone Mill Cottage was inhabited by W Helm. The cottage was surveyed on September 17, 1938, and written across the sheet is the word "Condemned".

1325
Marton is recorded as having a mill. The vicar of Poulton, William de Sellerdale, *"came to an agreement with the Prior of Lytham as to the tithe of fish taken on the warthes north and south of the Milne Pool of Layton".* The prior was to have the tithe but was to pay 2 shillings per year. The word *"warthes"* is thought to mean wharves.

1327
The Prior's waste at Estholme Carr was granted as a freehold estate to the Bradkirk family. This was the beginnings of the Eastham area of Lytham.

1329
James le Boteler complained that Robert de Prees and Adam son of Thomas de Mythop had rescued cattle from his pound at Weeton.

Mythop: There is mention in records of the village of Mythop (or *Mythorpe* as it was then spelled).
In 1585, a register of free tenants listed a *"Veale, John, of Mythorp, Esq."*.
In 1718, Jolly's Farm was built at *Methop* – it is now demolished. Mythop windmill was nearby, on the site of today's Mythop Hall Farm, and had been demolished by 1828.
The village of Mythop consists of Mythop Grange and Mythop Lodge, which were near to the hall, to the west, with Cuckoo House also in the close vicinity. The grange today is *"a superior detached residence standing in approximately 10 acres of grounds including a stable block with 10 stables, paddocks, pond, and formal gardens*". In 1891, the Stuart family lived at the grange, the Thompsons at the lodge, and the Braithwaite family at the hall. Each house had its own servants.
Mythop Lodge Cottages were rebuilt in the 1990s.

A document in 1776, allowed people from Hardhorn to pass through *"a certain private chain or Toll usually called Mythop chain situate on a private road from Staining to Mythop"* in order to manufacture *"one kiln full of oats in the drying kiln at Mythop"*. This could be done for the price of £5. By 1845, Chain Lane was being shown on maps as a private road, with "Mythorp Toll Gate" north of Thatchplat Bridge over the Main Dyke. Thatchplat Bridge was a "chain bridge" – an early suspension bridge, and Chain Lane was named after either the chain bridge, or the chain, which was stretched across the road at the nearby Toll.

1330
Thornton Hall: Sir Adam Banastre of Thornton Hall, Richard the Demand, and others abducted the Prior of Lancaster and some of his men on St Stephen's Day. The men were held in captivity at Thornton Hall until the 6th of January 1331. He later accused them of assaulting his men, and *"flagellating"* some of them in the town square. A fine of a mark was imposed on them.

When the prior agreed to stop trampling over Banastre's lands, he was granted a road, which led to the *"Ford of Aldwath in the water of the Wyre"*. Another ford across the Wyre was the *"Ford of Bulk"* - now known as Bulker, which connected the two creeks of Wardleys and Skippool.

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Thornton Hall was conveyed to Edward Shuttleworth of Gawthorp on the 8th of March 1666. It was bought by Sarah Gibson in 1732, and again soon after by the Silcock family, who rebuilt the hall nearby in 1811 (a date stone still exists there). There are allegedly records of it being sold by a Mr Brade in 1841, but he actually sold it at an auction at the Clifton Arms in Blackpool in August 1864. Once more, the buyers were the Silcock family, who rebuilt it in 1873, and stayed there until 1951, running a large market-garden business from the premises.

TH Mawson and Sons laid out the hall's gardens in 1927, and the hall is now known as Thornton Hall Farm, on the eastern side of Skippool Road. The coach house for the hall stands closest to the road, directly on what is known locally as "Silcock's Bend".
Bleasdale House was across the road by 1911.

On Raikes Road, the Silcocks built their own Pedigree Pig Farm. This became Adams Stables and is now the Thornton Equestrian Centre – by the entrance is a cottage with mounting steps.

Thornton Tithebarn stood in what is today Tithebarn Field. It was under the control of Lancaster Priory. Wyreside Farm was built near St Michael's-on-Wyre about now. It still exists today as a camping park.

1332
The Poole was listed in the Lay Subsidy Roll (an inventory of taxable persons), as the home of three men, Michael, William, and Adam, whose surnames are not shown. Also listed, are the names Singleton, Swarbrick and Fishwick – names that were found nowhere else in Britain at the time.
The village of *"Hordhorn Nuton"* is listed near Poulton (Hardhorn-with-Newton). The name of the village is from the Old English word "*hordern"* - meaning "storehouse".

Cross House, Great Eccleston: Records show that the White family were settled here now. By 1591, as Catholics, they were listed in the "Recusant Rolls".

According to Exchequer depositions taken in 1600, in a *"dispute between William Cook and Nicholas White, the son of William White, respecting the messuage called Cross House and the tithes of St Michael"*, William White lived at Cross House. The defendant claimed that Cross House formerly belonged to Magdalen College, Battlefield, and that his father held it by lease from Richard Hussey, the master or warden thereof.

In the early 1800s, the White family estates were sold, and Cross House was converted into a farmhouse. *"The occasional apparition of the "White Lady" at a small window, looking out of the attics into the garden, is still believed in by the country people, and strange and unaccountable noises are said to be frequently heard"*.

1335
Edward III made Henry Grosmont the fourth Earl of Lancaster.

Whorle Hall, Lytham: There is mention of a Whorle Hall near the outlet for the Great Pool stream. Originally, a long watercourse, which surrounded the Lytham Hall estate, this stream was first called Swinebrigg Brook, after the bridge, which allowed pigs to cross it. It later became known as Liggard Brook - a liggar being a later name for a plank bridge.

©

The origin of the name of the hall is unknown but may lie in the use of a "whorl" by the many nearby wool spinners. The spindle whorls that are dug up nowadays are generally Roman but go through to the Post-Medieval period. Before the use of spinning wheels, spinning was carried out with a spindle and a whorl.

1336
The village of Plumpton near St Michael's-on-Wyre had its name changed to Wode Plumpton (now Woodplumpton), to distinguish it from the Plumpton near Kirkham, which became known as Field Plumpton, and is now Great Plumpton.

1337
Flemish émigré weavers settled in Bolton, introducing spinning and weaving to the area. They also brought clogs, which were absorbed into the local culture. This was the real start of the Cotton towns of Lancashire, which brought much of Blackpool's custom in later years.
William Partyke, the prior of Lytham, let to William Myner of Warton, and his son Jenkyn of Lytham, three mills in Lytham. These were *"ye wyn milne ye hors and ye water mylne"*.
A horse mill is recorded on the northern side of Preston Street in Kirkham.

Kirkham Windmill: The mill was let to John Wadder and is recorded as being *"in need of rebuilding or extensive repairs"*. Described as *"principal corn mill"*, the exact site and type is unknown, but it eventually evolved into the post mill whose tower can be seen today at Dow Bridge. It was entirely rebuilt in 1343, by Abbot Cheyneston of Vale Royal, as the *"Glebe Mill"*, and was made of timber.

A lease dated the 11th of June 1531, mentions it as the *"Winde Millne"*, and in 1643, it is supposed to have been used as a lookout by the Royalists in the Civil War. In 1684, the jury of the Manor Court said there was "*one windmill and one kiln, containing two bays of buildings"*.
Between 1775 and 1780, the mill was used by Yates as a triangulation station for his map of Lancashire.

That old timber mill was replaced in 1812, with a brick-built structure, which was leased to the Waddington brothers. This *"had four common sails, rotating anti-clockwise. Cap survives (possibly incorrect chain wheel drives to curb for winding). Two spur wheels provide overdrift drive to two pairs of stones. The structure remains but there is no gear below the wind shaft".*
The Clifton estate had granted Christopher and John Waddington a new lease as long as they built *"at their own proper costs and charges a good substantial Brick Windy mill"* to replace the existing wooden mill, which was by then falling down. That new mill was built and seemed to flourish at first.

By 1854, the windmill had fallen into total disrepair, and then the development of the gardens and wood of a house on Carr Hill *"proved ruinous to the mill, cutting off the prevailing west wind, and soon after 1865 the mill became tenantless and fell into decay".* Despite being leased to Thomas Birley, it was used no more, except for becoming a temporary home for the local Wolf Cub pack. Finally, in 1970, the windmill was restored and converted in "Wynde Milne" – a private house.

There had been earlier windmills in Kirkham: *"A windmill in Thornton's Tenement lay immediately west of the study area close to Station Road. This was first recorded in 1442, but is thought to have been removed from the site in the seventeenth century"*. Then, in the 1700s, New Mill, later called Old Mill, stood at the south corner of Station Road and Mathew Brown Street – just north of the original gasworks. This was later used as a school, and then a house, before being demolished in the 1890s. There was third mill just north of Bloody Lane Ends in Wesham, and a fourth, much smaller mill just north of this near Medlar.

©

Plumpton Hall: This small hall at Little Plumpton was in the care of Richard de Plumpton at this time.
By 1600, it was owned by the Fleetwood family.
The hall was owned in 1866, by William Dodgson.
On the site of the old hall, Plumpton Hall Farm is now opposite the road down to Westby, owned for many years by the Wensley family.

1338
One of the area's first major border disputes took place. It started when Sybil Butler of Layton dragged an anchor from a wreck in Lytham into her own manor to claim the salvage.

1346
The Earl of Ormond (of the Butlers of Ireland) held the fishery of Marton Mere, two plough-lands in Weeton, three in Little Marton, three in Treales, and two in Wesham (pronounced Wessam by locals) and Mowbreck.
The Abbot of Vale Royal had a grange at Ribby (Wrea Green), paying 3 shillings and 4 pence per year for it.

1348
Hardhorn was granted a Charter on the 10th of July, to hold its own market every Thursday, and a fair on the Feast of St Dennis – the 8th to the 10th of October. The original charter had been made by King Edward III to its owners, Whalley Abbey. Although the monks tried to initiate it, nothing seems to have come of the idea. A similar grant was made on the 10th of July 1349, for a Monday market. This one also permitted a Monday fair, but the idea met with the same fate.

1349
St John's Church, Lund: It has been suggested that the church's position of 82 feet above sea level, and adjacent to the old Danes' Pad is indicative of a previous place of pagan worship. The only solid fact we have is that an oratory was licenced to Sir William Clifton at Lund this year. The current Roman altar, dedicated to "the mother goddess", was part of its contents.

The chapel is mentioned again in 1515, 1532, 1550, and1606. It is not heard of again until it was rebuilt under *"the commonwealth"* – the period of Puritan rule between 1653 and 1665. In 1662, the Royal Coat of Arms was placed over the door, as ordered for every church by Parliament, and Reverend Joseph Wilson was "ejected" for failing to apply the strict Puritan rules.
The church bell is engraved with the date 1684.
In 1701, Matt Hall, the Kirkham churchwarden was fetched before the bishop for having *"set up a scandalous trough for a font in Lund chapel"*.
It was not until 1732, that the chapel was regularly used for service. Charles Foster, the Master of Kirkham Grammar School, was possibly the first Curate. Sometime after this, the chapel became ruined, and in 1824, the remains of the original Catholic chapel were pulled down to make room for a new church. It had belonged to the Clifton family.

The present Church of St John the Evangelist began to be built there in late 1824 and opened in mid-1825.
In 1840, Lund was made its own Parish, to cover Newton and Clifton.
The new church was designed by Robert Roper, and a chancel was added in 1852, designed by Joseph Hansom. The West Tower, designed by Lancaster architects Paley and Austin, was built in 1873, in memory of the first vicar, Richard Moore, and the nave roof was probably replaced too.

©

The first burial in the graveyard surrounding the church was not until 1859 and was of a 2-day-old child.

A Church of England church since 1825, it is now known as Lund Parish Church, and the vicarage of 1926 is next door, on what is now called Church Lane. The lychgate was erected in the 1940, in memory of Robert Whitehead and his mother Jane. Robert died in 1941 whilst serving in the Fleet Air Arm. Lund's vicars lived in a house named "Lund" which is a mile away, but the present vicarage was built 400 yards away in 1926, funded by the Hacking family of Clifton Hall.

Before Lund Church was created a parish, funerals took place in Kirkham and a "resting stone" can still be seen in New Heys Lane, where the pallbearers stopped for a rest.

Interestingly, there is no such place as Lund! However, we know that Lund derives from both the Old Norse "*lundr*" and the Old Swedish "*lunder*", both of which mean a grove or copse. The place is, officially, simply a part of Clifton.

Stanzaker Hall, near Myerscough: John Tyldesley, of Fornham in Suffolk, leased a 3rd part of Stanzacre.
In 1585, Thurstan Tyldesley's wife Mary was reported for harbouring a Catholic priest called Robinson at the hall.
John Tyldesley sold Stanzacre Hall in the early 18th century, and by 1927, the hall was occupied by the Rainford family. It is now known as Stanzaker Hall Farm and is owned by the Singleton family.

1349/50

The Black Death: which had hit Southern England in 1348, now reached the Fylde area. Between the 8th of September 1349 and the 11th of January 1350, the plague killed many people - including 800 known to have died in Poulton, 3,000 in Kirkham area, 500 in Lytham, 300 in St Michael's, and over 1,000 in Cockerham. At least half the local population are known to have died, but the disease was mainly confined to centres of population where sanitation was worst.

Poulton Stocks: Poulton's stocks were first installed in the Square - their end posts having since been replaced several times due to their being smashed by turning buses. They have wooden beams with two pairs of leg holes- these have also been replaced over the years – 1874, being one date. The posts were temporarily removed in the 1930s, and were replaced in December 1948, by a pair of stone gateposts from Butler's Farm off First Avenue. The farm had just been demolished to make room for Queen's Close and King's Close of the new council estate, with the orchard making way for old people's bungalows.

The stone whipping post stands on a plinth next to the stocks, and this is a Jacobean circular pillar on a square pedestal, which is surmounted by a ball and a small cross. The pedestal is approached by a flight of four circular steps, which were used as the seat for the stocks. There is a tale of *"A character known as Black Kirkham rode from Kirkham on a black horse and wearing a black cloak. He used to whip offenders at the whipping post in Poulton, then riding to Fleetwood Court to record his actions"*.

Black Kirkham was somewhat of a local legend. Hutton describes him as *"James Kirkham, generally known as Black Kirkham, was a gallant soldier, remarkable for his giant-like size and immense strength. The country people near his home were wont to declare that, for a small wager, this warrior carried his horse and accoutrements round the cross at Wigan to the astonishment and admiration of the by-standers"*.

©

Close by are the fish slabs, which possibly date from the 16th or 17th century, and are two flat stones on stone legs were where fish were laid out for sale or barter.
All three items are Grade 2 Listed Buildings.

Nearby is the Queen Victoria's Lamp, which was erected in the Square in 1887, to commemorate the Royal Jubilee.

1351

The Duchy of Lancaster: was created, and when Henry Bolingbroke, Duke of Lancaster, became King Henry IV on the 13th of October 1399, he merged it with the Crown holdings. His regulating charter was known as the "Charter of Duchy Liberties". Later renamed the "Great Charter of the Duchy of Lancaster", it stated that the inheritance should be held separately from all other Crown possessions and should descend to Henry's male heirs. Henry was anxious that the Lancaster possessions should not merge with other Crown interests and be lost to his family should he lose the throne.
The Duchy of Lancaster's foreshore runs between the mid-point of the River Mersey in the South, to Barrow in Furness in the North.

The Lancashire Foreshore forms part of the Duchy's ancient inheritance. Extensive interests were sold during the 19th century, including the River Mersey Docks, and in 1887, Blackpool Corporation acquired the foreshore from the Duchy, allowing them to strengthen and develop it for the good of the town.

1355

About now, there was a "*Grant in free alms, by William son of Adam son of Matthew of Great Marton, for the souls of his father and mother, his ancestors and successors, to God, St Cuthbert, the prior and convent of Durham and the monks of Lytham, of free access for their animals and cattle with those of their men together with his own and those of Great Marton to the whole pasture, moss and marsh belonging to Great Marton - from the cross of Lytham at Wyengathe to the arable of his vill of Great Marton in the east, beside the arable against the ditch called Mulespull in the north, then to the Mulespull in the west and back beside the Weyngathe to the cross*". The location of Wyengathe and Mulespull are unknown, but the former is later called Winegate.

1358

St Mary's Chapel, Singleton: The custody of St Mary's chapel was granted by Henry, Duke of Lancaster, to John de East Witton, a hermit, and in 1440, a licence was granted to celebrate in the chapel at Singleton for one year.
In 1754, Singleton chapel and chapel-yard were finally consecrated. Either the chapel or the nearby building called Chapel House saw later use as the Chapel House Inn.

St Anne's Church, Singleton: In 1806, St Anne's Church began to be built in place of the original thatched building and the priest's house, and until 1859, the village had two small churches.
The second, the thatched St Mary's Chapel, was pulled down and rebuilt in 1809, finally being completely pulled down in 1859.
It was replaced by today's St Anne's Church in 1860, as a chapel of St Michael's Church, Kirkham. The new church was funded by the Miller family. St Anne's was consecrated on the 12th of July 1860.
A visitor to the church in 1890, described a chair in the chancel as having belonged to John Milton, the author of "*Paradise Lost*". The church of today consists of a nave, chancel, south transept, and a steeple

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to the northeast, which is topped by a broach spire. There are no aisles inside. A vestry was added in 1939.

"Opposite the church was a garden laid out with roses and box hedges in intricate shapes. The Miller family would walk through the parkland and this garden on their way to church. Today the area is known as Puzzle Wood and no evidence of the garden remains".

1361

When Henry, Duke of Lancaster, died of the Black Death at Leicester castle on the 23rd of March, his Palatine powers reverted to the King.

Ribby Manor, Wrea Green: The manor house of "Riggeby cum le Wray" stood on Wray Green – on what is now the corner of Manor Way. Adam de Wra is written of in 1201, asking for protection from King John. In 1310, the Wapentake of Amounderness mentions the "*Recognizances of the towns of Singleton, Riggeby, and le Wra at the first coming of the king. The said town and hamlet are held of the said wapentake by the service of 155 yearly*". It also states that cattle shall be "*enfolded*" at Rygbbey, and that Richard de Wro, and others, must "*owe suit at the court of Rygbbey twice a year*".

By 1822, Ribby Manor was owned by Hugh Hornby who *"asked the dean and chapter of Oxford to separate Clifton Moor Heys from the Clifton leases to be given to himself so that he might improve Ribby estate and make a cart road from Bryning Fern Lane to Ribby"*.

On a map dated 1847, the Manor House is shown standing further to the east, to the south of Ribby Road, and in 1849, it was sold – with its four cottages – at auction.
In 1918, the "Manor House" was extended. The adjacent building, the "Old Manor House" had existed since at least the early 18th century, owned by the Hornby family. Blackburn's farm now occupies the site.

1367

A Richard II halfpenny (1367-1400) was later found at Walton House Farm near Hill Farm at Wrea Green, at the bottom of Browns Lane.

1372

Cottam Hall, Lea near Preston: The hamlet of Cottam belonged to the Haydocks, and by 1536, Cottam Hall had become the family home. *"It was a half-timbered building, surrounded by a moat. To the South it presented three gables. There was flat, leaded roof section at the North-West corner. The banqueting hall was spacious and a stone fireplace occupied the whole of one wall. There was long avenue leading to the house from the dower house, the tag, and a shorter one from the Woodplumpton end. The grounds were laid out by Beaumont, the gardener to James II"*.

In its grounds was a smaller dwelling called Tagg. It stood at the end of the drive and was a *"venerable time-worn building of quaint appearance, surrounded by a large garden"*. George Haydock later christened it Golden Tagg, which was then owned by the Haydock family until 1849.

In 1536, William Haydock, a Cistercian monk, was executed, for rebelling against the suppression of the monasteries; his skull was smuggled away and hidden in the chapel at Cottam.

©

In 1584, George Haydock, born at Tagg House, was hanged, drawn, and quartered at Tyburn, London on the 12th of February for being a catholic priest. He was beatified in 1987, and the Dobson family of Wrea Green are descended from him.

In 1703, a young priest called Richard Baines, opened a small Catholic chapel in the grounds of the hall. He lived in the same building. He had been baptised in 1753, by Reverend John Hughes, at the chapel at Cottam Hall.

In 1730, William Haydock "conveyed the interests of" Cottam Hall to the Faringtons of Werden Hall. They then sold it to John Cross, whose son finally demolished it.

In January 1763, William Haydock's brothers, being Catholics, could not inherit the estate, and its overall title passed to their cousin George Cottam of Leach Hall, in Woodplumpton.

When Cottam Hall was demolished in about 1838, *"it was in the post and pane style with three gables, and is said to have been a very good sample of the half-timbered house of the fifteenth century. When it was demolished, a secret hiding place, which had no doubt well served its purpose in the days of Elizabeth, was discovered; it adjoined the ancient chapel and in it were some altar furniture and a human skeleton, which tradition says was that of the William Haydock"*. During the demolition, a skeleton was discovered, assumed to be that of William Haydock. Its skull is in the possession of the Finch family at Mawdesley. On the plot, a farm was built.

NOTE: This Cottam Hall is NOT the one with the Screaming Skull

1379
John of Gaunt, the Governor of Lancaster Castle, took the manor of Elswick by force, for his brother King Richard II.

1394
John Le Boteler was made High Sheriff of Lancashire, to be followed by his son, John in 1401.

1397
The first mention of a family called "de Fleetwood" can be seen in the Preston Guild rolls. This implies that a town of that name existed in the region, as "*de*" means "*of*", although there are no traces of it.

1407

Stalmine and Staynall Windmills: Nicholas Beconsaw granted a windmill in Staynall to James Pickering, and by 1479, his son, also called James, *"held messuages and a windmill in Staynall"*.
In 1639, William Butler "*held the manor of Stalmine with Staynall, messuages, lands, twelve saltcotes, two windmills, a ferry boat on the Wyre and a fishery"*.
Then in August 1727, Cornelius Fox of Preesall, conveyed to John Singleton of Layton sum Warbrick, *"1 messuage, 1 garden, 1 windmill, 1 kiln, 2ac. of land, 1ac. of meadow, and 2ac. of pasture, in Stalmine"*.
The exact location of either mill is uncertain, but Mill Lane is named after one or both.
On an 1850 map, Staynall is spelled Stanall. The name originates from *"stān"* (Old English), meaning a stone or rock, and *"hol"* (Old English) for a hole, or a hollow.

©

1415
There is a reference among the possessions of Sir William le Boteler to **"Le Pull"**.

1416
The Butler family of Rawcliffe Hall was granted manorial rights over much of the Fylde on the 23rd of April. This included Great and Little Laton, Magna Bispham, Norbrick and Le Pull.
Cockersand Abbey's tenement at the Pool was called the Pool House or Pulhouse. The Abbey had obtained it from Amuria, daughter of Richard (and the founder of Lytham Abbey), who had inherited it from her great-great-grandfather Raganald. The Pulhouse stood near the junction of today's Kent Road and Princess Street. It was marked as the "Ruin" on the first Ordinance Survey map of the area.

1420
Upper Rawcliffe Hall: This was built by the River Wyre near Cartford by the Kirkby family.
In 1635, the hall was bought by Thomas Westby, and was rebuilt, and was later renamed White Hall by his son, George Westby, probably to distinguish it from Out Rawcliffe Hall.

White Hall was again rebuilt in 1731, as a two-gabled whitewashed house, and the Westby family left in the mid-19th century. It was then sold to a Mr Stevenson on the 9th of December 1857, when the "*estate abounds with game*", and became a farmhouse.

1422
The Plague returned to the area, but although just as lethal, it was not as widespread - Lancaster however was devastated.

Catforth Hall: The manor of Catforth Hall is listed now, and by 1536, had passed to the Fishwick and Ambrose families.
The present hall was built in the late 17th century, after being sold by the Shireburne family. *"In 1679 Robert Clarkson of Catforth Hall was buried, and in 1682 John Kitchen lived there. About this time the house was divided, and for long afterwards the Clarksons and Kitchens each occupied a part of it"*.
In the early 18th century, the hall was leased by George Kitchen, whose son, Edward, trained as a Catholic priest at Douai. By the early 19th century, Henry Holden lived there.
It is a Georgian-fronted building that was converted into a farm by the time Richard and Alice Watson farmed there in 1871. By 1919, it was in the hands of the Kirby family. It is currently run as a dairy farm by Tom-Barron Estates Limited.

1430
Voting began in Britain, and the county franchise began to be held by the adult male owners of freehold land valued at 40 shillings or more.

1444
Westby Hall Chapel: This year, Richard de Clifton was granted the licence for an oratory – or chapel - which he built at Westby hall.

In 1548, Sir Thomas Prymbett, the last priest of St Michael's church in Kirkham, left that church to become the chaplain at Westby Hall. There he ministered to the Clifton family and the surrounding community until his death in 1564. The chasuble currently held at St Anne's church in Westby allegedly belonged to Sir Thomas.

©

In 1606, Cuthbert Clifton bought Lytham Hall, and a new Roman Catholic chapel was built as part of the existing hall at Westby. Only the large fireplace still remains, in the dining room, behind which is a large space, thought to be a Priest Hole. Upstairs from this is a small windowless room off the landing. The chapel soon became the working centre of the Papist movement in the area.

When Cuthbert Clifton died in 1641, the chapel was abandoned *"but a priest was maintained there or in the neighbourhood all through the days of persecution. It was one of the earliest residences in Lancashire of the Benedictines". On the 6th of April, Dom Gervase Gray (whose real name was probably Clifton) died there, when the Roundheads were in possession, and able to hold it against their enemies. Others of the order probably served the place at intervals till D. Richard Bernard Butler's arrival there in 1791 - with the Benedictines". "On 13th Jan. 1716, Fr. Edward Barrow was hunted from there. 5 Dom Peter Athanasius Allenson served at the chapel for a short period about the year 1828"*.

In 1717, the Roman Catholics at Westby chapel were led by Father John Barrow, and the new chapel was opened officially on the 1st of May 1742. This chapel was two storeys, the upper floor comprising the chapel and priest's accommodation, and the ground floor being used for farm purposes. It was probably known as St Anne's Chapel. On the 21st of September 1784, Bishop Matthew Gibson visited the chapel, and he confirmed 78 members of the congregation, with the number of communicants being 360.
A Catholic burial ground was in a nearby field for many years, not far from a small Quaker cemetery.

1821 saw the retirement of Dom Richard Butler, and with that the chapel's connection with the Benedictine order came to an end. It was one of the earliest residues of the Benedictines in Lancashire.
Westby Hall provided a Catholic Mission school from 1830, run for the first year by George Haydock, and on the 10th of October 1837, the chapel was registered officially for the performance of marriages.
Then, in 1831, John Clifton left the Catholic Church to become a Protestant, and he duly closed the chapel at Westby 1845. Nearby in the hamlet, along Ballam Road, were a general shop, William Whiteside's thatched wheelwrights – next to Westby House, and a saddler-cum-cobblers in Rose Cottage.
A new chapel was then opened at Westby Mills in 1860. The chapel building at Westby Hall was converted into today's farmhouse by W Fisher, and next door, the old 1830-vintage Westby School still stands, but is very dilapidated.

1445

Newsham Hall, Woodplumpton: William Newsom (or Newsham) who was born about now, appears to have been the first resident of Newsham Hall, and grew to be Lord of the Manor. The Hall stood between Broughton and Woodplumpton.
Newsham descended from father to son, and the last of the family to own it was Richard Newsom who sold it in 1630 to Thomas Wilson of Wrightington. It was then sold to John Bourne of Stalmine Hall in 1782 and descended with his estates, until it was bought by the Jackson family in 1870.
The manor had its own chapel.
The hall is now a farm – Newton Hall Farm, and Newton Hall Lane is named after it.

1455 – 1487

What was later christened the "War of the Roses", between the descendants of John of Gaunt and Richard, Duke of York, drained the whole of the North Country of its men folk, and the land itself suffered many changes of ownership.
Local records of these 30 years or so are rare.

©

1456

Parrox Hall, Preesall: The first mention is seen of Parrox Hall, when Parrock Howse was given to Richard and Margaret Butler, by her father. The name appears to come from the Old English word "*parroc*", which meant "enclosure".
The original house is thought to comprise the east wing of the present building. It was a typical Lancashire longhouse, with a buttery and parlour at the north end, then the house – or living room, and a kitchen. A barn, stable, and shippon were also in the same building. The first floor had several connected rooms with no corridors, with a stair in the north east corner. The new building was provided with separate bedrooms. The Butlers made the first major addition to the house, when they built a new east-west wing attached to the northern end of the original longhouse. This held two major rooms on each floor as a simple extension of the sequence of room-to-room connections, but with a new staircase squeezed in at the junction.

The present mainly-brick-built Parrox Hall is of the early 17th century and has been in the Elletson family since, in 1686, Katherine Fyffe married John Elletson of Burrow. The Elletsons have been in permanent residence since 1720.

The main change thereafter, was the construction of another wing on the western end of, and at right angles to, the east wing. This resulted in the present 'H' shaped plan. The new wing held two more rooms *"on each floor, with at least one, and possibly two, large external chimney stacks capped with decorative fluted brickwork in the contemporary style, the southernmost of which still survives. Again, no corridor access was provided to any of the rooms"*. It still has older, stone, parts though, and these are probably part of Parrocke Howse.

Many musket balls were found in the grounds – probable proof of a visit or two by Cromwell's troops?

"During the Second World War, Parrox Hall was occupied by the Navy, which used the eastern half of the house to accommodate a team of WRENs, the family retaining the western half. For this purpose, the authorities installed partitions on the first floor to divide off separate bedrooms and bathrooms".

1467

The parish church of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Hambleton: The site of the church is thought to be that of the manor of the Sherbourne family, and at one time, the area was protected by a moat around the manor. Within the manor was an oratory chapel dedicated to The Virgin Mary, a licence for which was obtained by Robert Sherbourne this year. It was known as "*Our Ladie Chapell"* and was now formally consecrated - as the church of the Blessed Virgin Mary - and licenced for prayers and burials.

In 1567, *"the inhabitants of Hambleton petitioned Queen Elizabeth that their chapel commonly called Our Ladie Chapell, might be consecrated for divine service and administration of the sacraments by fit chaplains or curates, approved by the vicar of Kirkham, and for the burial of the bodies of the dead"*. Its upkeep was funded by an annual grant of £5 from the profits of the local windmill.

Known ecclesiastically as "*Hambleton at Embleton, or our Lady-chappell*", Hambleton's first church was rebuilt in 1709. The nave of that rebuild still stands. *"The building was simple in construction of clay brick faced externally with sand and cement. The internal walls were lime-washed. A gallery spanned the west wall and access to the church was gained by two doors on the south side of the church".*

©

In January 1838, the Chapel of "The Blessed Virgin Mary" was licensed for the Solemnisation of Marriages. The first marriage took place on the 11th of August, between Henry Clifton and Elizabeth Lawson.

"In 1877 extensive alterations were made, the roof was literally raised to take the strain from the side walls and buttresses fitted to give extra strength. The old vestry at the west end was replaced by a new one on the north side and the gallery removed. A turreted tower was erected at the west end of the nave through which the congregation entered, the doors in the south wall being bricked up.

A small church hall was erected nearby, made of wood, with a corrugated iron roof. A new, substantial church hall was built next to the church in 2016. It can now cater for 70 people. Being disused and dilapidated, the original building was scheduled for demolition in November 2017.

This building was enlarged in 1973 following a generous bequest from Mrs Woodhouse. The tower and west wall being demolished to allow the nave to be enlarged to nearly twice its original length. A new bell, tower, and steeple were erected to compliment the features of the old church. The seating was re-arranged to provide a central aisle and the vestry accommodation increased". Further improvements were made in 2009.

The name Hambleton means "Maimed hill settlement" and comes from *"hamol"* (Old English) for maimed or mutilated, and *"tūn"* (Old English) for an enclosure, farmstead, village, or estate.

1485

A new disease, the *"sweating sickness"* devastated the Fylde, wiping out half of the population – mainly the young men. It became known as the *"English Sweat"* and had an 80% fatality rate amongst sufferers. We know it now as a type of influenza caused by the Hantavirus.
When King Richard III was killed at the Battle of Bosworth Field on the 22nd of August, the Lancastrians became victorious, and the Tudor dynasty of monarchs began. This heralded a period of great oppression against Catholics, particularly in the staunch Fylde area.

1490

John Allen claimed rent in Norbreck from Thomas Pleasington.

Greenhalgh Castle: The castle was begun by Thomas Stanley, the 1st Earl of Derby, who was given permission to build it by his stepson, Henry VII, for helping beat Richard III at the battle of Bosworth Field. On the 2nd of August, Henry granted him *"a licence to wall with stone, lime and other material is his manor called Greenhall in the parish of Garstang, and embattle, turrellate, machicolate or otherwise fortify them, and to hold forever"*.

From February 1644, the castle was garrisoned by a number of royalist refugees, led by Christopher Anderton of Euxton, sent by James, Earl of Derby in support of Charles I.
In 1645, it was besieged by Colonel Dodding's parliamentarians, supported by Major Joseph Rigby's companies. The castle was very strongly built and having only one entrance was difficult to approach. The sandy soil made mining operations so difficult that tunnels collapsed, and on one occasion, the garrison countermined and captured five barrels of powder. In May, Anderton died, and the garrison surrendered on condition that all defenders were given safe conduct to return home unharmed.

©

Greenhalgh Castle was destroyed by Cromwell's forces in 1646, and all the siege timber sold. It was then dismantled around 1650. All that remains standing today is part of one of the corner towers. The site was later bought by the Earl of Derby, who sold it George Thompson's trustees in 1854.

Contrary to popular belief, the castle is nowhere near the other village of Greenhalgh, near Kirkham.

The name Greenhalgh means "Green hollow" and comes from *"grēne"* (Old English) for green or grass-grown, and *"hol" (*Old English) for a hole or hollow.

©

Chapter 6: 16th century

The Fylde coast began to take the shape we know today, when landowners, both from the gentry and the Church, laid down and then disputed their boundaries. King Henry VIII's Reformation of the Church played havoc with the religious layout of the area, when the Catholics were virtually outlawed. When the Poor Law was introduced in 1536, the responsibility for providing for the poor of a district was passed from the Church to the local parochial authority.

This is the time when the written word began to replace illustrations and spoken history as the preferred method of preserving information. The earliest known example of this is at Bramall Hall in Cheshire, where there is one room in particular, the Solar, where *"the wood and plaster panels were painted with scrolling foliage and various scenes, including a depiction of the nursery rhyme 'Ride a Cock Horse', as well as mythical beasts, musicians, hunting, and scenes from daily life"*.

From the end of the century, a variety of Protestant nonconformist churches began to emerge. They would frequently conduct their own baptisms - often clandestinely - and marriages, although few possessed burial grounds until much later. In addition, Catholic priests operated in secrecy, performing baptisms. This nonconformity was attacked by both Church and State.

The west district of the Fylde was very sparsely populated, with the two townships of Poulton and Bispham being the principal centres. Other places of note at the time were, St Cuthbert's Priory, situated where Lytham Hall now stands, and Ross Hall, a Gentleman's Residence, and accompanying buildings, out towards the coast, beyond the present Rossall College.

This was the time when the word "**Blackpool**" first came into use.

Smuggling was rife, through the region's several small ports and its open coastline. The gently shelving shore and the dunes were ideal for running up boats out of sight of the authorities. The sea also played its part, by unleashing two great floods in 1532 and 1554.

1500
The fishing hamlet of North Houses is recorded on the Fylde coast.
The first Map of the Fylde was drawn, showing "le Pull", and the coastline extending one mile further out into Morecambe Bay than now. At Rischall (Rossall) Point, it protrudes a mile further. The map also shows the River Wyre as a tributary of the River Lune, hence, the Lune Deeps.

THE POOL:
Spen Brook drained Marton Moss. It was later widened and deepened, and renamed Spen Dyke, which, in 1879, was culverted under Rigby Road, to drain into the sea at Manchester Square. A small, lighthouse-shaped gas ventilator now marks the outlet. The only part of the Dyke now visible runs between Cropper Road and Bambers Lane.

Marton Mere was a large kettle-hole lake, running east and west for four and a half miles from the present East Park Drive to beyond Peel. It was over 1 mile wide. An overflow stream ran through Marton (from where Cornwall Place is now) and joined Spen Brook, to form Spen Dyke, near what is now Spen Corner. The Mere originally drained into the River Ribble near the present town of Lytham. Not until the 1850s,

©

was a Main Dyke dug to drain it into the Wyre at Skippool, so making the mere the man-made feature it is today. However, in pre-historic times, the natural dyke from Skippool to the mere was thought to have been tidal, so that the seawater could actually reach Marton Mere from the River Wyre. That dyke was named the Skipton Brook.
Marton Mere itself was said to be so deep that its bottom had never been sounded, although it is now actually no more than 5 metres deep.
Some of the mere's original banks are still visible by Chain Lane, Staining and at the southern entrance to Stanley Park, and the source of Spen Dyke may be seen near Bambers Lane on the moss.

That first map shows a feature named "Le pull" - pull or pool being the Old English words for stream. It drained a smaller lake, to the Northwest of Marton Mere, into Spen Brook. This smaller lake lay in a mile square hollow at the north end of the Mere (around the present Chapel Street/Princess Street) and stretched south to near the present Bloomfield Road football ground. It had a small overflow that flowed into Spen Brook through a gynn, and Spen Brook discharged into the sea at the Milne Pool (today's Manchester Square).
Around the lake was a peaty swamp, which badly discoloured the water in the stream, and the ensuing outfall into the sea - hence the origin of the name Black Poole. The world has 26 other Blackpools – shown at Appendix F.

So, Blackpool was apparently **not** named after either lake, but after a stream.

This misunderstanding is very commonly adhered to. Even the illustrious Encyclopaedia Britannica mistakenly states that the town was *"transformed from a small hamlet clustered around a "black pool".* Another often-quoted error is that Blackpool comes from the Old Norse *"blaec"* and *"pul"*.

Many "facts" about Marton Mere are actually about Martin Mere, near Southport, and many older allegations can be proven to be unrelated to our Marton.

There was a wooden landing stage at the southwestern end of the mere until at least 1892.

1501
The tenant of Pool House, still owned by the monks, was shown as being Robert Whiteside - listed elsewhere as Robert Quyteside of Peel House. Other records show that boats used to carry corn from Peel to the water mill at Mythorp - clearly not the Peel of today, but the Pull.

1508
Singleton Lodge: was owned by the Singletons of Broughton Tower and Singleton Hall near Preston (now called Chingle Hall).
In 1748, William Cunliffe Shaw of Preston purchased the lodge as his family seat, becoming MP for Preston in 1792.
Records show that in 1847, until at least 1892, the Wood family were tenant farmers at the lodge, and in 1781, another MP, George Wood, was living there.
Shaw sold it in 1800, moving to Suffolk, where he died in 1821. By 1803, the 18th century Georgian Building is shown as the seat of Joshua Marriot.

John Bilsborrow was born at Singleton Lodge in 1836. He was Bishop of Salford from 1892, until his death in 1903.

©

The lodge was later a vicarage, and a school for refined young ladies. Now on Lodge Lane, it is currently a country house hotel with its own licensed restaurant. It has been owned by the Smith family for many years and has a main dining room which holds up to 80 guests, and two more private dining rooms, with seating for 30 people in the Viceroy room, and 18 in the Wedgwood room.

1512

Salwick Hall: Both the old and new halls are listed as being owned by the Clifton Family, being built by Cuthbert Clifton as hunting lodges. This year, Cuthbert died, and the hall passed to his daughter. She soon married Sir William Molyneux of Sefton, and when own granddaughter died in 1589, it passed to Henry Halsall who retired to live there.
In 1725, Reverend Simon Bordley was running his own secret school for Catholic priests at the hall. The hall had its own Catholic chapel from about 1775, which closed in 1799, with the construction of St Mary's at Lea.

The present Salwick Hall is of three periods, the west end is the oldest part (as evidenced by a mounting block marked 1719), the east wing is about 1857, and the wing at the back about 1887. The remains of the moat reveal the position of the original manor house.
In 1851, the hall was occupied by civil engineer Joseph Allen, who sold it to Joseph Dearden. When it was bought from him by brewer John McGee in 1916, the sale catalogue describes it as having *"gardens, stables, outbuildings, four good cottages, canal wharf, and a small grass paddock, and about two acres of woodland, containing in all about seven and a half acres". "The house is a comfortable roomy house, brick-built and cemented, with slated roof, and contains an entrance hall 26'2" x 6'5"; Smoke Room 14'82 x 11'9"; Double Drawing Room 37'6" x 14'4"; Inner Hall; Dining Room, Billiard Room, seven bedrooms, two bathrooms, three servants' bedrooms, Butler's pantry, Kitchen, Scullery, Larder, front and back staircases. There are four cellars"*.

The hall had become derelict by the 1960s, but in the 1980s, it was rebuilt into the two houses that can be seen today.

1513

Some land in Little Bispham passed from Richard Shireburne of Stoneyhurst to his son Thomas.
The village of Cabus is first mentioned, as being owned by the Rigmaden family, and in the 17th century, it was referred to as Baygus.

1517

It was found, at an inquiry, that the free tenants of Wrea had always had right of pasture on Ribby Moor.

1518

Stalmine Hall: Alexander Goosnargh *"made a feoffmentt"* a gift *"of the manor of Stalmine Hall, with remainder to his son Thomas"*. Legend tells that the original hall was built where a boggart, known as the Hall Knocker, was buried. This spirit used to clean the local shippons overnight: "*Stalmine church at the top of the road once had a boggart called the Stalmine Hall Knocker, a poltergeist. It used to plague the church, pushing over tombstones, rattling the church doors, scaring the parishioners... And so, they brought in the priest, who eventually said the right prose and bound the boggart"*.
The original hall had a high-walled garden for cultivating exotic fruits and possessed its own salmon ladders and weirs on the River Wyre.

©

In 1717, Cornelius Fox bought Stalmine Hall from the Crown. Since the 16th century, this estate had formed part of the holding of the Butler family of Out Rawcliffe, but all their lands were forfeited and sold off by the Crown for their support of the Old Pretender in the Jacobite uprising of 1715. Cornelius's daughter married John Bourne of Wyresdale, and the hall was then passed down through his family. The Bourne motto was *"Esse quam videri"* - meaning "To be rather than to seem".

There are tales of a tunnel from the hall to the nearby church.

In 1820, plans were drawn up for the rebuilding of the hall, and in 1872, this newly rebuilt hall was in the hands of Mr T Noble. Its heated Peach Wall, around the gardens, is now a Listed Building. The actual date of this re-construction is unclear, but there is a famous drawing of it by I Shaw, published in 1846.
In 1891, Waterhouse brothers, fruit merchants and preservers, were based at the hall.

The Hall was converted to apartments, and the grounds became home to a caravan park in 1993.

1519
Thomas Clifton was born at Westby Hall – the family seat since the reign of Edward.

1520
The Covered Cup inn, Churchtown: was built, being named after the three communion chalices at the nearby church - another view is that the name recalls the three similar cups on the arms of the local Butler family. The inn was greatly extended in 1532 and 1533, and the current main bar dates from 1722.

By the time it was run by D Howson in 1910, the pub, now at 5 to 9 Church Street, had been renamed as the Punch Bowl Hotel. This changed to the Punchbowl Country Pub and Restaurant in later years (note the name is now one word).
In December 2014, the pub released its own Punchbowl Ale, made for it by Marston's brewery. It is now owned by Signature Fayre Ltd.

1522
The Earl of Derby had held Little Marton in the 15th and 16th Centuries, but in this year, the manor was farmed out to William Lache, William and Robert Whiteside, and Thomas Gaulter for 9 pounds 6 shillings and 8 pence per year.
Peel was held by the Cliftons, and this year, William Clifton *"paid £2 rent and £2 of increment"*.

1523
John Skillicorne of Preese had a dispute with the Abbot of Whalley about "*common of pasture on Carr Marsh on the border of Staining*".

1530
The "Great Battle" of Mad Nook: This altercation was fought at Mad Nook on Division Lane on the 9th of May, between the followers of the Prior of Lytham and Dame Butler Layton (seemingly there were a mere 30 people involved). The dispute was about grazing rights and the ownership of the lane, which was used by fishermen from Marton Moss to get to the seashore. The Prior alleged that a house on Layton Hawes Common – near our Squires Gate Lane - had been destroyed and the Layton people had pulled down a boundary cross bearing a picture of Saint Cuthbert and would have destroyed the monastery, had not two monks gone out to meet them.

©

After the "battle", the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster awarded all land south of the Lane to Lytham - the "*land of the Sand Grown'uns*".

There was a fresh outbreak of violence by 200 people about Mad Nook on the 4th of May 1532. John Bamber, a Layton farmer, was later tried for assaulting the Prior's servants at Holy Mass.

In Kirkham, the Vestry of "Thirty Men" was formed, selected by the parishioners to administer the affairs of the parish. The position of "Sworn Man" appears to have been formed in the 14th century, and Kirkham's records are the earliest yet found. And after the end of the 16th century, most towns elected 24, but Kirkham chose 30, to represent the 15 separate townships of Kirkham parish. The last meeting of Kirkham's Thirty Men took place in 1845, when the parish was divided into separate ecclesiastical districts.

1532

The sea flooded inland for two miles, covering all the land from about the present Bloomfield Road, right down to the Ribble estuary, and then inland to Hays Side - near today's Hawes Side Lane. Note the change of spelling since then.

Waddum Thorp: Was said to have been on the coast a mile out from the present Squires Gate, and to have been washed away. There is no record of any of the residents surviving – nor is there any other mention anywhere of Waddum Thorp, except by Messrs Dodsworth, Whittle, and Thornber. Its existence is as yet unconfirmed. The name of the place could mean "settlement by the wood at the water-meadow", from the Old English pre-7th century "*wudu*" - meaning "wood", "*hamm*" – meaning "water meadow", and "*thorpe*" - meaning "hamlet".

For years, this land was covered by the sea, which then receded to the present coast line, creating a strip of land, known as the Horse Banks (a corruption of Hawes Banks) about one mile wide which remained useless for years, but was occasionally used for grazing, at least until 1612.

Mr Leigh, in 1799, stated, *"Waddum Thorp existed as a village, so late as the year 1601; and, during the Saxon era, formed habitations for fishermen and others, on that line of coast. Cross-slack was originally termed 'Church-yard-slack' from there having been a religious oratory, and cemetery there".*
Therefore, there we have two mentions of Waddum Thorp (or Waddam Thorpe). One saying it washed away in 1532, and one saying it was still a village in 1601.
I suspect both are wrong, and the tale is simply that - a tale.

A contemporary map refers to Blackpool as "*the pole howsys alias the north howsys*" - pole = pool. It also shows two cottages; Warbreck's, a longhouse on the south side of what is now called Chapel Street, and Cooban's, at the junction of what is now Princess Street and Blundell Street. The Mylne Pole is shown as running from "*the Mear to drive the Mylne (mill) at Grett Marton*". This was a water mill, driven by Spen Dyke, and stood near today's Rectory Road until it was abandoned after the water supply was cut in 1730.

Hounds Hill: The Houndehill in Laton - was cited in the court case as the northern boundary of the Hawes. It was so called because the coursing events on Layton Hawes used to start from there. The hounds were unleashed, from a small rise there, southwards across the open flat moss land. It was also named as Hound Hill.

©

A small cabin railway station called Hound Hill was opened for use nearby on the 6th of April 1863 and was the northern end of the new line from Lytham.

Shortly after this, the thoroughfare began to be known as Hounds Hill, and by 1890, it was a short street, which led from the Promenade to meet with Adelaide Street, and had its own Hounds Hill Post Office.
The Hounds Hill Hotel stood between Bank Hey Street and the Promenade, and by then called the Royal Hotel, it was later replaced by the Woolworths building.

The small railway station came to be known by locals as Hounds Hill Railway Station, and in June 1878, it was renamed as Blackpool Central Station. It had four timber platforms and a horse driven turntable.

The station was massively enlarged in 1877, and was then *"ornamental brick-work, with stone dressings, and a roof of glass, supported by ironwork. In the centre of the square is a wooden structure, comprising two booking offices and parcel and left luggage offices"*. There were 6 tracks, and 3 200-yard-long platforms, with several other waiting rooms and offices.
Central Station's wooden platforms were replaced in 1883, with stone flags on brick walls. The number of railway tracks between South Shore and Central Stations was quadrupled between 1899 and 1900, and Central Station was then completely rebuilt in 1901, behind the new façade, and opened at Easter. It now had 14 platforms – exactly the same as Paddington Station in London. This re-development led to the coastal line becoming the main route into Blackpool. Signal boxes were built at Central and Spen Dyke, and the Railwaymen's Hostel and Lodging House was built on Central Drive. It provided "digs" for 45 men, with baths, and reading rooms with *"doze-proof"* armchairs. It is now the King Edward Apartments, but is known by some locals as the *"Armistice Buildings".*

In 1901, a connection at South Shore, with the new, direct, coastal line from Preston, enabled Central to link with even more traffic.

By 1905, Central Station was officially the busiest in Europe. By way of example, on the 21st of June 1919, the Lancashire and Cheshire Miners' Federation chartered 130 trains to fetch over 97,000 miners into the station for a rally at Bloomfield Road football ground.
The railway into Central Station was massively expanded in 1930, and there were signal boxes and turntables at Spen Dyke and Bloomfield Road by now. Central Station itself had 14 platforms and required its own unique control box in the centre, to allow an inspector to observe train movements.
The Engine Sheds at Central Station were rebuilt in 1958, and new offices and mess room were built on Bloomfield Road on the site of Bridge Villa, a large house built on what was then called Main Road in the 1850s. From 1974, the site housed the Tangerine nightclub.
During its heyday, the station had a complex of 34 different sidings.
The main waiting room was heated in an ingenious way – two Barton-Wright 0-4-0 steam engines had been joined together and their boilers created the heat which was then piped into the rooms.

Central Station was closed controversially on the 1st of November 1964, by order of the Corporation, despite Doctor Beeching having recommended that North and Layton Stations should close instead. This act effectively tore the original heart out of Blackpool, and was quite probably the worst ever decision made by Blackpool Council. As far back as 1940, they had seen that closing Central would release a lot of valuable development land. A report by surveyor James Drake in 1944 also recommended moving it back to Bloomfield Road and releasing some 130 acres for development. By overturning Beeching's suggestion, the Council paid a mere £1 million for a massive site – which they turned into a car park.

©

Central Engine sheds had already been closed on July the 30th. The last train left at 9:55 pm, and the last arrival was at 11:30. On that last day alone, there were 55 trains leaving the highly popular station, but the station was finally locked up by the stationmaster JW Atkinson. Immediately after closure, the platforms were used for car parking, and the area from Chapel Street bridge to the platform ends became a coach park.
The Corporation later developed the whole area for additional car parking.
For many years, Chapel Street bridge sported a large advertisement for Magee's Ales.

Only the Railwaymen's Lodging House on Central Drive - adjoining the King Edward as shops and flats – survive. For many years, the building showed a painted advert for "Old Charlie Rum" on its northern side.

From 1969, the main building was turned into the Tudor Bingo hall – owned by Billy Greenwood from Fleetwood, but in 1973, the main Central Station building was finally demolished.
The toilet block remained - on the junction of Central Drive, New Bonny Street, and Bank Hey Street - however, and these were the last station buildings to be demolished in 2009, to be replaced by individual pay-as-you-go Danfo toilets. At the station's busiest time, those toilets were the biggest public conveniences in the UK.

Cardinal Allen: William Allen was born at Rossall Grange, and in 1556, was chosen as principal of St Mary's Hall in Oxford, and as Proctor of the university. He then became a lay Canon of the Cathedral Chapter of York at Oxford, but in 1558, his zeal and loyalty to the Roman Catholic Church meant that he had to resign all his posts at Oxford at the accession of Queen Elizabeth I. For safety, he escaped to Louvain in Flanders in 1561. The following year he returned home in very delicate health, to continue his struggle against the Crown's repression of the Catholics, and probably did more than any other person to preserve the Catholic faith in Britain.

His home at Rossall Grange became the centre of English Catholicism and was used to shelter Catholic priests from persecution and execution. In 1565, Allen himself began regularly to hide with the Hesketh family at Mains Hall, Singleton, in order to smuggle Jesuit Catholic missionaries into England, but he then returned to France, leaving England forever. In France in 1568, he established a college at Douai for the education of the sons of English Roman Catholics. This *"Venerable English College"* made him the most reviled opponent of the Elizabethan Court. It was based at the monastery of St Gregory the Great, at Douay (Douai), in Flanders, the base for Europe's Benedictine order.

However, in 1583, Edmund Fleetwood evicted Allen's mother and her daughters from the grange, taking up residence there, and changing its name to Rossall Hall Grange. The Allen family then went to France, stay with William in Douai, but always maintained their links with the Fylde.

On the 7th of August 1587, Allen was created Cardinal Allen, and by the end of that month, he received the red hat and the title of *"Ss Silvestro e Martino ai Monti"*. He also received the title of Cardinal of England and was the first English cardinal after the protestant Reformation. Also, in 1587, Cardinal Allen plotted with the Spanish Government to send the Armada to overthrow Queen Elizabeth I and her Protestant government.
Cardinal Allen died on the 16th of October 1594 and was buried in Douai. The Fleetwood school of today is named after him.

©

Life for the Fylde's Catholics was never easy at this time, and *"In the days of persecution mass was said at two farm-houses in this district, one at Mossside, the other at Little Plumpton, where William Hodgson used to live, one room, containing theological books, being always kept locked"*.

1533

Midgeland: The only recorded dwelling on Marton Moss was at a place called Myggeland. This appears to be the origins of the old Midgeland Farm, after which the current road was named. Originally known as Miggylund, it had been named by 1272, but with no dwellings.

The farm was owned by the Clifton Estate for centuries, and by 1839, it comprised the newly built 2-storey house, with servants' quarters, a 4-stall stable next to it, a barn, two cow houses, a loose box, and piggeries. Additionally, it had a long cowshed or shippon to the west, with another shippon being added in the 1940s.

In 1956, the tenant farmer, Mr Smith Widdup is recorded as having farmed 115 acres and kept 80 head of cattle, 250 sheep, 150 pigs, and 1,200 poultry. In the late 1950s, Harry Clifton lost the farm, reputedly by gambling, to Sir John Foster. He sold it to Blackpool Corporation in 1968, who used part of it for a new Corporation landfill tip from 1972.
The farm house is one of the last Fylde Longhouses, and although missing its roof, may be about to be restored in 2019.

Note: Marton Moss has always been a vital part of the area, and its development was begun by *"The Clifton family, lords of the Manor since 1606, who appear to have laid out a series of small lanes creating access between farms since 1786 and the 1840s. New farms were built as part of a process of agricultural improvement and enclosure appears to have been on a piecemeal basis from then on. Moss House (now destroyed), Midgeland Farm, Pipers Height, Blowing Sands and The Fold (now destroyed) all pre-date 1839; indeed, Moss House may have been pre-1700".*

Nowadays, *"its character is different from the more open countryside, reflecting its former high concentration of glass houses, with the area now largely a mix of horse grazing land, dwellings set in large gardens, together with former and remaining glasshouses"*. Modern house-building is threatening to end it forever, as more and more moss land is being drained to make foundations more solid.

1534
John Allen acquired the lease to Rossall Grange.

1535
A roving band of thieves was uncovered, raiding churches in Singleton and Lytham.
The Abbot of Furness complained of trespass on his turbary at Stalmine Grange by Nicholas Butler and several of his workers, on the 4th and 20th of May. They had broken up the cut turves, stolen the *"dyggng spades"*, and threatened the turf diggers.

1536
The Dissolution of the Monasteries by King Henry VIII affected the control of land in the area. For example, the control of the manor of Kirkham was given to Christ Church, Oxford. From then onwards, the tithes and other monies from the parish were paid to Christ Church, who also appointed vicars. Kirkham still remained a mainly Catholic town, and recusants found sanctuary there for many years hence.

©

A Warton man, Christopher Bone, was charged with poaching the King's sturgeon and porpoises from the Ribble – showing the nature and diversity of the wildlife in the Fylde in past times.

1538

Norbreck Windmill: John Allen of Rossall Grange leased more Abbey lands, including the Norbreck Windmill. Its exact location is uncertain, but the mill is now generally thought to have been somewhere in the region of Bispham Tram Station.

In 1640, Edward Fleetwood had the windmill re-built on Norbreck Hill, at which the local farmers under his rule were obliged to have their corn ground - but they were allowed to shoot pigeons there. It was described contemporarily as *"a windy corn mill" and* was later reconstructed as a post mill.

From the 5th of September, Thomas Cromwell, Henry VIII's Vicar General, ordered that the clergy were legally obliged to enter all christenings, weddings, and burials in registers. Written records improved.

1539

Thomas Butler sold "the Poole" together with Warbreck, Great Marton, Bispham, and Little Layton to John Browne, a mercer of London.

1540

Salt at Preesall: Nicholas Butler is recorded as having bought 31 salt cotes around the Preesall area. In 1748, the government Salt Tax Duty Survey lists Pilling as a salt working location with fifteen producers. A salt cote was place where salt was *"wont to be made on the sea shore"*.

The place name "Saltcoat Hey" was hand-written onto the LCAS version of the first edition 1:10,560 Ordnance Survey map, at what is now Stanah.

The rediscovery of rock salt below Preesall in 1872, by engineers from Barrow looking for haematite (iron ore), began a major salt industry on the Wyre estuary at Fleetwood, first by the Fleetwood Salt Company in 1883.
In 1875, the Reverend Daniels and Daniel Elletson sank a 2.5-metre diameter half-brick lined shaft at Lower Lockow Farm, and other shafts followed. The two pioneers soon sold out to the Fleetwood Salt Company.

By 1885, a 450-foot-deep shaft had been sunk, and a second was sunk to 900 feet in 1893. Mining of this rock salt began, with skilled salt miners coming from Cheshire. The rock salt was then carted to the Garstang and Knott End Railway by boys (known as rock ferriers) employed by a local farmer.

The Fleetwood Salt Works then opened at Burn Naze, west of Cleveleys in 1889. Brine was sent in pipes across the river to the salt works at Preesall. The brine mining was carried out by the Fleetwood Salt Company Ltd, who leased 11,000 acres at Preesall, obtained permission for the pipes across the river, and leased a further 9 hectares of Burn Naze salt marsh for the work. By 1889, Thomas Riley Ltd of Fleetwood had built a 500-yard dam to reclaim another 22 acres of marsh. Soon railway sidings connecting to Wyre Dock at Fleetwood, 8 stove saltpans, drying stores, and a brine reservoir had been constructed.

The company was sold to the United Alkali Company Ltd in 1890, and the first white salt was produced at Burn Naze on the 25th of February. The most popular makes were "Shamrock" and "Supremus".

©

In 1891, true underground mining began, with two shafts being sunk. One was 270 feet deep, and the other 900 - they were called the Upper and Lower mines. Tunnels were then dug, to allow miners to blast out and then transport the salt.
Miners would pay 6 pence a week to a medical club that met at the Black Bull Inn.
Also, in 1891, cottages were built for the mine workers.
"By the end of 1891, a reliable pipeline was in operation under the Wyre, salt was being exported from Fleetwood at the rate of six ships a month and the company had decided to exploit the rocksalt deposits in three ways – ammonia soda works, salt works, and also rocksalt mining".

By 1893, United Alkali had built a new ammonia soda works on a 42-acre site. More boreholes were sunk, and a pumping station was constructed, to force brine to the surface under pressure. From 1894, the water for pumping was from the newly-sunk wells at Parrox wells. They produced up to 45,000 gallons every hour.
The population of Preesall doubled between 1891 and 1911 – from 893 to 1,718 in 1911. As a result, Company houses had to be built. The number of inhabited houses rose from 185 to 312 by 1903.

Rock salt mining also commenced in 1893 via two new 450-foot-deep shafts, one of which was later extended to 900ft to form the lower mine.

In 1902, Preesall Salt Works was built to the north of the salt marshes on the east bank of the river. In 1906, 140,000 tons of rock salt were dug, and by that year, the cumulative total was over 1 million tons, making Preesall Great Britain's largest white salt manufacturer. The rock salt was loaded into hoppers, each containing a ton and a half, and taken on tracks to a jetty on the river for export.
Salt from Preesall was used to manufacture chlorine gas during World War 1.
A branch line to the Garstang and Knott End Railway was laid in 1912, and another ammonia soda works started production in 1924, later becoming part of the ICI Hillhouse Works.

In March 1919, though *"brine started dripping from the top mine roof. Pumps were unable to keep pace with the flow, and there were fears of a nearby water-softening plant, reservoir, road, and railway sidings being lost to subsidence. The problem was traced to one of the earliest brine wells, which was linked by tunnel to a freshwater supply the other side of the village. The company decided to fill in both the tunnel and the well with clay, rubble and cement"*. The leaks were first noticed in salt mines numbers 2 and 5, and in brine well 54. By 1922, brine well 54 had to be abandoned.

Then, in 1923, the salt mines suffered a massive collapse in June, when a 200-foot wide section of the surface near number 54 fell 40 feet, causing a crater to form in the grounds of Westfield Farm on Acre Lane. The Gazette reported that *"This great hole, which is visited daily by hundreds of people from near and far, including many geologists, is of such a depth that it could swallow the Blackpool Tower and leave no trace of it"*. Preesall's mines closed for business in 1925, after the collapse of a 5-acre swath of land. Known locally as "Bottomless", the hole eventually stabilised, but Westfield Farm was demolished. Also, Acres Lane was diverted, and operations continued.

The Preesall Salt Works were finally abandoned after a disaster on the 2nd of June 1930, when, water flooded the upper mine. 12 workers were evacuated, but the 60-foot square salt pillars supporting the roof started to dissolve. Clods Carr Lane had subsided and a new road had to be constructed. The mines closed early in 1931, and nothing remains of them, except for two lakes, which were formed in 1934, by another massive collapse of the mine chambers.

©

A private jetty was built in 1923, at Burn Naze, for the coasters to berth at high tide. The jetty was T-shaped with room for four small coasters. If the coasters were on the *"stone run",* they left Fleetwood at high tide for the six-hour passage to collect limestone from Llanddulas in Wales, bringing it to mix with the brine, to make soda ash. When not carrying stone, they took soda ash or Calcium flake to Glasgow, Irvine, Belfast, and Dublin.

The Burn Naze Salt Works closed in August 1933.

Solution mining of salt from the Preesall salt field stopped completely in 1993, and until then the area still had several lonely brine wells, which pumped the fluid across to Burn Naze.

1541

The Bishopric of Chester was founded, having control of all spiritual matters – and the associated land and buildings in the area. From 1541 to 1836, the northern half of the Diocese of Chester stretched from the River Ribble to Workington in West Cumberland, and across the North Riding to Northallerton in Yorkshire, and formed the Archdeaconry of Richmond.

1543

Todderstaffe Hall: previously had been tenanted by the Allens of Rossall and had been known as *Taldrestath*. The origin of the name is uncertain but could be from the name of the original settler "*Todder*", and the Old English "*sted*" - meaning a "landing place".

This year, it was given by George Singleton of Mithop, to Elizabeth, the widow of George Allen. It later reverted to the Singletons and was part of the Staining estate given to Dorothy Butler. The hall was eventually bought outright by T Singleton when he redeveloped Singleton village.
A yeoman, Robert Roe, died there in 1728. His great-granddaughter, Ellen Hull married Richard Smith in 1798.

When it was let in August 1862, it had 316 acres of pasture, gardens, and orchards. The farmhouse we can see today is built of narrow bricks, the old kind of brick used two or three hundred years ago. The wing at the rear is modern, as are the outbuildings. The farmhouse walls are plastered over and show no traces of brickwork. All doors, windows, roof, and chimneys are modern, and the rear wing on the Northwest side is of modern brick.

Descendants of Richard and Ellen Smith became tenants in 1924. They then purchased the property in 1966, and still farm there.

1546

A skirmish, known locally as the *"Battle of Cuddy Hill"* was alleged to have been fought near Eaves, Woodplumpton, between the Tudors of Henry VIII and the Scots. Unfortunately, although there was indeed a "*War of Rough Wooing"* between 1543 and 1551, there is NO record of any Scots coming further south than Solway Moss, where they were overwhelmingly defeated on the 24th of November 1542.

1547

Singleton Windmill: The Charity Commissioners of King Edward VI list a mill at Singleton, but it is unclear if this was a water mill or a post mill.

©

However, we do know that a post mill stood at Mill Farm, off Thistleton Road. Its construction date is unknown, but it is marked on Yates's map of 1786. It had an oil engine installed in 1915, to replace the wind power.
The last miller Daniel Clark passed away in 1948, and the mill fell into disuse, being demolished in late summer 1956. It was pulled down by a traction engine, attached to the main shaft by a stout cable, the contractors being the Newbould Brothers of Inskip.

John Brown of London sold a house in Freckleton to father and son George and James Tomlinson (Brown had bought the property from Sir Thomas Butler). It was built at the south eastern corner of Hillock Lane and Kirkham Road. By 1623, the building was described as *"alias Hall Cross House"*. In 1777, the house was rebuilt by Henry Grimbledeston, and became known locally as Grimbledeston's House. The date *"almost certainly refers to Henry and Margaret Grimbaldeston. It was the year of their Silver Wedding. A property on or near to this site dates to at least 1623"*.
Robert Radclyffe, the 1st Earl of Sussex, was created the first Lord Lieutenant of Lancashire, and tasked with its military organisation. Over the years, the Lords Stanley have filled the post more than any other group.

1548

Carleton Hall: William Carleton conveyed "*the hall of Carleton, with its appurtenances, to John Allen of Rossall, to hold the same to the use of the said William Carleton for his life*". Lawrence Carleton is listed in 1557, as having had a house in Little Carleton known as Carleton Hall.

The last mention of Carleton Hall is in the baptism, on the 5th of January 1689, of Robert Hodgson, son of George Hodgson of Great Carleton Hall.
According to Baines in 1868, some ruins remained in a field, described as being opposite Gezzerts. Old farmers talked of stonework in the field, but examinations during work in the field in 2009, found nothing. Gezzerts (or Gazette) Farm at 325 Blackpool Old Road, was demolished in February 2015, after many years of lying in disrepair. A development of 2 and 3-bedroom new bungalows, christened Gezzert's Rise, was built there from early 2016.

There had been a hall or grange at Karleton since the 13th century, when Matilda de Karlton, held lands there of the Priory of St John the Baptist (Chester).

Also, in Carleton at this time, was a ducking pool with a "cuck stool", opposite Leach's Farm, and a beerhouse known as the "Hole in The Wall", which also held a Manorial Court. The court later moved to the Weld's Arms Inn.

St Michael's Grammar School: At St Michael's, a report from the Commissioners of the chantry of St Katherine shows that a grammar school had been kept in the parish, funded by the revenues from that chantry. William Harrison was its schoolmaster at the time. By the time of The Dissolution of the Monasteries, the land on which the school had stood, had passed to Henry Butler of Rawcliffe.

1549

Cottam Hall, Poulton: Laurence and Anne Cottam of Dilworth near Longridge had recently moved to Poulton and built this large house. They were the protestant parents of Thomas Cottam, who went on to be a renowned Catholic priest and martyr. He was executed at Tyburn on the 30th of May 1582, and on the 29th of December 1886, he was beatified as the *"Blessed Thomas Cottam"*.

©

William Cottam died at the hall on the 17th of May 1706, and by 1715, Thomas Bamber is shown as living there. On the 23rd of November 1758, the *"old hall"* was leased by Joseph Hesketh to Thomas Cottam. On the 13th of February, it was sold by Thomas Cottam and Edward Jolly (of Weeton) to Robert Broadbelt of Bispham, who sold it on to Richard Buck on the 13th of December 1794. These deeds are held in the National Archives.

Cottam Hall later became the home of the Cookson family, and could be reached by a footpath from Blackpool Old Road; it is still shown on the 1950s Ordnance Survey map, located to the north of what later became the railway at Poulton.

Cottam Hall Playing Fields nearby were named after it – a later Thomas Cottam having bequeathed the land to the youth of Poulton on his death.
In 1961, the brick-built changing rooms and pavilion at the playing fields replaced the original wooden sheds, and in 1986, those were replaced, this time by purpose-built changing facilities. A bar was added in 1998.
The playing fields are home to several football pitches, a council-owned cricket pitch, and the very small Cottam Hall allotments - accessed from Rutland Avenue.

Kirkham Grammar School: Can trace its history back to the chantry school in the grounds of St Michael's Church in the 13th century, but the first school proper was opened this year. Some wrongly put this at 1551, but that is simply the year when the first written reference can be found.

In 1585, the 30 Men of Kirkham assumed control of the school, but within 50 years, it was failing badly. It was rescued in 1621, by a donation of £30 from Isobel Birley, a local innkeeper. In 1610, *"a good deal of money"* was spent to repair the thatched roof and buy desks and forms.
1620 saw Isobel Birley, a local alehouse keeper, gave £30 towards the building of a new school which would teach children for free. A total of £170 was then raised and the school was constructed. Thomas Armitstead was its master.
Then, in in his will of 1655, Henry Colburn (or Colbron, or Colbourne), a Kirkham scrivener, and an old boy of the school, secured its future. He instructed his trustees to lease the Kirkham rectory lands from Christ Church, Oxford and to use the profits therefrom to *"maintain schools and poore people"*. The trustees were the Company of Drapers, who helped run the school until 1944. In c1670, Zachary Taylor of Rochdale was the master.

In 1807, the school was rebuilt opposite the vicarage, on what became School Lane, the headmaster's house and a school hall being built nearby shortly afterwards. This second two-storey school building with 4 classrooms lasted until the current building was constructed in its new location. Opening in 1809, it had been funded by the proceeds from a chopped down forest in Westmorland.
The first school then became a house called the Hermitage, which was demolished in the late 1930s. Its school hall also went in 1954, its site now being covered by the playgrounds of St Michael's School and some private house gardens.

In 1884, The Charities of the Drapers' Company laid down a charter of 43 points under which the school must be run. The scheme was approved of by the Masters of the Court of Chancery for the regulation and management of the school.

On the 26th of July 1910, the foundation stone for Kirkham Grammar School's current, and third, set of buildings was laid by the chairman of the School Governors, Revered WT Mitton. Beneath the stone *"a*

phial containing the latest issues of the local papers, coins of the realm, and a list of governors, masters and boys, was deposited in a cavity beneath the stone".

The school was opened on Ribby Road on the 29th of September 1911, and shortly after the opening, the building was described as:
"Grammar school and headmaster's house, 1909-11 by F.H. Greenaway of London. Rendered brickwork above a brick plinth, sandstone dressings, and green slate roofs. A long, roughly symmetrical building in Free Style with C17 antecedents with a picturesque grouping of gables, bays, and tall chimney stacks. 2 storeys. Headmaster's house on left has a central gable with a two-storey canted bay window to the left of the door. Central block is recessed, with gables at either end, a central porch which breaks forward slightly in line with a square clock cupola placed like a louvre on the roof. To the right the hall roof rises to full height and breaks forward at right angles, presenting a wide gable over a tall canted bay window with a battlemented top. To the right again is a single storey office block with a central gable. All windows have mullions and transoms. Detailing is simple, but openings are chamfered and the hall gable is coped. Interior: Hall of 6 bays, ceiled above the collar of arch braced roof. Simple panelling. Canted bay to south, 5-light window to north".

For many years, the school specialised not only in educating brighter pupils from all over the Fylde, but also in providing live-in facilities. Classed as School House, these were used for the most part by the sons of service men and women working abroad.

The wooden workshop building was built shortly after the opening, soon becoming used just for woodwork, and the front lawn was at first used as the school vegetable plot.
The school motto is "Ingredere Ut Proficias" meaning, "Enter in order to Profit".
School Houses are currently Fylde (green), Kirkham (yellow), Preston (light blue), and School (red) – There also used to be Ashton (white) and Lytham (dark blue) Houses. The much-loved school hymn is "Jerusalem" (and did those feet).

In 1924, the school changed from a soccer-playing school to a rugby school. I remember that the playing of football was a cause for detention, even in late 1960s. The school eventually had four rugby pitches on site.

In the early 1950s, the school began its own Combined Cadet Force (CCF), which is compulsory from entry to the 4th year. An ex-RAF Nissen hut was erected in the eastern part of the grounds as a rifle range. This still stands and is in regular use. The CCF was originally affiliated with the Loyal Lancashire Regiment. It is now the Duke of Lancashire Regiment, and is over 300 strong.

In 1938, following a final generous endowment by the Drapers, an extension containing four extra classrooms was built, together with a library, art room, a gym, and new changing rooms with showers. A further 2 classrooms, chemistry and physics laboratories and the dining hall were added in the next year, in a single storey extension.
On the site of the original school vegetable garden, the 3-floor Norwood Science Block was added in 1965, and a wooden tuck shop was erected beside the woodwork room in 1969. A dedicated, but small, sixth form building was built in 1971, funded by a sponsored walk by pupils. Sixth form facilities were improved in 2011, with a new Sixth Form Centre and Café Bar.

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In 1973, former Head of PE and Modern Languages, Sidney Crane, retired and after his death, the Sidney Crane Travel Fund was set up with a bequest from him. It provides a grant of £150 to any former student who undertakes a travel project containing a charitable or community aspect.

The school became independent on the 1st of September 1979, under headmaster Malcolm Summerlee. Over the next 7 years, KGS gradually became fully co-educational, with the first 30 girls being admitted in 1979, when one third of the first-year intake were female.

In 1990, a new Multi-Purpose Hall was opened. The first event held there was the annual Spring Concert – Trial by Jury – held on the 2nd of March. On the 1st of July 2017, the hall was renamed the Summerlee Hall after the past headmaster.
Also, in 1990, the western section of the sports fields was sold off for housing.
The Lawrence House Pavilion was officially opened on the 31st of January 2007, by Mr Richard Rhodes, Chairman of the Lawrence House Trust, and provides a drama workshop during the day and a clubhouse at night. An all-weather sports pitch was opened in 2008, in front of the new pavilion.

As a proud "Old Kirkhamian", I have unashamedly borrowed the following update from the school website: "*The teaching provision includes a completely new block of twelve interactive classrooms and a science block designed to meet the needs of the large number of pupils who pursue studies in this area. Sporting facilities are outstanding with a new floodlit All Weather surface and Lawrence House Pavilion. Drama provision has been enhanced by the fine studio dedicated to Theatre Studies. Most recently the school has developed its Sixth Form Centre, titled "Six Degrees" affording our students caféteria facilities alongside new ICT provision and a modern recreation area. A new Music Centre was officially opened in January 2013* (Actually it was the 29th of February) *by International Soprano Lynne Dawson. A new Sports Hall, Fitness Facility, and Changing Areas were also completed in January 2013*". The new Rowbotham Music centre was named after Professor Barbara Rowbotham and the new Sports centre was named the Fulford-Brown facility.

After starting life in the original school hall, the new Kirkham Grammar Junior School was opened in 1991, in the field opposite the Grammar School, and the Nursery School was opened next door in September 2003. The Junior School has its own house, which are Birley, Clifton, Colborne, and Drapers.

"The grant of armorial bearings was bestowed on Kirkham Grammar School in the late 1920's in recognition of the honour due to one of Lancashire's most historic foundations. The design of its coat of arms expresses the true meaning and purpose of the school. On the shield are the doves of Kirkham township, together with the triple coronets of the Drapers' Company; symbolic in turn of the ties which bind school and town together and of the benefactors who, from its early days, have watched over the interests of the school. The crest also contains a windmill resting on a book, an emblem of scholarship deriving its inspiration from the old industrious spirit of the Fylde".

In 2016, the school's First 15 rugby team won the National Team of the Year award at the National Rugby Awards.

A list of the mottoes of local schools and of their internal "Houses" is given at Appendix G.

1550
Thomas Fleetwood, the Treasurer of The Mint, from Vache in Buckinghamshire, bought Great Bispham and the Lordship of Layton from John Browne.

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1551

The Earl of Derby became the first County Lieutenant of Lancashire. The Crown ruled the county through him, and by 1557, he commanded 800 of the 2,000 soldiers sent to Scotland by the county.

1554

Singleton Thorpe: A "great flood" is said to have destroyed a village and Gingle Hall, which were said to have lain off the North Fylde coastline:

1. The village: this was supposedly called Singleton Thorpe, and most of its inhabitants were supposed to have escaped and moved inland to settle in Singleton Village. The problem here is that the inland village of Singleton is first mentioned in 1153. Why have two Singletons within 5 miles of each other?

2. Gingle Hall: this is listed in a gazetteer dated 1808, as being 5 miles north-east of Preston – it is now known as Chingle Hall. In the past, two stones, known as Lower Gingle and Higher Gingle, appeared to have some reference to two ancient mansions, of the same name, in the township of Whittingham.

There is another tale that Singleton Thorpe was destroyed in 1588, by the same great storm that sent the defeated ships of the Spanish Armada up the North Sea, and down though the Irish Sea. Again, this cannot be proven by weather records.

A troubling conundrum however is - When and why was the nearby bank called Singleton Skeer named as such? Was it before the village went, or was it dreamt up in later years to perpetuate a myth? The word "skeer" may relate to the Old Scots word for scare or frightening - maybe the "Scary place of Singleton"? Equally, it could simply be the mussel bed that is there - these are traditionally known as *"skeers"* or *"skears"*.

The origin of the name Singleton appears to mean "settlement made of shingles". Shingles were always made from split wood pieces, so this would require a readily available local wooded area. Whilst the mystery village would have stood where the ancient, offshore forest lay, those trees were decaying several centuries before any village would have existed.

The Truth: There is **NO** mention of any place called Singleton Thorpe anywhere apart from in the 19th century statements by Dodsworth, Thornber, and Porter. There is also **NO** official record of any extraordinary weather in the area for several years either side of the "event".

Therefore, we have two dates for the destruction of this mysterious village - 1554 and 1588. Is either version correct, or are they both simply tales? Personally, I doubt we shall ever know.

In 2016, pieces of joined timber and stone walling were found at Rossall Beach by members of the Wyre Archaeology group. I suspect that whatever was there was a farmstead, inhabited by the Singleton family, and it was washed away by a storm surge, necessitating their evacuation to Singleton village inland.

Pennystone Rock and the Carlin Stones: These boulders are said to be relics of the lost village of Singleton Thorpe, and Pennystone *may* even be the site of the Pennystone Inn, where the landlord "Thrifty Jack" sold his famous "penny pots" of local brew. Porter, in his 1857 book says *"In olden time Penny Stone stood in the midst of a green plain, on which was a public inn, and that while the traveller was refreshing himself*

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inside with a penny pot of ale, the bridle of his horse was attached to it by a ring. Hence originated the name of Penny Stone, from the price of a penny per pot being paid for the liquor". The rock, on the rare occasions that it is visible, clearly has NO rings.

I consider it likely that the name Pennystone was derived from the old Plague Stones, which became known as "Penny Stones". This was a name the peasants used for a large stone with a hollow, filled with vinegar, which was used in plague times. Traders would put their coins into the vinegar to be disinfected before their customer took them out.
The Carlin Stone was known locally as *"Th' Carlin an' Cowt"* – now thought of as *"Mussell Rock"*. However, in the 18th century, *"Th' Mussel Rock"* was a different stone nearby.

> **The Truth:** Actually, Pennystone, Carlin and his Colts, Higher and Lower Gingle, Silkstone, Owd Woman's Heyd, and the Bear and Staff are names given to fragments of the base of the Norbreck cliffs. They are all made of hard conglomerate (consolidated shingle), and have proved too heavy for the sea to move. They therefore remain off the Norbreck and Cleveleys beach as evidence of the line of the cliffs as it was when these stones were still embedded in them.
>
> Pennystone, at over 20 feet long, is the biggest, and must have once been in the base of the cliff, as the material of which it is made is only found in the base of the middle sands section of the cliff. It now lies hidden, half a mile to the west of the Norbreck cliffs, below the low-water mark of ordinary spring tides, but it can be walked round occasionally. It stands opposite today's Pennystone Road.

In 1893, Mr Bowman of the British Waterworks Association stated that he had excavated evidence of *"unknown buildings"* around the Carlin and Pennystones. His digging at a neap tide revealed traces of the foundations of a wall, the rafters of a large room, and a door and its lintel.
More recent searches have found nothing.

Inskip Hall: Henry Kighley is shown as the owner of Inskip Hall in this year's records, and the Kighley family seem to have owned Inskip manor since at least 1399, when *"Sir Richard Kighley, knight, who, on 18th June, 1399, settled his estates in Goldbourne, Bedford, and Inskip"*. The hall possessed its own chapel, which was also used by local folk.
After Kighley's death in 1567, the hall was bought in 1593 by Thomas Worsley, the new husband of Henry's daughter, Katherine, but fell into decay.
Until the early 19th century, Inskip Hall was owned by the Earls of Devonshire

What remained of it early in the 19th century was a farmhouse occupied by Mr John Shorrock. It was then a *"building of two storeys high, thatched roof, and entered by an old iron studded door"*. The remains of the ancient hall have long disappeared, but it was said to have stood near the public house known as the Old Hall Inn. The Old Hall Inn had its licence revoked and became the Temperance Inn.

By 1843, the farmhouse was in the possession of the Sankey family.

Robert Dalton of Bispham, who had bought Thurnham Manor the previous year, now bought the main territorial possessions of Lancaster Priory from the Crown.

©

1558

Little Eccleston Hall: One Richard Chisnall was one of the trustees appearing in the "Molyneux Fine" of this year. The sale included the "*Little Eccleston manor, five messuages, windmill, saltpit, fishery in the Wyre, andc".* The France family held the hall from 1597 to 1817, and it was rebuilt for them in 1638, with the new structure enclosing the previous clay walls in brick. The hall was then extended in 1671, 1820, and 1871.

The house was H-shaped in plan comprising a two-bay centre with a three bay crosswing to left (south) and an early 19th century wing to right (north). The rear gables of the wings have date stones as follows: "1671" in the south wing and "1638" in the north wing.
By the late 1890s, the hall had become Little Eccleston Hall Farm, and the farmer in 1934, was Robert Isles. It is currently farmed by the Jackson family.

Dowbridge Cross at the bottom of Spen Lane is mentioned as a boundary cross marking the boundary between Kirkham and the Vale Royal Abbey lands (the text calls it Galebridge). It was replaced in 1909 by a Latin cross, whose base was covered in 1940, although 3 feet of the cross are still visible. Dowbridge House stood nearby until the 1960s. It was the home of the Loxham family from at least 1713.
The Tarnbrick Cross is also mentioned in an agreement of this year. It marked the end of the Abbey land (Vale Royal, Northwich). It stood near Tarnbrick farmhouse, where the boundary of Ribby Moor runs southwards to Wrea Green Village.
Headless Cross is mentioned too, in a field near Freckleton. It was replaced in 1909 by a more modern cross, erected by T Harrison Myers of Lea (who also renovated those at Dowbridge, Lea, Lytham, and another 2 between Lytham and Freckleton) as was the cross at Clifton, which was replaced in 1913, in memory of Edmund Birley of Clifton Hall. There were once at least 5,000 "weeping" crosses in Britain, with 500 in Lancashire.

1563

Wardleys: Wardleys Creek is a natural harbour off the Wyre near Hambleton, and this year, a tavern called the Ship was built at Wardless by the Curwen family, soon becoming a favourite haunt of smugglers. These came mainly from the Isle of Man, and a Customs report in 1740 states that *"The smuggling on this coast, the great fraudulent trade between the Ribble and Wyer Water is generally from the Islemen in small boats"*.

In 1590, William and James Blackburn of Thistleton began to land and process flax and tallow from Russia.

By the late 1600s, the road on which the tavern stood had been named Wardley Lane, and the tavern then transferred its licence to the nearby Royal Oak. The landlord of the Royal Oak was Tommy Wardle – this is not where the name Wardleys came from, as it is first seen in the year 1237. The old Ship tavern building is now called Wardleys Cottage. Long-called the Wardleys Hotel, it once acted as a Customs lookout, and had a sign above the entrance saying "Welcome Aboard", but by then called the Wardleys Riverside Inn, the pub closed in 2005. The ground floor was re-opened as the Rainbow Palace Chinese restaurant in February 2007. The Restaurant closed in 2009, after a police raid discovered cannabis being grown there on a large scale. The hotel was ravaged by fire on the 25th of April 2011, and was demolished in 2012, to be replaced by private housing.
In past years, the Wardleys Hotel had been a favourite haunt of entertainers such as Frank Randle, Hilda Baker, Reg Bolton, Harry Secombe, etc.

©

A stone quay was constructed about this time, and remnants remain today. The quay is *"graduated to a depth of 12 feet at which Baltic ships (of say too tons and loft draught) could presumably tie up on a good tide but it is likely that many of the ships were grounded on the hard beach or 'scar' and unloaded into carts"*. The Baltic ports were St Petersburg, Riga, Narva, Libau, and Danzig.
In 1750, the Hornby family opened a warehouse at the creek, as did the Langton Shepherd company. A Doctor Pocock wrote in 1754, when he saw the warehouses that *"We came to the River Wyre, on the N.E. side of which are warehouses for the landing of goods for the merchants of Poulton and Kirkham, it being a very good harbour". They were very likely built following the appointment by the court of exchequer in 1745 of new legal landing places at Hambleton Scar (Wardleys) and at Bucksbank near Skippool, the Wyre merchants having petitioned that the existing legal quays were useless for "ships from the Baltic whence they have considerable importations"*. Both warehouses were demolished in 1972, to make way for the car park of the Wardleys Hotel.

Visitors to Wardleys came for "Hambleton hookings", large mussels - *Mytili angulosi* - that sometimes contained a pearl. The name "hookings" was derived from how they were caught – *"by plucking them from their Skeers, or Beds, with Hooks"*. "Skears" were rocky outcrops that were originally reached on foot, then in carts, and now by tractors. Lamprey eels were also once common in the Wyre.

In 1805, recent invasions of The Plague prompted the appointment of William Butcher of Bispham as the Port Quarantine Officer.

By 1810, the Lewtas brothers, timber merchants and shipbuilders, were working at Wardleys. Some of the timber would be unloaded in the Wyre estuary and then floated upstream guided by rafts, often as far as Cartford. This practice would mean that the Customs tidewaiters (literally, men who had to wait for a suitable tide before doing their job) would also need to travel to Cartford before they could assess the cargo for duties. Timber floating carried until about 1841.

In 1825, William and James Blackburn of Thistleton built a warehouse at Wardleys. At nearby Coldrow there was once a smithy, which catered for the metalwork needs of the ships. At the Heads, Russian ships would load up with Preesall rock salt as they returned down river from Wardleys, where they had discharged cargoes of tallow and flax.
Smugglers gathered at number 4 on a little road near the quayside. This road was later known as Velvet Street - as rolls of French cloth were said to have been hidden there. Kegs of rum were thrown out on the banks of the river and hidden at High Gate in an old barn.

The ship "Six Sisters" set sail from Wardleys on the 3rd of April 1833, carrying emigrants, including the families of Robert Wells, bound for Quebec, Canada.

By 1841, the port was flourishing, and had a large horseshoe harbour, which was able to berth three-masted ships. Sadly though, the new port of Fleetwood had opened, and took the flax ships. The warehouses were leased to William and M Lewtas, who began importing timber to the port, using their own ship "Mariner's Hope", and Wardleys later became the place where the first cotton from the Southern USA was landed, for processing in the East Lancashire cotton mills. As with Skippool across the Wyre, the trade died out after the 1840s, and hardly any trace remains.
The Wardleys Marine Yacht Club opened there in 1990.

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1565
Thomas Fleetwood bought the Great Marton estate of Richard and Henry Butler of Rawcliffe. Rawcliffe means "Red cliff" - from *"rauðr"* (Old Norse) for red, and *"klif"* (Old Norse) for a cliff or a steep hill.
The village of Elswick was devastated by what was known as the "sore sickness".

Freckleton Windmill: Henry Robinson's will bequeathed his *"old windie mill"* to his son Richard, with his other sons William and Thomas being left his *"new windie mill"*. We now think that both mills were probably in a field known as Mill Hill, south of Lower House Farm. John Sharples owned it in 1580, and by 1621, it was operated for him by John Clitheroe. Finally, in 1715, George Sharples's Lower House Estate was sold, and it included *"one windy corn mill"*. This is the last known mention, and it seems to have been demolished soon afterwards.

1569
The *"Rising of the North"* took place. Many Lancashire Catholics had taken part in a doomed rebellion against the rule of Protestant Queen Elizabeth, and for some time the county was known as *"Catholic Lancashire"* – the most fervent hotbed of Catholic rebellion in the country.

1570
Christopher Caxton's first county map showed, from north to south, Rosle Hall, Bergerode, Thornton, Byspham le Fyle, Poton, Stanying Hall, Marton Mere, Laton, and Marton Mosse.

1575
Whinney Heys Hall: James Massey of Carleton built Whinney Heys (Whyny Leys), which may have been named after the yellow gorse (whins) surrounding it. The empty land had been purchased for the purpose from William Fleetwood.
On the 8th of March 1609, John Massie's will effectively granted the hall to Ellen Veale, and it stayed in the Veale family until the death in January 1747 of Dorothy Veale. In 1779, Whinney Heys was sold back to the Hesketh family by the Greatorex family, who remained as tenant farmers for many years.
The hall then passed by marriage into the hands of the Hesketh-Fleetwood family, soon becoming a simple farmhouse, with various tenants including the Fish family, and the Parkinsons.

Whinney Heys Hall itself was described in 1886, as *"embosomed in trees and presented nothing of special moment to the eye, being simply a large rough-cast country building of an early type",* and the 1893 Ordnance Survey map shows an L-shaped hall with a single block of outbuildings. In 2013, an archaeological survey revealed that *"Whinney Heys Hall would have been a modest-sized dwelling bordered, for the majority of the southern exterior, by an extensive cobbled yard. While nothing remained of the internal divisions of the building or cellars, it is interesting to note that the apparent 'U' shape of the hall closely resembles the building represented on the Ordnance Survey map of 1893, in both shape and orientation"*.

In 1901, the hall was bought by Thomas Marquis Watson, who turned it into a "handsome gentleman's residence". The last tenant farmers were the Watsons, whose tenancy ceased in 1907, when Whinney Heys was sold. Together with some land at South Shore, it was bought by Blackpool Corporation for use as accommodation for the nurses at the planned new Victoria Hospital.

The main part of the old hall was demolished in 1957, and the remainder stopped being used as a nurses' home in 1964, when new accommodation was built. The last vestiges were demolished in May 1969, to

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make way for the new Victoria Hospital Maternity Unit, and in 1972, a new boiler house, laundry, kitchens, and stores were built on the site of the old hall.

The site of the original hall is now covered by the main entrance and multi-storey car park.

New Whinney Heys: The whole of the Whinney Heys estate was bought from the trustees of Hesketh-Fleetwood in 1771, by George Gretrix of Hardhorn, who built another house, known as New Whinney Heys nearby. In 1898, the Dewhurst family were tenant farmers of New Whinney Heys Farm. The site of New Whinney Heys is now covered by the Blackpool Zoo's car park. Coins from Queen Elizabeth's time were later found there, together with a signet ring.

On the 17th of August 1832, the complete estate, comprising *"Old and New Whinney Heys Farms"* and 317 acres of farmland, was sold at auction. The respective tenants at the time were Thomas Bamber and Richard Ward.

1577

Myerscough House: This hall was built this year and boasted a *"ha-ha"* (a trench used to graze animals off the grass of the lawn), and a bathing pit.
By 1872, it was owned by the Cunliffe family. It later became a dairy farm owned by the Billington family, and in later years was bought by Geoffrey Thompson, the owner of Blackpool Pleasure Beach as the family home. Mr Thompson had a large ride-on garden railway constructed in the grounds – complete with stations. The family's collection of vintage cars is also kept in a large barn on the property.

When sold in 2015, it was advertised as having *"6 principal bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, 4 reception rooms, study, billiard room, kitchen with AGA, ancillary rooms, indoor swimming pool, self-contained 2-bedroom apartment, a range of outbuildings and garaging, tennis court, walled gardens and orchard".* It stands in 15 acres of grounds.

1578

Singleton Catholic Chapel: The Curate of Singleton was reported by the Diocese of Chester as "*He kepeth no hous nor releveth the poore. He is not dyligent in visi tinge the sycke. He doth not teach the catechisme. There is no sermons. He churcheth fornycatours without doinge any penaunce. He maketh a donge hill in the chapel yeard, and he hath lately kepte a typlinge hous and a nowty woman in it* "! The church in question was converted into the Chapel House Tavern.

In 1650, the chapel was returned to the Catholics and became the priest's residence for many years. It was described as a *"poor thatched dwelling"* when it was seized by the Protestants in 1746. Father John Cowling was forcibly ejected, and the building converted into a chapel of ease to the Anglican parish church at Kirkham. The local Catholics, when deprived of the old chapel, erected a presbytery and place of worship at their own expense.

A new Catholic chapel was erected in Singleton in 1768. The site of the new chapel, sacristy, and adjoining priest's house, with stables, garden, etc. was a corner at the western end of the village. The Gillow family provided the altar furniture, sacred vessels, vestments, and many other things needed for the chapel.

The lease was given up when St John's at Poulton was opened in 1813. It was again used from 1832, by which time, through Thomas Miller's influence, very few Roman Catholics remained in the township.

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A document recently located in the Lancashire Record Office dated the 2nd of March 1861, records the sale of the chapel at Singleton to Frederick Earnshaw Marshall of Penwortham Hall at a cost of £150. The following provision is written into the 1860 contract between Bishop Alexander Goss and Marshall: *"He ... 'shall before 1 January 1862 at his own cost and charge pull down the said chapel and shall not erect or permit to be erected upon the said plot any erection or building whatsoever, but that the said parcel being the site of the said chapel shall at all times hereafter be open and unbuilt upon".*

The chapel was soon sold on to Frederick Marshall of Penwortham Hall on the understanding it was demolished. It was then bought and demolished by Thomas Miller, who had Singleton Hall Lodge built on the site. The village's Catholics worshipped in Poulton from then.

1579

George Allen's post mortem inquiry in January, listed the lease of *"the manor of Norbreck"*. His estate passed to his widow Elizabeth (nee Westby) of Mowbreck Hall. After much argument, the Duchy Court ruled that the manor lands belonged to Edmund Fleetwood.

1580

Scale Hall: This is listed as a "manor". Its surviving (Listed Building) gateposts are marked "ER 1647" and "ER 1654", and it was the residence of the Hornby family in the 17th and 18th Centuries
A significant amount of re-building work was done in 1835, by Thomas Catterall of Kirkham, when farmed by the Cartmells. In the late 1890s, it was described as *"a small two-storey, gabled farmhouse of hand-made brick facing north. The walls are plastered and colour-washed. The roof is of stone slates, and inside a porch on the north side is an original nail-studded door. Adjoining the west end are contemporary outbuildings, and to the west and north contemporary farm-buildings, all of hand-made bricks, but with modern roofs. At the east end, is a later two storey block of brick, plaster and pebble-dash coated, facing east".*
Scale Hall was still a functioning farm in 1934, when it even employed its own gamekeeper, Joseph Blackburn. It was demolished in the 1960s, to be replaced by houses.

Newton-with-Scales was then two separate hamlets, based around Newton Hall and Scales Hall. Newton Hall was originally called Highgate Hall, and was the home of the Bryning family, after which many local places are named. Newton Windmill once stood in a field to the east of New Hey Lane, but was gone by the 1892 Ordnance Survey.
Scales Hall was the home of John Hornby in the 1630s, before he moved to what would eventually be the Blue School. It was demolished in the 1960s.

The names of the twin villages of Newton and Scales have mixed origins. Newton means "New farm or settlement" – from *"nīwe"* (Old English) for new, and "tūn" (Old English) for an enclosure, a farmstead, a village, or an estate. Scales means "Shielings" and is from "skáli" (Old West Scandinavian) for a temporary hut or shed.
Old names still abound. *"A field off Parrox Lane is still known as the pissing hole - from the old word 'pis' or 'pea' - it was where peas were planted"*.

1581

Edmund Campion, a Jesuit priest, hid at Rossall Hall, being hunted by the King's men. He also stayed briefly at Mowbreck Hall with the Westby family.

©

1583

Cardinal Allen *"wrote with evident satisfaction that the Fylde was still wholly Catholic, though some of the common people might now and then go to the Protestant church to escape the pains and penalties of recusancy"*.

1585

The Eagle and Child Inn, Weeton: was opened this year, taking its name from the Stanley family crest of Lord Derby. Oliver Cromwell is said to have stayed there later, and is said to have bricked up a tunnel leading from the cellar to Singleton church. It was allegedly used as an escape route for local Catholics. This tale *could* have some truth in it, as two cannonballs were found later at Baines Farm in Staining - thought to be from Cromwell's army.

Displayed behind the bar are 15th century brass halberds and a sword, which were found behind the pub during building work. They are said to have been used in combat on the Nile and in India, but are actually the two which were set up on Rent Day, tied with blue ribbons, outside the inn door. A jury - the Court Leet - was also appointed on Rent Day, and its members went out to inspect all dykes and watercourses during the first week in November. The Eagle and Child provided dinner for all tenants and members of the Court Leet.
During the late 1700s, a strolling minstrel from Lancaster used to visit Weeton. He would stay for months at a time, and was fed and housed by villagers, in return for playing his flageolet at the Eagle and Child, where dancing was held in the upstairs room. In those days it was open all night. It was later discovered that the minstrel was a paid spy for the press gangs. In 1814, two men taken from the inn were the last in the Fylde to be press ganged; sadly, they were also some of the last pressed men to die in battle.

The "mounting steps" at the inn were added in 1755, and the beer cellar and its steps are from the 1580s building.

The landlord in 1897 was Mr Gowan, and from 1907, it was James Valentine. The original thatched roof was re-thatched between 1935 and 1938 (during which work a beam collapsed), and then, after a fire in 1962, it was replaced with slates by owners Greenall Whitley. A single original roof beam remains intact today, and can be seen in the bar.

Refurbishments in the 1970s removed the walls separating the front car park to the back gardens and extended the car park all around the building.

On the 22nd of November 2005, Isla Baines and Helen Mackenzie formed the Eagle and Child (Weeton) Ltd. The company was dissolved on the 14th of November 2013, and on the 19th of June 2019, the pub was re-opened by Star Pubs and Bars, Heineken's pub business, together with pub operator Ross Robinson after a £750,000 re-furbishment. The re-vamped pub is called The Eagle at Weeton, and has its own a vegetable patch, an adult-focused beer garden with a boules court and outdoor table tennis, and an area for under-12s encouraging creativity and adventure. Interior structural changes include the addition of an orangery on the back of the pub with seating for 64 people, leading out to a heated pergola covered terrace and garden. The pub's produce all comes from the local Derby Hill Farm, and it also serves as a village shop.

A story in the Lytham St Annes Express in 1935, records that *"In a dark corner of one of the public rooms of the inn is a small cupboard, dated 1699. This was at one time the hiding-place for the innkeeper's money. The method of making it secure was simple but effective. After locking the door, a piece of board was*

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fastened over it, bringing the surface flush with the wall. This was plastered round with clay and then whitewashed.

Several clairvoyants who have visited the house declare that at some time a person has been strangled near this cupboard. They have also given support to an old legend of the inn concerning a man long since departed this life, who is said to sit in the inglenook of this room, day and night, doing penance for his wrongs. His name was Moon, and he used to sit brooding in this corner before he committed suicide 300 years ago".

The pub claims to have a ghost by the name of *"Bleeding Ears Murph"*. After midnight, he can be heard moaning at the bar, scaring away the customers, and legend has it he was a highway robber from London who came to hide from his previous crimes.

Moss Hall, near Lytham: On the 12th of September, raiders broke into Moss Hall Farm, stole valuables, kidnapped Margaret Billington, and tore down the buildings. The farm was soon rebuilt and by 1585, was known as Elston's house.
It later reverted to being Moss Hall, and by 1819, it had become James Parkinson's Moss Hall Farm, being farmed from about 1840 by tenant farmer William Dewhurst, a renowned horse and pony breeder. At its peak, the farm held 228 acres of land.
Its site is now covered by the houses of Pintail Way, although the Moss Hall allotments are still in operation.

Kirkham Free School: on the 19th of September, the wages of Richard Wilkins, the schoolmaster, began to be paid from the wage of the clerk to the "Thirty Men". They also took possession of the schoolhouse on behalf of the parish. The school was re-thatched in 1589, and the schoolhouse was flagged in 1637.

In 1621, Isabel Birley, an alehouse keeper, gave £30 to the "Thirty Men" for the erection of a free school for poor children. That school was rapidly built and the first master was Thomas Armestead.

Kirkham Girls' Charity School: In 1760, a new school was built in a converted barn on Moor Street, with money from John Langton and Ann Hankinson. Set up *"for girls to be taught to read, knit, and sew"*, it soon had just over 40 pupils, and after much charity fund-raising (such as the dance held on the 16th of December 1833), it moved to Poulton Street in 1860, known as the Girls' National Charity School, funded by Thomas Birley.
The school closed in about 1900, and was used for a time, as extra classrooms for the Grammar School. It then became a bank, which is now the Trustee Savings Bank.
The original building had been demolished in 1894, to make way for the Urban District Council offices.

1586

Elswick: village began to expand. It was mentioned in the Domesday Book as "*Edelswick*", which is derived from the "*wick*", or village of Ethyl. At that time, in most of Lancashire nucleated settlements were rare and most people inhabited small hamlets and isolated farmsteads. The exceptions to this pattern include the planned villages of the Fylde such as Elswick and Clifton.

The name has been variously spelled as *Edeleswic* (1202), *Etheliswyck (*1242), *Eckeleswyk, Etheneswyk, and Echemeswyk* (1292), and *Elleswyk* (15th century). It was known as *Ethelswick* in later years, and recent

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evidence suggests that the early village was possibly situated to the east of its present site, in the grounds of Elswick Manor.
Cottages - some of which remain today - were now erected, and they formed Main Street, with its centre at the crossroads, where Mr Stafford's Garage once stood.
The village stocks stood where the yearly Christmas tree now stands.
According to Thornber *"Tradition calls Elswick a city destroyed with balls by the sea pirates"*.

This year Elswick Windmill was built by William Butler, next to his cottage on what is now Mill Lane. The next miller was William Swarbrick, whose family were millers there until its closure. No trace of it remains.
According to ancient local tales, Elswick was supposed to have been *"a city destroyed with balls by the sea pirates"*.
Today's village of Elswick is clustered around the B5269 road, which leads from Blackpool to Longridge.

In October 2018, Elswick was crowned Lancashire's Best Kept Village Champion of Champions for the first time. The village also won the Britain In Bloom Champion of Champions award.

1587

Swillbrook House, Catforth: One Anthony Moon held the estate this year. By 1705, it was being described as *"ancient"*. The Moons held the house for many decades, until it was sold to corn merchant William Humber in 1825. Humber seems to have passed it to the Woods family shortly afterwards (they built a malt kiln on the estate). By the 1830s, it was in the hands of Hugh Foster, the son of the vicar of Woodplumpton.
By now, the house had been extended, and the rooms became *"irregular in shape in the older part, with low beams, and connected narrow passages and short staircases"*.
In 1854, the house was sold to William Rodgett, who soon sold it to Ann Dawson. Shortly afterwards, John Bickerstaffe purchased the property.

1588

Spanish Galleon stranded: There is a tale of a Spanish Galleon which ran aground on a sandbank near Rossall Point in September and exchanged cannon and musket fire with a band of locals. Two of its cannonballs went through the walls of the headmaster's house and are now in Rossall School. The ship was a survivor of the defeated armada, which had been swept by storms up the North Sea, round the top of Scotland, and down into the Irish Sea. The armada were retreating after their defeat at the naval battle of Gravelines. The ship eventually floated away on the rising tide, and its name remains a mystery.
There may well be truth in this tale. Most Spanish ships fleeing the Armada defeat ran aground off the Orkneys and Western Ireland, but a few are known to have strayed down the eastern side of Ireland.

1590s

Fanny Hall, Bispham: The small cottage that was later named Fanny Hall stood on the cliffs opposite the site of today's Miners' Home at Bispham. It was then part of a larger group of cottages and farm buildings and was occupied by the Whiteside family. When John Whiteside died in 1700, Thomas Anyon and hid descendants took over occupancy.
Subsequent owners were Robert Brodbelt, John Bibby, Thomas Dixon, Henry Banks, Ralph Cross, James wright, the Cocker family, James Jones, and finally, James Lingard. The cottage was (probably) named after William Brodbelt's wife Phanny Hall, who he married on the 13th of February 1730.
Fanny Hall was demolished in December 1907 and January 1908.

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1590

Skippool - expansion and decline: Deriving its name from the Old Norse word "*skip*", meaning ship, and the Old English "*pull*" or "*pol*", meaning a slow-moving stream, it was also known as *Skippon Flue.*
Skippool Creek had been the location of a small port for Poulton for centuries, but this year, it began to grow, when Skippool and Wardleys began to be used by brothers William and James Blackburne, and William Jenkinson, all of Thistleton, to land their trade goods of flax and tallow from Russia. Another, nearby, landing place was Mains Brow.
Stone from the Lake District was imported to the Fylde, and locally made cheese was exported via Skippool. Smaller boats handled oats, from elsewhere in the Northwest, and coal - landed via Preston.

The improvements to the draining of Marton Moss and Mere from 1731 meant that the river inlet at Skippool was widened and deepened. The banks were strengthened, and this provided better wharfage.

In 1741, a close (a parcel of land) called Ramels Field was bought at Skippool by Joseph Hankinson and Hugh Hornby of Kirkham, along with Messrs Brown, Albin, and Townsend. They built the four-storey Ramelsfield Warehouse there in 1744, for use for the storage of flax and cotton from trade with Barbados: Thomas Hankinson had died by now, so his son Thomas ran the business. By 1770, the men had transferred their business across the Wyre to Wardleys, where there was a hard beach and deeper water – to accommodate bigger ships. The now-abandoned warehouse was bought by CV Howarth in 1876, and had been converted into a large three-storey "Tarn Howes" by 1895. He then had Illawalla built nearby for himself in 1902. John Bird also had a warehouse there in 1750, and a further warehouse was built at Comley Pool in 1778, specifically for goods from the Baltic. Comley Pool was the old name for the deep pool at Wardleys at high tide.

Blackpool was by now supplied from this bustling port, where ships unloaded their cargoes of imported wine, rum, sugar, cotton, and tobacco. Skippool also had a bustling coastal trade, where goods such as slate, limestone, iron, coal, oats, and other grains were fetched inwards, and goods such as salt and cheese were taken outwards to other coastal ports.

Businesses on the Wyre by 1748 included a bone mill and Tomlinson's animal feeds warehouse (known locally as Tomlinson's Mill).
Skippool was popular for cock fighting, smuggling and press gangs, and its ale houses were infamous for strong ale, contraband, spirits, and drunks. For example, Customs Collector Thomas Jagger discovered 159 gallons of rum hidden in a malt kiln! There are even tales of a smugglers' tunnel leading from alehouse cellars to Shard or Mains Hall. There was also a small shop, which sold tea and sugar to the boatmen. Bowling Green House was owned by William Hesketh at the time.
By 1750, the annual volume of shipping activity at Skippool and Wardleys together was said to exceed that of the Port of Liverpool.
There were many ocean-going vessels built at Skippool, most of them being constructed for the use of the Kirkham mill owners. These included "Kirkham" in 1750, "Brockholes" in 1751, "Martha and Betty" in 1751, "Hothersall" in 1752, "Hambleton" in 1767, "Lancaster Rose" in 1827, and "Lewtas" in 1827.

In 1825, the Cracker's Head Inn was in business at Skippool. James Bickerstaff was the landlord, who, by 1836 had moved to the White Horse Inn in the village. Another Skippool drinking place was the Oozel Inn, which, by the time it was sold in 1839, had become simple Oozel Cottage.

In 1825, warehouses were built at Skippool and Wardleys by the Blackburn brothers of Thistleton, for the storage of imported goods, and in 1837, the Fylde Timber Company opened their second premises there.

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Then in 1841, William and M Lewtas of Wardleys were offering timber from "the Mariner's Hope", to be landed at Skippool or Cartford. Coal also seems to have been imported through Skippool, as in 1839, there are two coal yards shown – Ramelsfield and another. The trade through Freckleton of coal from Wigan ended this. Another attempt to secure the port's future, was when Furness limestone was brought in and slaked in coal-fired lime kilns for onward transportation.

The start of Skippool's demise as a busy port accompanied the arrival of the railway in Fleetwood in 1840. The Customs and Excise Bonded Warehouse on the west shore was soon closed through lack of imports to store. The timber trade also stopped, as the port's decline coincided with the Clifton Estate ending its purchasing of large quantities of imported wood with which it had fenced off reclaimed land and rebuilt its tenanted farms. From 1844, guano (bird dung) was imported by the shipload, on boats returning from the island of Ichaboe off Namibia, to be used as fertiliser on local farms.

The once-thriving port of Skippool is now almost only a boat graveyard in a creek, although in 1945, *"Poulton-le-Fylde, which was supplanted as a port by Fleetwood, has on the stone pier a stone tower, 50 feet high. It was erected in 1851, and used to show one fixed white light, visible for eight miles, but is not used now"*.

The vicar of Kirkham, James Smith, was reportedly a regular harbourer of recusants, and records show that 16 couples had their offspring baptised there as Catholics this year. 1605 has other such baptisms.
The Singleton family fought a pitched battle at Lea to recover some stolen cattle. The contemporary description was:

> *Thomazine Singleton claimed "for herself and her daughters, Alice and Elizabeth, certain cattle removed from Staining to Lea, by George Singleton, brother of John. About 1 am on Friday, 21 November, 1589, Thomas Langton, Thomazine Singleton, and others, in two companies, one by the gate and the others breaking down the pale and hedge, entered the court to drive away the cattle, having met that night in Preston Marsh, two miles from Lea, armed with long pikes, guns, long staves, welsh hooks upon long staves, swords, and daggers, bows and arrows, and bills, and taken out a watchword, "The crow is white". Mr Hoghton heard, between 8 and 9 at night, they were assembled to do him displeasure. He armed his servants and others, thirty in all, with staves, one pike, one gun charged with haile shotte, two pistols, one bow and arrow, swords, and daggers, and at 9 pm went into an outhouse in the close, and going in and out expected the other party. On their coming and offering to drive the cattle, a great affray arose within sixty yards of the house of Mr Hoghton, whose people used the word "black, black". He was slain with Richard Baldwin, one of Thomas Langton's company".*

1591

Bryning Hall: John Bradley is listed in the Recusant Rolls as living at Bryning Hall. As was common at the time, the hall was probably nothing more important than an enlarged farm and does not appear on earlier maps. An inhabitant this year, Richard Bradkirk, of the well-known Catholic family, was seized and imprisoned, but died before trial at Manchester in 1645.
The hall was let in September 1847, when in the hands of the Bradkirk family.
It is now a farm, and since 1982, has been the home of the Wrea Green Equestrian Centre.

Kirkham pinfold was on the site of the present Hardmans' Yard, on the south side of today's Moor Street. The wall of the pinfold was kept in repair by each of the burgage holders in the town, and an order this year obliged *"every man and woman to maintain their parts in the fold, both in summer and in winter, at*

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the command of the 'bearlimen'". In 1854, the old pinfold was stated to have long been in disuse, and the inspector of nuisances reported the lack of both pinder and pinfold. It was sold by the Manor in 1920. The word pinfold is of Saxon origin and comes from *"pundfald"* - meaning "an enclosure". *"It was a small, stone-walled pen that was built to house animals found straying from their owner's land or grazing somewhere without the necessary rights. For animals to be released from their temporary enclosure and returned to their owners, a fee would have to be paid to the pinder, the person responsible for the pinfolds and an officer for the Lord of the Manor"*.
Early Lancashire was clearly showing a propensity for fun, as Preacher Edmund Hopwood wrote to the Archbishop of York about *"The enormoties of the Sabboth, in Lancashire, which require suppression are these:-- "Fayres, marketts, wakes, ales, maye-games, pypinge and dauncing, bear-beates, bull-beates, resorting to ale-howses in tyme of dyvyne service, huntinge, hawkinge, and all manner of unlawfull gaminge"*.

1592
In the Poulton church registers, **"The Poole"** was in dispute between Edward Singleton and John Massie.

Great Eccleston Hall: This small hall was bought from the Eccleston family by the Thomas Stanley, from a branch of the Derbys. A "Richard of the Hall" had been mentioned at Eccleston as early as 1332.
The Stanleys lived there until the once-moated hall was forfeit to the Crown in 1715, as penalty for High treason by Thomas Stanley. It then passed to Thomas Westby.

The remains of the old moat can still be seen in places.
The hall once had an underground passage leading to Whitehill Farm. Its entrance can be seen in the cellar of the hall, and its exit in the cellar at Whitehall was bricked up in 1857.

By the time, it was sold at auction on the 23rd of June 1828, by tenant William Seed, it had become a simple farm on Hall Lane. It then comprised 168 acres of land.

In May 1893, its then owner Doctor Thomas Fisher of the Rural Health Authority offered the hall free, for use as the home of premises to treat the crop of local smallpox cases. It was then known for 197 days as the Great Eccleston Smallpox Hospital. The outbreak had begun in March with an infected tramp who was staying in a village lodging house and had soon grown to include 9 at the Kirkham Workhouse and 7 in the village of Great Eccleston – two had died.

1593
Sir Gilbert Gerard held land in Preese, from the inheritance of Richard Balderston.

1594
William Fleetwood sold some land to local farmers, including a John Bonny, who bought some land at Warbreck. That land included his own Hill Farm, which was behind today's Hilton Hotel, and Oxendale Gin (later the Gynn).
Sir Thomas Clifton was one of several prominent local Catholics to be tried for high treason. Fortunately, for the future development of the area, he was acquitted – otherwise his lands would have been forfeit. A list of the area's Knights of the Realm is given in Appendix H.

1597
John Bisphame bought land opposite Bispham Church from John Hodgeson of Little Carleton.

©

The first mention of Blackpool

The plague returned once more: "*Poulton-le-Fylde had a bad six months from November 1597 to April 1598 although the average number of interments was only 6 per month, during the plague period they were in. The Fylde must have suffered greatly, for the same November saw the plague break out in Kirkham parish, and there it continued a month longer than at Poulton. Although there were usually about 9 burials a month, during the pestilence there were 151"*.

1598

Naze House, Freckleton: was leased to Richard Harrison by the Earl of Derby. By 1795, it was owned by James Colbourne, who sold it to the Blackburn merchant family of de la Pryme. Harrison was also granted leases to Hall Cross and to Ravald House.

Ravald House, Freckleton: was sold to Henry Jackson on Harrison's death in 1675, but by 1744, it was owned by Nicholas parker. It then was left to Robert Escombe, who left it to his cousin John Ravald. By the time William Swarbrick owned it, it had become a simple farmhouse, now known as Raval House Farm. It stands on Brades Lane, and was extended in 1984, with the addition of a larger kitchen and conservatory.

1599

The first records from Bispham Parish Church show entries for the Cowbans and Bambers "de Poole", and there were soon mentions of Tomlinsons, Salthouses, Swarbricks and Warbricks *"of the blackpul"* and *"of the blackpoole"* – note the small 'b' in both names.
Many of Blackpool's streets were later named after these people e.g. Salthouse Avenue – named after the famous family of cockle and mussel catchers. There were large mussel beds off North Shore until the late 19th century.
Of Blackpool, at this time, it is written that *"a number of dwellings were erected, but they were for the most part cottages composed of mud, and a few barns"*.

Hales Hall, Out Rawcliffe: was on Dry Bread Lane, owned by Nicholas Butler, and was also known as Haile's Hall. In 1720, the Butler lands became forfeit, and the hall was bought in 1723, by Richard Cromleholme, the curate of Hambleton. It was soon purchased by Thomas Williamson, but by 1761, it was in the hands of the Miller Family.

Hales Hall was rebuilt in 1830 and was demolished and rebuilt once more in 1999. It is now a 5-bedroomed detached residence that is used as a farm, owned by the Newhouse family.

In the 19th century, traces of an ancient path were discovered near the hall: *"The direction of the path is in a straight line from Pilling Hall to Hales Hall in Rawcliffe, and it is now several feet below the surface of the moss; it is formed of large oak trees riven or sawn asunder, and laid upon sleepers to which the trees are fastened by wooden pegs going through the sleepers into the ground; its width is from fourteen to twenty inches".* The path is thought to be remains either of the Dane's Pad, or of a path used by the monks of Cockersand, to cross Pilling Moss.

An old local saying was *"Pilling moss, like God's grace, is boundless"*, and the moss – aka "the Union", was so thick and dark that the monks knew it as "The Black Lake".

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Chapter 7: 17th century

As written records became more common and accurate, a clearer picture of Blackpool's development emerged. The influence of the local Landowners was more significant, and halls, granges, farms, and schools began to appear. The two Civil wars and still more religious upheaval caused chaos, often splitting the allegiance of family members. Grudges were settled, properties changed hands, and lands were confiscated. When we add to this the continued scourge of the Plague, times were very hard for some. Despite this though, the shape of the district eventually became clearer. The Fylde at large was still mainly agricultural, with small communities just beginning to expand.

The Lancashire Witch Trials of 1612, demonstrated the problems facing the countryside communities in their isolation from the more civilised areas. Myths and legends of all types sprang up, and these were mercilessly investigated by the authorities, with local ducking stools and similar instruments becoming more used.

Note: Ponds where ducking stools were located became known as duck ponds.

Catholicism: North and West Lancashire remained a hotbed of Roman Catholic dissent, and many of our local landowners and grand families retained their Catholic religion. Known as "recusants", the Catholics were sought out relentlessly by the King's "pursuivants" (hunters), and often had to resort to subterfuge - hence the many "priest holes" hidden in local halls, such as Great Eccleston Hall, Leckonby House, Cross House, Stockenbridge, Rawcliffe Hall, Whitehall, and Turnover Hall.

The Bill of Rights, passed in 1689, forbade any Catholic from becoming King or Queen. Then, the Toleration Act of 1689 allowed non-conformists – except Catholics - to have their own places of worship and their own preachers and teachers - but they were forbidden from attending university or holding government positions. As a result, the religious map of the area gradually became more settled, and although the government was essentially Protestant, other religions took hold as well.

In 1717, there were 2,155 Catholics registered to the deanery of Amounderness. By 1767, the number had increased to 7,017.

Catholics were finally allowed to worship, but under very strict conditions, by the Roman Catholic Relief Act 1791. Slowly thereafter, the *"oaths and tests that barred non-conformists and Catholics from public offices, school keeping and owning land were rescinded by laws such as"* the Papists' Relief Act 1778. It was not until the next century, that the Roman Catholic Relief Act of 1829 finally removed all restrictions from Catholics in Britain.

The countryside began to be changed drastically by *"wind-powered drainage of mosslands and fenlands, which was greatly accelerated by new technology such as steam pumps and increased demand for arable and horticultural produce in the 19th century. This transformed the marshes into high-grade pasture and arable land and, as a consequence, the Fylde emerged as an important area for both grain production and small-scale dairying. By the late 19th century and early 20th century, the arable farms of this area were also providing market produce, chickens, and eggs for the region's towns. A few isolated windmills, built to drain the water and grind the first crops of corn, have also survived on the plain"*.

Number 14 Henry Street in Lytham was built, but we do not know the exact date.

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Blackpool now started to become recognisable as a place of its own: accordingly, I have separated it from the rest of the Fylde and Wyre on following pages by a line: ~~~~~~~~~

1600

Little Marton was acquired about now, by Molyneux of Sefton and sold in 1606 to Cuthbert Clifton, together with the adjoining manor of Lytham. It has since been handed down with the Clifton Estates.
Saltcoats Cottage at Lytham was built about this time. It has been demolished for many decades.

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"Blessed" Edward Bamber – one of the "Lancaster Martyrs" - was born at the Moor in Carleton (this is not what is now St Winefride's House at Bispham). At his execution on the Lancaster gallows in 1646, he gave absolution to a man who had been condemned for the murder of his brother – he was hanged, drawn, and quartered on the 7th of August. He was beatified in 1987.

Higher Moor, Carleton: The Bamber family lived at Higher Moor in a mansion, and the nearby Lower Moor in Carleton. The estate stayed in their hands until 1717, when John Bamber moved to Aughton.
The Moor was later the home of the Shirebourne family who sold it to Richard Singleton.
The mansion later became Higher Moor Farm. Low Moor Road in Bispham led to it.

Bartle Hall: Sammy Field House stood off what is now Lea Lane in Bartle. The building was flat roofed, covered with lead and had a small tower. It was owned in 1714, by Thomas Cowband, who lived there with his two daughters, Elizabeth and Rebecca, and his two sons Richard and John.

In 1745, Leach Hall was built on the site, by owner Robert Haydock, and parts of that building form the core of Bartle Hall today. Between 1820 and 1922, the then owner, John Troughton – Preston's Bailiff – had the house extended with the construction of a large west wing.
Troughton's son, Thomas More, inherited it in 1849, but sold it in 1854, to Charles Birley, whose fortune was based on mill ownership around Kirkham. Almost immediately, the Birleys renamed the house Bartle Hall, and Mr Birley merrily began to assume his position as a country squire. He planted many more trees, altered the house greatly, and held an annual horse racing day in the grounds.

William Walmsley, a Preston cotton manufacturer, bought the hall in 1922. He and his American wife, Mary Pike, held large garden parties where they showed off their black chauffeur-driven car with its monogrammed 'American Lady' doors. When he died in 1963, the 376-acre estate was decimated. The tenanted farms were sold off (mainly to tenants), and the hall was reduced to its present size of 16 acres, complete with gardens and woodlands.

In 1984, the hall was offered for sale, and was described by agents as *"dating back to 1730 (?)"* and being *"substantially constructed in a handsome Georgian-style of brick with stone dressing and a slated roof"*.
The hall was bought by Andrew and Peter Howarth in 1991, and they turned it into a 14-bedroomed country house hotel and restaurant. In 1995, the hall became licensed to perform weddings. In 2016, Peter sold his share to Andrew and he, and wife Nicola, are the current owners.

1601

The Act of Relief for the Poor was passed, obliging all parishes to appoint an Overseer for the Poor.
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1602

Entries in the Bispham Parish Church baptismal register mention *"Robertus sonne of Thomas Bamber de Poole, bapt. the vill"* – The baptism of Robert Bamber on the 8th of July. The second was *"Sep. Ellen daughter of Thomas Cowban de Blackpoole xxii"* - The baptism of Ellen Cowban on the 22nd of September. The Cowbans resided on the Bank of the Black Pool (at that time a collection of cobble and clay huts spread along the coast near to the "Pool"). Ellen Cowban was actually born before Robert Bamber, so:

That child, Ellen Cowban, became Blackpool's first recorded locally born resident.

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A school was given to St Helen's Church in Churchtown by the Rigmaiden family. This was replaced in 1812, and the current school was built on the same site in 1876. It was constructed at the sole expense of Edward Moon, of Aigburth near Liverpool, who received his early education there.

1603

Sowerby Hall, Inskip: This large house was built around now, according to an inscription on its brickwork, and the owning Stanley family held regular "Courts Baron" there.
It later became a farm, being farmed in 1875, by Robert Stuart, and now houses Sowerby Livery Stables. It is a Listed Building.

1604

Margaret Pearson of Whittgate in Great Marton was baptised at Poulton Parish Church. Whittgate farm stood half way down Whitegate Lane, around the present Westmorland Ave, along with a small cluster of cottages. The farm itself was demolished shortly after the building of the original Victoria Hospital.

Whitegate Lane – Whitegate Drive, Blackpool: It is likely that Whitegate Lane was named after the former Whittgate – a lane among the willows (whit being a corruption of whithin, an old name for willow). Locals knew it as Willow Lane, and it was even called Great Marton Lane for a time.
The first house of any note, Whitegate Manor was built in 1847, and gas lights only replaced the oil lamps in 1884. The Blackpool Improvement Act of 1879 saw the lane widened between Devonshire Square and the Saddle Inn. Old hawthorn hedges were removed and replaced with iron railings, the road surface was tar coated, pavements were laid, and the trees we see today were planted.
During the 1870s, a new sewer was laid down the centre of the road and it was flattened. Most farms were sold and demolished, and several large villas were constructed to house the local gentry and their out-of-town counterparts. They were all built on the eastern side, with views towards the coast. Laster in the 19th century, the willows were uprooted and some of the villas were knocked down to make room for the much-needed smaller houses.
in 1898, White Gate Lane was finally renamed as Whitegate Drive.

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Henry Fleetwood, Sheriff of Lancashire held Rossall Hall. He was descended from Henry Fleetwood of Plumpton Hall at Little Plumpton, as were all the Fleetwood family, who made their fortune from the local iron mines.
Kirkham by now had 46 burgesses, which were separated by yards or orchards on which buildings were later constructed, *"when subsistence farming was abandoned and continuous streets were so formed. The main burgage area stretched from the top of Carr Hill as far as the Town End, and along both sides of Church Street and Freckleton Street as far as Chapel Walks"*.

©

1605
About now, what is now called "The Old Cottage" was built on today's Fairfield Road in Hardhorn. It was rebuilt in today's form in the 18th century.

1606
During the reign of Henry VIII, the Butlers had sold their rights to Marton to Thomas Fleetwood, but Little Marton and the Moss were sold to Cuthbert Clifton by Sir Richard Molyneux on the 14th of February this year, together with Lytham.
John Burch, of the *"Mossyd in Great Marton"*, sold some land in *"the Croftes, the Mossehey and the Hawseheye"*, on the 20th of June.

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Lytham Hall: On the 14th of February, Sir Cuthbert Clifton bought, from the Crown's current tenant Richard Molyneux, the land on which Lytham Hall was to be constructed. Clifton showed his gratitude to his staff on the 15th of October, by giving a lease, for three lives, at 30 shillings rent to Lawrence Webster of Warton. This was for 30 acres of land on "*the common or waste land called Lytham Hawes, beginning near the fowlde of Lythome in the Hawes, and from there following near the moss edge towards Leton*". In 1616, he set about enclosing and improving the land around the hall, and northwards towards Heyhouses – named after the local houses with the hay roofs.

The first hall: In 1625, he bought the remaining lands and manorial rights of Lytham from Sir Thomas Holcroft and erected a three-gable-fronted Jacobean mansion with mullioned windows on the site of most of the old Benedictine monastic buildings, which he had demolished about 8 years earlier for this purpose. This first hall was made of brick and stone, with the first floor being of timber. There was a small extension on each end of the main building.

The newly-titled Squire Clifton moved there, with his family, from Westby Hall in 1626, and the Squire of Lytham lived there until Henry Talbot de Vere Clifton sold the hall to Guardian Royal Assurance in 1963. In 1978, Harry Clifton sold his titles to local man James Hilton, who then became Squire Clifton and Lord of the Ancient Manor of Lytham. Mr Hilton then owned the Clifton Archives and funded the post of Town Crier. *"Having been appointed a trustee for the liquidation of the Clifton Estate he was made aware that the title would be sold to maximise funds. It was suggested to him to buy the title, and he did. That title could have been sold to anywhere around the world but at least it stayed in Lytham"*. Upon his death in October 2019, the inheritance passed to his grandson, Hugo. The original intention was for the Lytham title to pass to Mr Hilton's son Marcus, but he died in 2008.

Cuthbert Clifton's will in 1634 gave the hall 28 bedrooms. They included the Blue Chamber, the Green Chamber, the Little Matted Chamber, the Boarded Chamber, the Seeled Chamber, the Seller Chamber, Mr Bradshaw's Chamber, My Ladies Chamber, Mr Clifton's Chamber, three nurseries, and a children's chamber with three beds. The Great Chamber had *"one featherbed, one boulster and three pillows in weight 8 stones 12 pounds"* and *"rich coveringe with needleworke quishions for chares, stooles, curtains and valences"* valued at £50. Lady Clifton's Room had *"two large hangings on the wall, two window curtains, one twigg chaire, four buffet stools, a table, two trunks, two little cabonets, a looking glass, and one boxe for keepinge of sweet meats"*.
Another indication of the physical size of the estate came in the amount of his livestock: *"about 200 head of cattle, 450 sheep and lambs, 30 horses, 23 pigs, 54 hens, 8 turkeys, and 156 geese and goslings"*.

The hall of today: After a major fire in 1751, work began to demolish the remains of the original manor buildings, in preparation for the building of a new Lytham Hall. Thomas Clifton began rebuilding this in
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1757 and finished in 1764. John Carr of York was the designer of the new Palladian edifice. It is a rectangular block, three storeys high, and built of red brick with painted stone dressings. The hall is unusual in that its main rooms are all on the ground floor. The main 8 bedrooms are on the 1st floor and the second floor has 8 plain bedrooms.
The new hall retained some of the earlier building in the floor of the Long Gallery, in which recusant worshippers would meet if the chapel was full. Also, some of the floorboards in the Picture Gallery, together with some of the kitchen, the butler's quarters and other servants' offices contain bits of pre-1625 materials. An archaeological dig in 2015 discovered that the new hall was linked to the old Jacobean building, and the buildings surrounding the courtyard today were the original servant's quarters and kitchens which had been re-clad in brick.

The main gates (formerly the North Gates) were NOT built by Christopher Wren, but appear to be based upon one of his designs – he had died in 1732!
A local guide of 1826, revealed that: *"There were kept in a pond, near the hall, the Cygnus Mansuetus, tame or mute swan: these served as an embellishment to the residence of the Cliftons. We recollect seeing them in 1816 - they are of the Anas, or duck kind; and, according to Linne, of the Anserian tribe. They have a noble appearance, and differ much from the Cygnus Feres, wild or whistling swan. The arched length of the neck is beautiful to behold. Their wings mantling proudly; they are then detached from their sides, raised and spread".*

The same guide also details Squire Clifton's racecourse on the grounds between the hall and the church: *"he has also made a fine race course of three miles and a quarter in compass, with most excellent paddocks and stables, all for the purpose of training and bringing up his numerous race horses, which usually attend most of the principal races in the north and midland parts of England. The amateurs of racing are greatly indebted to this gentleman's exertions from his contributing so considerably towards the support of the turf".* Clifton was then the Fylde's biggest landowner, with a holding of over 16,000 acres.

Catholic Mass was said at the hall, in the chapel, which was built in 1753. This was "a large and plain room at the back of the house" and also served as the parish church for around 50 years. It is also known as the south-west range, and was closed to the public in 1800, when the local tithe barn was prepared for worship, as a *"plain white oblong building lighted by Norman windows from an eastern basement"*. This was used until the opening of the nearby St Peter's Church in 1839. From 1800, the chapel's priests were housed at the Woodlands - now Woodlands Farm.

The mound of earth covering the hall's brick-built icehouse became a popular tourist feature known as the Mount. There was a flagpole on its summit and folk would trek to the top to see view of the Cumberland and Westmorland hills.

In the 19th and early 20th Centuries, the hall had its own private golf course (now underneath the South Park Estate). Lytham Hall Park at its largest stretched for 616 acres.

Squires Gate is the southern boundary of Blackpool, separating it from Lytham and St Anne's, and the name derives from the gate, built in the early 19th century, that divided land owned by Squire Clifton from the *"invading hordes"* of Blackpool. The road from the gate was called Little Marton Lane, and by it stood Layton Hawes Farm, owned by the Cookson family since the late-1700s - later the site of the airport. The farm had its own Catholic oratory in the 18th and 19th Centuries. Little Marton Lane ran to Blowing Sands, and for a brief period, the part between St Anne's Road and Common Edge Lane was called Stanley Lane. It is now all called Squires Gate Lane.

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Until the 1830s, the main Blackpool to Lytham road passed through the Hall Park gates, which are now at the corner of Regent Avenue at Heyhouses. It emerged at the Market Square until the present Blackpool Road was built then. The lodge at the Regent Avenue gates was demolished in the 1960s, to make way for the construction of the South Park estate.
Ballam Road was opened in 1843, and the Hall Park gates were closed. The northern gate became the main entrance, and the old ornate gate surround was moved there in 1867.

The boathouse was constructed on the shore of the lake in 1879, and by 1910, there was a tennis court on the East Lawn.

Lytham Hall is reputed to be haunted, one of the ghosts being Sir Thomas Clifton, seen in various parts of the grounds. A bedroom is haunted by another ghost, complete with clanking chains and stomping feet.

The hall is now a Grade 1 Listed Building, and above the main gates is the Clifton family motto *"Mortem aut Triumphum"* meaning "Death or Victory". It even has its own poem "The Lass of Lytham Hall" which begins as follows:

I've climb'd the Alps, I've cross'd the seas,
And travers'd many a land,
Where summer smiles on spicy isles,
And coral decks the strand

The rest of the poem is unknown.

Lytham Hall was bought by the Guardian Royal Assurance Co in the 1960s, and then acquired by the Lytham Town Trust in 1997. It is now managed by the Heritage Trust for the Northwest on a 99-year lease supported by various funding bodies and local volunteer groups. The 130 volunteers who keep the hall going were hit in August 2016, by the withdrawal of £1.7 million of Heritage Lottery Funding, but their work continues.

Evelyn Waugh and Lytham Hall: It is said that he based the character of Sebastian Flyte in his novel "Brideshead Revisited" on Henry De Vere (Harry) Clifton, who was the last Squire to own Lytham Hall. Waugh visited Lytham Hall in June 1935, and wrote to Katherine Asquith: *"A very beautiful house by Kent or someone like him with first-class Italian plaster work. A lap of luxury flowing with champagne and elaborate cookery. Mrs Clifton, Easter (or so she seems to be called), Orsa, a youth, seven feet high with a moustache who plays with a clockwork motorcar and an accordion. The above all Cliftons all are tearing mad. The children bright and giggling. Mrs C. more sombre and full of soul. (…) Large park entirely surrounded by trams and villas. Adam dining room. Five hideous Catholic churches on estate. All sitting at separate tables at meals. Two or three good pictures including a Renoir".*

1607
An instance of the use of the Lancashire Long Measure is recorded in Lytham, with a perch being 24 feet – meaning that the size of an acre measured with it was different to elsewhere in Britain. In general, the Fylde's measures were larger, with the carucate, the bovate, and the hide all being greater than the norm.

1609
Cuthbert Clifton, on the 26th of September, ordered the marking of *"that part of Lythome which he has lately enclosed lyeinge from the Cross, in the Hawes and the Priors Ditch towards Lythome, and not to*

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molest the uses of Layton Hawes and Marton Moss. A ditch to be made as the boundary between Lythome and Layton". This ditch later became Folds Lane, then Stanley Road, and finally Squires Gate Lane.
"The Blessed" William Barrow (alias Wareing, alias Harcourt) was born in Weeton. A martyr, he was hanged, drawn, and quartered at Tyburn in 1679, and beatified in 1929. A stained-glass memorial window to him was installed at St Anne's Church in Westby in 1933.

1610
The Map of the "Countie Palatine of Lancaster" this year shows; Rosso Hall, Thornton Hall, Byspham in ye File, Poton, Stanying Hall, Marton Mere and Marton Moss.

Cockerham Hall: was constructed about now, and is now a Listed Building, which stands 300 yards from the vicarage. It is a two-storey sandstone building, which still has some Tudor beams. In 1712, it was inhabited by Walter Frost, and by July 1867, by a Mr Nelson. It is now a simple farm.

1611
Robert Hey, *"a wise man, a witch, or charmer"*, was presented by the vicar of Poulton for the *"Bishop of Chester's censure for telling fortunes and the like"*. He was known as *"the wise man of the Fylde"*.
The first Court Baron and Court Leet was held by Cuthbert Clifton in May and appointed two constables.

1612
The famous contemporary poet Michael Drayton wrote of Skippool:

"Shee in her crooked course to Seaward softly slides.
Where Pellin's mighty mosse and Merton's on her sides.
Their boggy breasts outlay and Skipton downe doth crawle.
To entertain this Wyre attained to her fidl".

Drayton's poem was called "*Poly-Olbion or a Chorographical Description of the Renowed Isle of Great Britain".* He was a good friend of William Shakespeare.

1613
Another, thankfully smaller, outbreak of the plague hit Stalmine. A later report said, *"April, 1613, must have been a distressing month in Stalmine. In that small chapelry 11 people died in the one month, where normally there were only about 20 deaths in a whole year"*. The little village was hit again in 1623, when 51 died. After 1658, there were no outbreaks of the plague in Lancashire, only individual cases.

1616
Cuthbert Clifton enclosed Lytham Hawes by an Act this year. The drainage thus allowed, led to the building of more farms and cottages, rents from which allowed the Cliftons to amass an even greater fortune.
Lancashire's first House of Correction was established. 12 justices - 2 from each Lancashire Hundred – bought a house called The Freares from Roger Langton for £250. Originally the Grey Friars convent, it stood to the west of Preston, on what is now Marsh Lane. They appointed Francis barker of Kirkham as its first master and governor, and it would house all miscreants from the county. The building ceased to be used in 1890, when Preston Prion was opened.

1617
Great Marton Ducking Stool: On the 8th of October, the following notice was posted: *"It is ordered by the Corte that a Cooke stoole shalbee erected within the Towneshippe of Great Marton by and att the chardges of the Inhabitants of the same Towne- shipp for punishment of lewde persons inhabitinge within the said*

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Towne of Marton, and Layton". The Marton cuckstool was in a field across Wheel Lane from the Mill Inn. It was in "Cuckstool Field" and was where witches were tested on the ducking stool until the devices were banned in 1800.
The site is almost where the Marton Institute car park now stands.

King James I of England knighted Cuthbert Clifton at Lathom House near Ormskirk. Clifton immediately began to buy up Fylde land, including a large area in Marton. He then set about demolishing the ancient priory at Lytham to make way for his own manor house.

Myerscough Lodge stood 2/3 of a mile away from Myerscough Hall. King James 1 is said to have slept at the lodge on the 12th of August this year, before hunting in the Royal Deer Park of Myerscough, where he killed a roebuck. The Tyldesley squire of the manor was the "Keeper of the Royal Forest" there. The resident tenants were the Morley family.

Then, in May 1644 *"The same day the Parliamentary soldiers, taking prisoners to Lancaster Castle, stayed at the Lodge in Myerscough, Colonel Tyldesley's house".*

King Charles I stayed with Sir Thomas Tyldesley, on the 13th of August 1651.

A descendant, Thomas Tyldesley was an agent of the Jacobites known as "The Old Dog Lad". There is a stone plaque in the stable at Myerscough Lodge, inscribed *"Old Dog Lad 1714"* - the year of his death.

Yates's map of 1786 shows three farms near to the Lodge, Blackfields, Head Nook, and South Planks. These were tenant farms belonging to the Lodge and have all now been subsumed into the lands of the agricultural college.

In 1848, the lodge was described as "*containing an oak stair, case of spacious dimensions, the 'railing' of which was 'very beautiful''. In one of the rooms on the ground floor was an elaborately carved oak chimneypiece with eight panels, the four upper ones having the armorial bearings of the Tyldesley and Derby families together with the initials T. T., and those below medallion heads in strong relief. Two of the walls in the same room were panelled in oak, and at the east end of the house on the upper floor was a small semi-hexagonally roofed apartment called 'The King's Room', where according to tradition James I and Charles II slept during their respective visits here in 1617 and 1651"*.

Another writer in 1878, described the old hall as being *"Built almost entirely of oak, the old hall possessed a great number of picturesque gables, ornamented with carved woodwork. In front, there was a long gallery lighted by a range of transom windows, and on either side of the principal entrance there was a large bay-window filled with stained glass. The house was surrounded by a moat, and a stone bridge led to the door. The spacious hall —the roof of which was of oak, supported by great rafters—boasted a large carved mantelpiece, above which were shields of arms. The walls were adorned with several family portraits, the most noticeable among them being the valiant Sir Thomas Tyldesley, grandsire of the present owner. A wide oak staircase, with oak carved posts and balusters, led to the upper rooms, all of which were panelled, and full of antique furniture. On the south side of the mansion was a very beautiful little chapel, supposed to be of earlier date than the rest of the building. In it was an image of the Virgin, to which miraculous power was attributed. As Father Johnson, to whom reference has been made, resided in the hall, mass was said daily in the chapel"*.

©

By 1878, the lodge had become a farmhouse, and it was demolished and replaced in 1888. The modern house now called Myerscough Lodge stands about 40 yards to the east of the site of the original building. This became the seat of Charles Gibson.

1618

William Rossall rented a house and garden in Norbreck from John Massey of Whinney Heys.

Little Marton Ducking Stool: On the 13th of January *"Yt is ordered that there shalbee a Cuckestoole provyded and sett uppe in the Towneshippe of Greate Marton and Little Marton in suche place as Edward Rigby Esquier shall thinke fitt, and that before the feaste of Easter next; otherwyse the same Towneshippe to bee fyned in such some as this courte shall thinke fit"*. The cuckstool was in the field next to Mill Lane farm.
On the 20th of January in 1922, Abraham Braithwaite bought Mill Lane Farm from the Clifton Estate. After its last tenant farmer Joseph Richardson retired in the early 1980s, the farmhouse became the Braithwaite Manor restaurant, owned by Keith and June Beardsmore; they had moved there from their previous hotel, The Limes, on Waterloo Road. The restaurant became The Manor Nursery School.

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Freckleton Hall: appears to have been a Catholic safe haven, as a map in 1915 shows it as a *"former mass centre"*. The hall is likely to have been near to where Hall Cross stands today, at the eastern end of Hillock Lane, although we have no proof of this on any maps found to date. That same map states that the hall was the seat of the Colborne family.
The Catholic Record Society has a note stating that in the reign of Charles II, *"Butler Cowbome (Colborne, Colburne, Cowban, Cowbron, or Cowlbron as the name is variously spelt), of Freckleton Hall, married Anne, dau. of Gabriel Hesketh, of White Hill, in Goosnargh. The family was very ancient. An old Marian priest Sir George Cowburne, formerly of Warley, in Yorkshire, died at Freckleton in Jan. 1596-7. John Cowburne, of Freckleton, died in or about 1587, leaving two sisters"*.
It seems likely that the hall was later a farm, and in 1875, it was farmed by Edward Ward.
The Preston Guardian, in May 1903, has an article *entitled "Freckleton Hall. An interesting Quaker connection"*.

It is possible that Freckleton Hall became Hall Cross Farmhouse, which is a Grade 2 Listed Building.
The Listing states *"Farmhouse, dated 1777 on datestone over door; now house. Red brick, slate roof with gable chimneys and ridge chimney. Three-bay plan, the 1st bay being double-depth, with later addition to rear of 2nd bay. Three storeys; small modern single-storey gabled porch to original panelled door at junction of 2nd and 3rd bays, moulded datestone above inscribed GHM 1777 all with gauged brick segmental heads, those at ground and 1st floor large and square with 9 panes and those at 2nd floor low 3-light casements; and a smaller vertical rectangular stairlight between the 1st and 2nd bays (probably C19 insertion). Former barn (not included in the item) continues to left at lower Level. Right gable and rear altered and rendered. Interior: square beams, square stone fireplace in 2nd bay and little one in 1st bay; panelled pitch pine doors"*.

At Great Singleton this year, an unused pre-Reformation chapel was purchased by the locals for use as a place to worship Catholic mass.
Henry Duddell is listed as living in the Wake House at Salwick, as had several of his ancestors. He stated that t house was so named because it was used by the bearers of coffins from Goosnargh to stay overnight on their journey to Kirkham for the funeral, as the trip could not be managed in one day.
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1619

The main road from Preston to Blackpool: Much of the coastal plain had been largely inaccessible due to its marshy nature. It was too wet and muddy in winter and was only (as noted by many contemporary travellers) passable in the driest of summers.

In July this year, an agreement was made between the Inhabitants of Little Plumpton and those of Little Marton, about the *"use and passage through the mosse way and loane leading from Litle Marton Mosse to Plumpton and soe to Kirkhame, as foloweth First wheras ther bee twoo bridges for Carriages, the one adioyninge to Litle Marton Mosse, the other in the lane nearer Litle Plumpton, both which are to be used soe oft as the Inhabitants shall passe betwixt ther houses unto Kirkhame, Preston, or that way, with Cattell or Carriages. And forasmuch as the said Inhabitants have latly upon ther owne proper costs and charges repayred and maid the said bridge next adjoyning to - the mosse very passable, sound and sufficient for use with horses, cattell and cariages"*.

From 1648, tolls were charged for the privilege of crossing Lea Marsh and the Savick Brook. Now, Thomas Clifton and Sir Henry Houghton built roads at their own expense, with tollgates at Savick Brook (hence the name Lea Gate) and at Newton and Freckleton. In effect, the "*road from the Plough Inn at Ashton to the Savock belonged to the Hoghtons, and thence westward through Clifton village to Scales was the property of the Clifton family. The "king's highway" ran from Ashton down what was called Sidgreaves Lane (now Lea Road), for about a mile, then turned west through Lea into Deepdale Lane and westward past Clifton windmill and Lund church to Scales, leaving the village of Clifton to the south"*.

Next, in October 1655, the people of Great and Little Marton petitioned for permission to build a bridge over the outlet from Marton Mere to the sea. They had *"been many tymes in the winter debarred from the benefit! of the Marquett at Preston, at the most beneficiall and usuall tymes of commerce"*.

In 1688, the Westby Court Leet declared that *"Wee alsoe further order that all the Inhabitants of Great Plumpton The Highway from Preston into the Fylde and Litle Plumpton shall repaire and mantaine the Causey betwixt the Nearer Carr Bridge in Litle Plumpton Carr Lane to Tarnbrick Crosse. Wee alsoe order that Litle Plumpton tenants shall repaire theire severall partes of the Cawsey on Litle Plumpton Carr Lane betwist Martin Carr Cawsey and the aforesaid Nearer Carr Bridge in Litle Plumpton Carr Lane according to theire former Division".*

The 21st of March 1698 saw Thomas Clifton lease to William Campbell, a Lytham boatman, the right to charge travellers to cross Clifton Marsh. Until 1781, the road from Preston ran over Lea Marsh, south of Lea Hall, to join the line of the present road, opposite the Lea Gate Hotel. The remains of that track can still be seen, to the southeast of Savock Bridge. In that year, Clifton and Hoghton built a proper road, with a tollgate at Lea. In 1889, that road and all others in Lancashire became the responsibility of Lancashire County Council. It became their road 14 and *"the now Private Road repairable by Mr Clifton and Sir H de Hoghton"* ran through Clifton to Scales, then through Kirkham to Ribby Hall, Wrea Green, Brown Moss Side Station, Shell Hill House, Lytham, Heyhouses, and St Anne's, to Blackpool. It ran for a distance of 16 miles and 107 yards.

Then, in 1782, Stagecoaches began running to Blackpool from Halifax, taking twelve hours to make the trip. Next, in 1783, Pickfords of Pointon began the first direct coach from the Royal Oak, Market Street, in Manchester to Blackpool on the 9th of June. The fare was 14 shillings (inside), via Bolton and Blackburn, with a meal stop at the Black Bull, Preston. It took ten and a half hours.

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1784 saw a 2nd coach to Blackpool from Manchester begin, from Lower Swan Inn on Market Street Lane on the 6th of July, operated by Dixon, Cooper, and Company. This linked with another Stage at the Black Bull, Preston.

In 1787, the Clifton Turnpike was opened to provide better passage from Preston to the Fylde.
The new road to Clifton village from Ashton-on-Ribble allowed coach operators to carry on into the Fylde for the first time. These coaches then carried on to the coast, via Lytham, before passing through Great Marton, and on to Blackpool.

Lancashire County Council soon numbered the roads:

Road 12 - The King's highway from Preston, by way of Ashton Four Lane Ends, Lea Road railway station, Lea Lodge, the Saddle Inn, Deepdale Lane, Chapel Lane and Scales to Kirkham.

The road through Kirkham was maintained by the Local Board of Health.

Road 13 - from Ribby Hall to Raikes Hall - 7 miles 4 furlongs, and 7 yards long.

Road 14 - from Preston by way of Ashton Lane, Lea Road, and over Mr Clifton's and Sir H de Hoghton's road, through Clifton, to Scales. Then on through Kirkham to Ribby Hall, Wrea Green, Brown Moss Side Station, Shell Hill House, Lytham, Heyhouses, St Anne's, to Blackpool - miles and 107 yards.

Road 12, the Kirkham road, and Road 13 were linked, and incorporated in the whole route to Blackpool built by Lancashire County Council and Fylde Rural District Council. It was then fit to be called a Main Road, which happened on the 6th of November 1902. The new road from Marton Green to New House Farm had been made, the two lengths of private road at Five Lane Ends, Ashton, and Clifton-with-Salwick, had been legally constituted public highways, and on the 28th of July, the private Toll Bar at Lea Gate was removed.

Preston New Road from Preston to Blackpool was officially opened by Lord Derby in a ceremony at Lea on the 28th of July 1902. The new road opened the way for even more tourists to access Blackpool with ease. Previously, the only exit from Blackpool to Preston was Marton Straits, a road (widened in 1893) from the present junction of Cornwall Place and Preston Old Road, and there is still a cast iron sign to Preston on this corner. The whole route was re-surfaced with tarmac in 1904.

In 1905, Peel Hill Bridge was re-constructed; it was further widened in 1930, to allow for the newly-widened A583 to pass over. Whinbrick Bridge followed in 1907. In 1911, a wider Dow Bridge was re-built to the south of the original by W Pollitt and Co of Bolton.

In February 1912, much work was done on the main road to Preston between Blackpool and Kirkham. At Peel Four Lane Ends a new guard fence had been erected on the north side of the road, the road drained, and the added width of the carriageway cindered and pitched. The length between Four Lane Ends and Under Hill Farm was coated with limestone, and between Under Hill Farm and New Farm at Westby, the carriageway was completed, and 700 yards of tarmac was laid. The diversion, widening, and improvement of the gradient near New Farm, Westby, was completed, with the road being lowered, the carriageway cindered and pitched, and drainage and fencing finished.
By August, between Charnley's Farm and Peel Four Lane Ends, an area of 2,600 square yards of limestone coating was completed, 600 yards of kerbing laid on each side, gullies fixed, and footpaths laid. The old

©

road, with the exception of two short was been filled up and soiled, together with the dykes on each side from Peel Lane Ends to Peel Bridge. The tarmac near New Farm, Westby was laid, together with the planting of quickthorn bushes. Three hundred yards of kerbing were laid, and half of the old road drained, filled up, and soiled.

In 1924 and 1925, the road from the Oxford to the Clifton Arms in Blackpool was widened to 100 feet. The widening of the remaining road, as far as Ashton, to 600 feet was completed by 1930 and blackthorn hedges were re-planted.
The Blackpool to Clifton section of the road was reconstructed between 1929 and 1936, and as part of the reconstruction project bypasses were built to take the road around Westby reservoir, Kirkham, and the centre of Clifton. Peel railway bridge was built again.
The road was numbered as the A583 Trunk Road in 1946.

In 1965, The dual carriageway on Preston New Road was continued from the Clifton Arms Public House to Peel Bridge to relieve traffic congestion.

1620
A ferry business was set up at Wardleys by Hugh Parke, to convey passengers across the River Wyre. They used a large cart for the service at low tides. The operator was finally awarded "A ferryman's privilege" in 1631, running from the Boat Inn. This lasted until the 1930s, running from near Cockle Hall, which was a mere cottage, not a hall.

1621
A Free School was recorded in Bispham. Mr Bamber was the Schoolmaster.

1622
Edmund Fleetwood died on the 30th of March, leaving his manor of Norbreck and Little Bispham, and a great deal of land, including Thornton Grange.

Cockerham School: A school was founded in the village this year, and in 1679, the Bishop of Chester allowed a schoolhouse to be built on part of the churchyard. So Cockerham School was finally opened inside the churchyard in 1689, as a grammar school.
The school was moved to Main Street in 1829 and had a brick-built extension added in 1958. The school now comprises 3 classrooms, a hall, a staffroom, an entrance hall, a kitchen, toilets, and a caretaker's room. It is now called the Cockerham Parochial CE Primary School.

1623
The whole of Lancashire was devastated by a great famine, and many Fylde towns and villages were badly hit by both starvation and by the typhus which flourished in such conditions.
On the 10th of December, in Poulton, Thomas Singleton presided over the appointing of the town's 24 "Sworn Men". Records of the body are still found in 1734.

1625
The Plough at Eaves, Woodplumpton: The Plough Inn at Cuddy Hill Inn was built on Eaves Lane. Sometimes known as the Cuddy Pub, it was supposed to have been built on the site of a 1546 battle between the Tudors and the Scots, but research has shown that in that year, the Scots did not come so far south. The inn was however later used as a refuge by both sides during the Battle of Preston in 1648.

©

The old shippon was later converted into an additional lounge, with *"plague dishes"* on its walls.
In the 1920s, the landlord of the Plough Inn was a Mr Cheadle.
The pub is now called the Plough at Eaves and is tied to Thwaites' brewery.

1626

Sea Bathing: The origins of the annual holiday by the sea can be traced to this year, when Mrs Tomzin Farrer first discovered a spring at Scarborough. This started the popular pastime of taking spa waters for medicinal purposes at the seaside.
Doctor Robert Wittie then published a pamphlet called "Scarborough Spaw" in 1660, which advocated the waters as a cure-all. He inadvertently initiated the summer season, stating that the waters were best drunk from mid-May to mid-September.
By 1707, other doctors had begun to recommend sea bathing as a pick-me-up, and drinking seawater was thought to cure gout.
1749 saw the publication of Doctor Russell's *"A Dissertation on the Use of Sea Water in diseases of the Glands"*, and in 1850, it began to be prescribed by doctors.
Sea bathing was originally touted as a winter occupation, as cold water was preferred to warm - the saltier the better, and nude bathing was normal.
Sea bathing by those of high society was first mentioned in August 1732, when the Duchess of Manchester entered the sea at Scarborough, but things really took off when George III chose to recuperate in Weymouth in 1789, giving the treatment the Royal stamp of approval.

A three-storey Customs House was constructed on what is now Preston Old Road in Freckleton. It is now a private house known as the Mount. Nearby still stands what is probably Freckleton's longest standing building. This building, opposite the Social Club, used to be the village gaol and still has a front wall made of wattle and daub.

1627

Bowers House, Nateby: This was built at Little Nateby by Richard Green and his brother John. It soon began to house a missionary priest's station (as did Nateby Hall nearby).
It was sold in 1653, after Green had been declared a *"papist delinquent"*.

"The building is of three stories with a middle and projecting end wings, but the old mullioned windows have given place in the front to modern insertions and others have been blocked up. The walls are whitewashed and the gables quite plain, being without barge-boards or ornament of any kind. The house doubtless possessed originally some architectural features, but, though these have been lost, it retains some degree of picturesqueness, added to by the dwarf fence wall and tall stone gate piers in front, the latter with large ball finials. The chapel is said to have been in the top room in one of the gables. On the lintel of an outbuilding now used as a wash-house are the date 1627 and the initials R. G., G. G., referring to members of the Green family".

In 1711, Thomas and William Greene were living at Bowers. It is recorded that *"there was a chapel in the mansion, with the necessary hiding places, approached by curiously winding stairs"*.

It was extensively renovated in the 18th century – the new gateposts from the time still stand, and it had many owners (including Messrs Wakefield and then Mr Bashall), until being sold in 1867. On the first OS map, a Pheasantry is marked there.

©

Bowers House is now a Listed Building, and after being a guesthouse and restaurant called "The Bowers" for some years from the 1960s, it reverted to a private house in 2007.

1628

There is the first mention of a market at Poulton, and although the town has no market charter, it seems to have held a market for several centuries before this. Carleton held its own agricultural market from the early 17th century.

1629

Congregational Church, Elswick: Non-conformist worship began to be held in Elswick, as locals began worshipping in each other's houses, until they moved into a barn on common land, known as Elswick Lees, on Roseacre Road. A Congregational chapel was founded there in 1649, known as "Elswick Chapel-in-the-field", and in the December, its first minister, William Bell, was appointed.

In 1672, due to the efforts of Cuthbert Harrison, the chapel was finally licenced for *"for the use of such as did not confirm to the Church of England, commonly called Congregational"*.
However, shortly after this, the governing Act was repealed and such worship in Elswick became illegal. However, Cuthbert Harrison continued to hold small service *"very privately in the night"* in his own house at Bankfield. In 1689 Elswick Chapel was certified *"for John Parr and his congregation"*, but the first minister recorded was Jonathan Nightingale, in 1703. There is supposed to have been a lapse into Arianism in about 1760.

The chapel was replaced in 1753, by a building described as *"perhaps a little better than a barn"*. The building is still standing, and used as a Sunday school, but is not on the same site as the first one. There was a small burial plot by the new church. This church was then rebuilt in 1783, and was added to in 1838 and 1873.

Today's church was opened next door to the original chapel on the 28th of May 1874. It is built on land given by Miss Harrison and has a turret, which is 82 feet high. It was paid for by RC Richards of Clifton Lodge near Preston. It was later called the Elswick Memorial Congregational Church and is now known as the Elswick Memorial United Reformed Church.
Adjoining the church is a structure of grey masonry, later used as a school (now the church hall). This is the original 1753 building.
The church has a cemetery.

Elswick Manse was built in 1896, at what is now 1 Roseacre Road and Leys Close (the date is carved in stone above the entrance). Built as a 2-storey, 4-bedroomed house, it was turned into an old persons' home in 1985, and is now a private home again.

Ambrose Hall, Woodplumpton: This is first seen listed in Woodplumpton this year, owned by the Ambrose family. William Ambrose had first settled in the village in 1421. The Ambrose family left the hall in 1650, when William Ambrose mortgaged the property to Richard Shaw of Preston.
It was altered in 1697, after being taken over by the Shaw family.
The mortgage to Shaw was never redeemed, so the estate eventually passed to the Shaw family. In 1850, they sold it to the Bartle family of Bartle Hall.
On the 29th of August 1866, the hall, two cottages, and all its lands were sold at auction by its owner, Edward Eastham.

©

The house/hall is now gabled two-storey farmhouse of brick. It has mullioned and transomed windows, and a stone-slated roof, which has been cemented over. All the walls are cemented and whitewashed, and the lintel of the wide fireplace in the living room is inscribed *"WS 1697"* – William Shaw.

The house was rebuilt in 1871, and became a farmhouse, as did the nearby Hollowforth Hall. It is now two houses and a farm, housing Clifton Dairies Ltd.

Cocker's Dyke cottage was built at Preesall.

1630

New House farm was built at Snow's Lane and New Lane (later Cherry Tree Road North). It was demolished in 1929, for road widening and later became the site of the headquarters of Telefusion Ltd. The site of the farmhouse is now covered by the car park for Pizza Hut.

Stony Hill Farm, Blackpool: was built, on the site of the original stony hill. In the early 19th century, the farmer had removed over twenty cartloads of burnt soil and stone from a large, circular, Bronze Age cairn. There were two springs nearby, and into one of them - known as the Fairy Spring - offerings of nails and pins were made.

The farm and its estates were sold on the 22nd of August 1831. It was listed as *"Cottage and 70 acres of pasture land in the occupation of Robert Benson. The land was bordered by the seashore, Lytham-Blackpool Road (Lytham Road) John Clifton's estate (Manor of Lytham) and was well fenced off with a stone wall (parts of the pebble wall still exist fronting properties on Lytham Road)"*. It was sold again on the 14th of August 1839.

It was finally demolished in 1929, to make way for Albany Road. The farmhouse itself was where number 14 Albany Road now stands, and the lodge made way for number 583 Lytham Road.

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A pigeon cote was built near the Shard crossing, by William Hesketh of Mains Hall. It stood 30 feet high and had 455 nesting holes.

The Ship Inn at Freckleton: The Fylde's oldest surviving hostelry was apparently built this year, although an enterprise of some kind had been providing beds and ale since the 14th century. This version of the inn was granted its first licence in 1677, having been constructed to cater for the sailors and bargemen using the Freckleton docks.

The inn was always connected with smuggling from the port, and its large cellars were also used for occasional sail making.

On the 1st of May 1777, the ownership of the inn and its bowling green, by 1812 called Bunkers Hill, was transferred from John Swann and others to John Mayor, to be run by James Hargreaves as licensee.

By 1810, Robert Clifton was its licensee, and by the time he left in 1824, the name had been changed to The Ship Inn.

The Mayor family went bankrupt in 1830, and the Ship had several owners and differing fortunes. Even by 1869, it was still being called Bunkers Hill. The last independent owner was Thomas Moss, and in 1895, he sold it to the Catterall and Swarbrick brewery. C&S then sold it to Thomas Snalam, and surprisingly, when Thomas's daughter died in 1920, her executor Edward Entwistle conveyed it to himself.

The ship stayed in the Entwistle family until 1962, when it was bought by JG Swales and Co.
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By 1971, the Ship had its own eatery – the Kysten Perle Seafood Restaurant. It is now owned by Scottish and Newcastle breweries.

Another outbreak of the plague hit the region. In Kirkham in July there were 17 deaths, in August 92, in September 96, in October 34, and in November 15. As the Records of the Thirty Men of Kirkham state, *"This was a great plague year in Kirkham, in which the more part of the people died thereof. It began about the 25th of July and continued vehemently till Martinmas but was not clear of it before Lent"*.

1631

A letter from Edward Veale on the 16th of October refers to a request for stay of proceedings about the repair of private bridges between Marton and Westby-cum-Plumpton.
The plague was still rife, and there is a record of King Charles's commissioners being unable to enter the area due to the infection. Between the 25th of July and Lent the next year, 304 people died in Kirkham parish alone.

1632

Robert Robinson and William Benson of Layton gave Robert Bamber *"a messuage in Great Layton, with 4 gardens, and a fould, and closes called the Arsup, Hey Nooke, Heynooke Meadowe, Howplough, Pasture, Furfeild, Furfeild Meadowe, Litle Hey, Litlehey Meadow, Brickfeild, Short Acres, and Marled Hey"*, on the 17th of August.

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The River Wyre at St Michael's was diverted and the bridge re-built, as described at the Preston Quarter Sessions on the 11th of April, *"Yt is ordered by this Cort that the some of foure score and four poundes shalbee presently collected and gathered within the hundred of Amouudenies for and towardes the erecting, re-edyfying and building of Michaells church bridge, now presented to bee in decay: and the making, repaireing and amendement of the highway there; and for the altering and exchanging of the River into a new watercourse for the future saffty and good of the Cuntry"*. It was repaired in 1669. The double-span stone bridge was re-built again in 1803. The old bed of the river is still visible to the North-west of the road passing the school.

1637

A special commission was directed to inquire into the possibility of gaining land from the sea at Thornton Holmes or Poulton.

1639

New Moorhey in Kirkham was conveyed to James Smith on condition that he gave £1 each year for distribution to the poor.

1640s

On the northern side of the A583 road at Newton, stood the home of Edward Robinson, an officer during the Civil War. Opposite, for many years, stood a transport café called Joe's Café, which became the Georgian Restaurant, and now the Ali Raj Indian restaurant.

1641

Sir Alexander Rigby of Layton Hall was arrested on suspicion of being a Royalist. His cousin Alexander, of Goosnargh was a Parliamentarian.
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When the "Protestation" was taken this year, both Great and Little Bispham were listed. The Protestation required all those over the age of 18 to sign an oath of allegiance to King Charles I and the Church of England. No one could hold a Church or state office without signing.

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Larbreck Mill: Thomas Stanley of Great Eccleston purchased a water mill at Larbreck. This is thought to have been the original building on the site of the 19th century mill on Thistleton Brook, which now survives as Wall Mill Farm, to the south of the A585 road.
The first sign of that mill can be found in 1847, when it was owned by Mr Thomas Crook, being used as a water spinning mill. By 1893 it was listed as the farm, and in 1934, the farmer is shown as Mr Jones Brown, whose family still lives there today.

Leckonby Hall: Eccleston House was built (soon to be known as Leckonby House). There are tales of Leckonby House being besieged by the Earl of Derby's troops in 1643, and cannon balls have been found nearby.
In 1754, Leckonby Hall was commissioned by Emma Phipps, and was built on the same site, by Great Eccleston's most notable resident, Richard Leckonby. Leckonby was imprisoned in Lancaster Castle in 1762, and died there. The gates of the hall, which he last passed through, have an inscription *"RLM 1754"* – the date he built the hall.

Leckonby Hall was burnt down in 1766, and Richard Leckonby was killed in 1783. When his granddaughter, Mary, married in 1804, the Leckonby line died out.

The old house was an imposing structure, forming three sides of a quadrangle, the fourth side being made up of large old-fashioned gates in the centre of a low wall. The right wing was a stable, and on the gable, there is an inscribed stone. Opposite the gates was a large bowling green, which now forms the back premises and garden of the supermarket which used to be the Bowling Green Inn.

Leckonby House was later rebuilt and is now a Nursing Home.
The Coachman's house belonging to Leckonby House was demolished in 1962, to make room for the dividing of the house.

Attack on Westby Hall: The Cavaliers besieged Westby Hall, despite the fact that Thomas Clifton was a confirmed loyalist (albeit a Roman Catholic one). The cavaliers tried to steal the horses of the roundhead Major Edward Robinson, but were driven away by some women from Kirkham. Robinson had recently moved to Westby Hall from Newton-with-Scales. An account (probably written by one Thomas Westby) written in 1655, writes – *"And such was the audacitie of some of them adventuring to come on foot over Ribble watter in the night tyme into the Fyld as far as Westby Hall and there was kept secret a whole day, and at night endeavoured (but that they were reskowsed) to have taken Major Robinson's horse. But the Major hearing that some out of Lathom was gone into the feild was fearful of his horses and therefore sent a man in haste to Kirkham to raise aide if need were to prevent them; yet before any came from Kirkham the Caviliers had by some friendshipp they hadd in Mrs Stanley's house gotten the keyes of the Stable dores but before they were entered John Woods with others out of Kirkham with some women who had their Aparons full of stones prevented them taking of the Horses in the nicke of tyme. John Woods going into Mistress Stanley's kicking one of the Caviliers discharging a Pistoll at him yet missing, John, with his Sword flying at them cut one that he went bleeding away, flying through mistris Stanley's gardinge and into the Orchard, and the night being dark they all escaped up to Plumpton and straight to Treales before they made any aboad"*.
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1642
The Civil War started between King Charles I and Parliament - led by Oliver Cromwell, when the King issued a call to arms whilst in Nottingham in August.

Lancashire at the time was overwhelmingly Royalist in persuasion, with all the local Peers, and most of the gentry being Catholics. Almost all of the Fylde and Wyre area were staunch Catholics, and the people of the Fylde played a major and invaluable part in the struggle to come.

The King appointed Lord Strange (later Lord Derby) to the post of Lord Lieutenant of Lancashire and Cheshire, whereas parliament made Lord Wharton THEIR Lord Lieutenant of Lancashire. Then, at a meeting on Fulwood moor in June, the royalists seized the magazine at the barracks, and in July, a royalist was killed at a meeting for Lord Wharton in Manchester. This prompted Lord Derby – Lord Strange had just inherited his father's title – to lay siege to Manchester, and sides were drawn.

A troop of Cavaliers passed through Bispham, led by Sir Alexander Rigby, and included Captain Bamber and Captain Thomas Singleton of Staining Hall. They *"appeared near Poulton at the head of a number of horsemen, and threw the inhabitants into a state of great consternation and alarm, fortunately proving unnecessary, for the cavalcade had other designs than that of bringing devastation and bloodshed to their own doors, and continued their journey peacably northward"*.

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Sir Gilbert Houghton led the first skirmishes in the Blackburn area. To raise troops from the Fylde, a beacon was lit on Hoghton Tower. He then marched against Whalley, where there was a large store of arms as a result of the disarming of Roman Catholics in 1641.
There is evidence of Parliamentary troops being stationed at Parrox Hall in Preesall, and many musket balls have been found in the grounds.

1643
The Saddle Inn at Marton: A troop of Roundheads called at the Brewhouse at Marton Green in March, demanding food. They billeted at the inn, with their horses at Green Farm next door (the site of St Paul's Church) and practised their archery on the inn's archery range.

The "headless boggart" of Whitegate Lane entered the local legends in 1717, being the ghost of a farmer – possibly called Greatorex, of Whinney Heys. He was found headless in a copse on the lane, after a hard night's drinking at the Saddle Inn, haunting his killer until he committed suicide. The ghost was first spotted in December 1807, by John Miller of Layton.

In 1770 the Saddle Inn, "*an old, cobble-built establishment*", was rebuilt as the Brew House, and in the first deeds, dated 1776, the owner was Marton saddler Richard Hall, after whom the inn was named. The Brew House was sold in 1807. It was renamed Roundabout House from time to time, possibly as its customers had to go around the back of the inn to the main entrance, which was on the site of today's car park. For example, in 1814, Thomas Crookhall, a maltster from the Marton Brewery, bought the Roundabout House.

In 1819, another Saddle ghost entered its folklore: John Gretrix, a farmer working land owned by Whinney Heys Hall, stopped at the saddle for a drink, on his way back from selling his produce at Preston Market. Soon after he left the inn, he was driving his cart down what is now Old Meadow Lane, when he was attacked by "ruffians", killed and robbed. Tales then began of his spirit haunting the lane and the Saddle.
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By 1829, the inn had been doubled in size by the addition of a first floor and was renamed as the Saddle; the exact date of renaming is not known. On the 5th of January 1842, by then again called the Roundabout House, the inn was sold by George Crookall. Then, from the 22nd of February to the 17th of August, it was up for sale again, now known as the Saddle Inn. It was being run by John Watson and was sold complete with brew house, stables, coach house, outbuildings, and gardens.

In 1844, the Roundabout House was "officially" renamed as the Saddle Inn, its three main rooms being the "House of Lords", the "House of Commons", and the "Division Lobby". Until 1975 (The Sex Discrimination Act) the Lords was for men only.

By 1925, James Leigh, the landlord of the Saddle was selling his famous honey around the Fylde, with the slogan, *"Everything for bees from Leigh's"* also helping him to sell hives and associated appliances.
The stable block was demolished in 1968 to make way for an expanded car park. The pub had already been extended by 14 feet to the south in 1924.
The Saddle was given a complete makeover in 1993, and its new car park and patio closed off a traditional short cut for cars. The pub also regained its real saddle over the front entrance – that was sadly removed in a recent re-furbishment.

Some people wrongly think that the Saddle is the missing "Number 2" public house, however, it is now Blackpool's oldest continuously licensed premises.

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The "Santa Anna" incident: A Spanish Frigate from Dunkirk - the Santa Anna - anchored at Rossall on the 4th of March, and lay on its side, firing its guns in distress, due to illness on board. It carried ammunition for the Roundheads, and it was soon piloted into the Wyre, close to where Fleetwood dock would later sit. However, both the rival armies wanted its cargo.

Lord Derby rode his troop of Royalist foot soldiers and 300 horse right up through Layton Hawes (calling at the Saddle Inn at Marton) and along the Fylde coast without any interference. Lord Derby himself stayed at Lytham Hall for the night of the 4th of March.

Four companies of Foot of Cromwell's opposing troops hurried north from Chester under the command of Major Sparrow. They commandeered the River Ribble Guide at Warton to lead them across the Ribble then through Wrea Green towards the stranded galleon. A brief battle took place mid-way between Wrea Green and Warton near the present Birley Arms. This hostelry was known until current times by the locals as the Bleeding (or Bloody or Red) Heart, because, the tale goes, that after this battle at Kellermergh, the heart of the defeated captain was stuck to the door with a dagger.

The remaining Parliamentary troops were quartered for the night between Poulton and Singleton, and the next day, the 5th, they formed up on Layton Hawes. Their commanders did not want to face Derby's horsemen, so they went to the northern side of the Wyre to watch the galleon burn. Another version of this action states that they went north to guard the commandeered ammunition.

The Royalists secured the ship's cargo, and a few Spanish "ladies". They captured Colonel Dodding and Mr Townson of Lancaster who were on guard, set the ship on fire, and rode back to Lathom the same night, stopping to search Rossall Hall for arms on the way. As the Santa Anna burned, the brass cannons discharged, and fell into the bottom of the ship. Lord Derby later claimed that he had the ship burnt amid tales of the plague on board. He also claimed to have recovered her cannon, but he had actually "appropriated" some of those owned by the Fleetwoods at Rossall Hall.
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The ship's crew of 400 were simply thrown out to fend for themselves in the sparse countryside, and the 5 officers, including Don Francisco de Aco and Don Alonzo Navarro were taken to London. It is likely that the swarthy look of some South Wyre families originates from the romantic adventures of those Spaniards

When Derby's force had left, the Parliamentarians, under Major Richard Ashton, recovered 22 of guns and sent them by small boats up the estuary to Lancaster.

Lord Derby's royalists marched through the Fylde again on the 13th of March, planning to recapture the Spanish cannon from Lancaster. He stayed at Lytham Hall once more, on the 14th, quartering his 600 foot and 400 horse around Kirkham, before raising 3,000 clubmen from the area in a forced muster at Kirkham Market Square. After his Fylde conscripts were unable to defeat the regular Parliamentarian soldiers of the garrison, the Royalists carried on to sack Lancaster itself.

The Parliamentarians took Preston in February, but James Stanley, Lord Derby, retook the town on the 20th of March. He had a small army of 1,600 regulars and 3,000 clubmen from Amounderness. The Parliamentarians then retook Wigan on the 22nd of April, and Colonel Assheton had "*chased Molyneux and Tyldesley from Ormskirk to Preston, and thence across the Ribble into the Fylde. The royalists quartered at Kirkham for two days, but on Assheton's approach made practically no resistance; they marched northwards across the Wyre and through Cockerham to Hornby. Assheton followed as far as Lancaster; he took from there 14 of the Spanish guns and leaving the remainder to fortify the Castle, returned back through Preston to Manchester. On the return march, his men took advantage of his temporary absence to make a detour through the Fylde, where they plundered Royalists and Parliamentarians alike*".
An eye witness to the plundering stated that *"From Mr Parker of Bradkirk they took a great many of Cattell and out of his house all they found worth Cariage, leaving his house in a very sorry condition. In Kirkham they plundered from them that were Souldiers in their army and had been in that expedition with them so disrespectless were they and greedie, And all the way they passed to Clifton and from it they drove great store of Cattell*".
So, first the Roundheads plundered the Fylde, and then the Royalists did the same just days later.
Derby himself stayed at a house in Elswick *"whilst his companie plundered Mr William Swarbrick's books – a blemis and stain to his honour*".
Then, after a discouraging loss in Wakefield, Derby decided to leave for the Isle of Man. Tyldesley's Royalists quartered again in Kirkham, camped around the windmill, while Lord Derby went straight to Whitehaven, from where, on the 15th of June, he then embarked to go into exile on the Isle of Man. Tyldesley then took his men through Wrea Green and crossed the River Ribble at Warton.

The Birley Arms, Kellamergh: An alehouse, known from this year as the Red Heart and the Bleeding Heart, was on Bryning Lane at Kellamergh near Wrea Green. In 1841, it was in the hands of Edward Rawsthorne, and in the 19th century, it was renamed as the Birley Arms by its then-owners, the Birleys of Kirkham.
The Birley Arms was sold on the 16th of May 1869, when run by Mr Fairclough.
By the 1920s, it was run by John Mather, and sold Singleton's ales, being a common stop for day trips in char-à-bancs from surrounding towns. In 1934, the victualler of the pub was Isaac Scott. From 1939, it was run by the Bailey family, but by 1941, it was run by Edward Rawsthorne.
It was extensively rebuilt in 1970, having a central bar area, and a children's playground in the gardens. It was bought by Alan and Liz Jones in 1976, and the pub had a 15-bedroom extension constructed in 1988. This allowed them to take more paying guests and to expand their restaurant facilities.

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Elswick Lodge: is said to have been visited by Lord Derby's troops on their return from Lancaster, and several cannon balls from this year have been found at Grange Farm, by the earthworks whose remains can still be seen. While the Earl stayed at the Lodge, his men plundered and burned the village. Roundheads were also known to have camped at Elswick in April, after they had – under Colonel Assheton - routed the Royalists from there. They also viciously plundered the surrounding Fylde districts.

The lodge was rebuilt in the early 18th century, and was soon to become a simple, but ornate, farmhouse, and as Elswick Lodge Farmhouse, it is also a Grade 2 Listed Building. It is described as having "*Cobble walls raised in brick, now all rendered and painted white, slate roof with gable chimneys. Three bays and 2 storeys (later extension to rear); doorway at junction of 1st and 2nd bays, with light wooden porch; 3 segmental-headed -light windows on each floor, those above lower. Interior: unusual arrangement of staircase at centre of back wall, with 3 separate flights leading respectively to the 1st bay, the 3rd bay, and to the rear extension*".

Elswick Manor began to be built in 1780, and housed the Lord of the manor, Mr Rishton. It was finally finished in 1819, when its stable was built. Those stables have a castellated tower and walls. The Gatehouse cottage by the road has thick walls of cobblestones bound together with mud. The chapel bears the date 1819, and was built by Alderman King, who owned the Manor at that time.
It is now a Grade 2 Listed Building off Watery Gate Lane, and is described as a "*White painted stucco, slate roof hipped at right end. Rectangular plan with extensions at right end and rear. Two storeys; front to garden symmetrical except for 2-window extension at right end: central panelled door with semi-circular fanlight, light trellis porch; 3 windows to the left, 5 to the right, 9 at 1st floor, all 16-pane sashes with stone sills and splayed stone heads, those at the right end slightly smaller. Rear has round-headed stairlight, and numerous windows like those at the front. Attached at far-right end is later single-storey chapel with round-headed windows*". In 1961, the manor is listed as a "Presentation Convent", possibly run as retreat home for an order of Catholic nuns. Since 1982, it has been the home of property company Lancashire Homes.

Elswick Grange was built later about two miles to the Southwest by the Gillow family. It is now a farm, currently run by the Thistlethwaite family.

1644

In March, many hundreds of Fylde men fought for the Roundheads in their siege of Lathom House near Ormskirk. 3000 of them fought the 300 Royalists defenders. It was relieved in May, when Prince Rupert's army came north to assist Colonel Clifton's Royalists. The Roundheads under Colonel Rigby fled their siege of Lathom for Lancaster, stayed at Myerscough Lodge overnight, and then went to take Bolton instead. Rupert's Royalists attacked him there, and sacked the town on the 28th. Parliamentarian losses were over 1,500 to the Royalist's c400.
Richard Davie (or Davies) of Newton had raised a company from the Fylde for the Parliament's service, but was killed, along with most of his men, at the capture of Bolton.

After the storming of Bolton by the Royalists, many soldiers from the Fylde helped themselves to spoil. A writer describes it as *"yea some of the Souldiers of the fyld Country who had been abroad from home much of a Year brought Cloath from them to their wives and families which served them many yeares after"*.
The Royalists then left Bolton to sack Liverpool, led by Colonel Cuthbert Clifton's men from the Fylde. Before they left though, he had them provision themselves from Layton, Poulton, Kirkham, and Bispham – *"The Colonell for provision for his souldiers as alsoe for their lying made a prey of his own country, for he caused many pore mans stocke of sheep to be taken out of that Common belonging to Laton called the*

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Hoos, and also out of many mans house within Kirkham Poulton and Bisbam prishes their best bedding to be taken and carried thither".

Liverpool fell on the 13th of June, and garrisoned the city with the regiment of Fylde men under Clifton.

On the 8th of July, Prince Rupert's Royalists marched through the Fylde through Preston, to Cheshire. Amounderness subsequently filled with his men under Goring, Molyneux, and Tyldesley, and on the 10th of August, Sir John Meldrum was sent to clear them out.

On the 16th of August, Meldrum's Roundheads entered Preston. The Royalist troops fled the town and sheltered in the Fylde. The troops lodged in Kirkham, Poulton, and Lytham, sometimes sleeping up to 60 men per house. They stole all the horses they could find, and killed every sheep, pig, chicken, and goose for provisions. On the Sunday night, the alarm was sounded in the Fylde, and the Royalists fled again, to Freckleton on the 18th. Their commanders – Tyldesley, Molineux, and also Goring – stayed around Richard Harrison's house, feasting on provisions supplied by Westby of Mowbreck Hall, whilst the men camped on the marsh, along with many cattle that they had stolen.

The 2,700 Royalists were making regular use of the ford over the River Ribble – at Proud Bridge near to the Guide's House Inn. On the 17th, Parliamentary troops, commanded by Sir John Meldrum and Colonel Booth, routed them: *"On August 17th Goring joined the other royalists who were encamped about Lytham and Kirkham, plundering greatly; they now numbered about 2,700, nearly all cavalry. A rendezvous was appointed on Freckleton Marsh on Monday, August 18th; and on the same day Meldrum drew up his forces on Penwortham Moor, south of Preston, intending to attack them. But he seems to have been ignorant of the country. Intending to cross the Ribble below Preston, he found the passage impracticable on account of the tide; and having wasted much time he was forced to return to Preston and to march along the north bank of the Ribble by way of Greaves Town and Lea Hall. From the latter place, the royalists were discovered across Freckleton Marsh crossing the river some three miles away. Meldrum at once gave chase as fast as possible, the horsemen each taking up a musketeer behind him for greater speed; but when they reached the water the tide had again risen too high for them to cross, and they were only in time to send a parting shot or two after the royalists".*

Meldrum continued southwards, and during the winter, groups of his Parliamentarians would break from the siege of Lathom House, and cross into the Fylde for a spot of plundering. Liverpool fell on the 1st of November. Colonel Clifton was captured, and then imprisoned in Manchester, where he later died. Further evidence of local Royalist activity was found on the 28th of June 1961, when a hoard of 376 silver, and 7 gold coins, dating from 1550 to 1643, was dug up by Douglas Jeffery in his Beauclerk Gardens home at St Anne's.

1645

Prince Charles Edward landed in the Hebrides and marched southwards with an army. He passed through Preston, gathering many local Fylde folk to his cause, but when they reached Derby, they turned back. Passing back through Preston, the Fylde soldiers left and hid both themselves and their belongings.
At Kirkham, a great fuss was made about a local child with deformities. It was even discussed in Parliament: *"A DECLARATION of a strange and wonderfull MONSTER: Born in KIRKHAM parish in LANCASHIRE (The Childe of Mrs Haughton, a Popish Gentlewoman) the face of it upon the breast and without a head (after the mother had wished rather to bear a Childe without a head then a Roundhead) and had cursed the PARLIAMENT"*.

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1646

The first Civil War ended when King Charles I surrendered at Newark on the 5th of May.
There was a petition for "*settling a highway to Preston through the moss*".

1648

The second Civil War started, when the Scots invaded the North of England as a result of their earlier pact with Charles I. In return for the establishment of Presbyterianism in England for a period of three years, the Scots had promised to join forces with the English Royalists and restore the king to his throne.
Johan Blaeu's map this year shows the relative importance of the Fylde coast's towns and halls in the conflicts of the time. It shows, from north to south:

Hackensall Hall
Rosso Hall
Thornton Hall
Bispham in ye Fylde
Poton
Singleton (Hall)
Stanying Hall
Latun
Prece Hall
Weton (Hall)
Marton Mere
Plumton (Hall)
Marton Mosse
Westby Hall
Letham - and many other minor halls west of Preston.

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Singleton Hall: This is first seen marked on a map now, but was fully rebuilt from 1852 to 1855, by Thomas Miller of Preston as his family home. Singleton Hall Lodge was built nearby in 1860.

Between 1873 and 1874, Singleton Park (which is now known as Singleton Hall) was built anew for Miller and his wife, Belle - a Gothic styled mansion with a four-storey turreted tower. The gardens and parkland were designed by Edward Milner. Miller quit the original hall nearby. He also built a "model" village of gabled cottages and financed the building of the Miller Arms Inn.
The hall's icehouse, probably built in 1870s is now a Listed Building. Constructed in red brick, it is covered by earth mound, with the entrance exposed on north side. The entrance has steps between battered retaining walls, leading down to an outer door, which has a rectangular opening below a segmental brick arch, with a shallow brick arch above projecting forwards and spanning between the retaining walls.

The hall's gatehouse was South Lodge. The original gates, bearing the initials of Thomas Horrocks Miller still stand, and on their posts sit sculptures of "Demi Wolves", from the Miller coat of arms. The house itself has a stone sculpture of one of the family's pet dogs.

A famous Miller to live at Singleton Hall was Mrs Issette Miller. In April 1863, she instigated the Ladies' Golf Union. When she became its first secretary, organising a meeting in the April, to which 63 ladies' golf clubs sent representatives. She also announced that "*a new course in St Annes, Lancashire, had offered to host the first Open Ladies' Golf Tournament. The course was about a mile away from the present Royal Lytham. The competition ran from June 13 to 18, 1893 and 38 ladies took part. Issette herself competed and reached the final, playing against Lady Margaret Scott – who won the title"*. Whilst arranging that
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competition, Issette invented golf's first handicapping system. In 1931, she founded the Lancashire branch of the Veteran Ladies' Golfers Association at Royal Lytham. She became the Singleton estate's life tenant in 1916.

"In the late 1800's, the Miller family made Grange Farm into the estate's "home farm". Here they developed new methods of farming and bred pedigree cattle and sheep and the farm was fitted with the most up to date dairy. Courses were held there on butter making".

Across from the church a garden was laid out with roses and box hedges carved into different shapes, and the Millers family would walk through the garden on route to church. The area is now known as Puzzle Wood, but the garden has long since disappeared.
Issette's death passed the tenancy to Thomas Miller, the son of William Miller. When Thomas died in a Blackpool Nursing home in 1945, the tenancy passed to his mentally and physically handicapped son Thomas Humphrey Pitt Miller. As he was unable to function as the tenant, Singleton Park was sold at auction in 1946. The hall, and its 17,000 acres, was sold to Lancashire County Council with certain provisions, and from 1947 to 1952, it served as a Medical Branch and Special Services Branch Special School for physically handicapped boys.
It later housed the handicapped pupils from the Fylde College and from 1996, the Emmanuel Christian School.
In 2006, the hall was renovated and converted into 21 modern homes.

The first Battle of Preston took place on the 17th of August, involving many local soldiers on both sides on the conflict. It was won by the Parliamentarians, and when the Scots fled northward on the 19th of August, the war was effectively over.
A "*thievish regiment*" of Royalists, commanded by Colonel Goring, was quartered at Poulton, Kirkham and nearby villages, stealing and pillaging the whole area clean of food and valuables. They had been defeated by Cromwell's army at Ribble Bridge and *"They fled downward into the Fyld country, and in great feare as was thought parted themselves into sundry roads or waies. For more expedition, some took up a way by the Lund Chapell through Treales and up to Eswicke and soe homeward. Others of them went through Kirkham and were going through it all that night, and soe to Thistleton whether over Wyre watter or by St Michael's was not certain"*.

1649
The "Interregnum" (between rules) of the Civil War began when King Charles I was beheaded on the 30th of January and Cromwell's Parliament took control.
The people of Marton wrote to the Church Commissioners to beg to be removed from Poulton Parish and attached to *"Laiton, Raikes and Blackpoole"*, because the appalling state of the local roads prevented them from getting to church at Poulton.

1650s
During this decade, records show that an Ellen Ratis *"sold ale from her home, which was on the road connecting the townships of Kirkham and Goosnargh"*.

1650
Bispham Endowed School: The first school was built this year, to serve both Layton and Bispham - on the site of the present Bispham Roundabout. Richard Higginson of London endowed it after his death in 1659, and the schoolmaster's salary was paid for by the rent from two of his London inns (The Black Bull and the Golden Lion).

©

Previously, Bispham had seen a few teachers, who appear to have taught either in their own homes, or those of the pupils. A Mr Bamber, and a William Lytham were two.

Richard Higginson had been baptised on the 1st of April 1603, "*at Bispham Parish Church. He left Bispham and went to live in London, where he made a fortune and became a City Alderman. When he died in 1659, he left an annual sum of £30 to be applied as £20 for a schoolmaster and £10 for 'an usher' for the children of Bispham*".

In about 1701, the now-disused Independent Chapel was completely taken over by the trustees for use as a school until a new building, housing up to 60 pupils, went up in 1800. The second school was a thatched building and had just one classroom. It measured 30 feet by 15 and taught between 35 and 70 children - the numbers varied according to the amount of farm work they had to do instead. This stood almost exactly where Montgomery School now stands – almost opposite where Higginson's house was.

The next, and third Bispham school, was built on the corner Tiddicar Lane (today's Cavendish Road) and Red Bank Road in 1878. The 20 infants and 40 juniors and seniors had been temporarily housed in the Temperance Hall since the school building was abandoned in 1873 due to an irreparable leaky roof.
The new school had *"two classrooms, with desks, blackboards, other fittings, and a gravel playground"*, and pupils sat 3 to a desk, wrote on slates, and the rooms were illuminated by *"hissing gas lamps"*. Each classroom also had a coal fire, which *"only kept the teacher warm"*.
The school was connected to the main sewers in 1913 and was extended in 1918.

Its school motto is "*Shun not the Struggle*" and its internal houses are Mars, Saturn, Venus, and Jupiter.
In 1944, the School Dining Centre was opened at Bispham Clinic. It later moved to St Bernadette's, then to Westcliffe, and finally to the Bispham Church Hall.

In 1956, the school was adopted by the Church of England, and on the 18th of June 1963, the foundation stone for the new Bispham Endowed Church of England School was laid by the Bishop of Blackburn.
During construction, *"half of the first and second year were in the Church Hall and the Shippon at Bispham Parish Church"*.

On the 9th of June 1964, the fourth version of the school was officially opened as a junior school on Bispham Road by the Lord Bishop of Blackburn, Reverend Charles Claxton. The 286 pupils had been transferred to the new premises on the 13th of April. The new building could house 320 children in 8 classes.
The school gained primary status and opened its doors to infant pupils for the first time in September 2002 - as Bispham Endowed Church of England Primary School.
In January 2003, a purpose-built nursery was added.

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1651
On the 7th of August, Charles Stuart was proclaimed King in Penrith. Then, on the 13th of August, Prince Charles stayed at Myerscough Lodge, before going south. He had landed in Scotland in June 1950, and had marched south with an army of 16,000 men.

On the 15th of August, the Earl of Derby, with Sir Thomas Tyldesley as his major-general, returned from exile in the Isle of Man, with 300 Manxmen and 60 horses in 7 ships. He anchored in the Wyre off Preesall and, from small boats, his men landed at "*either the Warren or at Skippool*". There, he re-provisioned, and then marched south via Cartford ford, camped, and set up his headquarters between Weeton and
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Kirkham, and then marched across the Ribble ford to join Prince Charles at Northwich on the 17th. After he had left the Wyre banks, his ships and their crews were captured by local militia: "*Some of the Commissioners of the Militia collected a few soldiers, and surprised the crews of Derby's ships at Preesall, took them prisoners and seized the ships. The prisoners were taken first to Preston*".

The gentry of the district were still mainly Royalists, and a local army of about 600 men was raised (although musters at Singleton and Kirkham on the 25th of August were not held), to fight on the side of Prince Charles. Sir Thomas Tyldesley of Mains Hall commanded this army, with a son of the Rigbys of Layton Hall as his second in command, and Alexander Rigby as his Cornet. Captain Singleton of Staining Hall and Captain Bamber of the Moor (between Carleton and Bispham) were involved. They clashed with the Parliamentarians in the Battle of Wigan Lane on the 25th of August, where *"Colonel Robert Lilburne, one of the parliament's officers, advanced against them with some well-trained troops and brought them to an engagement"*. Sir Thomas was killed and the army defeated. In 1679, a monument to Thomas Tyldesley was erected near to the site of the battle. *"The Catholic Thomas Tyldesley was probably the most gallant and courageous cavalier that Lancashire produced in the Civil War"*.

The Roundheads despatched a small fleet from Liverpool, to get to "*Wyrewater"* to intercept any of the Royalist frigates that may be used to carry Lord Derby to safety in France. Two of the frigates had run aground by Preesall, and the flight of the Royalist was halted.

Lord Derby hid in Wigan and eventually met Prince Charles in Worcester, and they were resoundingly defeated at the Battle of Worcester on the 3rd of September. After the battle, the defeated Lord Derby was caught near Nantwich, and imprisoned at Chester, before being beheaded at Bolton on the 15th of October. Prince Charles fled to France, and the Civil Wars were over. He returned in 1650 and was eventually declared to be King Charles II.

Tarnicar Hall: This was owned by Ralph Longworth in this year's lists.
The old Tarnacar Hall (or St Michael's Hall) was a *"many-gabled old-fashioned looking house*", with numerous small rooms.
It was pulled down in about 1840, having stood about a hundred yards from the present Tarnacre House. The stone gateposts are all that is left of the original hall.

The name Tarnicar means "Cranes' field" and comes from *"Trani"* (Old Norse) for a crane, and "akr" (Old Norse) for a plot of arable land.

The spirit of "the old major" (Ralph Longworth) was said to frequently pay visits to St Michael's Hall. Eventually, a priest and a parson exorcised him, and condemned his ghost to rest as *"long as the ivy is green and the river runs down from the hills"*. A slight hollow place near the hall is supposed to be the place where the *"spirit was laid"*.

1652

Five salt cotes are recorded to the south of the River Wyre at Poulton.
After George Fox's "vision" on Pendle Hill in May, his followers brought Quakerism to the Fylde, when the Moon family settled at Eaves, near Woodplumpton. Sadly, for the Quakers, they were usually persecuted by the Protestant forces of law and order the same as Catholics. In 1667, a petition to the King lists the following Quakers in Thornton: Henry Holden, William Hall, James Bickerstaff, and John Bickerstaff.

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1653

Robert Anyon of "Meer End" in Bispham, died. His house's name confirms the extent of the flooding in the area at the time. This mere had dried out again by Victorian times.

1654

Kirkham Market Cross and Fish Stones: Kirkham is listed as having a market cross in its town square this year, which was apparently replaced in 1818. The cross was repaired in 1778, but probably replaced by an obelisk in 1817. That obelisk may have preceded the current ornamental gas standard.

Surrounding the cross were the fish stones, first mentioned in 1683, and repaired in 1748.
New ones were erected in 1771 and 1772, probably on wooden uprights and they were again renewed, with the present stones, in 1829, after being carved by Thomas Catterall. They were used to display fresh local Fleetwood and Ribble fish for sale, due to their constant cold nature.
They are circular in plan, stand 2 feet off the ground, and are 15 feet in diameter.
In 1978, it was ruled that the fish stones and any rents there from belong to the Lord of the Manor. From the 1960s onwards, local man Edward Sargeant claimed for many years that he owned those rights, and he styled himself the Lord of the Manor, much to the annoyance of the "powers that be".
In 1728, the gas lamp was erected in the centre of the fish stones at Kirkham. It was removed on the 27th of April 1954 but replaced in 1977.

In Kirkham, the people pulled down the Carr Lane Bridge *"for carts and left only a small foot bridge due to the decay of the bridge. In 1696, it was decreed that the overseer of the highways, at the towns cost, should sufficiently enlarge the bridge and forever repair it"*. It had been variously known as Carr Bridge and Rushy Bridge. The bridge was completely replaced in 1854.

1655

Fox Hall / Foxhall, Blackpool: As Layton Hawes was now drying out, Edward Tyldesley expected to get it as a reward from the King and began enclosing the land. In place of an original cottage, he built a thatched farm at the south end of the sea front, near Foxhole Meadow, calling it Fox Hall. It was a fairly small, three-gabled house with a tower at one side, and its thick walls were constructed of sea cobbles. It had four or five rooms on each storey, together with a chapel in one wing. Tyldesley regularly entertained the gentry of the district, even organising horseracing, foxhunts, and hare coursing on the Hawes. The only access was from the north, as the west was guarded by the sea, Marton Moss the east, and Spen Dyke the south.

The name Fox Hall is thought to originate from the Old English "*fosse*" - meaning a ditch, and "*hol*" - meaning a hollow.

The Tyldesley crest was carved over the south gateway. Consisting of a pelican feeding her young, it had the motto "*Tahtum valet amor Regis et patriciae*" – meaning "The love of king and country are worth so much". He kept a fox kennelled at the Hall, but it is not clear if it was named after the animal or the meadow. There was a secret chamber in the Hall, which went by the name of the "*King's cupboard*" and was made for James II during the supposed plots of 1690 and 1694. The nearby village grew, as people saw the money to be made from supplying and serving those at the hall.

Over the main entrance in 1660, Edward Tyldesley inscribed the Fox Hall legend "*Seris factura nepotibus*" which means, "As you sow so shall your children reap" – the motto of the Knights of the Royal Oak, an

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order set up in honour of Tyldesley by the king. In 1676 Fox Hall reverted to being a simple farmhouse, and in 1717, Agatha Tyldesley registered her estate, which declared the Fox Hall a Freehold dwelling house.

Fox Hall may have been used to conceal persecuted priests in 1715, and it was believed that the Pretender stayed there, to lay plans to land an army on the coast of Lancashire. This did not happen. In 1745, Fox Hall was "allegedly" fitted out by Thomas Tyldesley as a hideout for Prince Charles Edward, son of the Pretender, but again was never used for that purpose. Tyldesley was a natural rebel and even had a schooner specially built for the smuggling of contraband from the Isle of Man.

From Tyldesley's diary: *"We get the first authentic evidence of the cultivation of the potato in the Fylde".*

1712, Oct. 8. Paid 2d. pro pottetows.
6. Gave is. 5d. to bye eges, ffish, pottetowse.
1713, Sep. ig Gave Mrs. 6d. to bye pottetows.
1714, April 10. 2s pro pottetow setts to Hugh Walsh.
May 15. Gave Mrs is. 10d. to pay ffor pottatows, fish, etc".

Tradesmen and artisans rapidly took up residence around the hall, and this was the start of the small village, which eventually grew into the centre of Blackpool. The hall was infamous however, as "*a private rendezvous for Popish Recusants*", but its Catholic chapel was converted by Mr Riley into another lodging house in 1816 – he also owned the Yorkshire House nearby.

Fox Hall was taken over in 1838 by George Caton, who opened it as the Foxhall Beershop, complete with gardens and a bowling green. By 1847, Richard Caton had christened the beershop the Vauxhall Inn, but this was based upon an error, made when historian Charles Leigh had wrongly called it Vaux Hall.

By 1864, James Slater was living at Foxhall. He extended it in 1868 and transformed it into a lodging house (John Wignall occupied the farm), and later built an adjoining house facing west. The two houses soon became a licensed hotel and lodging house. In 1885, it was bought by Tom Lockwood who built a house on the western side, and converted the buildings into one place, with a singing and dancing hall. He later sold it to Seed's Breweries, who turned it into the Foxhall Hotel. The boundary wall of the (now renamed) Foxhall Inn collapsed in a "hurricane" in 1877. The old chapel from the hall was by this time a cheese chamber.

The hotel still had that name in 1964, when it was sold to Catterall and Swarbrick's Brewery, but was soon renamed as simply The Foxhall by them. The pub was still a simple 2-storey building with no frills.
The pub had many reports of ghostly sighting over the years.

The original Foxhall Hotel was demolished in December 1990, and in July 1991, the rebuilt premises of today were opened, becoming Reflex nightclub on the ground floor with the New Foxhall on the first floor.

Now called just The Foxhall again, its address is 193 -197 The Promenade, and it is owned by the Stonegate Pub Company.

Marton's residents petitioned the Quarter Sessions in October, for the right to build a bridge across the outlet from Marton Mere. Even using horses, they were unable to get their produce to market in Preston in winter.
Richard Fleetwood had a great expense, which "*had also been incurred by the rebuilding of Layton windmill, and "building up the seabank*".

©

1656
There is a record of a religious roadside cross, known as "Ley Crosse" near to the Knowl.

Fluke Hall, Pilling: Records show that the hall, known then as Lune Bank, existed near Pilling this year.

Lune Bank was fully rebuilt in the 19th century, and from June 1878, it became formally known as Fluke Hall, after the awarding to the incumbent Gardner family of their own coat of arms. The Gardners were rich wine and spirit merchants with premises on Dale Street in Liverpool and held a moiety (a half-share) of the manor of Pilling. The original hall had its own cottages, stables, pleasure grounds, boating lake, and gardens. In 1869, Richard Gardner donated a new organ to Pilling Church. The family was also responsible for the rebuilding of Pilling Dyke.

The property was sold by the Gardner family to the Elletson family in July 1916 and is now the Fluke Hall Nursing Home.

Above the main entrance door is a stone depiction of 5 fish – a fluke is a type of fish.

1657
Margaret Butler ran the water mill at Great Marton.

1658
Bispham-with-Norbreck was under the constableship of John Broadbelt.
There are records of disbursements paid to a constable in Westby-with-Plumpton.

1659
Richard Higginson's widow granted £200 for the purchase of land for Bispham School on the 21st of July.

1660
A shipwreck off Fluke Hall resulted in survivors carrying the plague into the house of the Dickonson family. Charles Stuart finally landed at Dover on the 29th of May, his 30th birthday. He was received in London to public acclaim and was finally proclaimed to be King Charles II. All legal documents were dated as if he had succeeded his father as king in 1649. England and the Fylde area were at peace for some years.

The Stork Inn, Conder Green: was built on what is now Corricks Lane. With its original oak-beamed interior, it was originally a coaching inn, and was later called the Duke of Hamilton's Arms and the Cocks – its infamous for its cockfighting shows. The pub was gutted by fire on the 28th of January 2020.

1661
Woodplumpton School: Alice Nicolson of Bartle gave £100 by deed for the maintenance of a free school in Woodplumpton in January. The land was given by Charles Birley of Bartle Hall. There had been a small school in the village since 1587.
A new school was built in 1817, being described as a *"single storeyed thatched cottage, with small, probably original, windows, modern doors, and chimneys. The walls are cemented over and whitewashed on the east side. Over the front door is inscribed 'R.T., I.W., W.H., R.H., Trustees 1817"*. It was somewhat rebuilt in 1863 and continued in use until 1870. Then known as Woodplumpton Church of England School, it was built in the Gothic style and was extended in 1966, to provide 3 more classrooms, a hall, a kitchen, and staff facilities.

©

The school was sold in 1874, when it was replaced by a new school on land given by George Ormerod. Woodplumpton School changed from a senior school to a primary school in 1953, and was greatly extended in 1963 to have an extra 3 classrooms and staff amenities. The school was also, confusingly, known as Catforth Free School.

1662

The inventory of John Whitside this year, is the earliest known probate record to mention Blackpool as a place-name.

1664

Lower House, Freckleton: was described in sale documents as a *"mansion house"*, and had a large kitchen, a brewhouse, orchards, many outbuildings, and half of the hemp yard. Owned by the Sharples family, it was 42 acres in size. Before 1573, Lower House had been owned by the Earl of Derby, but in that year, he had leased it to John Colebrand. In 1719, Lower House and its 60 acres of land were sold for £1,375 to the Trustees of John Hornby's Charity School at Newton. They then let it to John Grimbaldeston, who rebuilt most of the house in 1726. The Grimbaldestons farmed 60 acres, and by 1779, John Threlfall was shown as having 30 acres of corn fields there.
1816 sees Thomas Fair leasing the house from the Newton Charity. Not long afterwards, the house was being shown as Lower House farm.
The farm's land is now over 200 acres in size, and a pedigree herd of Friesian cattle has been raised there since 1966, now numbering 400 animals.

Moor Hall, Newton: The Wall family were living at Moor Hall in Newton. This is now Moor Hall Farm.

Official figures state that *"there were only 30 houses in Hambleton, 40 in both Weeton and Newton-with Scales, 42 in Great Eccleston, and 59 in Pilling"*.

1666

The Earl of Derby bought the tithes etc. of the Manor of Bispham and the farm of Methop.

Woodplumpton School: Alive Nicholson had left money for the establishment of a school in Woodplumpton, and it was opened in this year. The date is above the main door, together with her initials. Part of the building was used to house the schoolmaster. In 1824, there were 60 children. It was closed in 1870 and sold to George Ormerod. The proceeds helped towards the building of Catforth School in 1874.

1667

Whittingham Hall: There is record of a dispute over the ownership of Whittingham Hall, between the 3 sons of Thomas Whittingham. The *"mansion house"* was finally given to the eldest son and appears to have been about 40 years old at the time. Its moat was filled up in 1865 - the hall became a farmhouse.
It is a Grade 2 Listed Building and comprises: *"Roughcast handmade brick on stone plinth, slate roof. Three bays with projecting porch-cum-turret in centre, 2 small turrets at rear, various additions to left end and rear. Two storeys; wide 2-storey gabled porch has modern glazed and panelled door offset to right, inner porch with wide Tudor-arched inner doorway of oak, the lintel with an apex nick continued as an incised cross"*.

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The building now houses the Crystal Hall Residential and Nursing Home, which specialises in younger patients with mental problems and brain conditions. The exterior now boasts Japanese ornamental garden, an aviary, a sensory garden, and enclosed courtyards.

1669

A foot messenger service was advertised, travelling between Poulton and Kirkham twice a week.
This year's Episcopal Returns show three distinct theological groups in Kirkham: Catholics had 5 meeting places, Quakers had 1, and *"Phanaticks"* met in 4 places, including Goosnargh.
A row of cottages was built as Makinson Row, on Church Lane in Whittingham to house handloom weavers.

1670

Charles Earl of Derby procured a charter for a weekly market at Weeton, and a fair for *"cattle, cloth, and small wares"* used to be held on the Tuesday after Trinity Sunday.
Prospect Farm was built at Skippool by the Barton family. Thomas Barton went on to have a keen interest in the shipping trade from the port.
The "Bread Money" charity was started in Kirkham on the 5th of April.

1672

Wharles: The name Wharles is first seen spelled this way. Since being spelled *Parles* in a charter in 1225, the village had been known as that. *Parles* means "mounds standing in a circle". Other previous spellings include *"Quarlous"*, *"Wherlows"*, *"Warlawes"*, and *"Wharlas"*, and the name is thought to be derived from the Old English *"hwerfel"* – a circle, and *"hlaw"* – a mound.
The mound in question is likely to be a burial tumulus, as Strangers Hill outside the village is reputed to be the burial site of any deceased visitors, whose religions were unknown.

1673

Knowsley Farmhouse on Kirkham Road in Weeton was constructed. It is said to have been built for Thomas Bottiler and remains one of the Fylde's last thatched buildings. The area's largely mossy ground supplied a plentiful number of reeds, which were used for thatching roofs.
A Manor Court began to be held *"annually at Treales or Trayles the day before the court at Weeton"*. The manor, or estate, of Treales had become the property of the Earls of Derby. It was sold to the Church Commissioners in 1955, and then to various other bodies until it was broken up in the early 1990s.

1674

Stalmine School: The first mention of Stalming Scoole is seen.
In 1871, Stalmine Public Elementary School was opened on Mill Street, for up to 200 pupils.
Now known as Stalmine Primary School, on Mill Lane, it was extended in 1964 and again in 2005.

Ward's House, Salwick: near Salwick Hall was the seat of the Clifton family, and although the house cannot be dated exactly, it is known that James Clifton moved there in this year on his return from America. Several branches of the family became Jesuits, and during the 17th and 18th Centuries, they said mass at Ward's House until a chapel was built at Lea in 1801. The chapel is said to have been in the wood to the north east of the house, but no trace of it can be found.

The house today is "*a gabled two-storey farmhouse of brick, plastered and whitewashed. It was L-shaped in plan originally and faced south. A modern addition has been built on the north side. All features are*

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modern except for stone hood moulds over the windows which are of a late debased style". It has its own bridge across the adjacent canal, built in 1797.

1675

Poolfoot Cottage and Oulder Nook Cottage were built at Thornton, on the corner of 39 Crabtree Road and Meadow Lane, as two separate cottages. The two were later converted into a single dwelling, which was later known as Parr's cottage, after Granny Parr, its longest inhabitant. The single cottage has cobble walls, now rendered and whitewashed, with a slate roof. It is in a single storey with five bays. Meadow Lane became Parr Lane, then Parish Lane, and finally Meadows Avenue - renamed after the Reverend Thomas Meadows of the nearby church. Meadow Lane was the site of the original Thornton village stocks.

The Bush Inn, Freckleton: A Richard Hall is shown as being "of the Pool House belonging to Freckleton", and in 1723, Richard Browne was running an alehouse there, known as the Pool House; Pool House Lane, then Guides Lane, next to be Guides House Lane, then Pool Lane, and today Bush Lane, were all named after the house, which stood at an early Ribble ford.

Yate's map of 1786 shows a building called the Guides House by the Naze at Freckleton, as does the OS map of 1842, although when Robert Hall died in 1829, his will lists his *"Public house and called Pool House"*, in the hands of licensee Robert Breckell. This was the building which, by 1860, was being referred to as the Bush Inn. It was rebuilt at Freckleton Ford in 1802, and had 2 beds and 2 stables, with dining space for 70 people.
By 1861, the inn was in the hands of the Cross family, who, by 1871, are described as both innkeepers and farmers. The last of the family, Jane Cross, ceased trading in 1910, and the old inn became a farm in its own right, being worked by the Sudell family until the late 1940s.
When the US air base closed in the 1940s, the farm's trade had almost dwindled out of existence. Eventually, it was bought by the British Aircraft Corporation in 1974 and demolished to make room for more factory space.

1676

The Pickerings hotel, Catterall: A cottage known as "The Pickerings" was built in Catterall village about now. It was connected to Catterall Works, and from 1711, was owned by Richard Curwen, of Poulton. On his death, his family sold it in 1795 to merchants, who re-built it in the shape we see today. William Myers and Henry Fielding were in the business of calico printing in Catterall, and their company, Wilson, Myers, and Fielding ran their mill by the confluence of the rivers Calder and Wyre just outside the village. The calico works collapsed in 1831.

On an 1818 map, it is shown as "Pickerigg" – probably just misspelled.
By the 1846, the building had become known as "Catterall Cottages" and was sold in 1853, to William Boys, who added the façade we see now.
The mansion was passed on in 1895, to the Reverend G Boys Stones, the vicar of St Thomas, in Garstang, (nearby Stones Lane is named after this gentleman). Then, in 1897, it was bought by James Butler, a wealthy Preston corn merchant.

It was then used as a private residence continuously until 1978, when it was sold and transformed into The Pickerings Country House Hotel. It was set in 1.75 acres of land and had 12 ensuite bedrooms.
By then called the Pickering Park Country House Hotel, it closed on the 2nd of January 2013, and the grand building was demolished in December 2014.

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The Pickerings estate, which will replace the house, will be a luxury self-contained development of a small number of three, four, and five bedroomed detached homes, built by Baxter Homes Ltd.

1677

There are records of the Little Marton Manorial Court's proceedings for this year.

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It is thought that the thatched cottage next to the Eagle and Child at Weeton was built this year. It was a popular outlet for the sale of parched peas in later years, until it closed in 1975. The shop was run for almost 40 years by Mary Smith - a well-known local poet who was known for writing in old Lancashire dialect. The site of the shop is now covered by the extended car park. Opposite still stands the triangular village green, where the Annual Weeton Fair was held.

Alexander Rigby of Layton Hall was made High Sheriff of Lancashire. He also served in 1678 and 1691.

1679

A bone-house was constructed at Kirkham Parish Church.

Greenhalgh School was endowed by Henry Colbourne. The new school was built in 1904.

1680

John Bonny died at Oxendale, a farm that stood above Warbreck Gynn - a path in a small valley, down to the sea from the hill. The stream beside the path was later culverted under the Gynn Gardens, and the farm became known as Gynn Farm. The small inlet at the Gynn was often used as a sheltered anchorage for passing vessels.

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Church Farm was built about now on Commonside (the main road to Blackpool) at Heyhouses. It is now number 23 and is a Listed Building. For centuries, Commonside was home to many small cruck-built cottages, owned by local fishermen, and thatched with local straw from the moss. Many were also built by the Clifton Estate to house their own workers. The majority of those cottages were demolished from 1948, to be replaced by bungalows.

St Hilda's School, Carleton: was built, and was the first school in Poulton-le-Fylde.

The school was rebuilt and opened on the 20th of January 1880, being rebuilt again in 1904.

The present building was completed on Bispham Road in 1967 and has seven classrooms. It is now called Carleton St Hilda's Church of England School, and has 200 pupils. To the north-west of the main school are the 5 buildings of the Carleton Pre-school nursery, which was built in 2009.

On the 2nd of November 2018, a new entrance and reception area, library, and computer building were officially opened for use.

1682

Clifton School: was founded with funds from the will of John Dickson. In 1837, Clifton National School was constructed in its stead. In 1887, the school was once more re-built, using money donated by Lady Eleanor Clifton, and could then cater for 97 pupils under schoolmaster Augustus Lanham.

In 1933, the school stopped being used as a day school as pupils were transferred to the Newton Blue Coat School. Clifton School continued in use as a Sunday school until 1950, and then became the venue for local scouts and guides.

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1684

Breck House, Mary MacArthur Home, and The Manor in Poulton: Breck House is shown on a map, at the bottom of Breck Road in Poulton, owned by a Mr Pattison, but by the 1880s, a Benjamin Sykes was shown as living there. This house was known locally as The Breck. The house built next door was called Holly Bank, and by 1938, this had become the Seafield convalescent home.

In 1895, Benjamin Sykes built The Manor on Alexandra off Moorland Road and moved there from Breck House. That house became a country retreat for Blackpool people, offering ornamental gardens and teas, together with a *"magnificent collection of art treasures"*. When it closed, it had various functions, including becoming the training school for Rediffusion TV engineers from the 2nd of August 1952. The Manor was declared a Listed Building on the 16th of August 1983. It is now the 40-bedroom Alexandra Nursing Home.

A Mary MacArthur Holiday Home for *"working women"* was opened for use in 1945, by Clement Atlee, the then Prime Minister, on the site of Breck House and Seafield at 105 Breck Road. The home was run from the beginning by Miss Laura Taylor. After being extended, the home was re-opened in March 1948, by Ms Margaret Bondfield, an ex-Minister of Labour.
On the 28th of November 1958, the home was visited by the Princess Royal.

In 1980, the home was sold and closed, and the proceeds were used in 1991, to set up the Mary MacArthur Holiday Trust.

The home was demolished in 1998, to be replaced by a gated housing estate of 24 flats, built on a new road called Chandlers Ford. The public baths and a small golf course were built on the site of the Holiday Home's gardens in 1974.

Customs and Excise at Poulton: There are records of the collection of Customs duties at Poulton from 1633. The Customs Port of Poulton is first mentioned in 1671, when officers would work from Chester – sometimes assisted by horsed Dragoons, but only in 1685, is there written evidence of officers actually stationed there.

By 1680, there were three places in the Port of Poulton where goods could legally be landed from ships. These were at Mains Brow, James Road in Higham Poole (by Arms Hill), and on the Ribble, between "the Stakes" and "Harrison's Pool". Ships would usually be boarded by the Customs Tide Waiters as soon as they entered Wyre Water. These Customs officers used the King's Boat, moored at the Sea Dyke in Knott End, and would check all cargo and charge any duty. The ship would then tie up at one of the 3 Legal Quays for unloading – supervised by the Customs land Water, who used a set of King's Weights and Scales (stored in the Custom House until 1771, when they were taken to Wardleys).

Note: James Road was not a street, but a *"sheltered piece of water, near the shore where vessels can anchor up in safety"*. James Road Quay was accessed only by a rough cart track.

In 1684, "*Christopher J'ans (one of the surveyors in the Isle of Man) to be established as surveyor in Lancaster port at 40l. per an. salary, and to keep a horse and to survey Poulton port, and another boatman and tidesman to be nominated: all as proposed by abovesaid Kirby in his survey of Lancaster port and by Jno. Foster, collector there*".

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The earliest record of a Customs presence in Poulton is in the Revenues office on Back Street in the Minute Book of August the 15th 1685, where there is an item on "*Charles Foster, late Collector of Poulton*". A Collector of Customs was a post, which existed from 1275, until the 1st of December 2005, as was a Surveyor. Customs were taxes payable on imports and exports, whereas Excise duties were payable on alcohol and tobacco.

In 1699, there is note of *"Augustine Hierdson, gent, collector of the port of Poulton"*, and in January 1703, Mr Fulthorpe, and Exciseman, was buried at St Chad's Church.

In 1708, Poulton Custom House was opened in the Market Place, with Collector William Jennings and eight Officers – a sign of the increasing importance of the port to local trade and to the exchequer. The officers had been based in the town for some years previously, working from Sheaf Street, and living at Bunker's Hill. In 1711, the Collector of Customs at Poulton was Thomas Nosworthy, whose annual tobacco duty return for that year was £86, and for silk and linen, £35. His subordinate officers were known as coastwaiters, landwaiters, subwaiters, tidesmen, searchers, and watchers.

Customs staff in 1715 were: Poulton Creek – 1 x Collector, 1 x Waiter/searcher, 1 x Land Waiter; Ribble Water – 1 x Waiter; Lytham – 1 x Waiter/Searcher; and Blackpoole – 1 x Riding Officer.

There are better records of the area's Customs officers by 1734:

> *In February Charles Gosnell, land waiter and coast waiter of Poulton was promoted to surveyor, waiter, and searcher at Preston and Poulton instead of Thomas Feston, deceased; Lawrence Dewhurst, waiter and searcher at Lytham and Poulton port, was to succeed Gosnell at Poulton, and; Thomas Greenhalgh was to succeed Dewhurst at Lytham.*

On the 25th of July 1735, the Deputy Collector of Customs at Poulton reported the seizure of 7 gallons of brandy from the ship "Poulton Merchant", under the captaincy of James Goad, master. By 1744, Poulton was the Customs headquarters of the full section of the Lancashire coastline between Liverpool and Lancaster, and Poulton also had an additional three legal landing points at Bucks Bank at Oxhey, Skippool, and Wardleys.

In 1771, there were 4 Customs officers from Poulton stationed at the mouth of the river. Prior to Fleetwood being built, they worked from a Customs Watch House at Knott End, to pilot ships to Wardleys for checking and unloading.

In 1825, the chief Customs Officer at Poulton was Robert Valiant, who lived and worked at the Custom House. By 1836, it was Stephen Burridge, who was Collector of Customs. Those Customs duties were set that year at:

"To be paid by all masters of vessels entering or using the harbour of Wyre, are as follows: -

> *For every vessel employed in the Foreign Trade.....3d. per ton*
> *For every vessel employed in the Scotch or Irish Trade.....1d. per ton*
> *For every vessel employed in the Coasting Trade.....1/2d. per ton*

Which dues to be paid to Stephen Burridge Esq. of the Custom House, Poulton".

By this date, the Customs presence in the Fylde was under the direction of Preston, where a Collector and a Comptroller were served by revenue officers based at both Poulton and Lytham.

The King's Boat was replaced in the mid-18th century for one fast enough to catch the nippy Isle of Man boats.

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Poulton Custom House was closed soon after 1838, when the new one at Fleetwood opened, although in 1839, Officer James Crumblehulme was still working there. On the 27th of January that year, he ordered an account of salvage at Lytham. Number 2a Market Place is the old Custom House and is currently a mortgage advisor's office.

1686

Ivy Cottage at Bispham: The Tinkler family rebuilt a cottage in Bispham, which became the Ivy Cottage. The original cottage was cruck-built and had just a single entrance to its front. It had four rooms, a main room, and a kitchen – linked by two back-to-back fireplaces, a buttery, and a small parlour. A plaster panel was discovered inside prior to full demolition, dated 1686.

By the mid-1920s, the Handy family had opened the cottage as the Ivy Cottage Tearooms. The cottage had extensive ornamental gardens behind it, to the west of All Hallow's Lane, which were an added attraction to customers. The cottage was *"a café with gardens to the rear but it was later developed into a hotel, a thriving bakery, a draper's shop, as well as a small holding that had a small bird breeding farm (budgerigars and canaries) but still retained the original cottage"*.
Its owners were the Graham family. It was run for them by N Pilling for many years, and finally by the Dawsons. The building was compulsorily purchased by the Council and demolished in November 1958. The Council intended to build a roundabout in its place, but their plans changed and a run of shops was constructed instead.

Opposite the cottage later, was the Bispham police station. This had been the local Council offices in the early 1900s, and the town mortuary was behind this building – only used for 5 bodies during 1913.

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Great Eccleston Independent Catholic mission: It is likely that this fledgling mission was set up now, in a thatched house in the Raikes, with William Caton as its first priest. There is however, no firm record of its existence until 1701 when the Caton was again in occupation, after being trained and ordained in Rome. In 1872, an ordinary thatched building was there, being used by a farmer as an outhouse.

The Roman Catholic chapel of St Laurence was built on Barrows Lane (now Hall Lane) in 1760. That simple structure, with Gothic detail, was enlarged and survives as part of the primary school, which was first built in 1780, and served as a temporary chapel until the current church was built.

The present Roman Catholic Church of Our Lady and its Presbytery were built in 1835, dedicated to St Mary. It was opened on the 26th of July. A gallery was added and opened on the 17th of October 1847.
It is a late example of the galleried non-conformist plan, originally seating 356.
A superb Sicilian marble altar was given to the church in 1899, by the Phipps family, in memory of her late mother – the last of the local Leckonby family.
The building is an "*oblong box under a hipped slate roof, with an attached contemporary presbytery to the east, and is much altered externally. However, the interior retains much of the early character. Belonging to the original build are the Ionic half-columns and entablature framing the east Sanctuary wall, the round-arched doorways on either side (one leading to the presbytery and the other to a confessional), the west gallery (retaining some of its original seating), the large plaster ceiling rose, the perimeter dado panelling, and possibly the font. The plaster of the walls is lined out to resemble ashlar blocks"*.

Reverend James Sharples, the last prelate to die as an English vicar apostolic, is buried at St Mary's". He died on the 11th of August 1850, just before *"Universalis Ecclesiae"*, of the 29th of September that year, by
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which Pope Pius IX recreated the Roman Catholic diocesan hierarchy in England. Sharples was one of two Lancashire adjutors upon whom the powers of the Pope had previously been bestowed.

The Wrangway Bridge at Wesham stood a little west of the present railway station, where the original Poulton road formerly crossed the brook. The bridge is mentioned in the bailiff's book this year. It was widened in or about 1854, at the joint expense of the Local Board of Health. The Wrangway Brook is now conveyed in a culvert from a point some 350 metres to the east of the site of the bridge. No traces of the bridge remain. The name "Wrangway", as one may suppose, means "wrongway".
Moon's Farm at Woodplumpton was rebuilt in brick.

1687

Henry Warbreck bequeathed to Bispham School *"…the closes known as the two Tormer Carrs, the two New Heys, the Great Hey, the Pasture, the Boon Low Side, the little field and 35 falls of ground on the west of the Meadow Shoot Close, amounting to about 14 acres and situated in Layton*". In other contemporary papers, Boon Low Side is referred to as Boonleigh – later known as Boonley. Boonley may have been named after Boon Lane (behind our Laycock Gate), and today's Boothley Road is a reminder of its past. Before 1893, St Joseph's Road was called Boon Ley Street, which had led to the Boonley (or Booth Ley) field.
Bispham Smithy was on Church Road, opposite Ivy Cottage.

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Preesall and Pilling Schools: There had been a schoolmaster in Pilling since 1604, and a school since 1675. There are now four primary schools in the immediate area – two in Preesall and two in Pilling.

Fleetwood's Charity School: In 1687 Richard Fleetwood endowed a school house for Preesall, with an annuity of £13 6S 8d, *"for which the children of parishioners are taught to read"*. Fleetwood's Charity Church of England Primary School was duly built at Preesall Hill in 1695. It was repaired by Peter Bourne, in 1828. The schoolhouse was let to James Bisbrown for 20 years at an annual rent of £1 10s, and it was eventually sold to the Garstang and Knott-End Railway Company who demolished it and utilized the material from it in the construction of the Railway Line.
A new school was erected between 1869 and 1873, by James Bourne, on an adjacent plot on Mill Street in Preesall. It was known as the Preesall Fleetwood's Charity School. Builder William Drummond of Fleetwood erected it for £375. The foundation stone of the first school is set into the wall of the second. Drummond also built an infants' classroom for £487 in 1894, and by 1901, the school had 107 pupils. Locals know the school as the Preesall High School because of its position on Preesall Hill.

Carter's Charity School: In his will of the 31st of January 1710, Robert Carter of Preesall bequeathed money for the building of a school at Pilling. Following Carter's death, his trustees purchased a freehold estate being a messuage and tenement of some five acres, and a field called Higginson's Field of two acres.
The new school was opened on the 15th of June 1716. Known as the Free Grammar School, it stood on the site of the current Golden Ball Hotel, just to the north-east of the modern-day school. It was constructed from peat and stone walls, with a clay floor and a thatched roof. The school burnt down in 1814, and a new school, measuring 30 feet long by 21 feet wide, and 10 feet high, was built on the site of the current school in 1815.
In 1843, its name was changed to Pilling Parochial School, and the 110 children paid 1 penny per week to attend school, and were known as Carter's Scholars. For this fee they received tuition in reading, writing and arithmetic. A new school was built in 1856, at a cost of £1,300, partly on the site of the original, and partly on the land formerly used as a playground and garden. *"The southern end comprised the master's house, which today is rented out for residential purposes. There were approximately 100 children in attendance, but with most returning to agricultural work during the summer months. By 1885 the*
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attendance had grown to 227. The classrooms had galleries to accommodate the large numbers of pupils in the school, and in 1893 an infant classroom was added to the existing building. *"In 1904 the owner of the adjacent Golden Ball Hotel gave land to the rear of the school for a boy's playground"*.
In 1959, another building was erected, containing a large hall with kitchen facilities. 1996 saw an extension and modification of the existing school, which provided a linking corridor, new toilets, including disabled facilities, and a new infant classroom. The school is now called Carter's Charity Primary School, and stands on Pilling Lane in Preesall.

Pilling St. John's Primary C of E School stands at the junction of Fluke Hall Lane and School Lane, Ladies hill, Pilling. In 1985, the school was extensively modernised. Its outside toilets were demolished, a new adult kitchen was built, the infant classroom was enlarged, and a new entrance hall was constructed. The entrance included a library and science and display areas.

St William's Catholic Primary School was built in 1891, on Garstang Road in Pilling. The school was extended in 1963 and 1973. School Houses are Saint Andrew, Saint George, Saint Patrick and Saint David.

The stream supplying Hackensall with water originally started from the "Fair Well" on Preesall Hill.

Preesall Hill: is known to be man-made, but nobody knows exactly how, when, or with what it was constructed. Thornber, of course, had an explanation: *"I have heard Capt. Parkinson describe it as being formed of large Mocks of red sandstone, brought either from Cockersand Abbey or Furness. No passenger could have crossed it without being struck with admiration, on the first view of Presal's abrupt eminence. The vulgar tell us, that the fairy queen had once a residence within its bowels, from whence she issued with her train through the gates of her palace an overflowing well of clear water"*.

1688
Saltcote Bridge at Hambleton appears to have been built, as this date is carved into a remnant of the original bridge. Hambleton once had a thriving salt industry.

1689
The house of Matthew Hoole (Hull) of Marton was licensed for Presbyterian worship.

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A barn in Hardhorn was licensed as a meeting-place for Presbyterians.
There was a Quaker meetinghouse in Great Singleton.

Freckleton Quakers: Although Quakers had been active in the village in 1675, it was only now that Lawrence Coulborne's house at Freckleton was certified as a Quaker meeting house. Lawrence later married Ellin Freckilton, who was a descendant of the founding de Freckleton family.
After one of the meetings in 1676, Edward Rigby of Preston issued a "Warrant of Distress" against the attendees, promising to *"Root the Quakers out of the Hundred"*.
In 1691, the homes of James Sharples and William Blackleach were also licensed for such activities, as was that of James hall in 1709.

By 1725, they had outgrown Colbourne's, and were meeting at Marsh Farm. There, at Great Croft, a small brick meeting house was built. In 1835, they opened a new meetinghouse at Folds Farm. It was pulled down in 1870, Joseph Jesper, and a new meetinghouse was built on School Lane, which opened and registered as a Place of Meeting for Religious Worship in 1871.
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In 1904, that building was bought by William Hodgson, who immediately donated it to Freckleton. It soon became the focus of village activities. By then called the Hodgson Institute (and on Preston New Road), it was knocked down in 1974, to be replaced by the Memorial Hall in September 1977.

Also, in 1725, a Quaker burial ground was opened in a field called Twill Furlong on Lower Lane. The land, called "Twill Furlong" had been given to them by John Brown. There are no headstones, as Quakers plant trees instead, and the last person buried there was William Cowburn, who died in 1811, aged 98. Just one memorial stone was erected, in 1890, to the memory of Joseph and Sarah Jesper – this still stands. The place is now known as Quakers Wood.
In 1796, the Quakers funded the opening of a "Penny School" at Brade's Farm. This lasted until 1885.

The Lancashire Plot: On the 13th of June, Edmund Threlfall of Goosnargh and a Jacobite "fixer" called John Lunt landed below Cockerham, from the Lyon of Lancaster, a long shallow boat (known as a "pink") owned by one Charles Clawson. They had brought from Ireland some commissions from King James II France, which were both to confirm the support of several Fylde rebels, and to allow them to raise an army to support James. When the two set off, two Customs Officers found a few discarded commissions and pursued the two men.
Threlfall had taken with him a *"hair portmanteau"* (carrier bag), which contained most of the commissions, and these were divided as they hid at the Tyldesley's Myerscough Lodge. There, when the Customs Officers came searching, Father Johnson, the priest of the lodge hid them in a "priest hole" - when Beatrice Tyldesley ran to warn the priest, she said later that *"Two persons were in the room at the time with Father Johnson. On returning he pushed back a sliding door in the oak wainscot, and disclosed a deep recess, into which these persons quickly stepped, and the panel was restored to its original position"*.
Mr Hornby, the hall keeper, locked the Customs men in the chapel and stole the bags holding the commissions. These were given to the two fugitives, and after he had refreshed himself Threlfall departed, and made his way to Yorkshire and Durham, soon delivering the four bags of commissions. Lunt was taken to Lady Tyldesley at Ince Blundell. Local troops and militia were arresting anyone sympathetic to King James in case of an invasion from Ireland.

According to Lunt, Threlfall headed for Yorkshire, and Lunt went to Croxteth. There he delivered commissions to Lord Molyneux, Sir William Gerard, Sir Rowland Stanley, Sir Thomas Clifton, William Blundell, Thomas Tyldesley and several other prominent persons, who all drank a health to King James on their knees.

Sir Thomas Clifton was arrested on suspicion of being a recusant but acquitted.

Lunt was imprisoned at Lancaster in August 1690. He was tried in 1691, but was acquitted, as the papers found at Cockerham had not been marked as seen by the customs officers.
Threlfall was caught at his home at Ashes Farmhouse, near Goosnargh (Grade 2 Listed Building) on the 20th of August 1690, and died after being run through with a sabre when trying to escape. A decorative feature on farm's main doorway may be a posthumous representation of Threlfall.

Eventually, on the 16th of July 1694, the eight Lancashire gentlemen were arrested based on "evidence" supplied by Lunt. Clifton was again captured at Wrea Green on the 17th of July, and lodged at Kirkham, being taken on the next day to his own house at Lytham, then by Wigan to Chester Castle. Afterwards he was kept in the Tower of London until the trial at Manchester. Fortunately, although they were all arrested, and soon tried in Manchester, the Fylde gentry and their men were acquitted and allowed to

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return home. The "evidence" submitted by Lunt and his cronies was false. They were arrested and imprisoned.

There certainly were plans to kill King William, but Lunt fabricated his, and chose to accuse the wrong gentlemen. In due course, many Fylde men, under Edward Tyldesley, Gabriel Hesketh, and George Clifton, then rallied at Preston with other Jacobites in support of King James. With the Scots, they intended to fight the Duke of Marlborough and the King's army, but their plans collapsed, and the rebellion failed without getting started. William of Orange landed in Devon, and James II fled to France. Parliament responded by declaring the throne vacant, and William and Mary were declared joint monarchs.

1690

The Bill of Rights and the Toleration Act were passed, and peace reigned at last.
The first of the town's influential families to settle in Kirkham was the Langton family. This year, Cornelius Langton, a woollen draper from Preston, was admitted to the freedom of the borough by paying 30 shillings to the town corporation. *"After his death in 1712, his eldest son John carried on his business and became associated with William Shepherd whose family had for some time lived in Ribby-with-Wrea"*. By 1746, the families had united formally to become Langton Shepherd and Company.

1691

Sir Alexander Rigby of Layton Hall became High Sheriff of Lancashire.

Carleton Windmill: The date of the mill's construction is unknown, but this year, at Poulton, a baptism was recorded, with the baby from Dick's Mill.
When the mill was sold in August 1846, it was described as a "*wind corn brick mill*". It was a brick-built tower mill.
The sails of Dick's Mill were blown off in a storm in 1886. Its steam engine had stopped controlling the sails and they broke into the mill building. The mill was then demolished.
The cottages of Dick's Terrace took its place, built with bricks reused from the mill, and there is a stone plaque in the wall of one, marked "Dick's Mill Terrace, 1890". Opposite those cottages stands Thornton Villas, which served as the village smithy.
The site of the windmill is now filled by number 74 Poulton Road.

Higher House at Freckleton was described as comprising of *"the Larder, the Red Chamber, the Hole, the Cannamie Chamber, the entrie, the garding chamber, the passidge chamber, the Blue Chamber, the Knod Chamber, the Little Chamber, the pastery and Milkhouse, the servants chamber, Mrs Sharples Chamber, and the Kitchen"*.

1692

Thomas Wilkins built Damstid Cottage near Spen Dyke, at the corner of Vicarage Lane and Waterloo Road and leased it to his daughter, Mary Cooban. In 1842, it was sold, along with its shippons, outbuildings, gardens, and a close of meadow land, by William Wilkinson and Betty Wolf. From 1909, it housed a Post Office. The name Damstid appears to come from the nearby mill dam.
Edward Tyldesley, of Layton Hall, became Sheriff of Lancashire.

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Alexander Rigby built a town house for himself in the Market Square at Poulton. In 1835, Butler's butchers and grocers' shop was opened next door on the corner of the Square. In 1881, the Rigby house became a branch of the Lancaster Banking Company (opening hours 10 to 3), and in 1916, the two buildings were
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joined, to expand the Lancaster Bank's premises. The District Bank took over in 1931, and rebuilt the bank, which later became a branch of the NatWest Bank. The bank closed in 2018.
Raikes Farm was built at Thornton, replacing an older building dating from at least 1595, when deaths are recorded at the address. The right gable has a sandstone tablet with the lettering *"B T S 1692"*. The farmhouse still has some original rush ceilings and stands on Fleetwood Road north Thornton-Cleveleys between Marsh Mill and corner of Waring Drive.

Clifton Windmill: was held by John Stirzaker. The nearby Salwick Mill was owned by L Johnson and was gone by 1786.

In 1785, the 6-storey Clifton Windmill we see today was built by Ralph Slater. The mill building is a circular brick tower of 5 storeys and a basement. The tower tapers to a height of about 50 feet. *"The wooden cap is of the typical North-Western style, shaped like an inverted boat and turning on blocks or rollers resting on a curb at the top of the tower"*. It "*had four sails with separate patent and sprint sail systems on each sail, rotating anti-clockwise. Winding by fan on cap driving to curb, two spur wheels with overdrift drive to five pairs of stones. The structure is complete but no gear survives below the wind shaft".*

In 1914, the Preston Guardian reported that *"A curiously-shaped wood fish, a few years ago, was fixed close to the fan sail, as a, kind of weather vane for the guidance of the miller"*. At that time, it had been run by the Compton family for over 50 years.

Clifton Windmill – also known as Lund Mill - stopped working in 1923, and was finally converted into a pub/restaurant called The Windmill by Mitchells Brewery in 1974. This was replaced by another restaurant from January to July 1977, and it is now simply a pub – The Windmill Tavern, on Clifton Lane.

1693

Wrea Green School: The village school was founded this year, with endowments from James Thistleton and Nicholas Sharples. The Thistleton-Sharples Trust had been formed recently, and money was added from Queen Anne's Bounty and by Christ Church College, Oxford. Additionally, a local landowner, Mrs Bradkirk, donated money to provide shoes for the little scholars, some of whom had to walk miles to the school. That first Ribby-with-Wrea Endowed Church of England School was built on the site of today's church and makes the school one of the UK's oldest junior schools. Originally, the village chapel was part of the school building.

The school was rebuilt in 1721, and the school chapel was consecrated on the 20th of June 1755, by the Bishop of Chester. The curate at the time was also the schoolmaster. The school only took boys until 1780. When a separate building was built to house girls in 1818, the girls' school and schoolhouse were rebuilt on the site of the original school, next to the boys' school.

In 1847, the boys' school and its land were donated for the building of a new church. In return, the church built a new boys' school next door to the girls' school – both sexes were now educated on the same site although with a dividing wall. This is the site of today's school. The schoolmaster originally lived at the school, but in 1835, two cottages were bought on Ribby Road – one was knocked down and the other, Dowry House, was enlarged to house the schoolmaster (it is now shops).
By 1864, it was known as the Ribby-with-Wrea Free School. An infants' school was opened next to the girls' school in 1890.

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The first brick of the school of today was laid on the 31st of August 1894, by the village vicar, R Stoney at Dubside, facing the Green. Children of both sexes had been taught together from the 18th of April, until the school was finished. It had been built at a cost of £1,400, from a design by Garlick and Sykes of Preston, by Fielding's builders of Blackpool. The schoolhouse was constructed at the same time, attached to the school.

In 1907, Wrea Green Boys' School was moved, wholesale, several yards to the north.

In 1950, the Ribby-with-Wrea Endowed Church of England School opened, taking the place of both the Charity Schools, and in 1958, the school had a new school hall and kitchen built. A classroom was added in 1966, and another in 1972, along with a new kitchen, so that by 1986, the school consisted of *"ten rooms, of which 4 are everyday classrooms. There are also - a hall, library, music room, staffroom, head teacher's office and entrance hall"*.

The school uniform has been as follows for many years: for girls, a navy-blue dress, white blouse, and school tie: for boys, grey trousers, grey shirt, and school tie.
The school is now known as Ribby with Wrea Endowed Church of England Primary School, and famous ex-pupils include James Berry – The Bradford Executioner, and **ME**.

1694

On the 17th of July 17, *"Sir Thomas (Clifton) was arrested at Wrea Green by one of the King's messengers and guarded by Dutch troopers was carried to his own place, Lytham Hall, for the night. He was then sent to the Tower of London on a trumped-up charge of high treason, and finally sent down to Manchester to be tried for his life, with a number of other Catholic gentlemen. The trial took place in the following October"*. Although he was acquitted, he soon died, possibly due to the stress.

Hemp and flax, ropes and cloth in Kirkham: The population of Kirkham was 405 by now, and almost the whole town's burgesses grew flax and hemp to produce linen, rope, and coarse cloth. Both flax and hemp had been grown on the Fylde Plain since the Middle Ages. *"Small quantities were grown locally and tithe flax and hemp were granted to the Kirkham vicars. In many of the seventeenth-century wills there are items of flax which was evidently retted (soaked) in ponds and ditches for at the Kirkham Court Leet of 1611 it was agreed that 'None shall lay no hemp nor flax in no pit or ditch without leave on payne of 3/4d"*. By 1590, the local burgesses were also having it imported from Russia into Skippool. From 1712, the government began to give a bounty to producers of sailcloth for export, and Kirkham's men of money saw a new way to make money.

1695

Little Poulton Hall: The new hall was rebuilt next to the old hall, which had been in existence in some form since before 1550 and was the home of George Hesketh at this time. The original house lies behind the current one, and until the 19th century, the foundations could still be seen.

Little Poulton Hall was rebuilt again in 1750, and by 1876, it was a farmhouse owning 326 acres of land and owned by John Fitzherbert-Brockholes. It stood on the northern side of Little Poulton Lane. The house itself was demolished and rebuilt possibly in the early 20th century, but of the adjacent farmstead, only the remains of combination barn still stand.

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Abbotside Cottage was built on Little Poulton Lane. Mill Farm nearby has the date '1695' in a new name plate, and west of it stands a house with mullioned windows and hood moulds that has a reset datestone also, of '1695' set into a porch. This is now 20 Little Poulton Lane.
Pool Foot Cottage was built on Crabtree Road in Thornton. It is now a Grade 2 Listed Building, and the Listing reads: *"Pair of cottages, probably C18 or earlier, now bungalow. Cobble walls, rendered and whitewashed, formerly thatched, and now covered with slate roof. 5 single-cell bays, 2 axial chimney stacks. Single storey. Modern entrance porch to 2nd bay, French windows to 4th bay; rectangular window with glazing bars and 12 panes in 3rd bay, another in 5th bay with small 2-light sliding sash window beyond it; large inserted rectangular bay windows in 2nd and 4th bays. Deep eaves, boxed with boards. Interior: original roof structure exposed in 3rd bay and visible in loft over 4th bay: raised trusses supported on cross walls, halved at the ridge, with purlins of large scantling, roughly hewn; common rafters from ridge to purlin, and from purlin to outer walls; thatch said to be in situ over 2nd and 3rd bays"*.

1696

Wesham Hall, Wesham Grange, and Medlar Hall: Richard Fleetwood of Rossall held Wesham Hall and the demesne lands.

"Historically the village of Wesham is reputed to have come to the Hospitallers of St. John of Jerusalem by the gift of Cicely, daughter of Roger de Gernet. The Lancasters subsequently gave it to the Abbey of Cockersand. On the dissolution of monasteries, the land seems to have been granted or sold to the family of Westby. In the reign of Philip and Mary, William Westbye held "Medlarghe," "Wessham," and other property in the area, and his descendants long continued to reside at what was Mowbreck Hall".

In the 1800s, Wesham Hall and Wesham Grange stood opposite each other just down Mowbreck Lane, to the west – a wooden beam from Wesham Hall was later dated to 1680.
Wesham Hall was purchased by Lord Stanley from Edward Dawes and others in 1871. By 1902 it had become Wesham Hall Farm and was tenanted by Thomas Seed, and in 1934, Wesham Hall was occupied by Mrs Mary Stafford. Thomas Butterworth was farmer there until 1947.

Wesham Grange is an old building, and "*The abbot and brethren of Cockersand Abbey became possessed of this township at an early date, and retained it until the dissolution of the monastaries"*. The grange was a smaller house, built in 1700, and inhabited in 1933, by the Blacoe family.

Medlar Hall was an even smaller house on Medlar Lane in the locality. In 1890, it was farmed by John Whitehead - a world-renowned Shire Horse Breeder and exporter. The farmhouse itself was described in 1986 as *"a very large house, high with large windows, about 150 years old, built of handmade bricks with a slate roof and high brick chimneys"*.

It is currently farmed by the Fryars family, under the trading name of David Fryars and Sons.

The names Medlar and Wesham have ancient origins. Medlar means "Middle shieling", from *"middel"* (Old English) for middle, and *"erg"* (Old Norse) for a shieling or hill-pasture. Wesham means "At the west houses", from *"west"* (Old English) for western, and "hūs" (Old English) for a house.

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1697

Carleton Schools: Carleton Free School opened "*in a building on the waste*" with £14 9s and 4d, granted by Elizabeth Wilson of Whiteholme in 1680. The grant also reserved the right to hold Carleton's Manorial Court in the schoolhouse.
The school was rebuilt in 1836, and again in 1839, funded by a further grant by Margaret Bickerstaffe. That small pebble-built building had 2 rooms, each with two shuttered windows, and a projecting porch. It was condemned in 1899.
A new school with extensions was built in red brick in 1902. The new building was right next to the original school buildings, which were demolished in 1970. Today, numbers 1 and 1A Blackpool Old Road occupy the site of the old main schoolhouse.

Carleton Church of England School was opened further down Bispham Road on the 8th of March 1875 with 54 pupils. In 1919, by then called Carleton Church Endowed School it was compulsorily purchased by Blackpool Council ready for demolition but was kept open – complete with faults and outside toilets. On the 5th of September 1932, the senior pupils transferred to the newly opened Hodgson Senior School, and the school continued as just a Junior and Infant school.
The present school was constructed and opened in 1967, slightly further down Bispham Road, and is today known as Carleton St Hilda's CE Primary School. It has 7 classrooms and extensive grounds, being capable of taking up to 200 pupils.

The Hamilton Arms, Cabus: Old Hollings was the venue for the Cabus Courts Leet at Cabus. By then called the Old Holly Inn, it was re-built in the mid-18th century, as the Hamilton Arms hotel, and had the coat of arms of the Duke of Hamilton and Brandon emblazoned above its entrance porch. The duke was killed in a duel in 1712, but his widow often hosted ploughing contests and grand dinners at the place.
The hotel was re-fashioned in 1920, and again in 1953, by the owners, Nuttall's Brewery, and was turned into an Italian restaurant in 1996. It changed its name to Quattros in August 1998.

1698

Quakers set up a monthly Fylde meeting, separating themselves from their Lancaster circuit.
Thornton's inhabitants were officially warned that they must improve their sluices, maintain the King's Highway in a proper state, and prevent flooding from the sea.
Fancy Lodge cottage was built on the western side of Heyhouses Lane. In 1939, it was turned into an electricity substation, lasting for 7 years. It was then demolished to be replaced by a bungalow, which was in turn knocked down to make room for a block of flats. The cottage had been reported to be haunted by a woman in white for many years.

1699

The census mentions that a John Cowburn (or Cowban) was responsible for "*scouringe the water course betwixt the meare and the sea commonly called Spendike*".

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Chapter 8: 18th century

Many Fylde villages grew into towns in their own right, and in particular, the town of Blackpool finally began to develop from the collection of isolated huts, farms, and public houses, which stretched from the village around the Foxhall up to the cluster of buildings at Lane's End. People started to realise the benefits of clean sea air and the possibilities attached to entertainment and tourism. Despite interruptions by the Jacobite Rebellion, the town began to grow and prosper.

There were two thriving ports in the Fylde - one on either bank of the River Wyre. On the south side was Skippool and on the north side, Wardleys in Hambleton. Hambleton itself also had a thriving port for several years. During the century, this was an important trading facility for Poulton. Ships were made at Skippool for Peter the Great of Russia, mahogany and flax (for Kirkham's mills) came from Baltic ports to unload – up to seven at a time – at Wardleys.

Slavery: In the shipping publications Williamson's, and after 1763, in Gore's Liverpool Advertiser, there are some references to *"the colonial and slave trade of Chester, Preston, and Poulton-le-Fylde, and frequent mention of that of Lancaster"* (Glasson).

It is likely that the twin ports of Skippool and Wardleys were the first landing points of slave ships bound for Preston from Africa. Indeed, the Lloyd's List issues of the 21st of November 1749, show that on the 8th of December, Master John Goad, undertook a voyage from Poulton to Dublin and back on the "William and Nancy". Mr Goad was later discovered to have been a prolific slave trader.
There was a total of 5 arrivals in Poulton, direct from Barbados between 1747 and 1752, but none can be proven to carry slaves. Teasingly, there is an item listed in the Liverpool University archive which refers to "*ii) Lancaster, Preston, Poulton, etc. slaver ships*".
Also, Lloyd's List has details of slave ships from *"Preston and Poulton, both in the customs port of Poulton"*, which show 3 ships making 5 "triangular" (Britain to Africa, to American colonies, and back to Britain) slaving voyages between 1753 and 1757.
On the 17th of September 1753, the "Martha and Betty" set off from Poulton under its Master Thomas Dickson, to Sierra Leone, then to Barbados with 65 slaves, returning to Lancaster. The ship made the same trip on the 10th of September 1755, under John Bradley. The "Hothersall" sailed on the 19th of September 1753 under John Barrow via Africa to Jamaica, with 150 slaves, and back to Lancaster. She repeated the trip on the 10th of September 1755, with 135 slaves, but returned to Poulton.

"*the Hothersall is described in the Jamaica colonial naval officers' lists as owned by John Birley and Co. There were two Poulton vessels named Betty and Martha, and the first one was described in the Barbados naval officers' lists as owned by Langton, Shepherd and Co. and it seems likely the second one was similarly owned. Though not amalgamated in one partnership as linen manufacturers until 1766, the two Kirkham firms were co-owners of three Poulton vessels after 1747, so the summary descriptions in the naval officers' lists may well conceal similar co-ownership in the Hothersall and the Betty and Martha as slavers. Certainly, this seems to be suggested by the applications for passes for the two vessels almost simultaneously on 17 and 19 December 1753, and simultaneously on 10 September 1755".* The Kirkham mill owners have no further slaving voyages recorded to them from Poulton, although they did maintain links in Liverpool. All trade from Poulton to the West Indies had ended by 1780.

Lancaster was definitely a slave port in the early 1700s, and the grave of a slave on Sunderland Point – Sambo's Grave – is but a few miles from the Wyre coast, so their presence here is more than likely.

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On the 25th of June 1756, *"there was advertised for sale at Preston the good snow or vessel called the Blossom, Samuel Gawith commander, burthen 100 tons more or less, built at Preston, and has been one voyage only (on the coast of Africa), a very strong and tight vessel of proper dimensions and every way compleat for the Slave Trade. . . . The vessel and her materials may be viewed ... at Lytham in the River Ribble where she now lies"*.

Note: The word slave comes from the Slavic peoples that were enslaved by the Vikings

Press gangs also frequented these local ports, grabbing men to crew the country's growing navy, and coastal trade fetched farm produce to and from Liverpool, Lancaster, and Cumbria. The later rise of Glasson Dock and Fleetwood ended Poulton's importance as a port and affected its ability to supply the growing town of Blackpool with food and other goods. Smugglers loved the small, quiet Fylde and Wyre ports, and prostitutes used to ply their trade at Skippool, being known locally as "*ambleton ookers*".

Blowing Sands Cottage was built sometime in this period, and the seashore may well have reached right to it at the time. The cottage still stands at number 166 Common Edge Road, at the junction with Squires Gate Lane (then called Folds Lane) and is a Grade 2 Listed Building. It still has sections of original sea cobble stone walling. A general store was next door for some time from the late 19th century to the late-1960s, when it was owned By F Proctor.

I have provided a full listing of the area's Listed Buildings at Appendix I.

Lancashire was the world's first industrial society -the place where anything and everything was made, and where coal was mined. The Industrial Revolution began here, with labour-saving, locally-invented devices such as the Hargreaves' Spinning Jenny and the Arkwright Water Frame changing the cotton industry forever. The factories grew incessantly and with them, the need for somewhere for the workers to have a break and some fun. Blackpool had found a ready market for its services.

In previous centuries, Fylde farmers had mainly grown oats as the staple grain, but in the next two centuries, wheat became far more prevalent. Oats had been more suited to the marshier soils of the Fylde, with wheat preferring better drainage. More sophisticated farming methods in the next century, however, enabled wheat to be grown with great success. The Fylde was still the granary of Lancashire, but could now cope with the needs of the rapidly-growing population.

The staple food of the Fylde was beans and rye bread, with potatoes being reserved for the more affluent people. Common treats – especially on Easter Sunday - were *jannocks* (oatmeal loaves, introduced by Flemish refugees), *cobs* (bread rolls), *pikelins* (a kind of crumpet/muffin), *haggis* (a common English dish of offal and oatmeal in a sheep's stomach, first seen in c1430), *browis* (broth), and hot cockles. A more widespread local delicacy was the *throdkin*. This was a tart, made of oatmeal and bits of bacon lard, which was a speciality of Woodplumpton, Catforth, Treales, Roseacre, and Wharles. In Blackpool, in its early days – the 1830s - they mixed those savoury ingredients with currants and served it as a cake.

There were also many Fylde customs, such as "*pace-egging"* at Easter, where the waifs would simply walk into any house on the Moss and start mumming. The children would then go around to be given hens' eggs and small change. In the deeper regions of the Fylde, pace egging was carried out by groups of mummers known as *"Toss Pots"* who would collect the Pace Eggs (or Peace Eggs) and give them to the oldest member, known as *"Old Toss Pot"*.

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Candlemas, Shrove Tuesday, and Booning Day were also celebrated in style. Shrove Tuesday – or Pancake Day – in particular was celebrated widely, with the bells of St Chad's Church in Poulton pealing at 11 o'clock in the morning to announce the start of festivities. These included cock fighting, and bear or bull baiting. The day before Shrove Tuesday was Collop Monday, when collops (made of minced meat and then fried in a pan) were eaten, as the last meat before Lent.
Booning Day originated from the Old Norse word *"bon"* – meaning prayer or petition. The word quickly came to be associated with the granting of a favour. In the manorial system, boons were services owed by tenants to the lord of the manor. Such services were a condition of their tenure of the land, and they could take the form of unpaid labour, carriage, or gifts. By the 17th century, the meaning had reversed, and the boons were freely given BY the lords to their tenants.

On All Soul's Day – the 2nd of November – Marton children would travel from cottage to cottage reciting the psalms in exchange for cakes. This was known as "*Psalm-caking*" – known as "*Soul-caking*" elsewhere in Lancashire. By 1851, the cakes had changed to money. Christmas Eve was known as *"Flesh Day",* as the local folk would pour into Poulton to buy beef and other supplies. Christmas breakfast traditionally consisted of black pudding and jannocks.

There was a particular local rite for Fylde funerals. The deceased would be taken *"From the door of his former home, and into, and out of, the church. The corpse was carried on the shoulders of four of his relatives — his nearest kinsman, the chief mourner, walking in front with the clergyman. At the close of the ceremony, after the sprigs of box or rosemary had been deposited on the coffin, each person also adding a sprinkling of dust, the rough voice of the parish clerk was heard grating harshly in that solemn moment, inviting "the bidden" to show further their respect to the deceased by partaking of a dinner provided at the village inn"*. It was also expected that the local "well-to-dos" would be buried by candlelight.

Walkers Hill Farm, Marton: was built on Marton Moss. It is now a Grade 2 Listed Building.
The Listing states: *"Cobbles with some brick; roofs originally thatched, now corrugated iron (over house). Slate and corrugated asbestos over barn/shippon attached (but of different build, possibly c.18). House, 2 storeys, regular 2-window range with door to left; all windows with Yorkshire sashes. Rear with 2 ground-floor windows. Barn with large wagon doors and door to shippon; rear projects beyond line of house. The shippon roof is partially collapsed. Interior: remarkably intact fittings and plan. Flag floor; 2 shallow-chamfered ceiling beams with original joists; brick baffle (or heck) partition. Slightly lower iron fire surround with decorative panels and paterae; Victorian range (by Hallmark and Gill of Blackpool). Winder stair to rear. Service rooms divided by axial partition; simple sunken panel doors with strap hinges throughout. The first floor retains its early low partitions, planked, the doors with strap hinges. Roof: side purlins and ridge piece. The house is divided by a full height division. A rare survival of a C18 Fylde cobble-built farmhouse (the only one surviving in Blackpool District)"*.
It stands off Midgeland Road, behind Marton Methodist Church.

1700
Otters were spotted entering the waters of Marton Mere from a stream, and there were tales of a mermaid from the Irish Sea, coming through Spen Dyke. She would sit on a rock in the middle of the mere and sing as the sun rose every morning.
Thomas Fleetwood procured a charter allowing three fairs to be held at Marton Mere – on the 23rd and 24th of April, the 22nd and 23rd of June, and the 27th and 28th of September each year.
Accounts are held for the repair of Blackpool Bridge in Layton-with-Warbreck. This bridge was re-built in 1854, and was over Spen Dyke at today's Manchester Square. In 1855, Spen Dyke was described as *"now a*

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main dyke to give to the Fylde district a continuous supply of water". Its water discharged through an iron culvert into the sea.
There are accounts of "Factory Houses" at Layton at this time (probably loom shops), which seem to have been attempts to introduce cloth manufacturing to the area.

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Doctor Charles Leigh of Singleton Grange wrote:

> *"The most remarkable cold spring in these parts is that at Larbreck. Upon immersing your hand into it, the part immediately grows extremely red and you will then perceive a most violent pain. Fishes of several sorts I have seen put into this spring, which make but one effort and instantly expire. It is an acidula or chalybeate water".*

Leigh lived in Singleton for most of his life, and the above quote is from his book *"The natural history of Lancashire, Cheshire, and the Peak in Derbyshire: with an account of the ... antiquities in those parts"*, which was published this year.
Bell Farm, on Bradshaw Lane in Pilling, was built about now. It is now "*trading as a bed and breakfast establishment. To the rear is Ridgy Pool which in ancient times was a tidal creek, where possibly Norse settlers sailed along to settle further inland, such as Eagland Hill, Eskham, which all have Norse origins. Bell Farm is in the small hamlet of Scronkey which means a crooked stream"*.

1701
White House Cottage was built at Lower Ballam. Ballam was first mentioned in the 12th century, when it was called *Balholme*. This name came from Irish-Saxon words meaning "ball shaped hillock in a marsh". Balholme was sometimes spelled without the final "e".

Walton Hall, Kirkham: This long-forgotten grand house had been in use alongside Wrangway Brook for many years by now.
It had been demolished by 1850, and in a survey in 1957, it was stated that *"Though the site is known, no structural remains are visible in what is now a pasture field"*.
Its site is now covered by a factory, currently owned by Kepak Convenience Foods Ltd.

1702
The "Employment", a ship belonging to the Quaker trader William Stout of Lancaster, was captured, and held to ransom by a French Man-of-war. She was eventually wrecked at Red Bank in August. Her cargo of sugar was stored in Squire Fleetwood's barn at Rossall, and her cotton wool stored in Bispham Church.
Skippool Bridge was repaired, with funds levied from local people by the high constables of Amounderness. The site of the bridge is now covered by a roundabout on Amounderness Way.

1703
A copy of a grant was found of Singleton Grange from King John, which bore the date of the 28th of July 1703.

Cockerham Windmill: was built about now. There had been mills of various sorts on the site since 1400.
The windmill burnt to the ground on the 10th of February 1802, when its sails were turned so fast by the strong wind, that they caused friction in the grinding machinery, setting fire to the mill structure. Two adjacent cottages were also destroyed.
A second mill was constructed on the same site in 1849, but the same thing happened again in 1865. On the ruins of the drying kiln could be seen the inscription *"F.G.S 1703"*.
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A third mill was built shortly afterwards. Nothing remains of the mills now, but Mill Lane stands there in commemoration.

1704
Robert Gillow was born at Gillow's Farm in Singleton on the 2nd of August. He was apprenticed to a Lancaster joiner in 1721, and went on to found the Gillow furniture company in Lancaster in 1728. The farm stood directly to the east of the Miller Arms, and was demolished in the 1950s.
1705
The Normoss estate comprised *"(i) Bisbrowne's tenement (ii) messuage and closes called Lower Hey, the Meadow adjoining, and the Nusance (iii) messuage and closes called Croft, Kiln Yard, Rough Hey, Star Field, Long Croft, Norbreck, the Meadow, the Flat, Calf Hey, New Hey or Smithy Field and the Piece (iv) 2 bays of the building called the Old House with moiety of garden and court and closes called Marled Hey, Great Gouldings Hey and Little Gouldings*".

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Meg Shelton: Tales of the Fylde Witch, Meg Shelton (actually called Margery Hilton), centre on Singleton Mill, its miller, and the local vicar.

Often called Mag Shelton, she was born in the hamlet of Cottam, near Woodplumpton, and later lived at Catforth, and then at a cottage called Cuckoo Hall on the footpath from Wesham, from where she milked her neighbours' cows through a sieve and was said to have *"conveyed the stolen milk, walking before her in the shape of a goose"*. She died there on the 29th of April this year, when she was crushed between her cottage wall and a barrel. The remains of the cottage at Cottam are still visible; she was allowed to live in it for free, by Lord Cottam - nobody knows why. Other tales place her home near Singleton church, and some say that she was chased out of Cottam and moved to Singleton. The villagers accused her of bewitching a goose and turning it into a milk jug. After having the jug smashed, and being thrown into the pond, she left, but soon afterwards, the landlord of the Blue Pig inn found it whole.
One of the cows milked by Meg was the locally-famous Dun Cow – a massive beast which was said to be able to fill as many pails as were put to her. A 3-foot-long rib was mounted above the farmhouse door in Whittingham for many years.

She was buried normally at first, in St Anne's churchyard, Woodplumpton, but her body is said to have appeared back on the adjacent path several times, so, allegedly upside down, she was re-interred under a boulder on the 2nd of May. The plaque on the boulder reads *"The Witch's Grave. Beneath this stone lies the remains of Meg Shelton alleged witch of Woodplumpton, buried in 1705*". A local myth asks passers-by to stand on the stone, turn around 3 times, and make a wish.

> **The Truth:** Historians now think that the boulder may simply have been left on the site by a receding glacier and was too heavy to move.

Meg became known as the Fylde Hag, and was merely a sad, crippled old lady, whose extreme poverty forced her to steal from her neighbours. Like the Pendle Witches, she was no witch.

The parochial authorities *"listed 21 Catholics in Lytham parish, including Thomas Clifton, his chaplain, steward, butler, groom, coachman, and head servant. They also listed 479 Catholics in Kirkham parish, including many tenants of Thomas Clifton. By 1755, Kirkham had 1,177 families of whom 868 were Anglican, 229 Catholic, and 40 Nonconformist. In 1767, those same authorities listed 1,259 Catholics in the parish of Kirkham"* – proof of the growth of Catholicism in the Fylde.
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1706
The Poor Rate Assessment this year showed three-dozen farmers in Bispham-cum-Norbreck.

1707
Doctors are first seen to be writing about the health benefits of drinking seawater.

Newton Blue Coat School: was founded by an endowment in the will of John Hornbie, of Scales Farm, Newton-with-Scales on the 24th of May – *"said house to instruct such poor girles and boyes born within Newton-with-Scales, or whose parents shall then by settles live there"*. The Newton Blue School was duly opened on the 14th of June 1709, with Mr Parker as the first live-in schoolmaster, who was assisted by a school dame. Mr Hornby's own 1620s North Country farmhouse had been converted accordingly and was extended at the rear.
The main subject taught was farming for the 10 boys, and livestock - cattle, hens, pigs, and geese - was kept by the school. The 6 girls were taught academic and household subjects. The name of the school arose from every leaver being presented with their own new blue coat.

By 1822, the school had 32 boarders and 15 day pupils, so that in 1823, the building had to be enlarged, providing 8 dormitories on the new first floor. In 1877, the school was enlarged even more, so that there were now 77 children. However, also in 1877, the last charity pupil left.
The old school ceased to be known as Newton Blue School in 1899, as the requirement to wear a uniform was ended, and it became simply Newton School.

In 1957, the school had 118 pupils, aged from 4 to 15, but in 1958, the seniors were transferred to the new Carr Hill Secondary School at Kirkham, and Newton School became a junior school. It was demolished in 1967, and a new school built, with the current Newton Bluecoat School opening in May in the grounds of the old. It was completed by 1969, and comprised the *"building itself consisted of two well-lit classrooms, one for the infants, one for the lower juniors and a large hall which served as a classroom for the top juniors. The hall, at the far end, had a canteen and on the other side, PE equipment was stored behind sliding panels the hall served as a dining room and, until an extension in 1968 was completed, it also held the Head's office*".

Further extensions in 1969 and 1977, meant that the school could now teach 252 children in 7 classrooms. Its name is now the Newton Bluecoat Church of England Primary School.

1708
Three pilots were based at Knott End to provide safe passage to Wardleys. Knott End seems to have been named after the Great and Little Knots, which were removed in 1839, when the river was dredged.

1709
Roger Charnley of Charnley's Farm (later Division Farm) was fined for not complying with the law regarding cutting turf from the moss.

Turving and peat gathering: were common Fylde and Wyre occupations for local folk known as *"Torf delvers"*. The quality local peat provided fuel for most of the local workers and peasants for many decades. *"Delve"* is a 9th century word, which had become dig by the 13th century.

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A peat farmer's first job was *"feying"* – which was to take off the topsoil. This would open up the upper surface of the peat bed, so that the peat could then be marked into blocks 7 inches by 9 inches" by 2 inches thick. The peat was then carried on a *"torf barrow"* - a long, low, side-less barrow, to the drying area, where it was tipped on its end to dry for a few days. Turves were turned regularly, to allow them to dry evenly. This was called *"bullernecking".*

The turves were left for several weeks, when they were stacked into small 9-turf pyramids, to keep them off the ground. This was called *"meemowing"*. Late summer was the time to build them into a *"howk"* (or *"round robin"*), which was the final stage. A base of 11 turves was laid, and the howk was built on top - to a height of about 6 feet. The dry turves were either used on that farm or were sold.
The practice ceased on Pilling Moss in the 1960s.

1710

Hambleton Hall: on Mill Lane was rebuilt this year – no one knows the age of the original.
It was rebuilt again in 1756, with a thatched roof.

It is a Listed Building, described as "*House, 1710, altered. Pebble dashed brick with steep slate roof. 2 storeys, 3 bays. Continuous rendered string course. Windows modern with plain reveals. Door, between 1st and 2nd bays, has plaque over, above string course, inscribed: 'IPRPMP 1710'. Chimneys on left-hand gable and between bays 2 and 3, the latter set forward of the ridge. Outshut against part of rear wall"*.
Known as Ben Lewtas's Cottage for many years, it later became a farm. It was farmed in 1934 by John Laycock and is still in the Laycock family today.

1711

Bispham-with-Norbreck was registered as "*under the constableship of William Lythom*".

1712

Thomas Tydesley's diary for this year describes many of the local haunts and customs.

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West Leigh: "Westleigh Cottage", Lea: was built this year. It is a small, two-storied, stucco-faced structure. The west front has hood-moulded windows and a porch with a Tudor type spandrel doorway over which is a date stone inscribed *"1712"*. It was formerly called Singleton`s Farm and was originally the main residence before the nearby mansion, West Leigh, was built.

The mansion house of West Leigh was built in 1864, by John Leigh, a prominent local mill owner. It remained a private residence until July 1957, when it was bought Lancashire County Council for Civil Defence purposes – to house the Lancashire Civil Defence Corps. The house and grounds were changed radically to accommodate a resident caretaker, offices, car park and sewerage and drainage systems, and in 1962, the sunken garden was dug over and the County Council *"War Control"* was built on the site.

From 1968 to 1974, the house was used as an Ambulance Personnel Training Centre, until in 1974 it was upgraded to become the Regional Ambulance Training Centre. Then, in 1979, it temporarily became the Community Nurse Education Centre. Also, in April 1974, Lancashire County Council established its Emergency Planning Team in 2 rooms at "Westleigh". This later expanded to the whole of the ground floor with the County Emergency Centre (a nuclear bunker) in the basement.
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In January 2007, the Emergency Planning Service vacated Westleigh, which was soon restored by the University of Central Lancashire for use as an exclusive Conference Centre.

1713
Glebe Farm was built at St Michael's.

Dolly's Cottage, Knott End: A cottage was built at Preesall, in the centre of what was to become the village of Knott End. A local girl, Dorothy Hodgkinson was born in 1811, and later in life, she moved into that cottage. She then gained the nickname of "Old Doilee" (and then Old Dolly) and turned the thatched cottage into the locally renowned Dolly's Cottage Tea Rooms.

By the 1890s, another Dorothy, Dolly Carter, and husband Dickie lived there. A talking parrot in a large cage outside the porch would regularly call out *"Dickie's drunk again, Dolly"*. He also swore like a trooper.

When the cottage was demolished, it was replaced by a humble block of public toilets in Barton Square. Dorothy's son, Thomas, set up his own joiner's shop behind the cottage before opening an ironmongery shop on North Albert Street in Fleetwood. He went on to found the North Lancashire Steam Saw Mills in Fleetwood, as well as building Wyre View Terrace beside his mother's cottage.

1714

Cleveleys: Thomas Tyldesley's diary mentions a visit to Cleveleys on the night of the 22nd of July. He wrote: *"Alday till evening at Roshall. Then went to Cleveleys, signd Articles with Dick and Adam Kellet pro Carlton 66 pounds and a windle of wheat yearly; Mr. Chew attorney. Spent 6d. Soe to Roshall"*.

Anthony Salthouse first advertised for guests in the Manchester Mercury in 1781. It is thought that Cleveleys was named soon afterwards, possibly after the Cleveleys Inn at the corner of what is now Garfield Road and Rough Lea Road, but the origin of the name Cleveleys is as yet unproven. It was spelled in various ways, including *"Cleaveles"* and *"Cleavelas"*.

Then, in 1785, the following advert appeared in regional newspaper: *"Cleveleys near Blackpool – John Salthouse respectfully acquaints the public that he has taken and genteely fitted up the Inn or Bathing House called Cleveleys, last year in possession of Anthony Salthouse . . ."*. The Cleveleys Inn mentioned here was at various times called Fleetwood Arms Inn - originally - in the previous century, the Wheat Sheaf (1624), and the Hesketh Arms (1660). In later years, it became "Ye Olde Cleveleys Inn Café".
By then called the Cleveleys Hotel, and now on Garfield Road, it was sold at auction on the 29th of July 1868. The landlord was Richard Parr. Eryngo Lodge and Angersholme were both sold in the same auction.

The Cleveleys had lost its drinks licence by 1872, but still took in visitors until the early 1900s. The building briefly housed the Ruskin Studios, but it was demolished in 1936, and from 1945, it had been replaced by Mason's Amusements. It was owned at the time of its demolition – by which time it was unlicensed - by MB Kirwan, a breeder of champion greyhounds who lived at The Towers. One of Mr Kirwan's most famous dogs was "Champion Conn".

A new Cleveleys Hotel was built on Ramper Road in 1868, and originally faced open fields. The first landlord was a Mr Parr, who still owned the hotel in July 1869, when the 8th battalion of the Royal Lancashire Rifle Volunteers camped in a field opposite. When the next camp was held in 1874, the

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volunteers camped in a different field at the rear of the hotel, whose landlord by then was Mr Hall. The host landlord in 1875 was Mr Hunt.

The Cleveleys Hotel - address now Victoria Road - was demolished in March 1984, to be replaced by WH Smith's store, a New Look ladies' clothes shop, and a Superdrug drug store. Next door to the hotel from about 1916 was J Whitby's plumbers, who later moved to Fleetwood Road North.

In the early days of Cleveleys, Beach Road was the main street. However, over the years that changed and Victoria Road took over that mantle.

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Turnover Hall, St Michael's: This medium-sized country house near St Michael's was the home of the Shuttleworth family, and when William died in 1745, the hall passed to Thomas Westby.
The original building was pulled down in about 1880, and a priest's hiding place was found in the garret.
The present building is a farmhouse and host to a caravan site.

Midge Hall: was at Myerscough. According to the Reverend Henry Roberts, author of the history of Newhouse, it was really called Midghalgh, a hamlet in Myerscough. It is also spelled occasionally as Midgehalgh and was probably always simply a large farmhouse.

It is highly possible that it had been a farm belonging to the Midgehall family of Goosnargh as early as 1557.

In 1729, John Singleton of Weeton Hall died and his executors were instructed to use £368 of his money to provide a priest, and for the congregation to be persuaded to erect a chapel at Midge Hall. Midge then passed to Anthony Lund.
After inheriting Midge from his father Anthony, John Lund went to work at nearby Crow Hall, but soon after 1731, he returned to Midge Hall where he died in 1743. John's son, another Anthony, then sold Midge Hall and gave most of the proceeds for the settlement of refugees from the college at Douai. Once the Newhouse Chapel was in use by 1740, Midge Hall fell into disuse.

Midge Hall was demolished in 1948, but the family initials can still be seen on the remaining barn.

1715

The Battle of Preston: "Bonny" Prince Charlie, the Pretender, led his Jacobite supporters against King George I, and in defiance of the King, the army entered Preston. The second Battle of Preston ensued on the 11th of November, during which, Edward Jolly, a yeoman from Mythorp, was recorded as having been instrumental in shooting a prospective assassin (from Goosnargh) with a large duck gun. Jolly was declared *"Master of Mythop"* for his exploits.
After losing the battle, the Pretender's supporters were hunted down. Edward Tyldesley of Foxhall was captured and later acquitted, but Richard and Henry Butler escaped to France via Rawcliffe Hall. The hall was then confiscated and was sold off in 1723. Its haunted "Monks Walk" survives today.

Several Tyldesleys served in the army of the Young Pretender, and after the defeat, *"silver spoons, tankards, and other household treasures, were deposited for safety in a farm house at Marton; cattle and other farm-stock were driven to Boonley, near Blackpool, whilst money and articles of jewelry were buried in the soil of Hound Hill in that town. The Scots who accompanied Prince Charles were so renowned for their voracious appetites that the householders of the Fylde prepared for their expected visit by laying in an*
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abundant supply of eatables". Also *"Mr. Physic, of Poulton, was an exception to the general rule, and having barricaded his house, determined vigorously to resist any attack of the rebels either on his larder or his purse"*.
The Battle of Preston was the last battle ever fought on English soil.

John Veal (pronounce Vale) of Whinney Heys became a magistrate of the County, until 1745.
Tales abound of a Miss Bamber of Marton who became famous for casting charms to "*stop blood by a word*". Also, a Mr Cardwell of Marton had *"the second sight"*.
A building on land at Bispham, owned by Richard Tinckler, was registered as a dissenters' meeting-place.

The Gynn Inn, Blackpool: It is thought that the Gin Inn was built around now, at Oxendale Gin. It was rebuilt as the well-known whitewashed hostelry in about 1745. By 1816, it was called Gynn House, and in 1890, it was listed as the Gynn Inn and eating-place when James Wilkie bought it from James Kirkham. Opposite, stood the Yorkshire bowling green.

The Gynn Inn was closed on the 2nd of May 1921, and demolished from the 15th of August, when Gynn Square was redesigned to allow the Promenade and Fleetwood tramways to be joined. Its licence was transferred to the Savoy Hotel. The Gynn stood on the site of the current roundabout.

In 1939, the Gynn Hotel was built at what is now 341 Dickson Road. It was opened for clients on the 27th of May, and had a drinks licence, which had been transferred from the Duke of Cambridge Hotel, which it had replaced.
The new Gynn was designed for Thwaites brewery by architects Halstead Best, and is semi-circular in style, to front the bend at the junction of Dickson Road and Warbreck Road.

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Staining Windmill: the mill was built by a retired ship's captain, replacing a buried post mill on the site. The tower was stuccoed externally, and the timber cap was hand-luffed: this means that the sails needed to be moved into the wind with a rope and pulley. The mill had four pairs of overdrift stones.

The mill building was severely damaged by a storm in 1894, but by 1916, it was the only working Fylde mill still with common sails. It stopped wind working in c1918 but was still milling in 1923.
By 1928, it had four common anticlockwise sails, and the millstones were removed in the late 1930s.
During World War 2, it was used as a Home Guard post. It then became a clubhouse for art students, a plastics fabricatory, a rock factory, and finally a factory producing cake mixes for the catering industry.

There was a second major fire in 1960, and its restoration began in 1980. Sadly, the mill was again gutted by another fire in 1981. It was then converted into a house in the late 1980s, and further restored in 1994, with new boat-shaped cap, a projection at the rear for a luffing wheel and chain, four common anticlockwise sails (working), and new staggered windows.

Its tower is now a Grade 2 Listed Building, and its Listing entry reads "*Windmill, probably late C18, altered, now dwelling. Brick, now rendered and painted white, with wooden cap. Tapering 3-stage circular tower with segmental-headed windows, S-shaped tie-plates, door at south west side; Fylde-type boat-shaped cap, with iron balcony to doorway in south end"*.
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In 1880, a pedlar was murdered at the mill. With his blood, he wrote the word "Jenny" on the wall outside. This was retained for many years since the miller's wife thought that ill luck would befall them if it were removed. Two other people are known to have fallen to their deaths from the top.

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Crow Hall, Newsham: The vicar of Preston, Samuel Peploe, reported to the Commissioners that *"Crow Hall, Newsham, in the chapelry of Goosnargh, near Preston, is supposed to be the priest's. One Edmund Fishwick left a sum of money to lease for it. Ever since Fishwick's death, which is 10 or 11 years ago, a priest has lived upon it, was Mr Richardson and now Mr Swarbrick. The estate goes in the above-mentioned William Sheppard's name and the lease is supposed to be in his name in trust for the Priests"*. Peploe also reported that, according to Crown Surveyor John Wicker, Crow Hall was devoted to *"superstitious uses"*!

A chapel was built adjoining the hall in 1740, called the Newhouse Chapel. It was originally dedicated to St Lawrence, but when it was rebuilt in 1806, it was re-dedicated, this time to Our Lady.

In 1833, by then a farm, Crow Hall was inhabited by the Hall family. It later passed to the Swarbricks and then, after 1893, to the Dickinson family. The farmer in 1965 was the recently-deceased Harold Penswick. The farm, on Newsham Lane, is now known as Crowhall Farm.

1716

On the 4th of January, the first mention is made of the Hall family of farmers, who have been prevalent in Peel ever since - *"John Hall of Peel, yeoman, to Thomas Clifton of Lytham, esq.; in £100 -- to indemnify T.C. against all charges concerning Northead Tenement in Pell and 3 ac. in Westby. Witn. Nic.Sanderson, Francis Nickson"*.

Hambleton Windmill: was built about now. It was demolished in 1902, after the death of James Baron, the last miller.
The exact site is underneath a pair of 1930s' semi-detached houses (Rachel Villa and Ruth Villa) opposite the junction of Mill Lane and Whin Lane. Although they have been much rebuilt, the row of single-storey buildings that included the mill cottage, granary, and drying kiln is still recognisable. Mill Cottage stands next door, next to the now-closed Mill Garage, once owned by Bob Williamson.
Hambleton Peg Mill was known throughout the Over Wyre region for its high-quality milling; a peg-and-post mill was named from the fact that the whole structure stands on a peg or strong central shaft of wood driven into the ground, on which the whole structure was turned around. This brought the sails facing the wind, by a wheel running on the ground, and that was worked by a long pole used as a lever.

The Derby Arms at Treales: A farmhouse was built around now on the corner of Kirkham Road and Church Road in Treales, and soon became the Derby Arms Inn, which had its own renowned garden and vegetable patch (now the car park). It has an early 19th century addition, and is now a public house and restaurant, and Listed Building. The pub spent a very brief time called Papa Luigi's, until locals demanded the name be changed back.
The Listing entry reads *"Farmhouse, early C18, with early C19 addition, now public house and restaurant. Earlier part: of whitewashed hand-made brick, thatched roof trapped between raised gable parapets. Originally 2 bays but extended to 3, 2 storeys, with brick band to first 2 bays, which have 2 segmental-headed sliding sash windows on each floor, 3 lights at ground floor and 2 lights above; added 3rd bay has larger windows also of 3 and 2 lights, with stone sills. Backed onto the left gable is the early C19 addition, of white painted brick with hipped slate roof, 2 storeys, symmetrical; this has a round-headed doorway with*
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keystone and imposts, two 16-pane sash windows at ground floor and 3 above, all with stone sills. Interior altered".

1717

Great Marton Windmill: This windmill was built this year. It was severely damaged by lightning in 1807, but was quickly rebuilt as a tower mill with moving cap. The mill had a miller's cottage, a grain-drying kiln, a warehouse, and several small outbuildings. It was a four-storey brick tower mill, probably built in the second half of the 18th century and offered for sale in 1775. Damaged (not destroyed, as some versions have it) by lightning in 1807, worked up until the 1880s. The windmill had cloth-covered sails and the cap was turned into the wind by a chain and wheel. The vented grain-drying kiln was connected to the western end of the Mill Inn.

On the 24th of May 1853, the windmill, the inn, and adjacent smithy were sold at auction. The tenant miller was Christopher Hull, and the smith was Mr Hankinson. The mill was owned at the time by Henry Jolly of Daggers Hole, and several other local men.
On the 3rd of August 1858, a young lady was treated by Doctor Cocker at the Mill Inn next door, after she had been struck by the mill sail and had both her legs and some ribs broken.

The windmill was actively worked until the late 1880s, and was finally demolished in December 1900, when the roadway was widened for trams. The miller's cottage lasted a few more years but was eventually flattened in the late 1920s. Its site is now filled by Mickey's Carpet warehouse, built in the former workshops of Thomas Motors garage.

Marton Schools: Marton village, centred on Marton Green has had two completely separate schools. The first proper school building was built this year, although there had been a school of sorts in Marton since at least 1630.

This year, the first James Baines Charity School at Great Marton Green was opened, funded by his endowment of the 6th of January. The school building stood at the junction of Cow Gap Lane, White Gate Lane, and what became Flag Causeway – roughly where the triangular patch of grass lies opposite the Oxford Post Office today. The school's first master was John Clarkson. This first school is thought to have had two storeys and a thatched roof, with the upper floor used by the girls and infants and the ground floor by older boys.

A second, replacement school, known as Marton Free School was built there in 1832 and 1833, and contained two classrooms and a hall, within a single-storeyed brick-built building that was itself rebuilt in 1838. By November 1857, the school had become known as a grammar school - in an advertisement for a schoolmaster placed in the Preston Guardian. It became known as Great Marton Free School in 1867 and had 120 pupils in one large room divided by a wooden partition.

On the 1st of November 1897, the third incarnation, Marton Green School, opened behind the old building – on a piece of land that would later become Preston New Road nearby. This building stood further forward than the old school, and its playground was where today's row of shops stands, on the corner of Bank Road (aka Flag Causeway).
It was demolished in 1926 to make way for the widening of the new Preston to Blackpool road.

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On the 2nd of November 1926, the fifth and current Baines Church of England School opened on the south side of Marlborough Avenue, on the edge of the new Bank Estate – or Marton Garden City Estate, to give its full title. This later became Penrose Avenue. The new school had cost £14,000.
By 1934, having absorbed the children from Great Marton Infants School (see below), Baines was forced to close its small senior department, which was temporarily housed in Marton Institute and The Mount. This had been called Stanley Temporary Primary School. The senior school soon reopened at Baines, but closed in 1964, and two extra classrooms were built in 1967.
In 2006, Baines opened Blackpool's first Sure Start Children's Centre, and the school is now called Baines Endowed Primary School and Children's Centre.

The Great Marton Church of England Infants School was built on the corner of Preston Old Road and Bank Road in 1854, by Benjamin Heywood. It was needed because neither the National nor Marton Free School (Baines) took in infants. All the pupils were taught by the first mistress, Mrs Fisher, and the infants were taught here until they were old enough to move up to Baines.
This school's eroded foundation stone can still be seen in the wall of St Paul's Parish Hall.

The land had been bought for use by the *"Rectors of North Meols, for the site of a school for poor persons and for the residence of the School Mistress"*. The school gradually expanded to take juniors as well, and on the 24th of January 1878, the Upper Great Marton Girl's School was opened. The girls moved to the nearby Baines School in 1892, and in 1893, the school, became solely an Infants School.

Marton Infants School was closed down on the 31st of August 1925, and its children transferred to Baines School at the Green. The old school on Preston Old Road was demolished in 1929, to make way for the new Parochial Hall. 11 and 12-year-olds had been transferred to the new Condor Grove School (Tyldesley).

On the 10th of January 2017, the Baines Endowed Schools Commemorative Stone and its memorial plaque was placed on the traffic island at Marton Green, in recognition of the school's tercentenary.

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James Baines: This Goosnargh businessman died in Poulton on the 9th of January. He was a wealthy man, with income from a woollen drapery business, and many dealings in the world of money – he became a moneylender in Poulton. His will left a major part of his fortune to the setting up of Charity schools in Hardhorn-cum-Newton Thornton, and Marton. He also left Puddle House, between Poulton and Hardhorn, whose profits were to assist with the upkeep of the three schools. Some of the money left from setting up the schools was used to purchase Carleton House Farm in order to have a ready income to support the schools.
He was buried in St Chad's Churchyard, but his grave was never marked, and his house still stands at 25 to 31 the Market Place, overlooking the stocks. Part of the large six-bayed house disappeared when the NatWest Bank was built to the south of it, and it was converted into apartments in 2008 – Thompson's Opticians is on the ground floor.
He did not – as Thornber asserts – come from Lonsdale.
The James Baines *"Poor and Apprenticing Charity"* was set up formally in Poulton, for *"People in need who live in the ancient townships of Carleton, Hardhorn-cum-Newton, Marton, Poulton, and Thornton"*.

Baines School, Poulton: Baines left an endowment to run a school for Hardhorn and Poulton, which opened on Staining Road on the 8th of March, with headmaster Henry Bird catering for 100 pupils. Baines Free School was a *"whitewashed building, a single storey high and has four windows in front, with one at each end"*.
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The old school was demolished and rebuilt in 1828, having been moved backwards. On the 23rd of October 1836, the headmaster went to Fleetwood by train to buy whitewash. He then repainted the outside of the school himself.
It closed again in 1878, through a lack of pupils, but in 1881, it had a brick outer skin constructed and the original simple windows were replaced with wooden sash openers. It then reopened its doors to pupils on the 16th of January 1882 – now called Baines Endowed School. The new building was described by its first headmaster George Goley as being *"a single room built of brick; its floor is boarded and the timber roof is underdrawn and covered with slate*". It had desks for 68 pupils.
In 1892, the headmaster's house was built next door.

It was renamed as Baines Grammar School in 1899, by which time it had just 26 pupils. Also, in 1899, the first recognised game was introduced, when the school football team played Collegiate School of St Anne's and beat them 5 nil. Before then, only simple playground games had been played, such as *"bandy, stone fights, and primitive cricket"*. The first School Sports Day was held on the 5th of July 1899.
In 1902, a refectory and dormitory for boarders was added to the headmaster's house, as was a laboratory and an additional form room.
In 1918, the school Cadet Corps was formed. It was recognised by the War Office in June 1920, and on the 21st of March 1921, the 60 cadets received their first uniforms.
1922 saw two new wings, containing five new form rooms and two more laboratories.
In September 1924, headmaster FJ Stafford introduced four "House" to the school. They were Founder's, Hodgson's, Hibbert's, and Whittington's, and the school magazine "The Poultonian" was begun.

The school became simply Baines School in 1977. Its motto is *"Nil Sine Labore"* – meaning "Nothing without Effort".

Until 1978 Baines was a boys' grammar school, and in that year, was reorganised into a fully comprehensive co-educational 11-18 school, which was also voluntary aided and non-denominational.

A new extension was constructed in 1981, to house a new sixth form library. The original library became the sixth form common room. A second extension in 1987 housed domestic science, art, and needlework rooms.

From April 1992, Baines became a grant-maintained school, but on the 1st of September 1999 went back to its original status of voluntary aided. The school intake is now 160 pupils annually, producing a total population of just over 1000 pupils, and including a sixth form of 240.

Baines Endowed School, Thornton: The second school to benefit from the will of James Baines was built on Thornton Marsh, in the centre of the village (the marsh is no longer there). It was a small, single-storey, thatched building with one room, and the schoolmaster lived in an attached house.

That school was replaced in 1817, by a slightly bigger and more substantial Free School, using the original cobbled floor. With its address now at Station Road, it still had just one room, but this time, heated by an open fire at the western end. In March 1881, it had to be improved to meet government standards, and became the Thornton with Fleetwood Endowed School, charging fees. After further additions in 1908, it became the Thornton Cleveleys Baines Endowed School.

By 1936, it had *"only 2 rooms"* … "*The larger room could be divided by sliding, glass-panelled door, and the large open fire was still there in the wall"*. Also, the *"entrance from School road went straight through to*

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the boys play ground and toilets opposite the Bay horse. On the left was classrooms 1 and 2 divided by sliding doors the headmaster's office was by the Station Road Entrance".

A pre-school playgroup was started at the school in 1966. The school now has 7 classrooms - one of which displays the foundation stone in its wall, and it is called Thornton Cleveleys Baines Endowed VC School.

Westby and Plumpton had a spa, "*rich in sulphur, vitriol, and iron, ochre and salt*" according to Mr Bowen, a geographer. The spa is thought to have been between Westby Crossroads and Wrea Green.
Fir Tree Farm on Ballam Road between Westby and Lytham was constructed about now as a detached double-fronted dwelling. It still has some original design features.

1719
A flood disaster in Lytham washed away 175 houses and the "*sea cops*" (turf-covered bankings) on the 18th and 19th of December. As a result, The Lytham Schools Foundation was set up in January 1720, by Messrs Threlfall, Elston, and Shepherd. The charity bought farmland that ended up being the centre of Blackpool 150 years later, and from the rents, they funded the building and maintenance of Lytham Endowed School, Heyhouses Endowed School, King Edward VII School for Boys, and Queen Mary School for Girls.

1720
The Fylde coast began to attract visitors from the landed gentry.
Blackpool at the time was just a few cottages. There were ten from Lane's End (Church Street) to Fumbler's Hill (now known as Cocker Square – otherwise known as Mount Pleasant). Another twenty were set between Walsh's Row and Butler's cottage in the centre of the village. Blackpool Farm had been behind Lane's End since the early 1660s.

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Storm tides flooded low-lying land on the Fylde and Wyre coast. At Pilling Moss *"above one hundred and thirty other inhabitants had suffered; forty houses and outhouses had been demolished and "Come hay turfe household goods wearing apparrell money and every [?] with great quantities of salt and numbers of Catle and sheep"* were washed away, and 15,500 acres of arable land was under water. Lytham, Warton, and Westby-cum-Plumpton also suffered from the *"dreadful inundation of the Sea"* on the 18th and 19th of December. 40 houses and other outbuildings were washed away and the winter corn was destroyed.
The Nicholas Nickson Charity was founded in Poulton on the 12th of April.
A Parochial Library was established in Poulton on the 15th of May, when vicar Timothy Hall received a stock of almost 70 books from Henry Newman of the Middle Temple in London, for the use of the clergy.
A cottage on Main Street in Cockerham has a date stone for this year.

Freckleton Docks: Freckleton has always benefited from being between the River Ribble and the smaller River Dow, which flows from Kirkham. This, protected by the raised land of the Naze, created the natural harbour of Freckleton Pool, which became the natural place to berth, repair, and then build boats.

The River Douglas from Wigan (across the Ribble) was widened from this year, allowing Wigan coal to be transported to the Fylde Coast via the Ribble estuary near Tarleton. The barges were landed at Freckleton, and others were beached for unloading on the sand at South Shore in Blackpool. The Douglas Navigation Act of 1720 had enabled making the Douglas navigable, and opened an alternative route for coal to Liverpool and Northwest Lancashire. That work was completed in 1742.
Ferries were also operated on the route by the Douglas navigation Company.
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In 1738, work on building the docks began, followed in 1739, by the Earl of Derby selling Robert Hall a parcel of *"land for a wharf at Freckleton"*. Freckleton's new Coal Wharf was duly declared open in 1742, and in 1753, more land was rented to James Hall and some compatriots for a coal yard with access to the Pool. In 1759, the "Freckleton New Warehouse" was built at the wharf, to deal with flax from Ireland.

Customs: 1781 saw Freckleton's first Customs officer in post. He was William Lucas, a coastwaiter. Unfortunately, in 1783, the Leeds Liverpool Canal Company bought the Douglas Navigation Company, and the extension of the Lancaster Canal suddenly reduced the cost of shipping coal to Preston. As a direct result of this, Freckleton began to be bypassed.
Coal: By 1790, coal was being landed at the new coal yard at what became known as Coal Hill on Bunker Street. By 1802, a Counting House had been built at Coal Hill, with its own weighing machine to weigh the coal and calculate the charges due. The local mayor family also got themselves involved with the coal trade, setting up the company of Mayor Sack Makers and Coal Merchants, which ran the yard and a warehouse until they went broke in 1850.
Coal was carried to Freckleton Docks until the Balderstone Mill began having their coal delivered direct to Kirkham Railway Station in the 1920s.

Wood, slate, and china clay were also unloaded at the growing shipyard. Other goods included barley, canvas, wine, wheat, clay pipes, tobacco, and tallow.

Freckleton Boatyard: was established by George Rigby and Robert Rawstrone in 1815. It first ocean-going vessel was the Isabella, built by Peter Rawstrone, and launched in 1871. Six schooners were built, 18 sharking boats, one sailing yacht, and five barges. Nicholas Bannister is shown as a shipwright there in 1828. In later years, the yard serviced all lifeboats in the Northwest of England.
The boatyard passed to George Allinson in the early years of the 20th century. The Allinson family had sold it to James Wearing by 1970.

Beginning in the 1830s, the Ribble Navigation Company started building "training walls" in the Ribble, in order to let ships go straight through to Preston Docks without needing lighterage. But in 1864, the Ribble Navigation Company built the Marsh Bank at Freckleton, to hold back the river completely.

Freckleton Dock was swamped in the floods of 1927, and was repaired in 1929, by means of a 2-foot railway running on a piled gantry, ferrying clay to fill the breach.

Freckleton's demise was sealed on the 11th of June 1970, when the last building at the boat yard was destroyed by fire.

Rope making, Sailcloth making, and Flax Weaving in Freckleton:

By 1720, Freckleton had its own ropewalks (known as "pads" by locals), and a sailcloth mill, adjacent to Allanson's shipyard on the River Dow, north of Poolside farm. The mill closed in March 1860, and all the machinery and stock were sold on the 14th.

In 1778, a sail cloth and rope-making building stood on the corner of Kirkham Road and Hillock Lane.

There were originally just two ropewalks - one ran beside Lamaleach Road, from near to Goe lane, to behind Balderstone Mill's weaving shed. The other was on Green lane, emerging by the tops near the boatyard. By 1892, Freckleton had 4 ropewalks, with the other two being north of Park Nook Farm, and

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the last running east of the Coach and Horses to just before Croft Butts Lane. There are also the remains of a ropewalk in the garden of 54a Preston Old Road. The 1823 militia list shows three Freckleton men listed as ropemakers. There had clearly been local people working with the locally-grown hemp for many years beforehand.

In 1815, John Mayor and Son were listed as Sail Cloth Manufacturers of Freckleton in the records of Preston Market.

In 1825, George Segar had a flax warehouse at Hall Cross on Higher Road (now Kirkham Road). He built his own home, calling in Freckleton Cottage, right next to his warehouse. Segar and Co also had a *"manufactory for sacking and sailcloth"* in Kirkham.

By 1830, the first flax factory and mill was already being referred to as the "old factory" in this year's township records and had had been in operation for at least 30 years. By this year, it was owned by John, Thomas, and Nanny Mayor, and is listed as having a *"Factory and Heckling Shop"* and a *"New Factory and Starchhouse"*. It seems to have been sited where the current Sports and Social Club now stand on Preston Old Road.

Also, in around 1825, the Mayors had set up their "new factory", which became Balderstone Mill. In 1838, Robert Mayor is recorded as the occupier of Grove House and as the owner of the new factory. By 1851, Robert Mayor and Sons were employing 120 hands there. In 1858, Henry Hall of Preston bought the new factory, and by 1861, he was living in Bunker Street. April 1864 saw Henry having to sell the factory to Jonathan Gaukrodger due to cash flow problems. He only owned it until 1866, when he sold it on to William Sowerbutts of Balderstone and his son Henry.

As W and HJ Sowerbutts they had been running their own mill since at least 1830, and they opened a new weaving shed there on the 3rd of June 1871. Its opening was *"celebrated in grand style"* inside the new mill on the 10th. In September 1874, the mill – by now known as Balderstone Mill - started up two new spinning engines which doubled the production capacity. They were named *"Bessie"* and *"Ellen"* after the wives of Messrs Sowerbutts. The completed mill now employed 240 people. William died in 1879, just after the completion of his third extension to the mill.

The "second" Balderstone Mill was duly opened by the company in December 1880. In its heyday, it ran 520 looms, making sailcloth, sacking, and twills, which were bleached and dyed for sale on the Manchester Cotton Exchange. It employed 100 people and was touted as Freckleton's first organised factory. The mill was famous as the first velvet weaving mill in England, and the workers would be paid extra to weave "*Regina"*, a very strong cotton sateen used in the manufacture of velveteen.
Balderstone was the last customer for boat traffic via the river Douglas. The goods were carried using a tug towing several barges at a time. The river traffic to Balderstone ceased in the 1920s, when the mill decided to switch to road transport from the railway yard at Kirkham.

In 1901, two new 350-horse power cross cylinder engines, named "*John"* and "*Alan"*, were installed by Mr G Layton. They had been made by J and E Wood of Bolton. In 1908, the mill began to be operated for W and HE Sowerbutts by J Bibby and Sons Ltd, who finally bought it in 1921. As John Bibby and Sons (Freckleton) Limited, they then ran the mill until their company was wound up on the 19th of June 1968.

It was re-opened by Birtwhistle's of Rossendale in January 1969, but they closed it for good on the 19th of December 1980. Balderstone was then demolished by Marquis Builders and was quickly replaced by the

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houses of Lodge Close, Balderstone Road, and Mill View. The only remaining intact part of the mill is a small length of perimeter wall, running along Memory Close. In August 2008, The Balderstone Mill entrance stone – showing the name of the building – was set in a wall on Lytham Road where the mill used to stand. The stone was given back to the village by Marquis Builders, who demolished the mill.

1721

Edward Whiteside's Charity was founded at Marton on the 22nd of December, to provide cloth for the poor. In 1742, William Whiteside provided funds from his own estate for the same task.

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Fox's Farm was built at Hardhorn.

St Nicholas Church, Wrea Green: The original Church of St Nicholas was built at Wrea Green in a combined school, schoolhouse, and chapel on the site of the current church. Wrea Green's first chapel had been built in 1715, but was now moved to the new site, on and given by Nicholas Sharples, in whose name the church was dedicated to St Nicholas. The church was licenced in 1722 and consecrated by the Bishop of Chester on the 20th of June 1755.

The current church was first used on the 23rd of September 1849. It replaced the old chapel and was consecrated on the 4th of May 1855. The stones from the old church were used to construct the cottages now on Church Row – including M Parker's shop, on the corner of Ribby Road. Spire Row, adjoining, was built 50 years later.

With the encouragement of long-term vicar, R Stoney, in 1857, the pulpit, organ chamber, vestry, and stalls were added, and the tower and spire were built in 1884, as was the perimeter wall. The church now consists of a four-bay nave with a tower attached to its south side, and a chancel with two short bays. The tower is in three stages and has a south doorway and a polygonal stair turret at its northwest corner. It has a broach spire with a two-light lucarne on each cardinal side.
The Lych Gate was built in 1921, as a memorial to those that died in the First World War. Lych gates (lych means corpse) were where coffins were rested and had seats for the bearers to sit and wait their turn in church.
In 2007, a two-floor Community Centre was added to the west end of the church.

Wrea Green Vicarage was opened on Ribby Road in 1869, also at the instigation of Reverend Stoney, who had lived in a nearby old manor house during its construction. A later visitor remarked *"The garden is crowded with pleasant surprises and the prettiest scene is a where you get a glimpse through the trees of a roofless ruin with a murmuring rivulet in the foreground. The 'ruin' is built of stones from the former church porch which was removed when the present tower and spire were erected"*.
The vicarage was sold in the 1990s, when it was replaced by a new house on Vicarage Road.
The small housing estate of St Nicholas Grove was built behind the vicarage in the 1970s.

Lytham Endowed School: Timothy Pollard this year described the new school as *"The school stands as well as possible in a dry and healthy situation about two stone casts from the sea shore and a stone's cast from the agent's house and about the same distance away from the Schoolmaster's"*. In 1729 James Silcock, was appointed by the trustees of the Lytham Charities to teach a free school. The school is thought to be have been built by Richard Salthouse, and appears to have stood at the Church Road end of Beach Street.
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In 1793, this building became unsuitable for use as a school, and Sir Thomas Clifton had a new school built in what is now Lytham Hall Park. This school was used until pulled down in 1851 by Sir Thomas, for being too near to Lytham Hall.

The foundation stone of the new school was laid on the 2nd of August 1853, further down Church Road. A new school and schoolmaster's house were opened late in that same year, to accommodate 250 children with a master's house. Later, John Talbot Clifton's family freely conveyed the land (behind the church burial ground) to the trustees of the school. The schoolmaster's house was next to the school, now being 24 Church Road.
This school – locally known as St Cuthbert's School - was closed in 1975, and quickly demolished. The St Cuthbert's Court flats now occupy the site.

Lytham Church of England Primary School was opened in Park View Road in 1976, after Lytham Endowed School and the old St John's School were closed.

On the 6th of October, an estimate was made for re-building Pilling Bridge. A temporary wooden bridge had been built in the same January, immediately after the flood, and had cost £25. Another bridge, called Great Bridge, had cost £57 for wood and £30 for the labour of carpenters and masons.

1722
E Butcher is listed as being an alehouse keeper in Layton manor. The Alehouse Recognizance papers do not show his location however, but they do list another keeper, whose name is illegible. By the 1739 list, the number of alehouse keepers in Layton had grown to 8.

St Paul's Church, Warton: The first St Paul's Church began to be built and was consecrated in 1725.
It was replaced by the current building in 1886, which was dedicated on the 25th of January, 1886, and consecrated on the 23rd of June.

1723
Old Farm and End Cottage were built at Poulton. They are now on Little Poulton Lane and are numbered 28 (Old Farm) and 30 (End Cottage). They were both originally part of the same farmhouse but are now a house and cottage, which has a date stone of 1723.

St Anne's Church, Great Eccleston: An Episcopal chapel was built at Copp near Great Eccleston. The original floor was merely puddled clay and was finally fully flagged in about 1800. The church was built of brick but was later faced with pierpoints. At the south end is a porch in which is a stone inscribed the letters referring to the patron saint, St Anne. The chapel was greatly enlarged in 1840, and a burial ground was opened next door in 1841. Also, in 1841, the west tower was added, and was then re-cased and raised six feet in 1885. It has 3 stages with lancet bell openings and an embattled parapet carried on a corbel table.

In the tower are two bells - the smaller is dated 1732, and on the larger one is inscribed *"Robert Moon, James Gradwell, churchwardens, A.R. [Anna Regina] 1714".* This bell came from Kirkham church.

It became St Anne's Church on the 15th of January 1849, when its parish was formed. The chancel was built in 1884, before which time the altar stood in a small recess. The old pews were also taken out, and the church reseated. In 1886, an organ was for the first time placed in the church. The church now comprises a west tower, nave, lower chancel, and south porch.

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The church has Listed Building status.

Bilsborrow School: The John Cross Free School was built.
It was rebuilt nearby and opened on the 13th of October 1873.
Between 1969 and 1972, the schoolhouse was demolished and replaced by another two classrooms.

The Broughton Inn: The Shuttleworth Arms is shown on the north-eastern corner of Broughton Crossroads. Later called Trader Jacks, and then Burlington's Dining Room (1994 to 2012). In November 2012, it re-opened as the Broughton Inn. The original stables were demolished to form today's car park.
In 1933, the Broughton Freemasons' Lodge was formed at the Shuttleworth Arms, which used to be the venue for all local inquests.
On the south-eastern corner for many years stood a branch of the Preston Co-operative Society.

1724
The Account of Charity Schools of this year lists just two such establishments in our area: at Stalmine and at Newton-with-Scales.

1725
Treales School: A Doctor Grimbaldeston left monies for a free school to be built at Treales.
In 1872, Treales Primary School and its adjoining master's house began to be built on Church Road to replace the old structure, and in 1876, the Earl of Derby gave another £350 for its completion. The school was completed in 1876, and extended between 1980 and 2008.
By 1937, it was still getting all its water from a pump!

1726
Richardson's barn, on the east side of churchyard in Poulton became a schoolhouse.

The Fylde Workhouse, Kirkham: This facility was built in Back Lane (renamed Marsden Street in 1862) at Kirkham by John Langton and his co-trustees, to take paupers from the whole of the Fylde Coast. It had replaced an earlier, charity-run Poor House. For several years, the town's criminals were locked up in a room at the back of this workhouse, and by 1806, this had become known as the *"Iron Hatch"*, with the worst offenders being incarcerated in the building's basement "the Black Hole".
In February 1809, it was *"ordered that Ishmail Salisbury's family come into the poor house and that he be set at work to weave sailcloth"*.
The Overseer of the Poor in 1817 was Mr Jackson. The Kirkham overseers rented several local cottages to their charges.
The original workhouse on Marsden Street was used as a lodging house until the 1950s, and its site is now filled by a car park and apartments, located between Kirkgate and Clegg Street.

In 1834, a bigger workhouse was built by the fledgling Fylde Union on Back Lane in Kirkham. It was replaced in 1845, by another, on the north side of Back Lane (now renamed Moor Lane as it led to the moor where the town's cattle were pastured, and now called Moor Street. That two-storey building cost £6000 to build and was designed by Mr Tuach. By 1847, the guardians had bought two fields, and the inmates began to farm their own pigs and vegetables. It housed 161 people in 1861 and was full. It was therefore extended in 1864, and the H-shaped workhouse could then house over 320 of the area's paupers.

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The workhouse was also used to house any local lunatics - or "idiots", as they are listed in records.

The inmates of the Kirkham Workhouse were moved to a new site in Wesham on the 21st of June 1907. At that official opening, it was named the Fylde Public Assistance Institution, and was operated by the Fylde Union, on which Blackpool had twenty representatives. It was designed on a pavilion plan by Charles Haywood and Fred Harrison, and built by Sam Wilson of St Anne's. Modern for its time, separate pavilions were provided for mothers and infants, and for infirm females, and also a two-roomed cottage for married couples. Its boiler house chimney could be seen for miles around. Even in 1929, it was still being referred to as the Fylde Institution.

The old workhouse buildings in Moor Street were used briefly as a children's home for the under-fifteens. This was demolished and replaced by the four Cottage Homes (Kirkham Cottages), which began to be built with the laying of their foundation stone on the 23rd of July 1913. The Cottage Homes Orphanage was opened in 1914, and by 1934 had become titled the Fylde Union Children's Cottage Homes. It later became a nurse's training school and became the Kirkham Clinic in 1961. This was transformed into Kirkham Health Centre on Mayfield Avenue in April 1991. Some of the original perimeter wall survives today, and the Cottage Homes themselves are either empty or used by the Council.

Pear Tree School was built in 1960, on the site of the gardens of the Cottage Homes, providing support for children with autism and other special need. The school has its own swimming pool. On the 10th of March 2007, it opened its Pear Tree Children's Centre at 29 Station Road, behind the main school, and on the 25th of October 2016, Pear Tree Sixth Form was opened by GB Paralympic gold and silver medallist Stephanie Slater.

By 1929, the workhouse hospital had become known as Kirkham Infirmary, and *"The available accommodation at the Infirmary is as follows: for men, 68 beds; for women, 69 beds; children, 3 beds. Total, 140 beds. In addition, 6 beds are available for Maternity cases"*. Then, from 1930, it was used to house homeless people and mental patients.
Its name in 1937, was the Fylde Public Assistance Institution, and its official use was stated to be for *"necessitous cases, and those of Maternity. Mental cases are also received for primary detention"*. It had 262 patients.

In 1948, it became the Wesham Park Hospital, when it was taken over by the newly-formed National Health Service. It then began to develop as a hospital. It had 380 beds, and a staff of more than 500 on its old-style Florence Nightingale wards.
The League of Friends of Wesham Hospital was formed on the 12th of February 1958. It was registered as a charity on the 25th of November 1966, and was removed from the register on the 20th of March 2014, as it had ceased to exist.
In 1959, 44 beds were made available at Wesham, to house 22 mentally-ill patients of each sex. Soon, though, this arrangement became unworkable, due to the age of the property, and a new Mental Health Unit was constructed on the site. Still taking 44 acute in-patients, it could then begin to run outpatient clinics too.

The hospital later became known as "The Highlands" – a home for 154 adults and children. This ceased to exist in 1964, but the hospital continued, handling the elderly and mentally infirm.

Wesham Park Hospital closed in 2000, and the new 40-bed Wesham Hospital Rehabilitation Unit on Mowbreck Lane was opened in 2001. Some of the hospital buildings were demolished, and the remainder

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were refurbished. A large car park was created in Derby Road to accommodate the offices of the North Lancashire Teaching Primary Care Trust. The remaining ground space was used as part of the new Willowfields housing development.
Wesham Hospital Rehabilitation Unit was closed to new admissions in January 2011, with all patients being transferred to the Clifton Hospital in St Anne's in February.

Another workhouse opened in Poulton-le-Fylde a year later. It was in a Mrs Hudson's house in the town square, which was known as Workhouse Square thereafter.

Copp School, Great Eccleston: John Fletcher was licensed by the Bishop of Chester as head master of Copp Grammar School.
Bishop Gastrell, in the early 18th century, stated that this school had been *"erected long agoe by the Inhabitants" … "but only lately endowed"*. Then, in 1686, a deed of transference of the school known as "Northside" was made to Thomas Stanley and others *"on the understanding that English and Latin were taught"*.
There had been a school at Lane Head (or Low Heads) which was endowed with £5 a year by Thomas Clitherall in 1721. The master was to teach the poor of Great Eccleston and Inskip. That school was later sold and the money invested, with the interest of it being divided between Copp and Inskip schools.
In 1866, the school moved to Vicarage Barn, and in 1871, the current Great Eccleston Copp Church of England School was opened on the Copp Lane site of its 18th century predecessor.
It is now known as Copp C and E Primary School and is dedicated to St Anne.

1727
John Bamber built a cottage on Layton Lane. From 1954, this was the site of the Tele-Radio shop on the corner of 86 Layton Road and Caunce Street. For many years, the original building held the honour of being the oldest standing cottage in town.
Layton's Tithe Barn stood on Meadow Shoot Lane, opposite the later site of Caunce's Yard.
Ellen Whitehead of Poulton left *"money or land for the poor of Hardhorn-with-Newton"*.

1728
Lancaster diarist, William Stout, wrote *"whilst there is a shortage of corn in the rest of England, there is a surplus in the Fylde"*.

1729
Number 14 Preston Street in Kirkham was built. Above the ground floor is a painted square plaque bearing the date 1729, the initials H/JE - for James and Elizabeth Harrison, and above them the coat of arms of the London Curriers Company. James Harrison was a local currier.
A permanent Roman Catholic chapel was built at Mowbreck by Robert Westby.

1730
Blackpool's first Bathing Machines: An innkeeper introduced the first "bathing machines" to Blackpool. They were covered carts, and for a fee of sixpence, they were pulled out into deep water by a horse. The bather would then descend directly into deeper water - a manoeuvre needing the attentions of a "Dipper" for women, or a "Bather" for men. The Dipper would stand in the water, take her client in her arms as she descended from the cart, and dip her vigorously into the seawater whilst pushing her through the waves. The first purpose-built bathing machine was invented by Benjamin Beale in around 1750 in Margate.

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By 1882, there were 16 licensed stands for bathing machines, which were:

1 - Beach Shore, opposite Imperial Hotel - Male
2 - Beach Shore, opposite Imperial Terrace - Female
3 - Beach Shore, opposite Lansdowne Crescent - Male
4 - Beach Shore, opposite Carlton Terrace - Female
5 - Beach Shore, opposite Brighton Terrace - Male
6 - Beach Shore, opposite Albert Terrace - Female
7 - Beach Shore, opposite Clifton Arms Hotel - Male
8 - Beach Shore, opposite Lane Ends Hotel - Female
9 - Beach Shore, opposite Aquarium - Male
10 - Beach Shore, opposite Hound's Hill - Male
11 - Beach Shore, opposite Read's Baths - Female
12 - Beach Shore, opposite Wellington Hotel - Male
13 - Beach Shore, opposite Britannia Place - Female
14 - Beach Shore, opposite Waterloo Road - Male
15 - Beach Shore, opposite Dean Street - Female
16 - Beach Shore, opposite Star Hills – Male

As you can see, the stands were for one sex only. There was strictly no mixing.

Thomas Thomlinson bought a piece of land on the sea front, which would later be the site of the Wellington public house.
Marton water mill ceased operation when Thomas Webster of Lytham bought it on the 23rd of February, for use as a barn.
Records show discussions over a bridge *"over outflow to Marton Mere"*.

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Bowling Green Inn, Kirkham: stood on the north side of Poulton Street – John Birley's biography, referring to this year, states that he *"lived in a low white thatched cottage just below the Old Bowling Green Inn"*.

The landlord in 1828 was William Moon.
Kirkham Fair, held on the 4th of February 1845, saw landlord Richard Noblett slashed across the face by drunken local man, Stephen Rainford. In 1866, licensee Richard Lunn was obliged to have his servant, Jane White, arrested and charged with stealing from his takings. In January 1880, the license for the Bowling Green Inn was transferred from Agnes Hodgkinson to Thomas Barnes, and by 1890, the landlord was John Ball.
On the 12th of May 1891, there was *"an interesting game of bowls"* on the inn's own green, when Richard Redman's team beat Edward Quin's by 2 points.
By then called The Old Bowling Green Inn, it closed in the early 20th century.

1731

The trustees of Alexander Rigby's Layton estates sold them to John Pearson and Nicholas Woosey, who sold the land off in parcels, for development.

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Edward Jolly (1664-1738) and his four sons dominated the life of Weeton-with-Preese. As landowners and farmers, they played a major role in draining Marton Mere from May this year.
William Jolly enlarged the Main Dyke, and paid Henry Lawson for the draining of the mere.

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Burn Hall was sold by Robert Westby, possibly to defray his debts expected to be accrued by the rebuilding of Mowbreck Hall.

1732

The new drainage ditch from Marton Mere was opened, running eastwards towards Skippool, and lowering the mere by several feet.

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The "*Great Fire of Poulton*": *"As the funeral procession of Geoffrey Hornby passed through the Market Place to the church on March* 5th *1732, sparks from tapers set fire to the thatched roofs of the cottages on the west side of the Market Place resulting in the destruction of all the property. It was several years before the present buildings were erected in their place. A national collection was organised - known as a 'brief' - and the estimated cost of rebuilding was put at £1034. Timber which was re-used after the fire of 1732 was recently exposed when re-roofing work was being carried out on a shop on the west side, and has been preserved"*.

A stretch of 3-storey town houses was built to the north and next door to the market soon afterwards, funds were which were raised nationally.

Kirkham's mills: The town's grand tradition of mill working began this year. At one time, the town had eleven mills. Much of the italicised wording is from the excellent work *"The Flax Merchants of Kirkham"* by FJ Singleton.

Langley's Mill: A flax mill was built at Barnfield in Kirkham this year. John Langton had previously bought the land at the west end of Choice Meadow, *"on the east side of the Wrangway known as the "Barnfields or Wildings"*. He now built Langton's Flax Mill. By 1750, Langton was supplying furniture maker Gillow's of Lancaster with mahogany and oak planks from the Baltic. Then, in 1754, he built spinning sheds and weaving shops. The mill later had its own gasometer built.
The outbreak of the Seven Years' War in 1756 saw John Langton awarded Kirkham's first ever contract with the Royal Navy, for sailcloth made there using imported Baltic flax.
In 1758, "*William Shepherd, John Langton, his son Thomas Langton, and William Rawlinson "bought from William Grimbaldeston of Kirkham land formerly known as the Brick Croft on the east side of the Wrangway where two sailcloth factories were built"*.
John Langton died in 1762, and his son Thomas and his partner William Shepherd took in Shepherd's brother-in-law John Birley. The company name changed to Shepherd, Langton and Birley, and they bought more premises. For example, in 1766, William Shepherd rented a warehouse, counting house and shops in Preston Street, next to the site of Shepherd House – built there in 1760, to William Shepherd. 1769 saw them also come by a warehouse, some stables, and a heckling shop in School Lane.
By 1800, Langton, Shepherd and Co had built a *"bowkhouse, a weaving factory, a starchhouse, spinning sheds, and other buildings"*.
These sites are now filled by the Fylde Motor Company's garage.

Birley's Mill: In the 1790s, John Birley's agent in Ireland began to import Irish labour, especially young girls. The company built special cottages in Mill Street, and that area became known as the Irish quarter of the town. Also, in both Preston Street and Poulton Street, more cottages were built for hand-loom weavers who sold their work to John Birley and Sons, who made sail cloth for the Royal Navy and traded in Russian goods as well as being dealers in produce of the Baltic Countries. Birley's company was called Birley and Alker, West Indian Merchants, and their goods were shipped from Wardleys.
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1796 saw John Birley buy the "*Cloyce Meadow from Margaret Grimbaldeston, and in 1804, he acquired land and property including a barn, shippon, barkmill and tanyard on the north side of Poulton Street adjoining the present Mill Street. Both these sites were adjacent to the Barnfield premises and were later used in the expansion of the flax business. He then proceeded to buy out the Langtons and what remained of the Shepherd interest by a series of conveyances dated 14 June 1804. These show that he bought the Wrangway sailcloth factories for £167 and the large Barnfield premises, containing a bowkhouse, weaving factory, spinning shades, spinning factory and 12 cottages, for £1,648 153. He also acquired the lease of the warehouses in Preston Street, where he was 'already engaged in the sailcloth business', for £250 and he later bought them outright along with the adjoining residence of the Shepherds for £2,015. The Church Street and School Lane property, including a warehouse, heckling shop and cottages, were conveyed to him for £481 155, and shortly afterwards he bought some land and a cottage in Freckleton Street which he converted into a weaving shop*".

In 1804, John Birley bought the large mill, and renamed it Birley's Mill, converting it to steam power in 1807. That new steam engine alone cost £1,800 - a sign of the rapidly increasing earnings from the trade. In about 1810, Birley had Apprentice House built in the Barn Field. This was used by the mill to house orphans from the workhouse while they went through their apprenticeships. Its address later was 1 Barnfield.
From 1800 to about 1845, *"much of the weaving was done in shops owned by Birleys in Mill Street, Wrangway, Barnfields, Church Street, Preston Street, Freckleton Street and Strike Lane Freckleton"*.
In 1825, the mill was known to be driven by a 45-horse power steam engine, and it was greatly extended during the 19th century. The oldest buildings were around the mill dam at the east. By 1876, it employed just over 1600 local people.

Birley's Mill continued working until 1895, when the town's love affair with flax ended. It was finally bought in 1917, by Redmayne and Isherwood of Blackburn and was refurbished in order to process waste cotton for cleaning engines. It was seriously damaged by fire in June 1967, sold at auction on the 29th of February 1972, and on the 8th of July that year, its 220-foot-high chimney was demolished. The whole site had been cleared by mid-1973. Morrison's supermarket now stands in the area.

In 1754, the firm Langton Birley and Co bought land on which a "*bowkhouse"* - bleaching shed, a weaving shed, a starch house, and spinning sheds were erected. In 1758, more land was added for further sailcloth factories

In 1766, John Birley's Flax Mill and several cotton mills in Wesham – opened off Brook Street and provided employment for local people. By 1876, joined by the Bone Mill at 11-17 Marquis Street (off Station Road, and Dyer Street), they employed 1,600 people from the Fylde. The newly created road was soon renamed Mill Street, and soon became known as the *"Irish Quarter".* It had a terrace of housing on each side. The terrace on the west side of the road was demolished by 1932. The mill was unused until 1918, but it then saw a new life as a cotton waste mill. It finally closed in 1972 and the site was redeveloped for housing. The terraces on east side of the road were demolished by 1977.

Also, on Mill Street, a *"bowkhouse"* was built in 1837, associated with the Birley linen mill. By 1893, this had become Lodge House a large but low two-storey house, with eastern and western wings, giving it an H-shaped ground plan. Historians have suggested that it may have been a foreman's house or counting house. The remaining parts of Lodge House were demolished in 1996.

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Hornby's Mill: 1780 saw the Hornby group of flax merchants receive their first Royal Navy contract to supply sailcloth. In 1784, Hugh Hornby and Thomas Hankinson bought into an existing flax dressing business and produced sailcloth in Old Earth Lane at Kirkham. They also owned import warehouses at Wardleys. This year they built a new factory – Hornby's Mill - there, and also a weaving shop on Moor Lane. The facilities were both managed by Hornby Roughsedge, who lived on Preston Street.
By 1793, trading as JT & W Hornby, the company owned *"a considerable amount of property in Kirkham. Their premises in Freckleton Street included two spinning sheds, a weaving shop, a bowkhouse or bleach house and two rows of workers' cottages known respectively as Old Row and New Row, to which were later added further cottages and weaving shops in a close called Hornby Square. In Orders Lane they bought several fields on which they built another factory and bowkhouse and in Moor Lane they had weaving shops and other buildings. Their residences and counting houses were in Poulton Street near the old Moot Hall on the Market Square which they used as a heckling shop until its demolition in 1795"*.

By the early 1800s, now known as Hugh Hornby and Sons, they also had a sailcloth factory at the corner of Freckleton Street and Marsden Street. This main factory closed in 1824, was reopened as a cotton mill in 1850. It eventually became the Kirkham and District Steam Laundry before being demolished to make way for today's Grosvenor Mews.

Freckleton Street Mill: Richards and Whalley's cotton weaving shed was in operation on Freckleton Street in Kirkham by 1852, burning down in 1908, when it was called Freckleton Street Mill. It was run at its demise by Carrington, Woods, and Company, and had 930 looms, making twills, satins, and serges.

Phoenix Cotton Mill: In 1856, a weaving shed was built in Wesham by RC Richards. It was soon bought out by Thomas Moss, becoming known as *"Moss's"*, but, by 1891, the owners of Phoenix Mill were Thomas Moss and Sons, who ran 1,200 looms, making printers, cambrics, and twills. In 1894, the mill was closed briefly by the local Health Inspector, when a case of typhoid was traced there. The excrement from workers was not being properly disposed of.

Bowdler's Mill: Shortly afterwards, Richard Bowdler's Wesham Mill (65,340 spindles) and William Harrison's Selby and Brook Mill were built on the other side of the railway, both being 6 storeys high. When owned by Jones, Butler & Co Ltd, Brook Mill housed 30,000 spindles at its peak. It was briefly used to billet soldiers in the Second World War and then, temporarily, and very briefly, to house Spanish and German POWs. Lastly, is was as a storage depot by Preston Farmers and was demolished in 1979, to make way for the building of Benson's Crisp factory. The crisp factory closed in 2001.
Wesham Mill was run by the Wesham Mill Company, and was sometimes known as Bowdler's Mill.
Selby Mill was later owned by Preston Farmers, and was ravaged by fire and then demolished in 1966.

Fylde Mills: The Fylde Manufacturing Company cotton weaving factory was opened on Orders Lane in Kirkham in 1875, making twilks, jeanettes, and shirtings. Later known as Fylde Mills, George Burgess, a corn and seed dealer, and the manufacturer of the famous "Mutus" products, worked from there in 1934. The mill also became the home of the Windmill Dairy between 1944 and 1969. Its 140-foot-high chimney was demolished by dynamite, and the rest of the factory was then demolished for housing.
The telephone exchange was built there after being transferred from its original position on Mellor Road. Nearby Fylde Street is named after the mill's workers, who used the lane to get to work, and the company itself built most of its houses.

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Bankfield Mill: was opened by R Penny and T Whittle in 1910, and the Kirkham Manufacturing Company, with 1000 looms, started there in 1914.
In 1924, Bankfield was joined by the adjacent Sunny Bank Mill, operated by the Sunny Bank Weaving Company until the late 1950s.
In 1934, the Kirkham and Wesham Room and Power Company Ltd was also at Bankfield Mill.
By 1937, only one cotton mill was still working in the Fylde – that at Freckleton – and by the 1970s, most of the vacant mills had been turned into industrial units – such as the Cottam family's Sunnybank Motors.
Polymark Textiles did continue Sunny Bank's cloth making function until they closed in 2002.
A loom from the mill is now preserved, by the council, on the corner of Barnfield and Station Road. Known as "The Last Loom" of Kirkham, the loom is a cross-rod loom from the 1920s which, with the use of tappets at the side, could produce an extensive range of fabrics including velvets, twills, and Bedford cord.

Progress Mill: was opened on Orders Lane at Kirkham in 1914, by a co-operative headed by William Sagar. From 1915, it was owned by Thomas Whittle and Henry Turner, and until the 1970s, weaving still took place on their 1,100 looms, run by 500 people, and making cotton, Rayon, and other man-made fibres. During World War 2, the factory-made parachute silks.
The mill closed in 1972, and Whittle and Turner Limited went into liquidation on the 2nd of April 1973. The tall chimney was demolished in July 1972.
Shortly afterwards the mill was bought by William Harrison who transformed it into industrial units.

By 1811, there were also listed: A Weaving shed of Walker and Barrett employing 400 workers, a Weaving shed of Richards Brothers employing 84 workers, Harrison's Mill a cotton mill belonging to Harrison and Company, employing 150 workers, and Richards and Parker's Mill a cotton mill employing 180 workers. Thomas Singleton's Flax and Tow Mill on Back Lane in Kirkham was sold in August 1840.

Representation of the mill workers was finally provided, when, in the 1890s, the Kirkham Operative Cotton Spinners' Association was formed. That group amalgamated with the Preston Operative Cotton Spinners' Association. 1914 then saw the Preston and District Power Loom Weavers, Winders, and Warpers Association also provide support.

1733
Margaret Fleetwood married Roger Hesketh at Bispham Parish Church, making the Hesketh-Fleetwoods the Lords of the Manor at Layton.

1734
Townside Farm at Pilling is shown on a contemporary map. By 1845, it was owned by Edward Hornby and farmed by Robert Alty. The current occupiers, the Winder family, were in residence by 1905.
The owner of Eskholme House complained that his "right of way through Nateby to Garstang and Preston had been denied". Eskholme House became Eskham House, now a farm.

1735
Ethart 'a Whiteside - otherwise known as Edward Whiteside, living in a two-bedroom thatched cottage at Fumbler's Hill, added two rentable bedrooms to his house. His wife cooked, and he owned a well *"full of sweet water",* so becoming the first Company House Keeper with a business to take in visitors. The long single-storey cottage eventually became a licensed inn, kept by "Tom the cobbler" and stood at the bottom of the present Cocker Street, on the site of General Yates's cottage (near General Street). The well is still

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present on the 1912 Ordinance Survey map, where it is shown as *"covered"* – on the Promenade opposite Regent Square.

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Whittingham Hospital: This year, Goosnargh Hospital for "Decayed Gentlefolk" was opened in the house built by William Bushell as his own home. He had given it at his death, as a home to take the elderly, better-off folk of the whole area. It was originally a three-storey building, five windows in length, and had the words "*Dr Bushell's Hospital"* engraved above the door. It could take 20 patients. The nearby, early-16th century Whittingham House was built by Henry Parker, to be used for the new hospital.

On the 1st of April 1873, the Lancashire County Asylum was opened on the site, on Got Field Farm at Whittingham – 115 patients had already been admitted. The hospital was then built in four phases, the first was St Luke's (the Main), followed by St John's (the Annexe) in 1880, then Cameron House, and lastly St Margaret's (the New or West Annexe) in 1912. There was also an Infectious Diseases Sanatorium of fourteen beds built in 1884, which became known as Fryars' Villa.

The asylum had its own gas works, a Post Office, a fire brigade, two churches, a brewery, a ballroom, a cinema, home farm butcher, a shop, and a mortuary/graveyard. The first church, St John's was Church of England, and provision for Roman Catholics was made in a room set aside in one of the wards. In June 1875, it was licensed by the Bishop of Manchester, the Asylum cemetery being consecrated in 1895.

In 1918, and again in 1939, St Margaret's was given over for military use, and in 1919, the name was changed to Whittingham Mental Hospital. At its height, Whittingham was the largest asylum in Europe, and its 500 staff could handle 3,500 patients. Between 1887 and 1957, the hospital had its own railway link to Grimsargh Station. The line was just less than two miles long and finally opened in 1889, remaining in constant use until the 29th of June 1957.

There was a large, productive farm system at the hospital. *"Father and son, James and George Allsup, were farm managers at Whittingham and for over 60 years developed the award-winning herds of pigs, cattle and heavy horses. They also managed over 500 acres, and provided the hospital with more than 300 gallons of milk every day and even 100 turkeys especially bred for Christmas"*.

An inquiry in 1972 found many problems, including patient mistreatment, poor operating, and fraud. Shockingly, *"brutality, dishonesty, muddle and abuse were words described about the asylum following the report. A nurse was convicted of manslaughter of a patient on the site, which led to calls for all members of the Whittingham Hospitals Management Committee to resign"*.

Frank Gardham House, run by Lancashire Care NHS Foundation Trust, was established in the complex in 1994, to treat patients with the inherited and irreversible degenerative Huntingdon's Disease. Set in Guild Park, the eight-bed unit was one of the only centres of its kind in the country. It closed in January 2012.

Whittingham Hospital closed in 1995. The former Hospital Social Club has been re-named Whittingham and Goosnargh Sports and Social Club, but most of the other buildings have been demolished.

I have included this reference to an out-of-range location, due to its importance to by many Fylde families.
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1736

Hoo Hill Windmill, Layton: according to an inscription on its beam, the mill was built this year. It was constructed from bricks made in the brick croft where North Pier now stands and had been in existence in some form from around 1560, as mentioned in a lawsuit filed in 1583.

Yates's map of 1786 calls it Whole Hill Mill.

On the 24th of July 1852, the mill was struck by lightning. A sail was destroyed, the door was blown off its hinges, and the miller, Mr John Gratrix, was blown bodily off the mill platform. The windmill was again struck by lightning in a thunderstorm in July 1881. It was struck for one last time in 1886, when it was ruined and demolished. The surrounding land was known as Gratrix's Croft - after the miller.

Hoo Hill Farm stood nearby; number 11 Poulton Old Road now occupies the site. In later years, there was a Blackpool Council Meteorological Station on the top of the hill. St John's Church was later built on the site.

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180 acres of farmland in Plumpton and Lytham were flooded by the sea, and this led to the cutting of the New Clow drainage channel, an enhancement and re-routing of an existing watercourse (the Liggard Brook), known as the Great Pool. By way of evidence, there is record of the *"Expence of the New Clow and Watercourse in Lytham for draining of the Low ground in Lytham and Westby in the year 1736".*

1737

A chart, called the *"Description of the Sea Coast from Black Combe in Cumberland to the Point of Linas in Wales"* was published by Samuel Fearon and John Eyes. It shows the Red Bank, Fox Hall, The Blackpool, and Blackpool Town.

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Thomas Barrow was born in Great Eccleston on the 15th of February. After being taught by George Romney of Cumbria, he grew up to be a nationally famous painter, specialising in portraits. He died, at home in Barrows Cottage on Barrows Lane, in 1822. In 1775, his friend, famous poet Peter Newby, also moved to Great Eccleston to write. Newby was an infamous recusant poet, known for his poems, which challenged the norm of the day. His *"The Wrongs of Almoona, or the African's Revenge"* tore apart the slave trade when he wrote it in 1788.

1738

Sarah Roskell and Agnes Elston of Blackpoole bought a close in Layton on the 14th of October, called the Seafield. This was part of the feudal lands of Layton Hall.
Kirkham's streets were first lit in December, when "*a lamp be fixed up in the middle of the borough of Kirkam, in some convenient place"*.

1739

The will of Elizabeth Brown, on the 1st of December, left a sum of 40 pounds for the support of poor widows in Kirkham and any surrounding township.
The winter of 1739/40 was one of most severe winters in British history as part of the so-called "Little Ice Age", which lasted from 1350 to 1850.

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1740

The Wyre Light: The Lancaster Commissioners built a large wooden pyramid-shaped beacon in a field at Rossall Grange Farm, near the sea by Rossall Hall. It *"was to be 60 feet high from surface of the ground and 20 feet in diameter at the base, to be reduced in a regular manner to 6 feet at the summit. A calculation from one William Roper estimates the cost of the Landmark to be £137"*, and had a round iron cage at its summit, to contain the beacon. A suggestion in 1789 to replace the new beacon with a stone structure was not taken up.
The nearby Rossall Landmark soon became redundant, and was finally pulled down in April 1924, and used for firewood in local farms. Its stumpy remains can still be seen at an ebb tide.

In 1839, the beacon was replaced with the 60-foot-tall wooden screw-pile Port Fleetwood Lighthouse on the north-eastern corner of the North Wharf sand bank in the sea 2 miles off the coast. It marks the start of the Lune Deeps.
It was designed and built by Alexander Mitchell and Son of Belfast and was transported on the schooner "Callingue" on the 27th of November. Its dioptric light was first lit on the 6th of June 1840, and it also had a *"deep-sounding, self-acting bell, which sounds three strokes every minute in foggy weather"*. Originally named the Port Fleetwood Lighthouse, it is known locally as the Wyre Light, and was the first of the three lighthouses marking the way into Fleetwood port.

It was the world's first lighthouse to be founded offshore on cast-iron screw piles and was designed by a blind engineer – Alexander Mitchell. It had been delivered from Belfast, and its first keeper was William Goldsmith. Set on 7 timber posts, the octagonal two-storey building on top, which housed the keepers, comprised a kitchen, closets, and a bedchamber. The 12-sided lantern was housed above the accommodation and had a Chinese-style roof. The light shone at 45 feet above high tide level and reached for 10 miles. There was an automatic back-up, which tolled 3 times per minute in foggy conditions.

On the 7th of November 1862, the schooner Eclipse ran into the lighthouse, damaging three of its piles, and causing the light keepers to be taken off by boat, for their safety.
The building was knocked off its perch in 1870, when a schooner called the "Elizabeth and Jane" ran into it, and a lightship was placed on station temporarily. The small hut landed on the ship's deck and ended up as a workman's hut in town. In 1872, the lighthouse was almost fully rebuilt, slightly to the south of the original. After the repairs, it was conveyed from the Duchy of Lancaster to the control of the Fleetwood Local Board on the 14th of March 1881.

For many years, the Light was a popular attraction, and boats would take out sightseers. Ladies would be hoisted up in baskets, and the more daring gentlemen would scale the Jacob's Ladders.
In February 1893, the frequency of the light was changed, by the Harbour Office, to be an intermittent light shining for 57 seconds every minute.

On the 19th of September 1932, the competitors in the first Wyre Channel Swim set off from a motor boat near the Wyre Light and swam to the pier. The race was won by police officer FN Catterall. The 2 1/4 miles of tidal water proved to be most difficult and very tiring.

The Wyre Light was burnt out on the 16th of May 1948 and its three keepers were rescued by the Fleetwood lifeboat, Ann Letitia Russell. It was then controlled remotely and was finally taken out of use when a lighted buoy replaced it in 1979.

When the Wyre Light was being built, a large number of Roman coins was discovered on Rossall Point.

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Apparently, in 1832, a large paved platform, thought to have been a landing stage, was reported destroyed, and a local tradition tells that a *"rude, thick-walled, circular building was noted".* The platform could not have been a landing place, as the sea at that time was much further west. It could conceivably have been of the Roman period, due to the age of the coins.

Also, at Rossall was a wooden windmill on the shore.

1741

The Gynn Farm was bought by Edward Bonny, a yeoman and a farmer, after his marriage to Ellen Snape at Bispham Parish Church.

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The Main Dyke, north of Mythop Hall, was further enlarged, by order of the Court of Sewers.

1742

Sarah Roskell bought a close in the Rakes on the 28th of April, called the Withern.

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Willow Cottage on Ballam Road, Wrea Green was built. *"It retains many original features, and is of rendered brick, with a Norfolk reed thatched roof with gable chimneys. It is of a two-unit plan, with two low storeys, with an early single storey extension at left end. The interior has slim beams, and an axial partition of the service rooms in the first bay (now cut down). The first floor has original rafters in one room"*.

The Ship Inn, Elswick: was built on the High Street. Local lore has it that the Ship was once a farmhouse with a barn attached that was used as an ice cream parlour. It was later just a farmhouse, which was made into a hotel, but locals referred to it as The Ship because the old-fashioned name for a barn was a shippon. This is clearly incorrect, as ice cream wasn't sold in this country until 1851.
After the inn was sold by Thomas Ward on the 17th of March 1890, it was renamed The Ship Hotel.
The pub is still an independent, family-owned business.

1743

Father John Talbot, alias John Mansell, came to the Catholic Mission at Lytham in September, but soon, "*the feeling against Catholics was so great, and the bigotry so violent, that the door of the chapel at Lytham Hall had to be locked before Father Mansell began Mass".*
The Lancashire Fusiliers (the 20th Foot), which, despite being originally formed in Devon, was the regiment of choice for many local men, distinguished themselves at the Battle of Dettingen on the 27th of June.

The Golden Ball Inn, Broughton: once called the Blue Bell Inn, this inn is first seen on maps this year, on the south-western corner of Broughton Crossroads. It later became the Bay Tree Inn, then an Indian restaurant called the Gates of Bengal (2007 to the 3rd of September 2016), and since early 2017, the Touch of Spice. The old stable block was demolished to form today's car park.

1744

The exchequer commission of the Duchy of Lancaster listed a quay for discharging ships in the Wyre "*six miles distant from the Poulton Custom House and therefore found to be useless. This quay was 140 yards in length and was called James Road in Higham Poole"*. It seems to have been built in an attempt to move the port nearer to the river mouth than Poulton. Its whereabouts are unclear, but there is a written

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mention of a "James Pool" in Fleetwood in the early 19th century. This may have been where Fleetwood Power Station stood in later years.

The White Horse Inn, Skippool: This inn, owned by Thomas Brockholes, was used to store rum, smuggled from Barbados on the ship Martha and Betty. James Bickerstaff, the landlord, held a land auction in the inn on the 3rd of July 1838, and by the 1839 Tithe, the innkeep was Thomas Whittingham.
The inn had its own cock pit, which was a raised ring, reached by a set of stone steps, as well as its own malt-house and bowling green. It was sold in September 1843, together with its warehouses, lime kilns, smithy, and six cottages.

On the 28th of January, a long period of heavy rain and snow soaked Pilling Moss *"and turned it into a liquid quagmire which overflowed like a tidal wave into the adjoining land and swamped about 40 acres of pasture. Rev Legh Richmond, Vicar of Garstang, reported that the moss continued to undulate and threaten over the next week, rising "to a surprising height", and then sinking an equal distance below the norm. A family had to flee their house, residents feared they might by swallowed up by the morass"*.

1745
The second Jacobite rebellion again split the local folk.
Many of Blackpool's cows were herded onto the Boonley at Layton for safekeeping against raids from troops from both sides who passed through. A Layton man, John Miller, was robbed of his clogs by a Scotsman who is said to have stated *"Hout mon, but I maun tak the brogues"*.
The Gynn Farm began serving food and drink. The farm was on the Cliffs of Egberg (otherwise known as *"the Bank"* or *"Eagberg Brows"*) and in the centre of what is now Gynn Square. The Red Bank ran from Egberg to Simpson's Royal Hotel at Central Beach. It is a cliff face of red-tinted boulder clay based on red sandstone, and it gave rise to the name of the future Red Bank Road. A small brook ran from Bispham village to empty down a cleft, or gyn, at the cliffs here.
Elizabeth Byrom's diary shows that she and her brother, Edward, spent a day riding on the sands at Blackpool and Lytham.

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Scots clansmen – stragglers from the Prince's retreating army - mistakenly turned up at Mains Hall, frightening away William Hesketh, who hid in Rossall Warren. They eventually left, after being entertained and duped by Lady Hesketh into thinking that Poulton was a mere gaggle of huts. It appears that the Scots were lost, as the main body of their army marched straight from Preston to Kendal, using main roads.
On the 26th of January, Pilling Moss *"suddenly rose, and after a short time sunk considerably below the level: it then moved slowly till it had covered many acres of good land and driven one family from their home"*.

1746
Mill View Cottages - a run of 3 - were built on Park Lane in Poulton. They were later knocked through, and from 2005, they have been a single, 6-bedroomed detached house.

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Soldiering: The "Old" County Regiment of Militia was broken up in January, and then re-raised in 1759. It became the Royal Regiment of Lancashire Militia in 1761, and then the 1st Royal Lancashire Militia in 1799. Another 4 regiments followed in later years, but soldiers from the Fylde were always conscripted as members of the 1st Royal Lancashire Militia regiment. In 1831, the 1st became the 1st Royal Lancashire Militia (The Duke of Lancaster's Own).

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In addition to those regiments, the Local Militia Act of 1808 began also to conscript men by ballot to local town regiments. This area was covered by the Amounderness Hundred Militia, which was *"embodied for 28 days' training, under Lieut.-Col Grimshaw"* on the 24th of May 1809. The militia retained the uniform of the 2nd and 3rd Royal Lancashire Militia - dark blue facings with gold metal buttons regularly spaced.
Add to these the volunteers raised between 1794 and 1816 (e.g. the Loyal Kirkham Volunteers of 1798) and the area had a fair number of military personnel.
Then, in 1859, the Volunteer Force was raised. The local units were 29th Lytham and the 90th Fleetwood. The Volunteers were disbanded in 1908 to become the 4th battalions of local regiments.
From the 18th of March 1908, the Territorial and Reserve Forces Act replaced the Militia with the Special Reserve, and in 1910, the Yeomanry and Volunteers became the Territorial Force (renamed the Territorial Army in 1921).

1747

Emmanuel Bowen, a geographer, mentions a spa in Plumpton, which *"like that of Lathorn, is impregnated with sulphur, vitriol ochre, iron, a little lapis scipilis, and a marine salt, united with a bitter purging salt"*. It is thought this may have been located under the now council estate at the east end of the village.

1748

Divine worship began in Marton, celebrated by the Reverend Fisher. The village then began to be visited by Reverend Gibson from Lytham in 1760. He gave the village's religious services at the Baines School every other Sunday.

Red Bank House, Bispham: Henry Crookhall *"came into possession"* of this large building about now, and it seems to have been known as Crookhall's for many years previously. It was surrounded by 4 ½ acres of land. In 1815, the property was bought by Thomas Wilson-France of Rawcliffe Hall, and by 1851, Isabella Bonny was living in the new Red Bank House that had been built next door. That new house began to take precedence over the original, and by 1873, they had both become a small farm.

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James Kirkham of Staining fought in King George II's army at the Battle of Culloden on the 16th of April, and Leonard Warbreck of Layton acted as the army's hangman.
Whitehead's Charity was founded in Hardhorn.

1750

Blackpool comprised two-dozen cottages, a small Inn (near where the Clifton Hotel now stands) and Mr Forshaw's Bathing Place (where the Tower stands). Further up Raikes Road (renamed Church Street in 1928), was the Adelphi public house. This was possibly the original Number 2 Public House – not the Grosvenor or even the Saddle, as suggested by some historians. Appendix J goes into more detail on this.
Bonny's Farm was possibly built this year. Nuttall's farm was later built to the east of it.
"The row of cottages, known by the name of Butcher's and Walsh's, which have disappeared long ago, were formed of clay and wattle, the roof and frame supported by crooks, and the interior open to the rushy thatch. There went up a large and capacious chimney, with a soot-loft above, for the stowage of lumber, and forming a canopy over the hearth. The interior was dark and low, the blackened rafters stored with provision of dried fish, bacon, and salt beef; and opposite the fire-place was the chomer, or chamber, and the pantry, and near the door your eye fell upon the speere, perforated with a small light, to guard the door and keep the draught away".
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Raikes Hall, Blackpool: The building of the hall is suspected to have begun this year, by William Boucher (or Butcher) of Kirkham. The name "Raikes" comes either from wreckers - wraikes - raikes, or from the word rakes - meaning slopes. Butcher was rumoured to be a "wrecker" profiting from grounded ships. The hall was finished in 1760, and Butcher died in 1769, when the hall passed to his son. Raikes Hall was surrounded by a 40-acre estate on which he could race his race horses. He stabled them at Foxhall and exercised them on the beach. William Butcher had the hall rebuilt it in 1780, and a function room was added.

In 1820, the hall was bought by William Hornby, of Ribby Hall in Kirkham, who had bought the land in February 1802. The family moved there in 1824, and the Hornby ladies introduced Blackpool's first fitted carpets. The family stayed at the hall until Daniel Hornby left in 1859 – Hornby Road later being named after the Hornbys.

In 1859, the "Sisters of the Holy Child Jesus" took out the lease on the Raikes and moved from Queen's Square to there on the 3rd of *December. It was an isolated house in the fields at the time. The advert for the* "compact family mansion" described *"on the ground floor, Dining-room, Breakfast-room, and entrance hall; on the first floor., large Drawing-room, four Bed-rooms and Dressing-room, Bath-room, and Water-closet"*. The top storey had 4 servant bedrooms. There was also a *"Butler's Pantry, Servants' Hall, Sewing-room, Kitchens, Sculleries, Pantries, Wash-house, Laundry, Boot-house etc."*, together with a Coach-house, two-stalled Stables, and various other parts, including another water-closet.
Unexplained brickwork in the cellars of the current public house supports long-standing rumours of tunnels connecting the convent to the local boys' school (difficult to accept since the nuns left this year and the brothers did not arrive at the boys' school until 1923). The Raikes has a ghost - one of its nuns who drowned herself nearby comes back to visit from beyond the grave and move items around the pub. Late at night, regulars have heard strange noises from cellars. The Sisters founded St Mary's School at the hall in 1866 – they had renamed their own convent school.

Raikes Hall's draft lease was deposited with solicitors in 1867, and in 1870 it was sold by the Sisters to a syndicate of local businessmen, led by Talbot Road cabinetmaker, Joseph Smith, and North Shore jeweller Adolph Viener. The purchase also included the Raikes Hotel, the Didsbury Hotel (later the Number 3), and cottages in Church Street. The hall began to be extended to its present shape.

Raikes Hall Park began to be built behind the Raikes Hall in 1871, after Thomas Banks of London won a competition to design it. Local joiner Jacob Parkinson and Revoe brickmaker James Cardwell were the major builders. The Raikes Hall Park, Gardens, and Aquarium Company Limited opened officially on the 20th of May 1872. As well as Blackpool's first public ballroom, it had at times football, cricket, an enormous conservatory - once said to be *"the grandest in England*", which had a superb skating rink at its centre, an aviary, a monkey house, theatre, 17 bars, an hotel, and a switchback railway. It also hosted tented circuses, which were huge affairs holding 5,000 people at a time.
The new park was designed to cater for the more genteel visitor, and at night, fireworks displays lit up the sky. Unfortunately, in 1874, the park was granted a liquor licence covering the whole grounds, and whilst this proved hugely profitable to the many commercial outlets using the park, it signified the end of its genteel nature.
The impressive Portland stone gates were built at the northwest end of the gardens in 1874.
The gardens opened their grand boating lake and race course in 1875.
Inside the main gates at the western end (where the Salvation Army citadel now stands) was a grand Opera House, with its own gardens and fountains was built from 1877. The 300-foot-long round skating rink was built at the same time.

©

Also, a forerunner of the Illuminations was unveiled at Raikes Hall in 1879, when outdoor lights were erected around the gardens.

The Raikes Centenary Celebration was held around town on the 8th of July 1880 – being a celebration of Robert Raikes opening the first Sunday school. At Raikes Hall, a special indoor circus arena was built, where, on the 10th of July, JW Myers' Great Hippodrome and American Circus appeared, in front of 15,000 patrons. The show boasted 90 horses, 40 ponies, and chariot races on a 200-yard hippodrome course. At one time one man drove 60 horses, and the show had 100 performers. The Hippodrome was used for bicycle and foot racing after the show finished its 8-week run. As part of the centenary celebrations, the Sunday Scholars of Blackpool and Fylde District, gave a "Musical Festival" at the Winter Gardens.
Hengler's Circus was the main attraction featured in what they called the "Monstre! Hippodrome" and returned for a second season in 1881. John Holtum, a strongman known as *"the King of the Cannon"* appeared, catching cannon balls, and pulling against four horses – another sign of Blackpool already being a big venue for truly international artists.
The Hippodrome was specially constructed at a cost of £2,000 and was the largest purpose-built circus hippodrome in Europe. It could house 5,00 paying spectators and had stabling for over 80 horses and other animals.
By 1885, the gardens had their own Firework Manufactury and Magazine on Hornby Road, opposite the tricycle track and bowling green.

Raikes Hall Gardens officially changed their name to the Royal Palace Gardens in 1887, in honour of Queen Victoria's Jubilee, although locals and regular patrons still called it Raikes Hall. The decision had been made to turn the gardens from a calm park, into a more fun venue, to attract more people from central Blackpool's attractions. A large glass-roofed monkey house and aviary was opened at the same time.
1887 also saw the erection of Mr Stansfield's switchback railway. It was 150 feet long and had 2 cars, each carrying 10 people. In this ride, *"Riders climbed up to the top of the track and boarded the car, which was pushed out of the station and slid down the track over some slight undulations. At the other end the car was emptied and raised to a second station, from where it was again occupied and pushed back to the start of the ride. This early type of ride was not particularly thrilling and required much physical effort by its operators"*.

In 1888, the owners of the gardens bought the Golden Jubilee Exhibition building from Manchester and erected it over their open-air dancing stage.
By now, the old Raikes Hall building had been extended to the south by the addition of the "Indian" Village, and a large indoor ballroom, called the Indian Grand Pavilion. The ballroom could accommodate 5,000 people. In front of this edifice was a large open dancing platform, and between that and Whitegate lane was the Italian Gardens and its lake, complete with the Fairy Fountain (from 1893), whose 190 illuminated water jets shot water over 100 feet into the air.

The gardens installed electric lighting throughout in 1891. Local builder William Eaves built the dynamo house, to contain the power engine built by the Edison-Swann Company.
A Cycle Track was opened on the 15th of July 1893.
A large, octagonal building was constructed in 1894. It was called the Niagara Café and contained a massive cyclorama depiction of the Niagara Falls. The building became the Collosseum after being moved to Lytham Road on the closure of the Gardens.

The Royal Palace Gardens were bought by John Bickerstaffe and a syndicate of businessmen on the 13th of July 1896, for £78, 200, and its name was changed again in 1897, when the Raikes Hall Estate Company was

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formed on the 25th of January. The first act was to sell surplus land, most of which then became the houses and shops at the west end of Church Street and the north end of Whitegate Lane.

The Raikes complex soon went bankrupt, after being unable to compete with the newer attractions by the sea front. The park was all but derelict by the end of 1898. The gardens were sold for building plots in 1899, and all the Raikes land had been sold for development by November 1901, although occasional shows were performed there until the houses were built.
The iron gates to the now-demolished gardens were taken down in 1904. Blackpool Corporation bought them and erected them at the Rigby Road Refuse site on the 2nd of April, also installing new Refuse Destructor machinery. At the same time, the lighting tower from the Raikes was erected at the fire station for evacuation practice and hose drying. The arched gates were also demolished. All that remains now, besides the Raikes Hotel, is a small, triangular plot of grass at Raikes Parade, where the original entrance arches once stood.

Note: The gates were NOT taken to Fleetwood Memorial Park – or Stanley Park.
They were melted down at the Council yard.

In 1930, the Raikes Hall Hotel was sold by Massey's Burnley Brewery Limited to Catterall and Swarbrick's Brewery in July. The pub boasted the biggest beer garden in Blackpool. Its bowling green was restored by Jack Kirby and reputed to be Britain's best. The televised Bass Masters and oldest crown green bowling title, the Talbot Trophy, were held there, outstripping even the Waterloo for attendance.

Drainage dykes were cut from the Marton Mere to the Skip Pool (Skippool) on the River Wyre, effectively reducing the size of the lake from around one square mile to 15 acres. This also helped to reclaim most of the Moss for agricultural use. Inhabitants of Marton Moss became known as Mossers or Mossogs.
There is an obscure note in one history of Poulton which says *"the building of Marton Chapel, about 1750, leading the way to further changes"*.

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The Castle Gardens Hotel, Carleton: The Weld's Arms was built this year. It was named after landowner Joseph Weld, who owned much of the land in Carleton. The premises and had been originally a beer house known as the "Hole in the Wall". The beer house had also previously been called "Jenny Houlding's".
The village pump was behind the inn, and the village smithy was 50 yards eastwards on Poulton Road.

The inn appears to have been rebuilt in 1831, as John Kirkham is recorded carrying materials to the *"new public house"*. By 1871, the inn was being referred to as the Halfway House.

In 1884, the Castle Gardens Pleasure Gardens were built at the pub. It was renamed the Castle Hotel in 1890 and was converted into the Castle Gardens and Hotel in 1891, when Captain Arthur Thompson bought it. The Castle Gardens themselves had been behind the inn, and had been expanded by Captain Thompson (also, strangely, known as Captain Fitzroy for a time), who had added tearooms, bowling greens, and swing boats to attract the char-à-bancs from Blackpool. Visitors could then buy strawberries and cream teas from the Refreshment Room near the gate.

Castle Villa was built next door in 1890 and served as an entrance to the gardens. It was later a cycle shop and is now a private house.

From 1894, the gardens contained rose gardens with statues, a small zoo with a *"NEWLY-ERECTED MONKEY-HOUSE – MONKEYS OF EVERY SPECIES"*, coloured birds *"from all climes"* in a large aviary,
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"Swings, fowl ponds, and a host of other attractive amusements". Captain Thompson sold the premises in 1896, and the gardens gradually turned into a neglected bird sanctuary.
Although the attractions had gone by the end of the 1920s, the turnstile into the gardens was only finally removed in 1981, when the pub (then serving Toby Light) was completely re-furbished. Also, in July 1981, the tea rooms were demolished to enlarge the car park.
The gardens have since been completely covered by housing.
In September 2011, the Castle Gardens was taken over by food pub chain Ember Inns.

The Ouzel Inn - Thornton Lodge: The Ouzel Inn stood on what is now the car park of Thornton Lodge. In 1824, Thomas Bagot and Thomas Wilson of Poulton leased a *"cottage, outhouse, and garden, formerly Rauthmell's House now Oozle Inn at Skippool"*. The Ousle Inn at Skippool was sold on the 23rd of June 1845. James Fleming was landlord. Next door to the Ouzel stood Throstle's Nest cottage, the home of Edward Blackburn in 1881 - still standing.
Ouzel was also spelled as *Oozle*, and *Ousle*! Assuming it was named after the type of thrush, it should be *Ouzel*.
In 1881, it was written that *"Early in the present century the little cottage was used as a school, taught by a person named Peter Whiteside"*.

It had disappeared by 1882, briefly to re-appear in the early 1900s as Ouzel tea rooms. However, on the 11th of August 1882, the Blackpool Herald wrote *"Within the last two or three years the roadside cottage once known as the "Ouzel Inn" has disappeared. It stood in a narrow lane near Skippool. In its palmist days the Ouzel Inn had the reputation of being the resort of the smugglers who flourished when George III was king. It is said that the inn was never exactly a licensed house, but carried on an illicit trade"*.

In 1987, by now called the Buccaneer, it was re-furbished and then renamed as Thornton Lodge. It began with its own Henry's Table Restaurant, before being converted to a public house in the late 1990s.

1751
Thomas Foden bought a close in Layton on the 18th of January, called the Old Hey.

1752
Emmanuel Bowen's Map of Lancashire was published, showing Black Pool Town, and strangely changing the name of Mains Hall to Monks Hall.

1753
The first of the local Ormond family appears, when James Ormond is born in Poulton.

1754
Bishop Pococke, a clergyman staying in Poulton, wrote in his diary "*At Black Pool near the sea there are accommodations for people who come to bathe*".
The trustees of the William Gaulter Charity (which became the Lytham Schools Charities in 1773) bought land, in and around the hamlet of Blackpool for £500. It included Lane's End House, and lands around where the Promenade, Church Street, and Abingdon Street were later built. One of the trustees was Thomas Birley of Kirkham, after whom Birley Street was later named. The value of the land would today be incalculably high.

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E Richards' shop in Poulton Square: John Hodgson opened an ironmongers and grocers' shop in Poulton Square. The shop faced the stocks and was bought by Ebenezer Richards, who established his ironmongers' shop there in 1762. The shop was bought in 1847, by Robert Dunderdale, who developed a thriving nail business. As E Richards and Son (Ironmongers) Limited, it lasted until the 9th of November 1979.
The Grapevine - a Mexican/Spanish restaurant - opened in the building in 2002. It is spread over two floors with food downstairs and an intimate bar area above. The venue soon changed to having 3 bars, all serving food.

Poulton is referred to by Pococke as *"a neat little town built of brick, subsisting by tillage and trade'.*
46 ratepayers of Freckleton formed an Association for the Prosecution of Felons in the village. Those felons were probably rounded up by the village constable and incarcerated in a building known as "the cage" on Preston Old Road. That building was reconstructed in 1986.

1755
John Bailey ran an Alehouse opposite where the Layton village green and pond used to be. It, and its neighbours, still stand, around number 243 Layton Road, known locally as Bailey's Cottage Inn (now called Crossgates). The Alehouse Recognizance records show another 3 Licensed premises – Bonny's – under John Hebson, Forshaw's – owned by John Forshaw, and Elston's – run by Thomas Gaulter and Richard Hodgkinson.

The Number 4, Layton: Robert Whiteside had run another alehouse on the corner of Layton Lane (now Layton Road) and Dykes Lane (now Newton Drive), for some 20 years, that became known as Eagle Nest. The cottage/inn was owned originally by the Banks family, and by 1824, it was listed as the Number 4, run by David Noble of Layton. By 1850, it had gained the name Eagle's Nest.

It is thought that when Samuel Bamber became landlord in 1865, he changed the name officially to The Number 4, probably to encourage and expand on the tale of Blackpool's four numbered pubs. It is actually located at number 4 Layton Road, which may have some slight effect on the choice of name!
What is certain however is that shortly after 1865, the "Freemasons" suffix was added by him, and it became the Number 4 and Freemasons hotel. He was for many years Blackpool's most prominent Freemason, having been Worshipful Master of all four main local Freemason lodges at times.

In 1890, a new pub, The Old Number 4 and Freemasons Hotel was built on the site. It replaced the old Eagle Nest, but some of the old building remains at the rear of the current pub. The licensee in 1901 was John Holt.
In 1992, a well was discovered in the cellar, dating back to when the site was farmland.
It is now known simply as The Number 4 and is owned by Thwaites brewery.

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John Parke built the "Ferry House" on the site of today's Shard Bridge Inn at Hambleton and began a running a regular ferry boat. As early as 1634, the ferryman was able to avoid being called up as a constable while he was ferrying: *"Hughe Parke of Hambleton doth keepe a Ferrye boate for transporting of passengers over the river of Wyre, for which hee and his predecessors of the mesuage and tenemente in Hambleton, wherein hee doth now inhabite, have ever beene Freed and never served the office of constable within the same towne in respect of his dayely service and attendance att the same River"*.
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1756
Poole Farm was built at Hambleton.

1757
A water mill, turned by the flow from Marton Mere, was in use near the present Oxford Square.

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A Doctor Loxham treated the landlord of the Eagle Inn at Cleveleys. The same doctor records visits to the King's Arms, Golden Lion, and Brickhouse Arms at Poulton, the Eagle at Kirkham, and the Spread Eagle in Larbreck.

King's Arms Inn, Poulton: At this time, the King's Arms, at the south-western side of the Market Square was also a soda water and ginger beer manufactory.

In about 1791, Poulton Methodists began to worship in a room at the back of the King's Arms, before building their own chapel in Back Street (now Chapel Street) in 1819.
The inn was run in 1860 by Richard Pye, who also made and sold his own ginger beer and soda water on the premises, as well as offering a Public Weighing machine for hire.
The King's Arms was later replaced between 1915 and 1919, by the Williams Deacons Bank building, which is currently an RBS branch.

Dom Richard Barton of Weeton joined the Benedictines at Douai.

1758
Church Farm at Revoe was rebuilt. It had been occupied by Christopher Jackson in the 1680s, and was demolished in 1907, to make way for Lune Grove and Grasmere Road.

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Robert Gibson of Myerscough was made High Sheriff of Lancashire.
Roger Crane was born in Preston. He grew into a young man who discovered the Methodist faith, and he preached it wherever he could. In about 1781, he met with William Bramwell (see below) and Michael Emmett, and the three men travelled *"to every village and hamlet in the Fylde, preaching the gospel"* of John Wesley. Together, the three men laid the foundations of Methodism in the Fylde.

1759
William Bramwell was born in a cottage between Copp Church and Elswick village in February. He grew up to become a renowned Methodist preacher and evangelist, and many Methodists, even today, name their children Bramwell after him. From 1780, he became a *"journeyman currier, he preached all over the Fylde area with an undaunted passion to save souls and no amount of threats or physical attacks could check his ardent enthusiasm"*. In 1785, he met and converted Anne Cutler, who became known as the *"Praying Nanny"* for her constant preaching around the local villages.

1760
Cross House on Layton Road was described as the *"new house at the market cross"*. The house still exists today.

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The Main Sluice was dug on Lytham Moss, to take all run-off water into Liggard Brook and then on to the River Ribble. The improved drainage gradually released more land for development.
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The Shovels Inn, Hambleton: was built on Green Meadow Lane, to provide accommodation for travellers and seamen using Wardleys. Once called the Malt Shovels, it is one of the oldest in Over Wyre. It began as an alehouse, which is first mentioned in 1705, on the site of the current car park, and was rebuilt in today's form in 1848, being run by Mr Thompson. Kiln Lane, nearby, was named after the lime kilns which once stood there.
Evidences of title deposited in 1920, show: *"The Shovels Inn (built on Malt Kiln Field) Shovels Field, croft and garden plot, close called the Moor (Meadow), Great Marsh, Little Marsh, Marsh Meadow or Marsh, Malt Kiln, mill, shippon, barn and garden, Breckets Marsh, Shovels House End (the Meadow)"*.
The hotel was extensively re-modelled in 1953, to plans by Fairbrother, Hall, and Hedges, of Blackpool, for Catterall and Swarbrick's Brewery Ltd.

Kirkland Hall: The hall was built now, for the Butler family, by John Carr of York. The hall stands about half a mile to the north of Churchtown village and has a plain 18th century brick front facing south, three stories in height, with cornice, wide pediment, and sash windows retaining their original wood bars. On the pediment are the Butler arms and over the porch is the date 1760, with the initials of Alexander Butler.

The "*oldest part of the house is at the back, on the ground floor, in the north wall, is a blocked moulded stone fireplace of c.1600 with shields carved on the spandrels. A stone at the north-west corner bears the date 1668, and the initials of Thomas Butler and Elizabeth (Fleetwood) his wife. Another stone in a gable near to this has the same initials and the date 1679, and on the north-east side is a 17th century doorway with moulded jambs and hood mould, the ornamental head of which is dated 1695 and has the initials of Alexander Butler and Elizabeth (Parker) his wife. The door, which is the original one, with ornamental iron hinges and ring handle, is panelled and profusely studded with nails"*.

Pilling vicar, George Holden, devised the "Holden's Tide Tables", used by the Royal Navy for many years.

1761

The Lane Ends Hotel, Blackpool: For several years, the coach from Preston had ended its journey at the sea shore in Blackpool, and the area had become known as Lane Ends. In this year, Lane Ends House seems to have been built there, probably by John Bamber. Bamber sold the establishment to Thomas Lewtas early in the 1770s, and he built his Lane Ends Hotel on the Central Beach site in 1779. In 1788, he began holding Sunday fairs in the hotel grounds, but these became drunken, bawdy affairs, and were finally ended by the Council in 1815.

By 1790, John Hudson was advertising his Lane Ends Inn as having *"Private Parlours fitted up for families" "dinners at any hour"* and a *"good Bathing Machine"*. By 1791, he was advertising his hotel as the Centre House, stating in the London Evening Post on the 14th of July that he had *"Fitted up the house with addition of rooms fronting the sea; and likewise stables with large stalls. He has also a BATHING MACHINE, and a careful bather and a neat post-chaise"*.
In 1795, Mr Hudson started the town's first transport specifically for passengers, when he *"set up a new chariot for the use of the ladies"*, but by 1796, the Lane Ends Hotel was run by William Smith, who advertised *"lodgings with malt liquor"*. The establishment was then owned by William Yates. Henry Banks became landlord of the Lane Ends Hotel in October 1801, and in 1819, he bought the business outright.
A bathhouse was added to the hotel in 1836 - and so, all the town's hotels now had vapour bathhouses.

©

It was demolished in 1864, and replaced with a more modern building, called the County and Lanes Ends Hotel, in 1866, soon becoming known simply as the County. The new hotel featured a new, in-vogue, Italianate styling.

A company called The County and Lane Ends Hotel Limited was registered 1896, boasting *"100 good bedrooms"*, and the hotel re-opened, as the County Hotel, on the 16th of July 1927, after being completely rebuilt.

In 1959, the Tower Company bought the County and Lane Ends Hotel for redevelopment (yes, name changed again), and it was completely demolished in 1964 for the building of Lewis's department store.

One of Harry Ramsden's chip restaurants opened on the Lane Ends site, at 60 to 63 the Promenade, on the 19th of September 1990. It was opened the incumbent leader of the Labour Party, Neil Kinnock. This closed in July 2016, moving into the Tower buildings. The new restaurant (and take away) had also occupied the site of the First Choice Fashions shop, and adjacent former Easywear clothes store at 54 the Promenade - "Easywear Corner" (Easywear later became "Dames" ladies' clothes shop).
Easywear also had shops at 11 Topping Street (now the home of the Galleon Café), the New Market on Waterloo Road, and 312 Lytham Road (taken over by Target Trophies in 1987), as well as 10 the Square, St Anne's, and the Teanlowe Centre in Poulton.

John Hodgson's Charity was founded at Marton on the 25th of September, to provide meals for the poor of the parish on Christmas Day every year.

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In November, a house, land, looms etc. was advertised for let or sale in Freckleton. It was *"fit for the Sail Cloth or Sacking trade".*
The Bridgewater Canal opened in Lancashire on the 17th of July, widening access to the county.

1762

The Old Homestead, Marton: on Clifton Road, Little Marton was licenced for preaching on the 8th of October. Robert Fisher established Nonconformist worship there, holding regular services conducted by travelling Inghamite preachers. Before this, worshippers had to walk 10 miles to Elswick Congregational Chapel. Soon, they also worshipped in Nickson's Barn at the corner of Market Street and Lane Ends Street (now Church Street), initiated by Joseph Speakman of Poulton.
By 1834, it was called Brindle Hall Farm, and was owned by Squire Clifton of Lytham.

The farm buildings were bought by Blackpool Council on the 14th of March 1952, for future use.

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The Black Bull Inn, Preesall: was built this year, although there are tales of it being opened in 1776. The first landlord is thought to have been John Bamber. The Preesall Post Office was opened in the adjoining large, five-bedroomed house sometime later.
Behind the inn was a large stable block which was used as overflow accommodation for travellers.
In 1872, some prospectors from Barrow, lodging at the Black Bull hotel, persuaded landlady Dorothy Parkinson to boil and crystallise a substance they had found 340 feet below the surface of the local ground. This produced the first sample of Preesall Salt. The landlord in 1934 was Daniel Dickson.
The Black Bull's address is now 192 Park Lane.

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1763

The Church of St John the Evangelist, the Willows, Kirkham: This church was built at the Willows, but a new Catholic chapel and presbytery were built nearby by Father William Irving in 1809 and dedicated to the Holy Cross. The chapel became known as *"The Willows"* due to the number of willow trees surrounding it. It was demolished in 1883.
The Fylde's first Catholic graveyard was opened at the Willows in Kirkham in 1814. The current Willows Cemetery was consecrated, on the north side of Ribby Road, in Kirkham on the 1st of February 1880.

The current Catholic Church of St John the Evangelist, designed by Pugin, was consecrated on the 22nd of April 1845, replacing the original Willows chapel. The formal opening was on the 23rd.
St John's Hall was built as the parish hall of the Willows in Kirkham in 1912.

1764

The Clifton Estate began buying up more land within Blackpool. 25 acres of prime building plots were let off on 999-year leases. Those leases were reduced to 99 years in 1821, when the trustees realised the prospective value of land in the new town.
Marton's first religious service was held in Baines Endowed School.

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Eastham Hall: at Saltcoates was built and owned by the Clifton family. It is a large, but simple four-bedroomed detached residence, and had its own golf club from the 1920s, with professional Percy Hills. The estate has been run as a static and touring caravan park by the Kirkham family since 1972.

The manor at Eastham had been leased to the Bradkirk family in 1327, with the condition that all grain grown there was to be ground at Lytham mill – at Lytham Hall.

Warton Hall: This smart hall on Lodge Lane, Lytham (previously known as Lodge Hall, and then Warton Lodge) was owned by the Cliftons.
It was rebuilt in 1871, in a classic Georgian manner, for Captain Augustus Wykeham Clifton and his new bride Bertha Lelgarde, Baroness Grey de Ruthyn, who died there on the 16th of December 1887. A notable point of interest is a 400-year-old weeping hornbeam tree in its 5-acre garden.
A small factory was built at the hall built during WW1, to produce Picric Acid - an explosive used in artillery shells.
Now a farm, it is run by the Blacoe family.

1765

Number 2 Church Street in Kirkham was built. It is now a Listed Building. In 1919, in memory of the men of the church who gave their lives in the First World War, the house was named Church Memorial House – a social centre. After a time as a Home Guard HQ, an Employment Exchange, and offices of Ministry of Labour (later the DHSS), in October 1985, it opened as a Group Medical Practice operated by Doctors Awberry, Rees, Johnson, Rees, and Brown, and was renamed Ash Tree House Surgery.

1766

Bridge Farm was built at Ballam. By 1934, the farm was being run by the Gregson family. In 2010, the farm was converted into 5 luxury detached properties.

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The Rossall Landmark: at Rossall Point began to be rebuilt due to storm damage. It had been mentioned in Domesday Book.

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The report to the Lancaster Port Commissioners on the 12th of June, stated *"Recommended at a meeting that a landmark would be the most suitable erected in Rossal Point. Merchants of Wyer and Oversands write concerning proposed land mark reply that they are willing to contribute a reasonable amount towards erecting of same. Land Mark to be 60 feet high from surface of ground and 20 feet in diameter at base, to be reduced in a regular manner to 6 feet the summit. A calculation from one William Roper estimates the cost of landmark at £137"*.

The wooden lighthouse – otherwise known as "The Cone", was completed on the 17th of June 1767. The Commissioners had duly ordered it built, to guide ships into their port. Being wooden, it had to be re-built, by Richard Walker, in August 1768.
In 1783, the Commissioners had *"decided to replace this wooden structure by a stone and mortar erection, 24 feet at the base, and reduced to 12 feet at the top, to be covered with a good coping"*. This was done *"forthwith"*. In 1788, it was made *"permanent"* on Rossall Point, and the Commissioners were permitted to *"collect dues for lights, from vessels passing the same"*.

As early as 1845, a report to the Fleetwood Commissioners revealed that it was "*about to fall down"*, so, in 1847, Trinity House approved the construction of a new one, *"apparently of wood, as near the old one as possible, and to improve the use and appearance of the said landmark, by erecting a ball of iron, 11 feet high on the top, and they qualify it further by saying the appearance of the present Landmark from the sea resembles a vessel under all sail, and therefore the Commissioners think it desirable to add this distinguishing mark"*.
The last incarnation of the Rossall Landmark fell down in 1924, and it was removed between the 29th of March and the 20th of April 1929, having been superseded by a large gas buoy in the Lune Deeps. A local merchant bought it for firewood. Its iron cage is still beneath the waves, but its base timbers can still be seen in the sea, off groyne number 56.

The Mariners Arms, Freckleton: This inn appears to be one of three that were licensed in Freckleton in 1766, but it is recorded that one of that name opened on Old Bottoms Road at Freckleton docks in 1790, to supply the dockers and sailors.
By 1822, it seems to have been renamed as the Masons Arms, by innkeeper Robert Alston – locals preferred though to call it the Mariners.
By 1833, the Mariners appears to have closed, as the trade had decreased. Reverend James Fox, a schoolmaster at Kirkham Grammar was its resident then.

1767

Layton Hawes Enclosure: Blackpool landowners petitioned Parliament by local landowners, asking to "enclose" just over 1,800 acres of common wasteland called Layton Hawes. An Act of Enclosure was duly passed, and 6 commissioners appointed. The Commissioners first met in John Forshaw's house on the 26th of May. They then spent the next two years working out the detail of the award, and finally signed it on the 1st of April 1769.

The land of Laton Hawes, to the west of Common Edge Road, was "enclosed", plots of land being allocated to landowners in the townships of Bispham, Layton, Great Marton, and Little Marton. The Hawes land was given in proportion to the amount of land those men already held, for recreation, grazing, turf cutting, and fuel gathering.

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The enclosing of this land laid the foundations for the development of the hamlet of South Shore in later years. The rich parcels of land were bought by farmers, whose investment encouraged more buildings for housing and entertaining their workers. The landowners became even richer.
By 1819, the first house had been built facing the shore, and successive homeowners soon started to rent out their bedrooms. The hotel boom had begun.

In order to organise and separate the enclosed land, the long straight main roads in the area were also laid out – but not yet named:

- Broad Lane (previously called Sunday Leach Lane), which ran from Blackpool Bridge, over Spen Dyke, near the present Manchester (now called Lytham Road);
- Milker's Gate Lane, which ran between Harrowside and Moss Lane. This was previously two roads called Benson's Lane, and Milk House Gate – milker's gate being the point where cows were collected from the common by those folks with pasture rights. It is now called Harrowside (was first renamed as Harrowside Lane) and Highfield Road;
- Lytham Lane became Division Lane. A medium-sized mere called "Black Leach" was between Common Lane (now Hawes Side Lane) and Lytham Lane;
- Daggers Hole Lane appears, stretching from the shore to the eastern edge of the common. This later became Watson's Lane. Watson Road later followed its course. Daggers Hole Lane was named after James Dagger's farm and the coppice nearby: all the farm outbuildings were destroyed by fire in December 1893. Off Daggers Hole, to some caravans in the east, ran a lane commonly known as Willow Grove – this is now Burnside Avenue.
- The name Daggers Hall Lane first appeared in 1891, named after Daggers Hall, which was opposite the eastern end of the lane on the opposite side of Vicarage Lane (now Tangerine Confectionery's offices), although an unnamed lane appears in the same position on Yates's map of 1786;
- Little Marton Lane, from the sea at the edge of Squire Clifton's land, became Squires Gate Lane – for reasons which should be obvious. Later, the section between St Annes Road and Common Edge was called Stanley Road;
- Moss Lane ran where today's Common Edge Road, Hawes Side Road, and Ansdell Road now lie;
- Spen Green Lane (today's Bloomfield Road) ran from the sea to what is now Park Road;
- Sunday Leach Lane became Middle Lane and is now St Annes Road;
- An unnamed lane was later named as Rough Lane, and is today's Abbey Road; and
- Cow Gap Lane ran from the sea to Cow Gap bridge on Hawes Side Lane. A way already continued from the bridge to what is now Oxford Square. The whole route is now called Waterloo Road.

Cross's Farm was built on Regent Road - what is now Regent Avenue - in Lytham. The Cross family later ran it as both a farm and a market garden. The farmhouse was rebuilt in 1991.

Old Margery's / Bonny's / The King Edward VII Hotel, Blackpool:
Bamber's Farm had stood on this site since William Bamber had bought the land in 1576, from Thomas Fleetwood. When John and Margery Hebson took over the farm, they ran the farmhouse itself as a beerhouse and occasional guest house. It became fondly known as Old Margery's.

In 1785, John Bonny married into the family, and in 1787, he built Mr Bonny's Wine-house onto the side of Old Margery's. He soon renamed it Bonny's Hotel, and that became Bonny's Farm and Winehouse – fondly known as Bonny's I'th Fields. The lane upon whose corner it stood, became known as Bonny's Lane – later to be renamed as Chapel Street.

©

In 1901, the King Edward VII Hotel opened on the site, with a new address of 39 Central Drive (which was newly-built itself). In 1907, the landlord was John Mallalieu, and by 1934, its licensee was William Gibson. It was taken over by the John Barras brewery in 2013, to be turned into a real cask ale pub.

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The two labourers' cottages now at 1 and 2 Regent Avenue in Ansdell were re-built this year, as evidenced by a date painted above a door. They originally had just a ground floor with a small sleeping space above, until they were given a complete first floor. They were taken down and fully re-constructed in 1993 but are still thatched.
Boardman's Farm was also built on Regent Avenue this year.
Robert Butler of Kirkland Hall was made High Sheriff of Lancashire.

1768
Alexander Singleton died, and his trustees sold off *"worthless"* land, which lay west of the present Lytham Road and included the promenade. If only they had known its future value!

The Circus: This year, for the first time, London entrepreneur and showman Philip Astley drew a ring on the ground, and filled it with acts such as tumblers, horses, acrobats, jugglers, - and the first clowns. This first modern true circus was the pre-cursor to the fantastic shows for which Blackpool became a leader.
Billy Buttons was the very first circus clown, being created by Astley. The *"Billy Buttons clown role remained the mainstay of the circus for over 100 years"*.
Billy Buttons wore no make-up however, and Joseph Grimaldi introduced the modern style of the clown with a white face in 1800.

"The Astleys experimented with different sized rings to find the best which would enable them to stand easily on a horse's back as it cantered around. They decided on 42ft diameter, due to the centrifugal forces. Any ring, anywhere in the world, has been 42ft in diameter ever since".

1769
Henry Banks described Blackpool as having *"eight cottages by Fumbler's Hill and eighteen more to the south. All except four were thatched, with the better ones being slated. A contemporary writer describes them as "scattered, and to be counted up on the finger tips. There were eight cottages, and all of them, with the exception of Forshaw's Hotel, mere huts, and at the lane end of Blackpool eighteen battered buildings, which together composed the village. These houses were still covered with thatch, even- hut was fenced in front by a huge black stack of turf on one side of the door, while the family dunghill graced the other side. There was then not a butcher's shop or a baker's oven; all the little comforts of life, such as tea, tobacco, snuff, etc., had to be carried daily from Poulton. Three or four limekilns on the edge of the cliff indicated alone the timid intrusion of the prospector who had conceived a lust for improvement and expansion of the new-born bathing place"*.

Double Dyke Lane ran from Bank Heigh (later Green Walk) towards Layton. The road along the sea front ran from Robert Dickson's Head Hotel to Foxhall and accessed three or four Lime Kilns. He only mentions one small inn - Forshaw's, although several others existed at the time. York Street of today is the heart of the Foxhall area, which is the original village of Blackpool.
Thomas Forshaw bought 7 acres of land, including "Tunsteads" between Norbreck and Bispham.

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Trunnah Farmhouse was built, on what is now Woodlands Avenue in Thornton. It has an integral barn under the same roof and its date stone bears the lettering *"RMJS 1769".*

©

1770
Great Marton Green was the centre of village life, complete with its Maypole and regular fetes. Little Marton Green was located at the site of the entrance to today's Marton Mere Village, with its cuckstool in the field opposite (later Mill Lane Farm).

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A Court of Requests was established in Poulton, by Act of Parliament, to recover debts in Bispham, Poulton, Lytham, and Kirkham. The weekly Court met in Kirkham on Thursdays and Poulton on Mondays.

Wrea Green Windmill: was operating by now, but its actual date of construction is not known. It was a four-storey mill. Shortly after it was built, an angry neighbour planted a row of trees effectively to hide the mill from his own house and thus, the rest of the village. Mill Lane was christened to suit and led west from the village green.
Before 1916, the mill was burnt out by a fire caused by the explosion of a steam engine, which had been installed in c1860, to replace the sails.
The windmill was restored from 1982 and turned into a private house. In 1985, it was fitted with a new Fylde Cap, a fantail, and a catwalk - so that the new owner could watch cricket on the village green.

1771
Geographer Emmanuel Bowen's map of the time shows *"a little towered house on the north of the black pool—then still a very visible bog—with the definite name of* ***Black Pool Town****"*.
Edmund Starkie of Preston leased *"an allotment in respect of the Tithe Barn of Little Marton to Thomas Clifton of Lytham"*, on the 24th of June.

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Warton Windmill: This wooden Peg Mill was erected, south of the junction with the road to Wrea Green. It was, allegedly, originally built in Lincolnshire in 1695, and then moved to Rufford, before now being ferried across the Ribble, to the Guide's house and transported up the track to Warton. That track is now called mill lane, after the windmill.
The mill was very basic, consisting of a single pair of mill wheels, turned by a long pole, ending in a cartwheel, which was surrounded by a 6-foot wall. *"The circular floor revolved on top of a strong, solid post or peg 24ft long and one foot in diameter. The whole solid oak structure with its shafts, beams, hoppers, and millstones was turned by a long wooden pole"*.
Nowadays, it is classified as a *"turret buried post mill"*, meaning that it was a small timber post mill, with its main post and its quarter bars buried for better stability. A small brick roundhouse assisted with this.

Warton Mill was last wind-worked in about 1895. It was still in working order in 1900 but was almost totally ruined by 1910. In the 1970s, there was a dovecote on top of the post, against which leaned a single 1.8m diameter millstone. The ruins stood in the middle a scrap yard to the south of Lamaleach Road (now the A584 road), and to the east of Mill Lane.

In 2000, the remnants of what was the last remaining buried post mill in Britain were dismantled for safety reasons after an attack by vandals in 1999. The parts which remain are in storage on the nearby BAE Systems site, and the millstone and an anvil are kept at the former village smithy, which had stood by the village green for centuries – as had the village pump.
The mill had been known locally as *"Old Peg"*.
Houses on Post Lane and Peg Way now fill the mill site.

The first coach ran into Preston from the South, opening up the area to visitors.

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Woodplumpton Tithe Barn was rebuilt at Moorside Villa. It still stands, retaining a beam inscribed *"WI 1771".*

1773
Thomas Wilson's map of Great Marton Moss shows such lanes as Midgeland Gate Way and Stockidale Gate, connecting to Common Lane. This is now called Common Edge Road – the edge of the common.
Marton's registers of Births, Marriages, and Deaths began to be held in Poulton.
Dom Henry Parker, of Kirkham, joined the Benedictines at Douai. He became the last prior of his house before its suppression at the French Revolution.

1774
A map appeared, accompanying Father Thomas West's *"Antiquities of Furness"*, upon which the name Morecambe Bay appeared for the first time.

1775
This year, the "Traver", an East Indiaman ship was wrecked after a collision off the coast off Rossall. It had a cargo of lace, and, despite the Squire claiming the goods, and the looters being punished, there was "Travers Lace" in homes all over the Fylde for years. Two vases from the wreck ended up at Rossall Hall.

1776
The Metropole Hotel: Bailey's Hotel, Blackpool: on a promontory by the shore, was begun by Lawrence Bailey, a Layton farmer. It was fondly known as Bailey's Tavern, and could accommodate 100 guests in 34 bedrooms, 3 dining rooms, a lounge – known as the Coffee Room - and staff quarters. Finally completed in 1784, it was officially opened in 1785, and Mr Bailey started advertising for visitors in the Manchester Mercury newspaper on June the 14th.

In 1826 Bailey's Hotel was taken over by Robert Dickson and was renamed the Higher Royal Hotel. Then, in 1852, the Higher Royal Hotel was taken over by Robert Rossall, who renamed it Rossall's Dickson's Hotel. In 1862, two ships' cannons taken to Norbreck from what was now called Dickson's Hotel. It had been taken over by the Bailey family again and had reverted to the name Bailey's by 1867.

In 1871, it was stated that *"Bailey's has been known for nearly a century as the first hotel",* – The original Number 1 perhaps?

The hotel was considerably extended by an additional wing facing eastwards in 1873, and in 1876, it was extended further, with a row of shops being added on the landward side. Over the next 20 years, turrets, domes, or cupolas were added to each bay, and the central and northern blocks were constructed. A sheltered garden was built, protected by a balustraded walk. By 1899, the hotel had the three distinct blocks that we can see today.

Bailey's was renamed as the Hotel Metropole in 1896, after being bought by JT Murray. Albert Cottage was the name given to flats in a section on the ground floor of the hotel, where there were also shops such as Benson's toys, Jenkinson's confectioners, and Rainford's butchers.

The Metropole Hotel was reopened on the 2nd of August 1900, after being doubled in size by its new owners, Spiers and Pond Limited. All sea-facing bedrooms now had balconies. As the Metropole was the headquarters of the Blackpool and Fylde District Motor Club, who organised the 1906 motor races, the Metropole Grill Room was a popular venue for the competitors. In 1913, the Metropole was awarded 5

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stars in the first edition of the AA Hotel Guide – one of only 20 in the country, and by the 1930s, it was advertising its own Restaurant and Grill Bar, Orchestra, and American Bar. Other bars include Leslie's Bar – named after Leslie Miller, and the Number 10 Bar – in honour of the many prime ministers who had used the hotel.

The Metropole Garage was on General Street from before 1916 – later becoming a Lefton's furniture store.

The Metropole Hotel (Blackpool) Limited was formed in 1947, when F Price bought the hotel back from the Government after it had been requisitioned during the War. Unfortunately, by 1952, business was so bad, that the Metropole was on the verge of being turned into flats.

Then, in April 1955, the Metropole was acquired by Butlins, who ran it as a holiday camp-style, adults only hotel. In 1998, all the Butlin hotels, were sold to Grand Hotels. It then became the Grand Metropole Hotel (its current title), which was sold to Britannia Hotels in 2004.

The Metropole remains the only hotel located on the seaward side of the tram tracks.

1778
There was a complaint from a Mr Boucher, concerning the highway from Roundabout House to Cow Bridge in Great Marton.

1779
A bad summer and poor crops meant that food was scarce. However, during the autumn, the merchant ship "Happy" was wrecked on the coast, which, among other cargo, was carrying peas. The "Happy" was raided for food by the starving local folk, and the wreck became known as *"The Pea Soup Wreck".*

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Thomas Couburn was listed as the millwright in Little Marton.

1780
The emerging resort of Blackpool could by now boast four substantial hotels:

- Bailey's Hotel (now the Metropole),
- Forshaw's (now the Clifton Arms) – built this year – see below,
- Hudson's (later Lewis's) and,
- Hull's Tavern (once the Hounds Hill Hotel, then the Royal Hotel, then Woolworths, and now Peacock's).

There were also four alehouses:

- Bonny's-i-the-field, (now the King Edward),
- The Gynn Inn,
- The Lane Ends Hotel at the bottom of Church Street. From Bonny's to Whitegate Lane, opposite the Belle Vue, ran "Lover's Walk", the only way from the sea except Church Street. From Bonny's to the shore ran Bonny's Lane (Chapel Street).
- The Number 3 Hotel – "*a small inn called Cronshaw's*".
- There were another two alehouses in Layton.

Forshaw's, Nickson's, and the Clifton Hotel, Blackpool: Forshaw's Tavern was built this year in Belle Vue Square, at what would later become Talbot Square - the junction of Talbot Road and the Promenade. As early as 1750, built by John Forshaw, it had been listed as "Mr Forshaw's Bathing Place". By 1827, now
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known as Forshaw's Hotel, it had a shoemaker's shed attached. By 1831, the hotel had an orchestra in the dining room and ballroom, it was bought by Thomas Clifton in 1832, and it was sold at auction on the 10th of September 1835, along with 14 houses and shops nearby.
Forshaw's had laid out a small "alcove" in front, facing the sea, and it was from there that the first promenade walk began.

Promenading — from the French *'se promener'*, which means 'to go for a walk' — had become fashionable in Georgian London, as a way for well-to-do people to see and be seen. They would show off the latest fashions with endless 'peacocking'. The practice spread to the seaside resorts early in the 19th century, and Forshaw was the first of Blackpool's rich to take advantage.

Forshaw's Hotel was renamed Nickson's Hotel in 1837, after Cuthbert Nickson, and on the 30th of October 1838, Forshaw's Old Baths were sold at auction in the adjacent hotel, as was George Cooke's shop and billiard hall.

In 1841 Nickson's became known as the Clifton Arms Hotel, and it was finally bought by Cuthbert Clifton in 1843, to be leased back to E Nickson. On the 26th of May 1845 Nickson wrote to his landlords, Clifton Estates, for formal permission to lease it off. This signalled the end of the hotel in its original form.

The Clifton Arms Hotel was partly demolished in 1865, and was then rebuilt, by John Talbot Clifton, as the Clifton Hotel, opening in 1874. After further work on the Promenade side northwest corner, from then until 1877, the hotel took on today's form, in the ownership of the Clifton Arms Hotel Company, Lytham, Limited.

The hotel's owners called themselves several names over the decades, a particularly impressive one from the 1890s being "The Clifton Arms Hotel and Pier Company".

The Clifton had several popular bars over the years, including the Scotch Bar on the corner of Market Street and Talbot Road. The Scotch Bar changed into the Clifton Ale House in 1975, then Bananas (which later moved above the Clifton Arcade), New York, New York, Corkers wine bar, and from December 2008 the Che Bar – with the Coco Club in the basement. Che Bar and Coco both closed in 2015.
Other bars were the Captain's Cabin, and the Corner Bar. Its lounge bar was one of the first places in town for gays to meet in peace.
For a few years during the 1980s, the hotel changed its name to the New Clifton Hotel and offered Ramsbottom's Restaurant – "Noted for fresh food and fun" - as an added attempt to attract custom.
In December 2008, the hotel was bought by Brooke Leisure, who transformed it into a Travelodge outlet. That lasted until 2013, when Brooke turned it into the Ibis Style hotel.

Elston's Hotel – The Yorkshire House, Blackpool: Elston's Hotel is mentioned – it had formerly been Elston's farm and lodging house and stood on a small promontory at the central part of the beach.

In 1819, now called the Yorkshire House, it was purchased by Robert Whiteside, John Singleton, Richard Hall, and Thomas Moore. It was taken over by the Brewers family in 1843 and was called Brewer's Hotel (although still known locally as the Yorkshire House). By 1851, it was listed at 17 Lytham Street (near Chapel Street, just below the Foxhall).
In 1863, a piece of land called the Croft was purchased in order to extend the Brewers' Arms and its cottages. The hotel was soon renamed the Yorkshire House Hotel, but it was demolished in 1875 for

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widening of the Promenade. The empty site soon became known as *"Tom Tiddler's Ground"* – the location of a market and fair and was later the York Hotel and Wonderland.

Hull's Tavern / The Royal Hotel, Blackpool: Edward Hull's Tavern was built about now, as a medium-sized thatched building, becoming known locally as the Hounds Hill Hotel. In 1824, it became known as Gaskell's Hotel after its owner Edward Gaskell. In 1828, it was briefly known as Fish's Hotel, and in 1829 new owner John Simpson renamed it Simpson's Commercial Hotel, and in 1839, he changed the name to Simpson's Royal Hotel.
Later becoming Brewer's Royal Hotel, then Gaskell's Royal Hotel, Thomas Mycock took over in 1873, and made it a Limited Company in 1874. It later became the Hounds Hill Hotel once more for a relatively short time.

The Royal Hotel was built on the site in 1891. It could boast its Jacobean Dining Room, a spacious lounge, decorated in the Indian style, a Visitors' Lounge, and various bedrooms.

The attached Royal Market opened in 1892 - Craven's Saleroom was inside, with auctioneer Jabez Doidge. By 1909, the Royal Market had been bought by F Woolworth and Co Ltd, to open the store where they first traded in Blackpool, before they built their own store further down Bank Hey Street in 1916. The Promenade Woolworth's was called the 3d and 6d stores and was a single storey building with a ridged all-glass roof.
In 1926, the hotel was bought by Woolworths, who demolished it in 1935, to build their grand Woolworth's Building.

Blackpool Post Office: George Cooke started Blackpool's first Post Office, together with a Lending Library (his New Blackpool Library), adjoining Lane End House. He began carrying letters to and from Kirkham three times a day by Foot Post and later by horse. The service became daily by 1807, and he later set up a link to Preston via both Poulton and Kirkham. Cooke was one of the town's very first entrepreneurs – the first of thousands.

The second Post Office: In 1814, George Cooke's Post Office had moved inland, down Church Street, and became a receiving office for the Preston Penny Post. From 1820, the service became daily from Preston to Poulton with an onward Foot Post to Blackpool. The "Penny Post" had been approved for use to Blackpool, Poulton, Kirkham, and Lytham.

The third Post Office: on the corner of Coronation Street and Church Street was opened after re-building in 1877. Run by Alice Carter (postmistress since at least 1855 – according a guide for that year – not 1866 as previously stated), it had its own Savings Bank, and a popular public Reading Room on the first floor. It was later the Labour Bureau and is now Beaverbrook's the jewellers. In 1892, it was replaced by Blackpool's first Crown Office nearby on Coronation Street, before the GPO on Abingdon Street was opened.

The fourth Post Office: The General Post Office and telephone exchange, was opened in Coronation Street on the 5th of December 1892, next to the old office. It closed in 1910 and the building later became part of Marks and Spencer's store. The adjoining Carter Street was named after its Postmaster, Esau Carter, and originally ran from the back of the Grand Theatre to the side of the Olympia. A branch post office in Buchanan Street was robbed in November 1893.

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Abingdon Street Post Office: The fifth, and final, General Post Office was opened for public use on Abingdon Street on the 2nd of June 1905. Replacing the out-dated office on Coronation Street and Church Street, the fully-complete building was officially opened on the 8th of November 1910, and the Sorting Office on Edward Street opened shortly after.
The Gazette wrote on the day: "*The public office is very handsomely finished off, and there is accommodation for dealing with a big pressure of business when the crowd gets inside. The only word of criticism possible is in connection with the entrance of the new Post Office, and to the position of the posting boxes, and it is indeed regrettable that the responsible officials ... have not given the same thought to the comfort and convenience of the general public with the outside arrangements, as has obviously been given to the internal details ... there is only a single entrance to the public office, and we are afraid that there will be a lot of jostling experienced in getting in and out when the busy time comes round again next season. The corner in which the posting boxes have been placed is unfortunate. With a hundred people endeavouring to post their letters at one time the weaker members of the crowd must suffer ... [In the public office] here is a horse-shoe counter, about 70 ft long, for the sale of stamps, postal orders, and general business. Ample table space, for the writing of telegrams and post-cards, is provided, for all along the wall, under the windows, there are no less than 24 compartments for this purpose, whilst round the two pillars in the centre of the spacious office, are further compartments for writing purposes. The desks, instead of having a surface of wood, have glass substituted so that there is always a smooth surface on which to write. The counter ... is divided into various compartments, one for telegrams, another for stamps, and others for ... parcels, etc. To the left is the department for the Public Phone. A room being set aside for this business, and a number of silence cabinets are provided ... to secure the necessary privacy for those using the telephone service. The furnishings of the public office are very pleasing, all the woodwork has been done in polished teak, with the exception of the tops to the counter, and desks and these are of polished mahogany. The general beauty of the interior is considerably enhanced by the fine screen on the counter, by which the public is separated from the staff. A well-designed "gauze" of bronze takes the place of the old, familiar wire network, and at the head of each electric standard is an oval section set off with the letters "ERVII", from which rise the globe and electric lights. The walls of this grand "Salle publique", as well as of the public telephone department, are lined to a height of 8 ft with faïence and the floor is laid with an excellent design in marble mosaic".*

The court offices were at II Edward Street, with an entrance by the south door of the post office. From 1929, the Blackpool telephone exchange was also at Edward Street – on the third floor of the post office building, at number 7. This closed in October 1991.
Abingdon Street Post Office closed on the 12th of September 2007, despite public outcry, and a new in-store post office opened in the WH Smith store on Bank Hey Street on the following day. WH Smith had moved into the old TJ Hughes store in the 1980s.
The building continued as a parcels office, using the front counters for public collections, and as a post sorting office, but was closed in 2015. It was described in the sale brochure as *"Royal Mail Post Office and delivery/sorting office totalling approximately 103,236 square feet, on a site measuring circa 0.93 acres. The former Royal Mail Post Office building that fronts onto Abingdon Street has a stunning and attractive stone facade and is arranged over 3 storeys, plus a basement. The section of the building that fronts onto Edward Street is arranged over 4 storeys with a stonework elevation to ground floor level and brickwork above. There is a central entrance providing vehicle access into the internal courtyard with access afforded via Edward Street"*.

Thompson developments purchased the building in November 2015. Limited demolition work began in November 2017, in order to re-fashion the complex into a new eating and shopping area. The new Post Office scheme will incorporate a coffee concession in the main counter hall, a restaurant at plaza level, and

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a roof top bar on Edward Street with views over the town and out to sea. There will also be shops from national and designer outlets.

The Number 3, Blackpool: was a simple, whitewashed, cobble-built inn called Cronshaw's on Whitegate Lane, with its own bowling green, an archery butt, and a games room with backgammon boards. There had been an alehouse of some sort on the site for centuries, and it had been used as a staging post for over 100 years.

By 1824, Lawrence Fish was listed as being the landlord of the Number 3, with Henry Carter of Layton running it by 1828.

By the 24th of July 1852, *"a pedestrian named James Yates"* started a challenge at Mr Sutcliffe's there, and it was called the Number 3 Inn. Setting off from the hotel's new Strawberry Fields, he proceeded to walk 1500 miles in 1000 hours. The hotel had recently been rebuilt immediately in front of the old one, whose site is now covered by the current hotel car park.

The inn was bought from Edward Gaulter in 1861, by John Hodgson and John Noblett. It boasted its own bowling greens and strawberry gardens and was probably a coaching inn and carriers' delivery point.
John Hodgson also received permission to build 13 cottages next to the inn on the 19th of October. John Noblet was the owner of his own livery stables, opposite the Post Office in Church Street, which he had bought from his brother William, who had been declared bankrupt in April 1852.

The Blackpool and Lytham Visitor and General Advertiser newspaper on the 11th of June 1868 advertised it as the New Number 3, Albert Gardens, and bowling green, with a large outdoor dancing platform and a "spacious ballroom" where their own Quadrille Band played to guests.

By 1873, John Noblett had left to run the Veevers on King Street, and the inn was called the Old Number 3 and Didsbury Hotel. It was now owned by brewers Frith and Linnel, who had added 3 bedrooms, a new lock-up coach house, a billiard room, entertainment rooms, and a bowling green. The hotel soon demolished the old Cronshaw's building, and landlady Sarah Hawks closed the strawberry gardens. She then built the adjacent Belle Vue Terrace, and opened a small theatre in May 1878, in order to try and compete with the Raikes Hall Gardens.
By 1911, it was called the Didsbury Hotel, but it soon reverted to simply the Number 3, and stopped taking guests. The pub lost its bowling green in about 1964. It was known as the Number 3 for almost 100 years, until it lost the old name in 2010, becoming one of Mitchells and Butlers' Crown Carvery outlets. Mitchell and Butler sold it to Greene King in 2014, to operate as one of its Spirit Pub Company's Flaming Grills.
After a £300,000 refurbishment, it was given its Number 3 name back when it opened on the 24th of August 2014.
In September 2018, the venue was bought by the local Ma Kelly's group. They will take out the kitchen and use that area to make the pub bigger. The left-hand side will be a sports bar, and the right-hand side will be the No 3 wine bar, with background music from a DJ and a saxophonist.

A stagecoach began running from Manchester to Blackpool on the 1st of August. It originally ran on Mondays and Wednesdays and the journey took a day, starting at 6am.
Sir William Farrington wrote of paying five Guineas to travel from Leyland to Blackpool.
Spirits were smuggled from the Isle of Man into Starr Hills. The hills were named after the Starr grass covering the dunes – "Starr" being a local name for marram grass. A squadron of mounted dragoons,

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commanded by Captain Trafford, were stationed at Blackpool to fight the problem, as Poulton's six hard-pressed Customs Officers (based in Sheaf Street) could not cope.

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A smuggler, being chased by a Customs Cutter, ran his ship aground on Lytham beach.

Carr Hill House, Kirkham: This hall was built in Kirkham by Tom Langton and was later bought by Edward King and his family, who planted many trees (causing the wind supplying the sails of the nearby windmill to be blocked).
Thomas Birley leased it in 1846, and after purchasing the manorial rights in 1870, called himself the *"Lord of the Manor"*.

In 1920 Richard Penney bought the house, and it was then purchased by Edward Sergeant in 1933. In 1934, he had a small racecourse built behind the house. Carr Hill Racecourse opened on the 31st of March. The ½ mile oval track had cost £6,000 and ran parallel to the new main Preston to Blackpool road that was to open later in the year. The gardens to the rear of the hotel were used as the paddock, and also the members' enclosure. The 2nd meeting attracted such a huge entry that the track length was extended to one mile, with extra accommodation added for the public.
Its May meeting advertised that *"Nearly 200 entries have been received for the Whitsuntide meetings—Whit Saturday and Whit Monday— at the Carr Hill Racecourse, Kirkham. Some the horses have come from Scotland and the South"*.

By August 1935, the Lancashire Evening Post (LEP) was reporting that the Carr Hill Hotel was open for business *"adjacent to the racecourse"*. Mr Sergeant had converted his house into an hotel.

At a meeting in March 1937, it was reported that at *"CARR HILL RACES Jockey Injured Fall During Second Race sunshine provided good racing con'n, Carr Hill, Kirkham, this afternoon, when there was a large crowd. The judge was; Mr. Shaw. Starter Capt. L. L. Wilkins, and handicapper Mr. Sid Berg"*.
Over the Easter period in 1938, the course held what was to be its last meeting. Another LEP report gave the information as: *"April 18 (midway between Blackpool and Preston) Six Races in Park-like surroundings. First Race 220 p m. Paddock 5/-. Enclosure 2/-. Cheap bookings LM and S Railway. Scout and Ribble Buses pass Course"*. It was closed soon after that Easter meeting, as the County Council bought a strip of land between it and the new road, making racing impractical. At that last meet there were six races, including the Clifton Handicap and the Kirkham Manor Handicap.

During World War 2, the hotel was used as an officer's mess, and the racecourse was requisitioned by the War Agricultural Committee for growing food. Shortly after the war Mr Sergeant had the hotel converted again, so that he could have the Lower Deck Strip Club in the basement. A small, but unsuccessful, caravan park was also set up, closing in 1965. Mr Sergeant was the self-styled Lord of the Manor.

Carr Hill Secondary School was opened on the adjacent land in 1958, and the house itself was demolished in 1963. Its boundary wall still exists on Preston Street.

Heyhouses School: The first small school was established in a cottage this year, having been built by Christopher Wilkes of Lytham.

The Heyhouses Endowed School proper was established on Heyhouses Lane in 1821. That second school was largely rebuilt in 1833, and extended in 1863, being completely rebuilt again in 1869. It closed on the
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25th of August 1880, was turned into two cottages, inhabited by Henry Greaves and his wife Mary Ann, with their 8 children. Their son, Henry, was awarded the Military Medal for his bravery during the Battle of Fleurs on the Somme in 1916.
The cottages were finally demolished in 1959 to make way for flats. A pair of semi-detached dwelling houses were built in 1870, for the headmaster and headmistress of the then-adjacent school. There are now numbered 29 and 31 Heyhouses Lane.

The third Heyhouses School opened on the 26th of August 1880 on the corner of Common Lane (now called Headroomgate Road) and School Lane (originally called Daisy Lane, and now St Anne's Road East). The 65 boys all moved from Heyhouses Boys' School and the 65 girls moved from Miss Rathbone's School. 70 infants joined them at the opening.
A new girls' department was added in 1909, and the two sexes were finally mixed in 1931.

Heyhouses Junior School, (version 4) opened on Clarendon Road on the 12th of November 1959. The buildings were finally completed in May 1965, and a nursery was added later. These buildings were demolished in October 2014, after being replaced by the 15-classroom new school buildings which opened to pupils in the September.
The school is now known as Heyhouses CE Primary School, with the infants on St Anne's Road East, and the juniors and reception classes on Clarendon Road.

In 2014, the school was expanded from a two-form to a three-form entry, and the capacity was increased from 420 to 630 pupils. The new school has 15 new classrooms, a main hall, a small hall, a kitchen, sports pitches, playground(s), and parking. Builders, Conlon Construction, also built a 2,281 sq ft nursery school on site, which replaces an old prefabricated building.

The road from Pilling to Preesall and Stalmine was formed this year. The route to Garstang was *"made passable"* in 1808.

Glasson Dock: The Lancaster Port Commissioners bought land from the Daltons of Thurnham Hall to build a pier to unload any ships which were too large to reach Lancaster Quays. *"The only buildings in this area at that time were the small farming / fishing communities of Old Glasson and Brows-Saltcote, so a handful of cottages were built (some of which are now the Dalton Arms and Pier Hotel which later became the Caribou, and is now converted into apartments)"*.

was opened in March 1787, and was, at the time, the largest in Northwest England, being able to hold up to 25 merchant vessels. It was designed to serve Lancaster, and in 1825, the Lancaster to Kendal Canal was extended to Glasson, with a new lock being built at the end of the basin, to allow entry into the River Lune. A stone pier had been built in 1782, in an attempt to enable docking, but the idea failed. A second was built in 1783 and the gap was fitted with sea gates to form a basin.

A pub was soon built on Ten Row - the Dalton Arms, which was the result of 4 cottages being knocked together. It was first licenced on the 19th of September 1787.
A nearby hostelry, called Pier Hall was built pre-dock, in 1781, and was called the Grapes for many years before becoming Gerrards - after the family which held it for 80 years. The name was changed to the Caribou in 1837. It is now apartments.

The Lancaster Canal was branched off to serve Glasson in 1825, and in 1826, Canal Terrace was built - now called Tithebarn Hill. Lock Keeper's Cottage and Canal Cottage were soon added.

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In 1838, the Victoria Inn was constructed. It closed in 2015.

A shipyard and Customs House were built in 1834, a Watch House with tower in 1836, and a dry dock was added in 1841. The shipyard was used mainly for ship repairs. It closed in 1968, and the dry dock was filled in in 1969.

The railway was connected to the quayside in April 1883, and a small station was built. Goods traffic began immediately, with passengers starting on the 9th of July. Passenger services stopped on the 5th of July 1930, and goods traffic ended on the 7th of September 1964: the rail bed is now a large car park.

The most famous vessel built at Glasson yard was the schooner "Ryelands", launched in 1887. It eventually became a film star, cast as the "Hispaniola" in the 1950 classic film "Treasure Island".

Glasson Dock was a popular tourist attraction for many years, and money from visitors greatly supplemented the port's income. Unfortunately, fortunes waned in the 1990s. There is still warehousing activity on the dock, which is run by Glasson Grain Ltd. In 2014, the dock handled 151,000 tonnes of goods, as there is a regular liner service to the Isle of Man for general cargo, in conjunction with Mezeron of Ramsey. However, local wages now depend mainly upon the local silencer factory. There is also now a 260-berth marina.

Even the famous 2-storey floating concrete barge café/restaurant, the Babagee closed. It had been on site for over 50 years. The Babagee began life after barging, as a coffee bar, and was "*converted into an 80-cover restaurant in 1967, with the addition of an upper deck in 1992. The lower deck of the boat has a bar area, toilets, the kitchen, restaurant, and dining area. The upper level also has a restaurant and dining area and is connected to the lower deck by a dumb waiter. A terrace area offers a further 40 covers*". The Café Babagee was closed in 2003, and demolished on site in 2010.
The "Shop at Glasson Dock" stands on West Quay, but is no longer a general store.

1781
Thomas Webster, a yeoman of Great Marton, and Alice his wife, mortgaged to John Grimshaw of Preston, a dwelling called the Water Mill House, on the 12th of February.

1782
William Butcher, of the Raikes, owned the Foxhall estate and stabled his horses there.

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The Olde Ship Inn, Pilling: was built by George Dickinson, a slave trader, on School Lane. *"When he retired from the sea, he was able to build the Ship Inn and purchase both land and Hooles Farm. In the Inn yard there is an old cow tail pump with the initials of George Dickinson and Nancy his wife"*. The inn is supposed to be haunted by a lady dressed in Georgian attire. The village smithy was adjoining the inn, and in its first-floor room, Pilling Band first practiced. The Ship later became a private hotel, and is now a private house.

1783
Henry Moon of Kirkham described Marton Mere's peaty water as being of a chocolate or liver colour. This led him to quip: "*if it was not for the fact that there was already a Lancashire seaport bearing the same appellation, then the place might have been called.... Liverpool!*"
Pilling Bridge was built at Broad Fleet, being completed in 1840. The bridge shows what is said to be the hoof print of "*Old Nick*".
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1784
An engraving of the sea front appears to show the following buildings, from north to south:

- Mrs Bailey's Bathhouse
- The Packing Ground - possibly for unloading pack horses of their supplies
- A bowling green
- Mr Bailey's Tavern
- Mr Forshaw's Tavern
- Mr Crooke's Post Office - inshore
- Mrs Hodson's Tavern
- Mr Hull's Tavern
- Mr Bonney's Wine-house - built onto the side of his cottages.
- Mr Bonney's Bathhouse
- Mr Elson's
- Ancient Roman building (this was probably the ruins of the original Pul House)

Also shown is Simpson's Hotel on the edge of Layton Hawes, at the edge of the sand dunes.
It is likely that this engraving was not an entirely accurate view of the sea front, as it does not show the Lane Ends Hotel, and John Bonny did not add his wine house until 1787. The engraving was commissioned around 1859 by William Thornber, who seems to have used considerable poetic licence with the detail.

Weaving factory at Bispham: John Duxbury built a weaving factory to the north of Jem Gate in Anchorsholme. He and Thomas Lewtas, both cotton-manufacturers, had recently bought a *"new Brick Erection with two Cottage Houses*" at Bispham-with-Norbreck *"for the purpose of spinning and carding Cotton Wool"*. Porter states *"Bispham contained a manufactory for the production of linsey-woolsey. The building was three stories in height, and employed a considerable number of hands. Subsequently it was converted into a ladies' school, and afterwards pulled down. Two or three residences in the township near the site of the old manufactory still retain the names of 'factory houses', from their association with I"*. The cottages were still standing in 1897 although the business had ceased. There was still *"a little calico weaving*" in Bispham in 1841.

William Bonny not only leased Warbreck Farm, but also now bought the adjoining Leys Farm and its allotment on Layton Hawes.
Edward Jolly of Weeton signed a trust, on the 13th of February. This became known as Jolly's Charity. In it, he had *"given to the minister of Marton chapel or the clerk thereof 6d. weekly to be laid out in bread to be distributed after divine service amongst the poor inhabitants of Great and Little Marton as attended there"*.
There was a spring-fed water well on the shore near Bailey's Hotel.

1785
Norbreck House was built by Thomas Wilson. The Traveller's Club was later opened in the building.
Fisher's Cottages, on Fisher's Lane, were built around this time. They are single-story cobbled walled dwellings and were probably built in the late 18th century. Their roofs are now thatch, slate, and corrugated iron. Both cottages have doors close to the gable ends, and two rectangular windows in the front wall. They are now Grade 2 Listed Buildings.

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John Salthouse also advertised in the Manchester Mercury, this time declaring that he had *"genteelly fitted up the Inn or Bathing House called Cleeveley"*.

Blackpool was seen written as one word for the first time
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1786

Yates's map: shows "Mr Forshaw's Bathing Place" with Blackpool as one word. It also shows, from north to south - Warbreck, Whole Hill Mill, Great and Little Carleton, Layton Hall, Whinney Hawes Hall, Raikes Hall (William Butcher Esq.), Old Margeries, Fox Hall, Great Marton, Marton Mere, New House, Little Marton, Hays Side, Moss Side, Layton Hawes, Marton Moss, and Peel.

New House is shown on a contemporary map of Marton in this year. Squire Clifton sold Newhouse Farm to Agnes Johnson on March the 1st 1922. The farm stood at the corner of Preston New Road and Cherry Tree Road. Its farmland was on the opposite side of the main road and later became the burial ground for St Paul's Church.
At this time, the main road from Preston to Blackpool passed the Clifton Arms Inn at Little Marton and then took a sharp right turn at what is now the corner with Cherry Tree Road. It proceeded up Marton Straits, curving to the left and going directly west, to terminate next to the Saddle Inn. That last stretch is now called Preston Old Road, with Preston New Road being cut through, later, to the west of the Cherry Tree Road junction.

The map shows 27 windmills in the Fylde, one of which, at Newton-with-Scales is rarely heard of. This used to be sited off New Hey Lane.

In May, John Bonny began to advertise his 20-bedroom hotel, Mr Sharples his 18-room establishment with stables, and Thomas Lewtas the 70-room Lane Ends Inn. Old Margery's Hotel also advertised, and their farmland stretched from what we now know as Chapel Street Bridge to Whitegate Drive.
There were now fifty houses in Blackpool, a theatre in a farm barn in Lane Ends Street (now Church Street) and two bowling greens.
Visitors came for the fresh air, drinking seawater and bathing - with separate bathing times for gentlemen and ladies. A bell signified the changeover, and the fine for contravention of time limits was a bottle of fine wine! Gentlemen were allowed to bathe naked until 1860.

Bispham House: was built by John Duxbury: now part of the right-hand bay of Bispham Court, which was at the top of Norbreck Road. The Nightingale Nursing Home now occupies that part of the site. At the same time, Bispham House stood where number 286 Norbreck Road now stands, and the original frontage is now the back of two semi-detached houses.

Bispham Court was bought by Milly Roberts in 1946. Instead of her planned pig farm she turned half of the house into rental accommodation, to attract seasonal stars. She divided the house into 3 bedrooms, a lounge, hall, bathroom, and dining room. She forgot to include a toilet for her own family! Her first guests were the Andrea Dancers.

Bispham Court is at 357 Norbreck Road, and still features a paved patio area in which are inset several concrete slabs on which the stars signed their names and where they were appearing. These include Ernie Wise, Jimmy Logan, Edmund Hockridge, Des O'Connor, Barbara Windsor, and John Inman amongst many others.

Blackpool became a more musical town, when concerts began to be arranged by the Musical Society of Gentlemen from Preston. An advert in the Manchester Mercury of the 18th of July reads: *"Blackpool concerts— On Monday, the 14th, Wed, 16th, Friday, 18th of August, will be three concerts of music, under the direction of Mr Burchell, with the assistance of the Musical Society of Gentlemen in Preston. Mr Buckley*

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(already mentioned I2th January 1779, in this Manchester paper) is engaged as first violin; Mr s Shepley as principal vocal performer Tickets, at 25. 6d. each, may be had at the inns in Blackpool, where the particulars of each concert will be delivered previous to the performances.

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Fleetwood Windmill: Yates's map also shows the New Mill at Fleetwood. This is assumed to be a windmill and was located at the site of today's Farmer Parr's farm. It also lists a mill at Staynall, probably in today's Mill Field.

Smith's Mill windmill at Medlar with Wesham is shown on the road which now leads from Kirkham Station to Wesham.

The White Cottage, Lytham: stood facing the beach. Its origins are obscure but, supposedly, it was a hunting lodge used by Squire Clifton, and a dwelling of some kind had been on the site for over 100 years. It may also have been used, as a scenic retreat, by guests of Lord Sefton, when most of the area was a rabbit warren. Neither of these suggestions have been proven.

In 1786, a small building appears on the site on Yates's Map. By 1812, Squire Clifton owned it, and William Rawstorne lived at the "*pretty marine cottage*". By 1840, the cottage had been "*enlarged, squared up, heightened and probably re-roofed*". Catherine Formby then moved into what was by then numbered number 1 Central Beach. In 1915, the inhabitants were William and Sarah Hepburn.

Highgate House, Newton: This large house, also known as Highgate Hall, was at the crossroads at Newton-with-Scales, having been built in three stages at the beginning of the century. Tennis courts were later built in the grounds, which had their own large orchard (now a bungalow next door), and were entered through a stone gate whose two posts still remain on the eastern side of the property. Bryning Lane beside the property, is named after those first owners.

In 1810 the house was used as a Quaker meeting house. The Quakers were granted right of way down to Lower lane in Freckleton, where their graveyard stood. The large house was later renamed Bryning Hall.

Then, in 1945, the building was converted into a café and restaurant by new owner Lady May Longbottom. Locals soon started to call it May Café. It was very briefly called May's Hotel. In 1951, it became the Swan's restaurant, and in 1963, the Bell public house. This was converted into the Bell and Bottle public house in 1968.

The Highgate Inn was 300 yards to the west, and in September 1841, was let by John Bainbridge when it boasted orchards and gardens.

1787

William Hutton told of a Silver Smith who visited Blackpool with poor eyesight. After his visit, his sight was "*perfectly recovered*" – supporting the town's fledgling reputation as a health spa.

Nine men's bodies were found on the shore at the Gynn - their ship had sunk in the night.

Thomas Leyland, a Liverpool Banker wrote the following to Joseph Green of Birmingham on the 15th of January "*I am sorry to inform you there are no accommodations here for bathing in the sea, Blackpool is the best place on this Coast, and I believe the terms very reasonable*".

John Bonny's advert in the Manchester Mercury reads that *"He has built a very large dining room, with lodging room for 20 beds, in addition to the House lately occupied by his fatherinlaw, Mr. Bickerstaff, which*
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has been fitted up in a neat and commodious manner for the reception of families during the bathing season. Ladies and gentlemen 2s. per day each; Children and Servants 1s. 6d; Table beer included. Horses, Hay and grass per night, 8 pence".

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The Plough, Staining: The first record of a beerhouse at Staining is seen, in a farmhouse at the junction of Mill Lane and Staining Road. That farmhouse obtained a formal drinks licence in 1810, in order to cater for the coaching trade, and became the Plough Inn in 1824.
In 1934, the landlady was Alice Goddard, and 1965 it was her son, Harry Goddard.
In October 1987, the original Plough closed, and the new Plough opened at the same time, on the car park of the old inn, which was soon demolished. Its address is now on Chain Lane.

May Day was still celebrated in the Fylde, and in Poulton *"the causeways were strewed with flowers, and at the door of the house of each respectable inhabitant, sweetmeats, ale, and even wine, were handed about as a treat and refreshment to the young, who were thus affording them amusement"*.

Woodplumpton Methodist Chapel: A Methodist society was established in Woodplumpton this year – the first outside Preston, and from there, preachers toured the Fylde.
In 1815, the Wesleyan Methodist chapel was founded on Moorside Lane, built on land given by John Watson for the purpose. It became known as the *"staff and band"* chapel because it was surrounded by a thorn and hazel fence.
It was restored in 1881 and closed in 2005.

The Broughton Catholic Charitable Society was formed at a meeting in the Golden Ball Hotel at Broughton on the 6th of May, to raise funds for the local poor.

1788

Blackpool's first tourist guide: William Hutton published the first guide to the town, called *"Description of Blackpool in Lancashire, frequented for Sea-Bathing"*. 720 copies were printed.
He described a small village, with a road running along the top of the cliffs by Pennystone Rock. Even in those days, the cliffs were eroding, as he saw just one road left out of the original four. There were several small bowling greens, and in a converted barn *"Sussarian and Dolan, a tragedy, was the first piece that distinguished the boards of Blackpool. Rows of benches were placed one behind another, and named pit and gallery, the first 2s. and the other is. The house was said to hold £6"*.
Shrimpers caught up to 6 buckets every day in the shallow waters.

Hutton states that the approach to Blackpool was *"through good roads which were safe and easy for the traveller"*. Not until 1830 was the road from Kirkham to Blackpool shown on a map as a road of some importance, and not until 1902 was it classified as a main road.

1789

The Blackpool Parade: The grassy Parade was 200 yards long by 5 yards wide. It was set apart by white railings and an *"alcove"* at the northern end, but a "*vile pit*" at the southern end, where people threw their human waste. This later became the Promenade. The parade was very narrow, and as one very early visitor stated *"And when autumn came with the promise of the equinoctial gales, the front doors were locked, and doors and windows were packed with clay to keep out the sea"*.
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By 1831, Blackpool had a fence along the Parade, to protect visitors, and a couple of hoteliers had benches outside facing it.
Finally, in 1865, after years of difficulties and complaints, the Blackpool Parade Act for Promenade Development passed through Parliament. This gave the Council control of the whole sea front, to build sea defences and improve the front.

Mr J Grimshaw of Preston wrote to Mr Taylor, Deputy Clerk of the Peace, at Liverpool, on the 3rd of June, about the exorbitant rates of carriage to Blackpool.
The population of Blackpool was a mere 400.

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Thornton Methodist Chapel: was built on Thornton marsh.

A second chapel was opened on Ramper Road to house the town's 17 Wesleyan worshippers in 1812. It was *"a plain, barn-like structure, whitewashed within and without"*. This chapel was rebuilt in 1892 and was replaced in May 1905 by the adjacent Wignall Memorial Methodist Chapel. This chapel was named after John Wignall, the late husband of its benefactor Janet Wignall. Ramper Road was by then called Victoria Road, having being originally constructed, as a route across the marsh, by an order of the Marsh Act Award of 1805.

Primitive Methodist Chapel, Thornton: In 1880, this chapel was built on Fleetwood Road North in Thornton, opening on the 11th of April. It had been built on land left for the purpose by local minister John Croft. The chapel was replaced in 1904 and the old building became the Sunday school.
In 1932, the church joined with the nearby Wignall Methodists, using both chapels. The Primitives' chapel was sold in 2009 to be converted into offices – the final service being held on the 15th of March.

Preston Gaol was built at the end of Church Street, taking criminals from all over the area. The gaol was rebuilt as a "radial design" prison between 1840 and 1895. It was closed between 1931 and 1939 and was used by the military from 1939 to 1948. In 1948, it was converted back to civilian use. It became a "Category B" prison for local men in 1990.

The Wheatsheaf Inn, Woodplumpton: was in operation. Its address is now 34 Woodplumpton Road. It is rumoured to be haunted by a little girl who sits at the fire grate and polishes the brass work.
In 2013, the pub was bought by Star Inns and taken over by Pete Robinson and Ness Wilkinson, who also run the village Post Office from the premises.

1790
Mr Lewtas built a Coffee and Eating House across the road from his cottage at Lane Ends.
There are tales of Sir Robert Peel and his father staying in Blackpool, although no record can be found.
Springfield House Farm was built off what would become Watson Road by Edward Pedder. It is now number 12 Third Avenue. Several stretches of its cobble walls still remain.

Bispham Lodge: was built by Edward Pedder on Norbreck Road.
1828 saw Charles Hesketh living there as vicar of Poulton, but in 1831, he was made vicar of Bispham
In 1836, the vicar left, and the lodge was bought by Frederick Kemp. He worked from there on the building of Fleetwood. Kemp Street in Fleetwood was named after him, and he was also the first town postmaster.
By the mid-1840s, Kemp's wealth had overtaken Peter Hesketh-Fleetwood's – he owned the Steam Navigation Company.
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Bispham Lodge was sold on the 12th of June 1899, to John Lucas of Claremont College. Lucas had bought the lodge for use as a private Boy's School, and Bispham Lodge Private School duly opened on the cliffs at Norbreck on the 21st of February 1905. The school offered a *"Large staff of Local and Visiting Masters"* to get the *"Boys prepare for all examinations*". There was *"Eight Acres Recreation Ground"*.

At the same time, he started the Lucas Summer Holiday Camp for young men in an adjacent field, comprising 52 Army bell tents and a wooden dining hall. It was soon being advertised nationally as the Lucas Holiday Camp, and by 1920 – then called the Norbreck Holiday Camp - it even produced its own in-house periodical – The Camp News.

In 1907, the Blackpool YMCA Holiday Home and Camp Company started a holiday camp at the site, now accommodating up to 500 campers, and using the lodge as offices etc. The camp was just to the east of the tram tracks, next to the Hydropathic Hotel and opened on the 1st of July. The camp was a popular venue for holidays by members of the young men's "Health and Strength League" – an organisation which had over 100,000 members by 1930.
The camp also ran its own Café and Restaurant, which were open to all comers, as was its garage.
By 1915 the whole complex was known as Bispham Lodge Camp, and by the 1940s, the complex had become the Lodge Holiday Flatlets, complete with its Recreation Lawn.

The camp closed in 1952, and by the end of 1953, it had been cleared, to be replaced by a planned 38 houses and 12 private hotels. By the 1960s, the main lodge building had become a car saleroom called Lodge Garage – later, Norbreck Garage.

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New Compley House was built in Carleton.

1791
George Cooke began to sell provisions in his shop. Until then, all goods had to be carried from Poulton or Preston by horse and cart.

1792
The Squire of Rossall, Bold Hesketh-Fleetwood, made an agreement with 29 tenants of the Manor of Layton, on the 19th of October, for the widening and deepening of *"the Spen Dyke or Ditch running from the northern boundary of Marton Moss to Blackpool Bridge".*
James Mercer enlarged his cottage on Fisher's Row and established a Methodist society there.
George Cooke posted a notice of thanks in the London Evening Post on the 19th of June, thanking patrons, and advertising his shop, library, and billiard room in *"A delightful sea-bathing place in Lancashire".*

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The Plough Inn was in business on Church Street in Poulton. In 1860, its landlord was one Thomas Roskell. It closed in 1902.
Famous clockmaker, Samuel Lomas, of 16 Hardhorn Road died. He had looked after and maintained the tower clock at St Chad's Church in Poulton for many years.

1793
Richard Hall, a Great Marton saddler, bought a cottage adjoining White Gate Lane on the 13th of February.

Digham House, Norbreck: Edmund Singleton of Digham House died, leaving a large amount of land in the area. Digham House had been built in the late 1760s, next to the farmhouse of Digham Farm - the

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principal farm in Norbreck. It boasted a symmetrical façade containing five windows, and a central doorway, in front of which was a curved driveway. The house is said to have boasted an *"impressive oak staircase"*. In the gardens were Sycamore Walk and Moonflower Walk.
Soon after 1918, the house was let to the Cliffs and Norbreck Hydro Ltd, and by 1955 it had been converted into flats.
Its lodge house at the end of the driveway was later lived in by the Crockett family of local butchers.

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The Thatched House Tavern, Poulton: The Thatched House is first referred to this year, when Thomas Hardman was its landlord, although its original construction suggested a medieval origin. It was a small, single-storey, cruck-framed, thatched hostelry on Chapel Street, which stood at right angles to the current building. In 1828, it was known as the Green Man and its landlord was Thomas Hardman. In the 1890s, Nathaniel Charnock was the landlord and his beer was supplied by Boddington's Brewery of Manchester.

The pub was rebuilt in 1907 at number 30 Ball Street, in the *"Mock Tudor"* style, and the original tavern was finally demolished in 1910, when Ball Street was widened, along with Church Street. In 1928, the landlord was one RB Moss (who was now able to offer billiards), and by 1934, it was run by Oswald B Openshaw.
Ball Street was named after the Golden Ball inn.
The pub now houses its own Chapel Street Brewhouse, opened by landlord Vin Hamer in June 2014, in the pub's old coaching sheds.

The Church of Zion, Kirkham: opened a small chapel on Back Lane.
It was rebuilt in 1818 and could then house 350 worshippers. A manse was later added (now the Manse Nursing Home), as was a small graveyard.
The Zion chapel was converted into a Sunday school in 1897 and was then demolished in 1913.
Congregationalists began to hold meetings in Slater's Passage off Freckleton Street in Kirkham in 1805, moving to the Zion chapel in Back Lane in 1810.

A body of Special Constables was formed to combat crime in the Fylde. The Special Constabulary of Little Eccleston-cum-Larbreck was formed by an agreement between 31 local men.

1794
John Holt reported that in Layton Hawes *"most of the ditches are nearly navigable, no attention being paid to gain an outfall, so they are full with putrid water"* and *"I believe they may be of service in keeping up the breed of water rats".*
George Cooke's wife advertised in the London Evening Post on the 12th of June, that her husband and she were offering rooms for rent to single ladies.

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Marsh Mill, Thornton: Thornton windmill was built by Ralph Slater, for Bold Hesketh-Fleetwood, as part of a system of 37 windmills studding the Fylde plain and producing grain. It was one of the largest windmills in Europe and is the tallest in the Fylde at over 70 feet and five storeys. Its name comes from the marshy land on which it was built.
In the mid-19th century, the original chain and wheel winding gear was replaced with a four-bladed fantail.
The mill was let after the death of its millwright George Kirkham in 1846. In 1896, the original common sails were replaced with patent sails by its new owner, Thomas Parkinson.

Next door to the mill for many years was the Thornton smithy, run in 1922 by T Kirkham.

The windmill made grain continually until 1922, when the windmill's last miller, George Bunn, ground its last corn for animal feed.
The mill was then used from 1928 as the Marsh Mill Tea Rooms. These were run by Miss Barter and Miss Baldwin, who advertised "*The Ideal Place for Motorists - DAINTY TEAS, LIGHT LUNCHEONS - Rooms let for picnic, wedding, and other parties. Parking Ground".* The words "THE TEA HOUSE" were painted on the mill's outside walls.
In May 1930, two ladies visited the windmill with an interest in purchasing it, but when both women stepped onto the fantail staging, it collapsed and they both fell to their deaths. The café closed immediately, and a warehouse for used furniture, and a denture factory.

Thornton Cleveleys Council bought the mill and adjoining house for £1,200 in 1957. In 1962, two of the sails were blown off in December storms, rapidly followed by a third sail. The fourth was then removed for safety reasons. *"In 1965 following public demand the Council undertook restoration work. They added new sails, repairs to the Reefing stage and a new skeletal Fan-tail assembly"*.

From 1964, Walter Heapy founded the Thornton Windmill Preservation Society, and worked tirelessly to restore the mill. In 1977, the drying kiln and smithy, which had been used as a house, was declared dangerous. It was demolished and re-built in 1980, the adjoining house and smithy were demolished, the original drying kiln being rebuilt in its place in 1981.

Marsh Mill Village was opened in Thornton on the 28th of August 1979. It featured the refurbished windmill and shops and cafés. *"New sails, Reefing stage and Fan-tail assembly were purchased assembled and lifted into place, the internal machinery, was checked over and renovated in a number of places. At 11.30 on 11 January 1990 the sails turned for the first time in 67 years – albeit via an electric motor installed within the structure. However, the situation could not be maintained and once again the Mill gradually fell into disrepair"*.

A storm ripped off one sail in 1983, but after the min oak beams were replaced, they all turned once more on the 16th of January 1990 – soon stopping again due to buckled metalwork.
The mill itself is now a Grade 2 Listed Building and is home to Marsh Mill Village - a courtyard complex which includes craft and other shops, cafés. There is also a pub called Tavern at the Mill, which opened in February 1990 and reopened in 2007, and Twelve, which is a fine dining restaurant that opened in April 2000.

2013 saw *"another set of new sails being purchased and fitted with the Cubitt's shuttering system and completely new Fan-tail assembly, renovations of the internal machinery to replace rotted beams and other parts, this also included the checking and re-wiring of the electric motor which powers the sails, plus the checking of safety barriers throughout"*.

Near the mill is The Marsh Mill miniature railway. This is a ¼-mile circular track just to the side of the main sports fields. Trains run Sunday and bank holiday afternoons throughout the year. All rides are free, and live steam and electric locos on 3 different gauge tracks are used to haul trains of up to 15 passengers.

There is fleeting mention of another mill in Thornton, which stood underneath where the ICI plant was constructed.

The Wheat Sheaf Hotel, Lytham: was built, opposite the Clifton Arms, on Clifton Street, by John Crookall, reflecting the town's increasing popularity. The Wheat Sheaf and its adjoining buildings were demolished

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between 1822 and 1824, to make room for Dicconson Terrace, with its houses and a billiard room, which were built in 1825. Dicconson Terrace itself was constructed in 1824, and was named after Edward Clifton's wife Elizabeth Swarbrick, whose family were allowed to use the Dicconson title.

The Wheat Sheaf itself was replaced by a bank, when Williams Deacon's Bank opened at what was now 84 Clifton Street on the 1st of April 1901. This became Williams and Glyn's Bank in 1970, and subsequently, in 1985, the Royal Bank of Scotland. Then, simply called the RBS, the bank finally closed on the 26th of August 2015. Weekly transactions had dropped by 21% since 2011, and only 65 people regularly used the branch.

In July 2017, buyer Charles Furnell began to alter the building into a restaurant and bar *"The ground floor and first floor are being altered to create a restaurant with an ancillary bar. This will include the removal of a wall on the ground floor. Work will also include internal refurbishment and fitting out of the premises. Any original features will be conserved, and it is proposed to retain a traditional feel to the building. External architectural features of the landmark will also be retained to ensure it remains in keeping with the conservation area. Some windows will be removed to enable a glazed canopy to be fitted allowing diners to eat al fresco"*. On the 5th of December 2017, the Williams Deacon's Bank building was duly re-opened as The Deacon restaurant and bar, by businessmen Michael Robinson, Charles Furnell and Chris Turnbull.

A large house was also built, on the corner with Clifton Square. That house was demolished in 1900 to build the new Post Office.

Treales Windmill: is shown this year to have been a wooden post mill, with its own kiln and mill field, and may have been built in 1718, as there is a *"stone bearing the date 1718 is built into the wall at ground level on the east side interior. Its position and siting suggest a later insertion rather than an original siting"*. That mill was constructed on the site of the original manorial wind corn mill.

The current 4-storey, brick building was built between 1800 and 1830, although the exact date is unknown. It was owned in the past by the Butler and Stanley families.

The mill had *"four patent sails rotating anti-clockwise. Dummy cap. Winding by fan on cap driving to curb. Two spur wheels provided overdrift drive to five pairs of stones"*.
Nicholas Cartmell was the miller from 1851/2, and on his death in 1880, he was succeeded by his son Robert, who gave it over to his own son Bede in 1895.
It ceased operation in 1922, and in 1938, the mill cap was so damaged in a storm, that a lightweight conical shingle cap had to be made by Rushton's of Treales, to allow it continue being used as a foodstuff storage depot. The tower was used for storage purposes during World War 2.
The mill is now a Grade 2 Listed Building and was converted by S and A Lee, into a private residence between 1958 and 1962. The builder was Tom Mellor, working for RM Rigby.

Treales Windmill, Windmill Farm, and Windmill Cottage form the last remaining complete industrial mill complex in Lancashire. Windmill Cottage is the old drying kiln, and Windmill Farm was the Miller's house. The farm and cottage buildings were built later, and date back to the early 1900s.

1795

Poulton Club Day: was first held. Club Days were an annual celebration of the local trades, friendly societies, and religious clubs, and in Lytham were sometimes referred to as the "Club Anniversary" – e.g.

©

June 1895. The Poulton Club Day in 1897 was called the Poulton Children's Festival, and in 1913, Poulton Gala is believed to have been first held – now on the 1st Saturday of June. I have given a partial list of its Gala Queens at Appendix Y.

The Wheat Sheaf Inn at Poulton: was on what was later known as Wheatsheaf Street, then Sheaf Street.

The Wheat Sheaf lost its license and closed in the 1850s, to be replaced by Lindum House, a private home with its own stables, vinery, and gardens. It was discovered that people had been buried in its back yard - NOT customers though.
Then came the other houses of Lindum Terrace in 1896, shortly after which, the street was renamed Sheaf Street - it is now called Hardhorn Road.

Most of Sheaf Street was renamed Hardhorn Road in 1933, and in July 2016, both Sheaf Street and Hardhorn Road became part of a new link road called Wheatsheaf Street.

After life as Poulton's first telephone exchange, the buildings later became the Comrades Club, Poulton Social Club (from 1968), the Polish Club and, after being rebuilt between 1969 and 1970, various night clubs. From 1992, Lawdy Miss Clawdy's (on what was by then called Hardhorn Road) was one such, and that club was taken over and rebranded as The Edge, which closed in 2011.
The building began to be refurbished in August 2013, prior to opening as the 900th new Wetherspoon's outlet. Called the Poulton Elk, it opened on the 17th of December.

The Spread Eagle Inn was in Queen's Square in Poulton, and later became Parkinson's stores, then Reed's stores, and is currently the Hair Studio and de Mendo gents' outfitters. Queen's Square was originally Poulton's green.
At Treales, close to the border with Salwick and close to Lund, a hermitage is shown on a survey.

The Lea Gate Hotel, Lea: It seems that the owner of the Toll House at Lea was finally granted a liquor licence. The original building was *"well accustomed"* when it was sold, along with the tollgate, its weighing machine, a brewhouse and stables, in May 1833. After that sale, the inn was demolished and re-built, along with the adjacent toll house. Records state that in May 1883, *"a charge of £775 13s 1/4d incurred by pulling down, rebuilding, erecting additional buildings, improving and repairing dwelling house and Public House and out-buildings at Clifton and Lea. Toll Barr"*.
In 1959, the old pub and the nearby toll house were demolished and a new hotel built on Preston New Road soon afterwards.
Since summer 2015, the pub has been part of the Hungry Horse chain of pub/restaurants.

1796
A Beacon was prepared on Beryl Hill (now Knowle Hill at Warbreck) in case of invasion by Napoleon. It was never lit, but locals feared that if the French did invade, they would certainly land in the Wyre. A Trigonometrical Station was located on Beryl Hill until at least 1875.

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The Clifton Arms Hotel, Lytham: The hotel opened opposite the Wheat Sheaf Hotel in Clifton Street, Lytham and was originally a coaching inn, until the railway reached town in 1863. It was refurbished in 1821/22 by Mrs Lillyman, and a guide in 1826 states that *"Immediately over the northern portico, a tablet appears of stucco work, inside which, the words "Clifton's Arms" in relief is inserted, surmounted by the escutcheon and crest of that family. On the frieze of the portico, the words — "Ennis's warm and cold*
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©

baths" occur in gold letters. The house is pallisaded from one extremity to the other. An elegant semi-circular bey window is placed between the two porticos, which commands an extensive view of the briny ocean".
The two ends of this original hotel were demolished in 1840, to be replaced by the shops of Park Street, which began to be constructed just after 1861. The centre part of the hotel remains today, as Stringer's shop and the Fascination store.

From 1839, the Clifton Arms was rebuilt in its current position on West Beach in Lytham (then known as *"Hungry Moor"* because of its very sparse vegetation). The 2-storey hotel had 65 bedrooms, and was officially opened on the 12th of May 1841, by J Charnock. The site had previously housed a small inn. Mr Charnock quickly advertised that he had bathing vans for use by his customers, and that he ran an omnibus four times daily, to meet trains at Kirkham Station.
In front of the Clifton Arms for many years was a Signal Pole.

In 1865, a three-storey extension was added, and *"The new part of the house contains a large and elegantly fitted up coffee room, a spacious billiard room, and numerous sitting rooms, bed rooms, andc".* The hotel had a 30-feet deep well in the courtyard, which they said *"supplied the coldest water in Lytham"*.

By 1860, the inn was being advertised as the Clifton Hotel Tap by landlord James Brown. This is clearly the origin of its later nickname "The Taps" – and its eventual title.

When the hotel was sold in 1868, the auction catalogue advertised that it had *"100 Sitting and Bed Rooms, has a Frontage to the Beach of sixty yards, and commanding an extensive view of the Estuary of the River Ribble. Also, and forming part thereof, are commodious Wine and Spirit Vaults, where a first-class family trade is carried on. Attached thereto is a well-accustomed Tap and a large Yard, surrounded by good Stabling and Coach-houses. There is also on the premises a Telegraph Office, communicating with all parts of the world, a bowling green, and other conveniences".*
The hotel was bought by the Newton Heath Brewery in 1895. The price was £6,500. The manageress in 1907 was Miss E Thomas, who had moved from the Buxton Hydro. Its café and order office (off-licence) were in Queen Street, and by then, the hotel's own garage adjoined it.
The hotel was then acquired by Dutton's Brewery of Blackburn in 1936, was refurbished, and was then reopened in June 1938.

From April 1983 until July 1988, its corner bar was known as "Gershwin's Piano Bar", now being called the Clifton Lounge.

The Captain's Cabin public house (in the tap room) was reopened as The Taps on the 18th of June 1993. It had been known locally as the Taps for many years previously (at least since 1868).

In July 1999, the first Taps Cycle Ride was held to raise funds for the Rosemere Cancer Charity, which aims to add to the existing Oncology Unit at Blackpool's Victoria Hospital. It was organised by Edward Cook for the first 20 years.

Yates's map of this year shows several windmills of which there are now no signs. These include mills at

- Bryning – by Bryning Hall Farm,
- Inskip – near today's Derby Arms (opposite which stood the village stocks),
- Copp – south of Great Eccleston (moved to Little Eccleston before 1870),

©

- Elswick – near the Ship Inn,
- Wesham – at the northern edge of the town,
- Mythop – near Mill Lane Farm, and
- Great Plumpton – two mills, half a mile west of Wrea Green.

1797

Dickson, Haslam formed their solicitor's practice, now with branches in Kirkham and Lytham.

Hambleton School: Hambleton day school had existed for many years but now received an endowment of 200 shillings from Mathew Lewtas. It moved from Grange Road to the church hall in 1847, where it stayed until moving to its current site on Church Lane in 1879, as Hambleton County School.
It changed its name to Hambleton Primary Academy in 2012.

The Lancaster Canal: was extended from Preston to Carnforth, but it bypassed the Fylde, only coming as far as Salwick, showing the coastal area's relative unimportance at the time. The canal was nicknamed *"The Black and White"* because it transported limestone southwards from Cumbria and Coal northwards from the Lancashire coal fields.
At Salwick, a wharf was built, from which the coal was landed to supply the village. In 1885, the London and North-Western Railway bought the canal, and one of its boundary posts still stands at the north-east corner of the wharf.

The Hand and Dagger inn, Salwick: The Clifton Arms was built to serve users of the new canal, at the same time at Salwick Bridge. Being a packet station, it provided stables for the barge horses.
Prompted by the coat of arms of the owning Clifton family, it became known to locals as the Hand and Dagger, and eventually its name was formally changed this. It is said to be haunted by a ghost called Fred.
In August 1845, the innkeeper was John Wade, in 1861, Elizabeth Cartmell, and in 1934, its landlady was Grace Bolton - also described as its farmer.

1798

On the 22nd of May, in the Sun newspaper in London, Smith's Hotel was advertised. They also extolled that *"Carriages may run upon the sands for 20 miles, without danger; and what must particularly recommend it at this time, is its great Security from a Foreign Enemy"*. The hotel also boasted a billiard table, public library, and a music room.

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Two whales, an Orca and a Beluga were spotted off Rossall.

The Loyal Kirkham Volunteers: Were formed this year as a local army volunteer corp.
The 10th Lancashire Artillery Volunteers were then raised at Kirkham on the 15th of March 1860 and joined the 4th Admin Brigade in November 1863. That in turn became the 4th Artillery Volunteers in 1880.
Finally, in 1901, the headquarters of the newly-formed 5th Lancashire Artillery, Number 1 Battery was based at the specially-built Drill Hall on Birley Street in Kirkham.
They hosted many army gatherings in a large field north of Wesham, and published a regular newspaper called the "Kirkham and Wesham Soldiers and Sailors Gazette".
The corps laid out its own Rifle Range, to the south of Carr Lane, near Sidings Farm. They also built kennels close by, probably to house the guard dogs and mascots.
During World War 1 the corps took over the Woodlands Road football ground for drill practice.
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Guy's and Owd Nell's, Bilsborrow: This year, School House Farm was built, and from 1800, the newly-built Lancaster Canal began to run past the land. In 1832, Reverend Thomas Duell, the vicar of St Lawrence's Church, Barton, lived there while his vicarage was being rebuilt after a devastating fire. He first began to brew and sell the Porter for which the farm became famous.

In 1980, Irene Wilkinson bought Guy's Court and opened Guy's Eating Establishment Restaurant and Pizzeria next door to the farm.

Then, in 1986, Roy Wilkinson bought School House Farm off Mr and Mrs Fife, and he had it transformed into a thatched canal side hostelry called Owd Nell's Tavern. This opened on the 21st of February 1986, being supplied by the Thwaites brewery.

In September 1991, the newly-expanded Guy's Thatched Hamlet held its first annual Guy's Oyster Festival. By 2015, the festival was attracting more than 7,000 local and international visitors over the weekend. It included a seafood luncheon in the festival marquee, which saw over 7,000 oysters eaten by more than 1,000 diners on the first day alone. Live music and dancing were provided.

Guy's Thatched Hamlet now has its own row of shops on its Sprout Lane, which leads to more on School House Square. As well as 65 thatched guest rooms in Guy's Canalside Lodge, there is also a sports ground, bowling green, and an ice cream parlour.

Southport was founded by William Sutton in its present form. It was an early and continuing competitor for Blackpool's trade – although designed for a *"better"* class of visitor!

1799

Storms lashed the Fylde coast on the 3rd of November, and the merchantman "Brothers" was driven ashore at Blackpool with the loss of 14 lives – the bodies of 9 were washed up onto the shore. The disaster had a silver lining though - the potato harvest had failed, but the wreck had been carrying a cargo of peas. Those supplemented the diet of the locals at this trying time.

Peel School: existed from at least now, as its schoolmaster, William Brown, is listed in a will. It was on the corner of what is now Whitehill Road and Preston New Road, and School Meadow was on the opposite side of the main road. In 1839 Robert Cross was schoolmaster, and by 1844, the teacher was J Cookson. They were both from Marton.

The school seems to have been demolished shortly after 1864 and from the early 1930s, the site housed Alec Snell's Progress Garage, selling Fina Fuels. Alec had bought an old wartime hangar and turned it into the garage. Mr Snell lived at 2 Peel Road, until he moved to a new house on Whitehill Road. He built the house opposite the garage, and christened it "Northfield", for his wife Winnie Ross. In the 1980s, a house named "Southfields" appeared at the western end of the same road. Its owners clearly thought to have a name which reflected their location.

Progress Garage was demolished from 1974, to become Martonmere Autos Ltd, then Whitehills Car Showroom from 2002 - which closed in 2008. The showroom reopened in January 2010 as M55Cars.com, part of the Jespa Ltd group, which also owned Fleetwood Car Centre. It closed again, on the 29th of June 2015, to be taken over by Lloyd's BMW garage next door.

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The Thornton Marsh Act 1799: came into force, having been drawn up to begin the *"dividing, allotting, and enclosing"* of land at Norbreck, Bispham, and Carleton. Local landowners began building sea defences, but the whole procedure took seven years to complete. This was due to complaints by local landowners against the award to Bold Fleetwood Hesketh of 82 acres of the land – two thirds of the total available. Eventually, a new road was created – Sea Shore Road, and Hesketh owned all the land to the north of that line. Sea Shore Road is now called Anchorsholme Lane.

Lytham Gaol, a *"house of confinement",* was built off Douglas Street in Lytham *"containing distinct apartments for the punishment of offenders of both sexes"*. The gaol had become virtually unused by 1826, and Bath Street now covers the site.
In Lytham, the town worthies had made it their goal to attract only the more well-to-do visitors to their town, and the phrase "Leafy Lytham" was insinuated into the local vocabulary, soon becoming commonly heard. The town slowly changed its former life as a fishing and farming community, to a "posh" holiday place. As a result, more accommodation was constructed, as were the accompanying amusements, and the necessary "service" industries. By the 1820s, Lytham was about 1/3 bigger than Blackpool. It was soon overtaken though.
This year, one Captain Ratham declared *"Lytham is a maritime village, which, since watering places have become so fashionable a summer's lounge, is now advanced to a place of some celebrity"*.

Bathing vans at Lytham: Lytham already had its own fleet of three Bathing Machines, which were taken down to the water's edge by one or two horses.
A contemporary guide stated that *"For the accommodation of the company, bathing machines are kept here, which during the height of the season meet with constant employment; these machines are driven into the sea to a suitable depth, attended by careful and experienced guides; within the machine is a door through which those who bathe descend a few steps into the water. There are three established machines here, two of them the property of Mr Parkinson, and the third Mr George Gillat's; both of whom, from long experience and constant practice, are declared to be particularly adroit in delicately handing the fair females out of the machines into the water, and thus emerging their graceful shapes with no small skill under the white top'd breakers"*.
Those first bathing machines were also used as transport to church on wet and windy Sundays.
In 1820, Thomas Miller introduced bathing vans to Lytham – hence the naming of Bath Street in later years. Bath Street originally led across the Green, right up to the bathing vans.

Ribby Hall, Wrea Green: Joseph Hornby built the hall between Wrea Green and Kirkham. He also held land, which is now the site of the Norbreck Castle, and his son William later bought and moved to Raikes Hall. The house was faced with scored stucco, and has hipped slate roofs, which now have no chimneys. It has been converted into private suites.

A study by Edward Twycross describes it as *"Scored stucco, hipped slate roofs now with no chimneys. Extended U-plan: 7-bay north front to garden with shorter 7-bay receding west wing which is entrance front, 3-bay receding east wing, various continuations of the wings to the rear. Two storeys, with tall 12-pane sashed windows on both floors, low cornice and parapet; entrance front has tretrastyle Tuscan porch to 3rd bay, large full-height semicircular 3-window bay at right end (long single-storey flat-roofed range with 2 bay windows and 3 sashes continues to right); garden front has semicircular 3-window bay in the centre, a similar bay to the returned left end; east wing has 2 larger and 2 smaller windows at ground floor, but is otherwise similar, and altered continuation to rear. Rear has large Venetian stairlight window.*

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Interior: screen of 2 Doric columns between axial passage and imperial staircase which mounts in one and returns in 2 flights". The pond in Ribby Hall is said to have originally formed part of a moat.

Ribby Hall was taken over by the Army in 1938, when owned by the Duckworth family, and on the 1st of July 1946, they released it to the Royal Cross School for the Deaf. The school officially opened in 1948, taking boys aged 9 to 11. It closed in 1969, and from 1972 to 1974, Ribby Hall hosted the Royal Lancashire Show.

Ribby Hall's estate was opened as a leisure village and a site for 50 touring caravans in 1983. It also had its own pub, café, and sports club.
That complex was bought by Bill Harrison family in January 1994. He sold his Blackpool caravan park in 1996, to fund the development of 175 cottages, 350 holiday homes, a hotel, sports facility, a shop, and a restaurant. Construction began in July 1994, and was completed in 2006.
The sports centre opened in 1995, and the first cottages were able to filled in 1997.
Ribby Hall bowling club was founded in 2000, the Manor House hotel opened in 2001, and the swimming pool and health club were opened in 2002, together with a nine-hole golf course. By that time, there were 120 holiday homes (caravans) and 100 cottage lodges.
The pine lodges were opened in 2005, and a Starbucks coffee outlet in 2009. Also, in 2009, Visit England awarded Ribby Hall a five-star rating.
The venue opened a new Spa Hotel in August 2011, and the James Bulger Memorial Trust opened their first James Bulger House holiday home there in July that year.

In April 2017, a massive re-furbishment of the swimming pool area was opened. It included a 48-metre interactive play slide. Swimmers climb to the top of the slide, which then takes them out of the building and back inside again. As they come down the slide, they play an interactive touchpad game on the inside. The splash pool and a new interactive aqua deck play structure, with tipping buckets and integral slides, together with a themed toddlers' pool, a new sauna, steam room, and feature showers.

Kirkham Tithebarn was blown down in a gale. It had "*formed the west barrier of the churchyard*".

Bilsborrow Hall: sometimes called Bilsborough Hall, was owned by Geoffrey Parkinson. The hall was rebuilt around 1911, by Joseph Eccles, a Preston cotton mill owner. It had another wing added in 1924, and there are many 17th century features inside. It is now a Listed Building.
On the 18th of March 1919, Alexander Eccles died suddenly whilst ploughing at Bilsborough Hall. He had been the captain if the Lancashire cricket team for several years.

By 1936, it was owned by William Galloway, the president of the rival Horrocks cotton company. The then-owner John Townley closed down one of the wings in 1953 and auctioned off the full contents in May.

Lancashire was the first county in England to grow potatoes. They arrived in England in 1586, and after being grown in Cork, they first came to our county in 1597. This year, the crop failed, and many hundreds of local people died.

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Chapter 9: 19th century

At the turn of the 19th century, the development of the resort came close to stagnation through the inactivity of the principal landowners. However, Henry Banks, who was often called the **"Father of Blackpool"**, purchased the Lane Ends Estate in 1819; this transformed the situation, and the town's development accelerated.

At the beginning of the century, before Blackpool developed, Poulton was a thriving market town serving the whole of the Fylde coast - Blackpool innkeepers would go to Poulton to buy at the busy market with locally caught fish for sale on the fish slab next to the Market Cross and stocks. Several fairs were held in the town - an annual horse fair, thrice-yearly cloth fair, a fortnightly cattle market for which cattle were brought in through the new port at Fleetwood and a weekly corn market. Towards the end of the century, the country's West Coast fishing fleet was based at Fleetwood, landing herring and cod.
In the Fylde, *"a switch from arable production to raising dairy herds was an important development, caused by the growing demand for fresh milk in the cities"*.

The railways arrived, roads improved still more, and the area's links with the "outside world" got better and stronger. Holidays started to become more popular when the railways extended to the coast. With them, they brought large numbers of visitors - more still when Bank Holidays became law in 1871. Most working people were day-trippers taking advantage of the Bank Holidays, as many people had no time off work except Sundays.

Wakes Week: was a relic of the ancient feast days, where worshippers stayed awake the night before a feast, to perform a vigil (wake means vigil). Many of the feasts were to celebrate the annual replacement of the rushes on the church floor – known as *"rushbearing"* (carried out in Pilling Church as late as 1868). Wakes Weeks started out being held around Lammastide - the 1st of August, and many Lammas Wakes Walks were held in East Lancashire and Yorkshire (and still are).

Although considered heathen by many, King James I had ruled Wakes Weeks *"acceptable"* in 1617 and they continued through the years. They changed into rest days following the "Hiring Fairs" for country workers, and then to a weeks' unpaid leave, given in the Lancashire cotton towns in the 1880s, whilst the mill machinery was serviced. Most of those workers managed to go to the seaside in that week, and the old name for the holiday was resurrected.

The "Bathing Sunday" tradition, born after Sunday closing began, under the 1850 Factories Act, rapidly developed into annual migrations of cotton town communities to the seaside on the Northern coast. Also, the medical fraternity had begun to advocate that sunshine and outdoor exercise were invaluable for everyone, so not just the infirm were encouraged to come to the seaside.

Then, the Bank Holidays Act of 1871 was passed - opening up a valuable avenue for Blackpool tourism.

High season by the 1890s was the summer months between Burnley fair at the beginning of July and Oldham Wakes in early September. Most trips to Blackpool were funded by workers paying regular contributions to their local "Going off clubs", who paid out the savings in the week before the wakes.

Those early working-class holidaymakers transformed Blackpool into the resort it is today. It became, in effect, the country's biggest Wakes Fair, as a true holiday season developed around the weeks between

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July and September, when the eastern towns held their own Wakes Weeks. Blackpool's townspeople learnt, very early on, how to cater for the changing tastes of the market and have managed to stay ahead of the game ever since.
Wakes Weeks had become so popular, that for a week in late August 1900, Blackpool became known affectionately as "Oldham by the Sea".

In 1905 the traditional Wakes Week was formally established throughout Lancashire, when it was agreed that an operative's holiday should be observed. It now included the retail trade, and shops closed for a week, with bigger department stores allowing staff three or four days off work.

In the 1920s and 30s, Northern newspapers would advertise it with headings such as *"Sea Bathing for the Working Classes"* and would list Wakes Weeks and inform workers of the dates for their town to get away.

After World War 2, the holiday was increased to a fortnight.

The rest of the century saw the rapid development of Blackpool as the first major resort for the industrial working classes of Lancashire and Yorkshire. Businesses started to spring up in the expanding town, and more houses were built. The families of the Cockers, the Bickerstaffes, the Hesketh, the Bonnys, the Cliftons, and the Heywoods grew more prominent, although it was not until the town became a borough in 1876 that its expansion was given any kind of order.

The resort of Ryde built Britain's first pier in 1814, and when Blackpool's cognoscenti realised what one could do for their, and the town's, fortunes, perhaps most important of Blackpool's innovations were built. In order to run boat trips from towns without harbours, the piers seemed ideal. Blackpool later became the only town to build three piers and then a Tower as well – all of which are still internationally famous! The years after 1880 saw massive expansion and created the basic shape of the town we have now.

By its very nature, being "common" meant that Layton Hawes suffered through the lack of structured management. The absence of a land drainage system ensured that large areas of valuable land were rendered useless during periods of heavy rainfall. The landowners abutting the Hawes now realised that with a little money and effort the 1,800-acre wasteland could be transformed into valuable pastureland.

Many Fylde farms had a hand insignia over their doorways, carved in red stone against serious fears of foot and mouth disease in the late eighteenth century, when superstition still reigned high in rural areas. Known as the *"Red Hand"*, it was both a warning and a guard against the transfer of animals and stopped movements between farms.

In 1842, one of the provisions of the Town Improvement Act was the replacement of thatched roofs with non-combustible materials. Many original Fylde longhouses (a single-storeyed cobble-walled dwelling) started to be replaced.

Two new towns sprang up on the Fylde coast – Fleetwood began to be built in 1835, and St Anne's in 1875. A place known locally as *"New Blackpool"* grew in the mid-century by South Beach and competed with the main town for several years a separate resort.

The 100-year period from 1840 to 1940 saw over 110 churches or chapels constructed on the Fylde coast.

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1800

St Paul's Church, Marton: There are records of "Divine Service" being held at Marton long before this date, and the church holds records of parish baptisms from 1750. However, Marton's first church only this year began to be built. Green Lane, to the south, was then renamed Church Lane. St Paul's Church was finally completed, on what is now Honister Avenue, on the corner with Whitegate Drive, and it was consecrated on the 3rd of August 1804. The first burial at the church was of Rachel Whiteside, aged 3, on the 26th of February 1806; the burial ground had been built on the field called Marled Leys. St Paul's was licensed for marriages on the 20th of February 1838.

At first, St Paul's was a mere Chapel of Ease to St Chad's at Poulton, but in 1895, Marton became a Parish in its own right.

On the 18th of November 1897 St Paul's Church's new burial ground at the corner of Preston Old Road and (now) Preston New Road was consecrated. The original burial ground at the church was by then so full that bodies were being exposed whenever new graves were dug. The first service at the graveyard chapel was on the 31st of December 1900, and it was demolished from the 8th of November 1986.
The porch was added to St Paul's in 1848.

The first sod for the second St Paul's Church was lifted by Mrs JP Dixon on the 22nd of January 1908 (NOT on the 25th – St Paul's Day, as is sometimes quoted), and the church was consecrated on the 28th of May. The last service had been held in the old church on the 23rd. The church was designed by Freeman of Bolton. St Paul's bought the organ from St Paul's Street Church, Blackburn when it was demolished in 1956.

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Carleton Marsh, between Carleton and Bispham, was reclaimed about now. Thornton Marsh had been reclaimed a few months earlier.
James Mercer's house on Bath Street in Lytham was licenced for the preaching of Methodism.
A tithe barn just outside Lytham Hall Park was given to the town's Roman Catholics for their worship. It was enlarged in 1830 by the addition of a vestry and confessional. The park's lodges – Watchwood Lodge etc. - and gatehouses were rebuilt around this time.
Fishermen's cottages were built on Westby Street in Lytham.

The pubs of Great Eccleston: The Bowling Green Inn was by the village bowling green in Great Eccleston, at the corner of Leckonby Street and Chesham Street, and was run by Thomas Lawson. James Ogden was its licensee in 1823, and by the time it was sold by Robert Wareing on the 23rd of January 1839, it had become known as the Bowling Green Public House, with its own extensive gardens and brewhouse. By 1904, it was called the Bowling Green Hotel, and the old pub building is now a supermarket.

There are also tales of a Red Lion and a White Lion inn in the village at this time – one of them was at the bottom of Barrows Lane. The village had the nickname of *"Little London"* at the time, because of its importance as a market town. The cliffs at Norbreck and Bispham also held that nickname a little later.

By 1810, the Black Bull Inn was in business in Great Eccleston, and the adjacent White Bull is first seen in 1823 when William Bennett had his licence renewed (by 1910, it was Thomas Eaves).

The other pub in the village, the Farmer's Arms Inn, was built slightly later on Halsall Square, and for many years was a simple one-roomed inn, with its own brewery. The customers were able to drink in the
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garden, which was later enclosed and roofed over, to become the Garden Room. In 1878, its landlady Margaret Halsall was found guilty of watering down her gin – as was Joseph Blacoe of the Bowling Green Inn. The inn had closed by the 1890s and was occupied by the Holden family. By the 1910s, the building had become the Great Eccleston Tea Rooms, run by E Kershaw. It could then accommodate 100 diners – mainly provided by the regular char-à-bancs from Blackpool and Preston.
The empty building was bought by Duttons Blackburn Brewery in 1948 and refurbished. It was finally taken over by the Seafood Pub Company in August 2013.

1801
The first evidence of a Blackpool Postal Service is found on a letter sent to Newton-in-Bowland on the 5th of August. We can only assume this was posted from George Cooke's office. Blackpool had by then been issued with a mileage marking of 217 for the purposes of postal delivery.
More coaches began to run from Halifax, organised by Samual Riley - the trip took two days! The travellers all stayed together and the inn they used became known as the Yorkshire House (which by now had a bowling green) – indeed, the name Yorkshire House had been painted on the side of the building in red paint, by a visitor. Riley later became the Receiver of Wreck for all items found on the shore at Blackpool and stored the wreckage in his hotel.
The population of Layton (including Blackpool) stood at 473 – just a century later it had reached 47,348. By comparison, the population of the port of Poulton was 709.

1802
The Cherry Tree Hotel, Marton: A large (unnamed) beerhouse or inn was built in Marton, on Snow's Lane, across the road from the old, cobble-built Cherry Tree Cottage. This was at Cherry Tree Farm, which later, when owned by Joseph Todd, also offered a plant nursery. Snow's Lane was renamed Cherry Tree Road.

The Cherry Tree Gardens Inn opened in place of the beerhouse in 1850, by a Mr Dodd, and offered 4 and 1½ acres of gardens, orchards, and its big draw - the Peach House.

Many improvements were made in time for the 1894 season, and new owner Edward Pearson announced: *"BEAUTIFULLY LAID OUT GROUNDS! RECENT IMPROVEMENTS! LARGE ADDITIONS! MAGNIFICENT FLOWERS! WELL-STOCKED ORCHARDS! SPLENDID BOWLING GREEN!".*

By 1897, it had become such a popular destination for char-à-bancs from Blackpool, that on Whit Week that year, over 8,500 paid to enter. Soon afterwards, the long-time owners, the Fisher family, sold the venue to Richard Caldwell. By now, Cherry Tree Lodge stood nearby – to be demolished in the 1930s and replaced by Cherry Tree Allotments – the lodge stood where the present allotment main car park is now situated.

By 1934 it was being run by Henry Worswick, who advertised *"luncheons and teas provided, parties catered for, ballroom, tea gardens, dancing every evening, five acres of ornamental and rose gardens, open all day to visitors".* Its bowling greens were opened in 1935. The hotel also had its own putting green for children. The licensee from 1934 to 1953 was Bert Tulloch, an ex-Blackpool footballer. During World War 2, forces personnel packed the place to sing and dance to the sounds of a piano. When Tulloch died, his ashes were spread over the hotel's bowling greens.

The Cherry Tree Gardens Hotel was sold in March 1947, with the auction write-up stating that it comprised: *"4 ½ acres, Crown Bowling Green, putting course, Tea hut and extensive garden, Greenhouse, Kitchen gardens with fruit trees and bushes, and a large car park"* and *"the accommodation briefly*

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comprises: Large Front Bar (with Annexe or Seasonal extension), Music and Singing Lounge (with stage and balcony and wood block floor, and modern bar fittings). Snug Bar, Smoke-Room and Lodge Room, Seven Ladies' Toilets with two wash basins and ample Gentlemen's Toilets. Store Room and Cellar accommodation is provided, and there is a modern self-contained flat".

In the mid-1960s, the building was known as the "Sunset Lounge", before becoming "Your Father's Mustache" (notice the American spelling) nightspot from late 1968 until 1971, advertising itself as *"Britain's first Banjo Bar"*. Set up by Harry Black, it was part of an American banjo club franchise, and was trying to regain customers who had been drawn into Blackpool centre for their entertainment. Staff were obliged to wear a garter and a straw hat – the garter on a leg for women, and men wore it on their arm. The wooden drinking tables were nailed to the floor. Famous guests included Ken Dodd.

The Cherry Tree Gardens had its own football team, that played in the newly-formed Sunday League, with their home ground on Vicarage Lane.

The Cherry Tree Gardens Hotel closed its doors for the last time on the 7th of November 1971, and Blackpool Corporation purchased the remainder of the hotel, for demolition, from Dutton's Brewery on March the 29th 1972. The main hotel building stood where the houses at numbers 101-111 Cherry Tree Gardens now stand.

Cherry Tree House Old Folks Home, a Council-run retirement and sheltered housing complex of 33 one-bedroomed flats was built there in 1975. It includes properties for non-resident management staff and a community alarm service, together with a lounge, dining room, guest facilities, garden, and a community centre. The home was officially opened on the 25th of February 1977. It closed in 2007 and was demolished in July 2008, only to be replaced in 2010 by Tulloch Court, named after Blackpool footballer Bert Tulloch who once ran the Cherry Tree Hotel on the site.

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Marsh Farm was built off Ramper Road (Victoria Road East) in Thornton for Bold Fleetwood Hesketh. The keystone of the main door still shows the inscription *"B.F. Hesketh Esq. 1803"*.
A return to the government, made this year, shows that the Freckleton Friendly Society had been recently formed. This was followed in the 1820s by a women's Friendly Society. They appear to have both met regularly in the club rooms of the Ship Inn.

1803
A large, new house was built to the south of the "Garden Cottages" in Bispham. It soon came to be called Ingthorpe, and this later developed into Ingthorpe Grange, which stood on Blackpool Road in Bispham. It was otherwise known as Pye's Farm. Number 40 Blackpool Road now stands on the site. Ingthorpe Road was later put through nearby, at the point where a bridge spanned the local stream. The area was commonly known as the Brig for many years.

1804
Robert and Margaret Brown were living at Cumpley near Poulton. Thomas Cumming was there in January 1824. *Compley* is the original spelling of *Cumpley*. High Compley Farm was built in the 18th century, being farmed in 1900 by the Charnley family (later to open a garage), and in 1934 by George Fielding. The surviving farm outbuildings are made of cob walling. The 17-acre farm became a caravan site, but was sold in 2008, to become the Poulton Plaiz Holiday Park.
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The Eagle and Child Inn, Wharles: This small inn, on what later became Church Road, was leased by Edward Kirby from James Bains. It took its name from the crest of the local Stanley family. One of the region's only thatched inns, it was partially closed in 2008, being opened only at weekends for locals, and is currently almost derelict. It was known fondly by locals as the *"Bird and Bastard"* and had previously been a farmhouse.
The Eagle and Child started the trend for serving "Real Ale" in Fylde pubs.
A nearby 17th century thatched cottage called Pointer House is reputed to have been a coaching inn.

Milbanke House, Kirkham: was built by Thomas Birley, who also built Mill Street to house some of his workers, and had his mill converted to steam operation.
By 1903 John Birley, who had lived at Milbanke since 1889, had a locally-famous 20" gauge model railway in his grounds, which he used to let local children ride on. The house had its own separate entrance to Kirkham Railway Station.
It was demolished in the 1970s, to be replaced by the Millbanke social services care home.

1805

The Clifton family held Lane End House, which included a barn, garden, and several closes of land, known as the Marsh, Great Yard, Little Yard, and the Hey, on Lane End Street. They leased four of those plots to John Forshaw, Henry Banks, and Robert Banks for property development.

Little Plumpton School: Ann Moor, of Westby, bequeathed 40 shillings to Plumpton School, which was described in 1821 as being *"in the wastes of Plumpton".* Before this date, the school had been supported by *"subscription and quarterage"*.
By 1845, Little Plumpton School was to the south of the main Preston to Blackpool road (opposite where Wensley's Farm now stands).

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Ramper Road: was constructed from the shore to Thornton, under the Marsh Act Award of 1805: A thoroughfare had existed for many years, and it was first thought that the road was named Ramper Road after the earth mounds or ramparts that served as boundaries and flood defences for the Thornton Estate. We now know that as it led from Ramper Pot on the Wyre, it was named in its honour. Ramper Pot is the name for a small channel which runs into the river between Skippool and Wardleys, which being tidal and deep, is an ideal place to place wicker trapping baskets known as Ramper pots (ramper being a northern name for a lamprey eel). Ramper Road was renamed as Victoria Road, to mark the Jubilee in 1897. The town's tram station was later built at the junction of Ramper Road and Rossall Road.

The Toll House was built at Freckleton to collect the tolls from people crossing the new marsh road. The first toll keeper was John Hall. In 1895, the toll house was demolished and then replaced with a new building. The gates were also replaced. 1923 saw the building of a new road over the marsh, and the toll house was no longer needed. Its function was abolished on the 31st of December that year. Now known as Halfpenny Hall by locals, the toll house still stands today. The toll house is now Clifton Marsh Garage – owned by Ron Mapple in the 1970s.

1806

The Windmill Inn at Layton: Hoo Hill House was now sold by Thomas Gaulter to Dr Thomas Carter of Poulton, and in 1821 it was sold again to William Gardner, the miller at Hoo Hill Windmill. The house was bought in 1836 from William Gratrix by Robert Bonny. He built a bowling green, laid gardens, and obtained a drinks licence.
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By 1838 Hoo Hill House Inn was becoming well patronised. By now known as the Mill Inn, and standing next to the Hoo Hill Mill, at the junction of three busy roads, it was sold in 1844 by William Crane, just after a new brew house and coach house had been added. The inn had been temporarily known as the Wheel Mill Inn when it was let in 1840. By the 1890s, it was known locally as *"Old Betty Wilson's"*, soon becoming Butler's Wind Mill Hotel – the Holt and Pye families were in residence in 1896.
In 1924, it was bought by Catterall and Swarbrick, who rebuilt it as the Old Windmill Hotel, when its licensee was Ellis Turner.

That first hostelry was demolished in 1979 to be replaced by the new Windmill public house. By then owned by Mitchell and Butler's Brewery, the Windmill Pub closed at the end of June 2010, to be replaced by a Tesco Express store which opened on the 7th of October. In 2015, two houses were built on the green to the north of the shop buildings.

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Cockerham Lane (now Anchorsholme Lane) was built across the newly enclosed common.

Nateby House: Stood on what is now Nateby Crossing Land. This year, it was purchased by Thomas Swarbrick with his business partner, John Valentine, from a local gentleman named Michael Ann. Very shortly afterwards they conveyed it to John Birley of Kirkham. The house was sold again in 1818, to Thomas Butler-Cole, but the Swarbrick family bought the house back again atsome time later and Thomas Newsham Swarbrick, grandson of the Thomas Swarbrick who had bought the house in 1806, owned the property when he died there in 1878.
The property is still in the hands of the Swarbrick family, who now run it as Nateby House farm, a substantial dairy farm.

The first Ribble Navigation Act was passed in July. Its exact title was *"An Act for improving the Navigation of the River Ribble, in the county palatine of Lancaster"*. Another, wider-ranging act was passed in 1883, but did not come into force until 1889. This was intended to stabilise the regularly-silted River Ribble to allow a steady trade into Preston docks. Sadly, this work moved the main channel too much further out into midstream, and left St Anne's Pier standing proud on sandbanks, where no ships could dock.

1807
A coach service began from Blackburn, to Lytham and Blackpool.
From the 3rd of July, a covered mail cart left Blackpool for Preston three times per week.

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Methodists and Primitive Methodists in Freckleton:
The village's Wesleyan Methodists had their first instruction at Park Nook Farm on Bunker Street, owned by Robert Rigby. George Richardson had set up a small Methodist Sunday school there.

During this period, the village, and others in the area, were occasionally visited by the Wesleyan Gospel Car – a gypsy caravan-like carriage, which was the home to a travelling Methodist minister.

Travelling Wesleyan preacher Moses Holden preached in Freckleton in January 1811, and his own notes have him leading worship above the smithy.

In 1814, two plots of land were given for the construction of a Wesleyan Methodist chapel, and the building was in use by the end of 1819. They also gathered in each other's houses and other places, such as the Hodgson Institute and a disused sailcloth factory on the west side of Kirkham Road. 1840 saw the

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chapel totally rebuilt, with the thatched roof being replaced and the walls made taller. The new chapel could then accommodate 200.
In 1883, they finally demolished the sailcloth factory, and the foundation stone for Freckleton Wesleyan Methodist Church was laid on the 24th of May 1884, and it was opened on the 30th of August the same year, on Kirkham Road. It was a brick church to seat 250 worshippers, being designed and built by architect D Grant of Preston and was opened on the 9th of September 1885.

September 1898 saw a new Sunday school constructed next to the church.

A manse was not opened until 1959, when a house called Maida Vale on Lytham Road was bought for the purpose. The first resident minister was Reverend Stanley Finch. The manse was replaced in 1986, by the current one on Derwent Close.

Primitive Methodists began to move to the village in about 1827. That year, Nicholas Brown, threw open his cottage on Lower Lane, and allowed them to gather there. Not until 1847 were more positive strides taken. In that year, Reverend Benjamin Whillock walked from Bryning to Freckleton and stood upon a barrel outside the smithy on Kirkham Road, preaching to the factory workers. Soon, he was given the use of the home of Elizabeth Rawstrone on Lower lane (Where the bungalow Bolzano now stands).

They swiftly moved to an upstairs room at the Tan Yard on Preston Old Road, which they fitted out as a meeting room. This opened on the 5th of March 1848, when Reverend T Jobling of Preston preached to 20 male and 35 female scholars.

On the 4th of November 1861, the foundation-stone of a new Primitive Methodist chapel was laid by members of the parish council, nearby on the same road. The plain brick chapel was opened for use on the 16th of March 1862, and was able to take 200 worshippers.

This was replaced by a third brick-built church, which opened on the 18th of June 1892. It was again built of brick, but was dressed in stone, with a "graceful" spire. Costing £1,400, it was designed by Mold Brothers of Manchester, and built by John Gardiner of Kirkham. The old chapel became the Sunday school. The church closed on the 9th of January 1966, when both Methodist congregations joined together.
Both buildings were then demolished in 1973, to be replaced in 1980, by a library.

1808
King George III's Preston Volunteers camped on the North Cliffs in June, to prepare for battle against Napoleon Bonaparte's armies in France.
Bennett's Hotel had a boathouse with a pleasure room above it, situated on Butcher's Folly. Sunday services were held in the room, as there was still no church in Blackpool. The boathouse was later converted into a shoemaker's shop. Butcher's Folly was a green bank on the shore, reached by the Chinese Bridge, which was also known as Folly Bridge.

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Poulton Independent Chapel: was opened on "Higher Longfield" on Longfield Lane (now the corner of Queensway and Tithebarn Street). It was formally opened on the 11th of April 1909. It cost £450 to build. James morrow, an itinerant preacher had been appointed in 1807, to cover the Fylde. At first, he preached from his own home on Hardhorn Street, which he had registered as place of worship in June 1807.

The chapel was not regularly used, and by 1826, had fallen into disuse, and was not reopened for service until 1850. It had to be closed once more in 1864, but reopened in 1866, as Poulton Congregational
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Chapel. After being found to have almost collapsed, it was repaired in 1867, and then re-dedicated in December 1869, later being used briefly as a warehouse. After the chapel was re-roofed and redesigned in 1886, it could seat 195 worshippers in relative comfort, and began to be patronised once more.

By 1889, it was so well-used, that local neighbours, the influential Bainbridge family, who lived at nearby Chatsworth House saw the need for a new, bigger building. It was therefore replaced by the new re-brick Poulton Congregational Church building next door, which opened in April 1899. The original building was then used as a Sunday school. The new church cost £2,700 to build, which had been raised by public fund raising. It could house 400 people.

In 1972, the Congregational and Presbyterian Churches came together, and the main church became a United Reformed Church.

In 2007, the main church had become derelict, so the old Sunday school was re-furbished to become the Poulton United Reformed Church, and the 1899 building was sold, to be rapidly converted into private apartments, known as Church mansions.

The County Hotel, Lytham: The Market Hotel at Lytham was built on the corner of Clifton Street and Duck Lane (later renamed Henry Street). By 1837, it was called the Commercial Inn, but it was rebuilt as the Market Hotel in 1849, becoming the County and Commercial Hotel in 1898.

Pilling Windmill: was built at Damside, by "local master builder" Ralph Slater, to replace the previous wooden post mill. Allegedly, he took just three weeks to construct it.
There had been mills on this site since the 13th century.
There was a water-driven mill nearby at Broad Fleet at the time.
The windmill was 63 feet high and had 6 storeys, and it worked as a windmill until 1886 when it was converted to steam. The sails were taken down in 1887, a steam engine was installed, and a corrugated roof fitted.
In the 1890s, local inventor Richard Gornall worked in a small barn attached to the windmill. He made penny-farthing bicycles there and also fireworks that he lit for local celebrations.
It was finally closed in 1926, and in November 1962, the workings were taken out and the corrugated roof replaced, before being converted to a 5-storey private house by Reginald Baines in 1963. The mill had a new traditional cap fitted in February 2007.

When offered for sale in October 2018, the mill comprised *"ground floor reception room with open plan living space, kitchen diner and front and rear porches. On the first floor there are two large double bedrooms and family bathroom. The second floor is used as a further sitting room with a wrap around balcony. The third floor has the master bedroom with en-suite shower room. The fourth floor is accessed via a fixed ladder and at present is being used as a hobby room/library. The fifth floor is currently used as a loft for storage but has beautiful panoramic views from the fantail balcony. Externally the property has a wonderful south facing garden to the rear with patio and a pond with a mill wheel fountain"*.

Edward Kirby, the innkeeper of the Eagle and Child inn, leased the Wharles mill to Richard Danson.
The people of Pilling made depositions in defence of their ancient right to take building stone from Wet Arse Scar, an outcrop situated half a mile offshore from the Cockersand Abbey. One James Bourne testified that *"when he was about 11 years of age" ... "he drove a cart for one Fazacherley, and he led stone there from under Cockersand Abbey, and stone was led from thence by any person who chose to cart*

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them". He believed that the Pilling people always had a right to get stone from the Scar, and they would cart it back across the sands to Pilling, where it was used to build many local buildings.

1809
The "Blackpool Mail", a one horse covered cart, took eight hours to travel from Preston.
The house which is now number 52 Normoss Road was built.

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Methodists in Thornton began to worship in Nanny Greenwood's thatched cottage next to the windmill.
In celebration of the Jubilee of king George the Third on the 25th of October, Joseph Hornby of Ribby Hall *"with his usual liberality, gave a handsome treat to the whole of the township of Ribby"*.

The Roebuck Inn, Bilsborrow: Thomas Amer, the innkeeper of the Roe Buck Inn held a land auction.
The Roe Buck was sold on the 2nd of December 1839, when it was described as a *"well-established"* inn at the time. It was allegedly named in honour of the deer killed nearby by King James 1 in 1617.
The Roe Buck was run in 1866 by John Mawdsley, who sadly died of cattle plague, and in 1883 by Mrs Parker. In 1910, it was called Booth's Roebuck Inn, and advertised Bowling clubs, fishing clubs, and a welcome for both cyclists and picnickers.
The hostelry was re-built in 1923 and re-titled as the Roebuck Inn. It is now a part of the Chef and Brewery pub chain and is also described as being in Myerscough.
Next to the inn in 1918 was the Roebuck Smithy, run by George Swindlehurst.

1810
Henry Banks bought the Lane Ends Hotel from William Yates in February and built two holiday cottages behind it. He diverted the sewage from its current outlet direct to the sea, into Spen Dyke. This was Blackpool's first sewer - the only sewerage work for the next thirty years.

Blackpool's Gypsies: Gypsies began to camp on the cliff tops at North Shore this year, their fortune-tellers drawing many visitors over the subsequent years. Their name is spelled in various ways – *gipsie*, *gipsey*, *gypsey* etc, but since 1901, the most commonly-accepted version has been gypsy. Most stayed in town for the summer months, but a few were permanent local residents.

Most gypsies lived in tents made of ash sapling rods with a stout ridge pole. These were covered in blankets – often obtained from paper mills – and could be 30 feet long, 12 feet wide, and 10 feet high. The sleeping area was 12-inches of straw with a carpet covering, and the cooking pots were stood upon large stone slab at the front of the tent.

In 1834, James Boswell and family came to Blackpool from south east England. He was the first of the "famous" gypsies, and the son of the King of the Gypsies. Sarah Boswell - the original "Gypsy Sarah" - was a great attraction alongside Uncle Tom's Cabin, before the gypsies moved to South Shore in 1885, due to the erosion of the cliffs.

According to an early visitor to the town *"She was a very interesting old woman, honest, straightforward and kind. She was very good to me. I can recall now; many a good meal I had there. The pot in which the food was cooked hung on a tripod, and from it there came a most appetising savour, and as I was delicate and needed good food to build up my strength, I greatly enjoyed joining with her and her family in many, a delicious meal"*.
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Other gypsy families there at the time included the Lees, Youngs, and Herons. The famous Morjiana Lee, wife of Bendigo and the sister of Oliver and Ithal Lee, who knew many Romani Rais, was recognised as the "Queen of the Gypsies". In 1952, her daughter Cinderella (or 'relly) was a famous local seer.
Gypsy Smith became Petulengro, the forerunner of today's seafront fortune-tellers.

It was not until 1895 that the town's gypsies would start to own the well-known gypsy wagons, those with four wheels, a solid roof, and its own stove. Many gypsy ladies would perform their palmistry work from the back of the wagons.
From 1896, the rest of the town's gypsies moved to the beach at South Shore, where their camp became known as *"Gypsyville"* and was packed with fortune tellers. One, Madam Townsend, later claimed to have *"been on these ground for 26 years"*. Many of them started to run the nearby fairground rides, and the families still do this today. Contrary to popular belief though, the gypsies did NOT start the Pleasure Beach. The South Shore land attracted them mainly because of the recent discovery of a fresh water spring to supply their new camp.

Britain's Royal Queen of the Gypsies, Ada Boswell, died in Blackpool in May 1901, at the age of 48, and is buried in Layton Cemetery. Her 15-year-old daughter, Daisy, inherited the mantle of Queen. Gypsy Sarah Boswell died in 1904, aged 98, also being buried at Layton.

In 1910, the gypsies were all evicted from their camp to make way for the new Pleasure Beach. In Blackpool's heyday, up until the 1970s, there were many gypsy fortune-tellers plying their trade on the Golden Mile and on the piers – Gipsy Lee and Gipsy Petulengro amongst them.

Gypsies have always been drawn to Blackpool, and still have annual gatherings and pony fairs. Recent, unofficial traveller sites have caused contention, and as a result, in 1984, Blackpool Council built a permanent gypsy site on Chapel Road, Marton, with 26 caravans. Blackpool Council runs three more permanent sites for travellers, at Jubilee Lane, Fishers Lane, and Whalley Lane, with a combined capacity of 18 pitches. There is another site on Bamber's lane, with 6 pitches (Fylde jurisdiction).
Travellers are NOT true gypsies.

By 2013, the make-up of gypsies in the area was as follows: 57% identified themselves as being Romany gypsies, 26% stated they were Irish travellers, 11% were English travellers, and 6% were Scots gypsies or Travellers.

A Methodist Society was formed in Marton, after Moses Holden, an early Methodist Minister, preached in the open air by the Clifton Arms Inn on the 21st of January, having preached at Poulton on the 19th. He then went on to preach and form classes in every major town and village in the Fylde. He announced in 1811, that he had *"opened the whole of the Fylde country from Lytham to Pilling, and formed classes in the different villages. The following is a list of places and members in Society: Poulton, 11; Preesall, 16; Rawcliffe, 2; St. Michaels, 7; Kirkham, 8; Marton, 7; Thornton, 17; Freckleton, 12. I never could prevail on the Lytham people to join the Society. They received me kindly, and heard me gladly, but that was all"*.

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Fylde Cricket Club: was founded at Moorland Road, Poulton. In 1946, an adjacent field was given to the club by T Silcock, and this became the home ground. At this time, cricket was played with just 2 stumps.

Breck Lodge was built at Poulton. It is now numbered 78 to 80 Breck Road and is a private care home for 15 people. The home was purchased for £700,000 in March 2014, by Bolton company CPM Care.
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The Jolly Sailor Inn, Lytham: Lytham's second public house opened on the corner of Henry Street and Queen Street – it became the Jolly Sailor in 1812, and Café Aroma now fills part of the site.

Bryning-with-Warton School: The school was opened on Lytham Road in Warton on the 7th of March and enlarged in 1910. A school house was built next door in 1821.
The school is now known as Bryning-with-Warton St Paul's Church of England Primary School.

The Lamaleach Inn, Freckleton: A beerhouse was in operation on Lytham Road near Warton, run by William Carter. It was fondly known as the Lamaleach Inn.
The hovel was completely re-built in about 1840, and by 1851, it was occupied by Marsden Rigby. He is described as a "*beerseller*" who *"farms 14 acres"*. John Etherington was the beerseller and farmer by 1868, passing it to John Townsend by 1868, who stopped selling beer.

The fledgling inn (beerhouse) became Lamaleach Farm.

1811

The Shovels Inn, Marton: William Singleton held the licence of the Shovels Inn, which was on the corner of Hawes Side Lane and School Road. It stood 300 yards further south than it is today. In 1881, Ralph Braithwaite was its licensee.
The short stretch of cottage nearby was called Shovels Lane.

The current Shovels Inn opened on the 11th of May 1956, at 260 Common Edge Road. The farm and cottages of Fold's Row, south of the old Shovels were soon demolished, along with the old inn, to make way for the widening of Common Edge Road.
The first Shovels Beer Festival was held there in 1996.
It is now owned by the Greene King Brewery as one of their popular Flaming Grill pubs.

The Clifton Arms Inn, Little Marton: The inn was part of the Clifton Manor, and was the centre of all Little Marton's activity.
By 1826, the inn was being run by George Westhead.

Little Marton village centred around the Clifton Arms, the Smithy and the Cuckstool field, which were at the junction of Mill Lane and Dig Street. Dig Street became School Lane after the first Little Marton School was built and is now Ambleside Road – "dig" being an old name for ducks. Mill Lane became Mythop Road, and Alice Whiteside's grocer's shop was on the corner, where Mill Lane farm was later built.
When the inn was sold in June 1878, it had 22 acres of farmland attached, and had long been the starting point for hare coursing meetings, which were held between it and Peel. The biggest of these was held in 1888.
Adjoining the inn at this time was "Shop House", owned by the Cardwell family. The building was not a formal shop, but locals could buy bread and other groceries from them.

In the early 20th century, the pub served Greenall's Ales, and its proprietor was Percy W Cunliffe. It had its own bowling green, tennis court, putting green, table tennis, gardens, and children's playground.
Emblazoned on the southern wall were the words "FIRST Fully Commercial hotel in BLACKPOOL". By 1934, Mr Cunliffe had moved to the Grapes Inn on Corporation Street.

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The Clifton Arms Inn was sold to Greenhall Whitley Limited on the 31st of July 1939. The old building was demolished, and the Clifton Arms pub we see today was quickly built. After having to close in 2011 due to the national ban on smoking, the pub was bought in 2014 by the Toby Inns carvery and pub company, and after being extended, a new 200-seater pub/restaurant opened on the 24th of October.
It now goes by the name of the Toby Inns Carvery- the name Clifton Arms being a mere add-on.

Blackpool's population was 580.

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Inns in Kirkham:
The Black Horse Inn, Kirkham: was in business at 29 Preston Street, with Edward Parker as landlord. Built in the 13th century, it had been a drinking establishment for many years, and briefly, a slaughterhouse. By 1860, it was being run by Luke Brown, who also had his own slaughterhouse - inspected in 1872.
The third storey was removed in 1982 during a complete rebuild and refurbishment which began in 1979, but it still retains its original archway to the stable yard (car park).

The Old Black Bull Inn, Kirkham: was next door on Preston Street, with landlord James Hulme. It was let on the 26th of December 1834 by the then tenant Mr Cunningham. It had been built on the site of the old horse mill and closed in 1870.

A different inn, called the New Bull Inn, was in business in Poulton Street by 1860, when the landlady was Ann Lawrenson (this later became Clegg's Shoe and Clog Shop).
Another one, the Black Bull Inn was on Church Street, and being run by Robert Rainford.
The *"well established"* Sun Inn was put up for let in October.

The Hillside at Kirkham: The house known as Hillside was built at 48 Poulton Street by John Birley, for his son Edward, who sadly died just prior to completion. Becoming a guest house in the 1950s, and the Hillside Hotel (run by the Woodward family) in the 1960s and 70s, it changed into the Hillside Restaurant from 1980 to 1989, and then became the Stable Bar.
The building currently comprises a wine bar and restaurant on three storeys. It has five bars over the three floors with dining, socialising, meeting room, and function space provided. From May 2007 to mid-2009 the venue was called Cube.
It is now the Kirkham office premises of Coupe, Bradbury Solicitors Blackpool.

1812
George Cooke opened a Billiard Room at his shop.
John Gisborne moved to Blackpool from Derbyshire to raise funds for the first school in town.

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Weeton Windmill: This windmill was built by George and John Winstanley, near the village's reservoir on Whitprick Hill. Whitprick had been the site of an earlier 17th century peg mill at Weeton Lane Heads (in what we now call Mill Field).
The mill was four storeys in height and had a revolving cap. The drying room was several yards away, nearer to the main road, and had a form of brick ducting which warmed the air to dry the grain. The kiln had an iron horse-shaped weather vane.
It was a tower corn mill, and had four patent sails rotating anti-clockwise. Winding was by a fan on the cap driving to the curb. It had two spur wheels.
Flour was ground at the mill until 1918, and it was demolished with dynamite and two steam engines in 1960, and Mill Lane became known as Back Lane.

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A ragged circle of bricks now marks the site, which is just a few yards to the north of the M55 motorway. A small group of cottages still stands nearby, marking the hamlet of which the mill was the hub.

Lytham had five taverns; the Jolly Sailor - on the corner of Henry Street and Queen Street, the Britannia Inn - on the corner of Clifton Place and Henry Street, the Turf Tavern, also in Henry Street, and an unnamed one on either side of the Ship Hotel.
The Manse was built on what is now Kirkgate in Kirkham. It was originally the home of a clergyman and was sold by the diocese in 1983, later becoming a home for the elderly.

1813
Richard Ayton wrote of Blackpool visitors that *"Most of them come hither in carts, but some will walk in a single day from Manchester, distant more than forty miles".*

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St John the Evangelist Catholic Church, Poulton: was begun, on land, between Moorland Road and Breck Road, which had been donated by Thomas Fitzherbert-Brockholes of Claughton Hall.
The chapel was completed by autumn 1814, and was opened, together with its attached Presbytery, on the 18th of October. The box-shaped building was cement rendered with a slate roof and was Poulton's first Roman Catholic church. It was known locally as *"the Mission of Poulton".*

The single-storey chapel occupied two thirds of the building, and has three bays, with its own small cemetery. The Reverend Philip Orell described the church as *"The church itself was oblong, measuring 20 yards by 12. It held 200 people in 54 bench pews each of which was for 4; there was standing room for a further 30 people and a gallery at one end. The building was of brick, with 8 plain windows. It must have been very cold - the church had no heating and the fire in the adjoining sacristy was 'lighted often in winter'. The ceiling and walls of the church were of plaster, 'oil coloured' to a height of about 6' and above that 'stone coloured, clean and in good order'. The chancel was decorated in fleur de lis 'at my own cost, by Carr'. The floor was flagged in the aisles and boarded under the pews (there was a small amount of dry rot in the floor). The interior woodwork of the windows had been painted in 1851; the floor was 'swept weekly and washed as occasion required"*
The original square priest's house consisted of a parlour, kitchens, pantry, and four bedrooms. The later Presbytery is now attached and is on two storeys and also has three symmetrical bays.

The land for a new church to replace the old chapel had again been given by the Fitzherbert- Brockholes, and that church was built at the expense of Canon Vaughan. In 1912, that new brick-built church was constructed next door, but the original chapel remains, and has been designated a Grade 2 Listed Building. Today's church is constructed of rock-faced red sandstone in a stripped Romanesque style. The front of the building, to the west, is articulated by buttresses, and at the top is a bell cote. It was built by Pugin and Pugin, architects and cost £4,000.

St John's possesses a medieval chasuble, and "*It is thought to have been made towards the end of the 15th Century, and is a remarkable survival from this period. Its history is difficult to trace through the reformation when most vestments of this type where destroyed or lost, but it is thought that it arrived in St John's in the middle part of the 19th Century".*

The St John's Youth Club was founded in 1946, meeting in the church hall.

St John's School: was founded next door to the church in 1868. In 1828, stables had been built near St John's Chapel, with a storage loft above, and in 1855 the arrangements for educating the children were
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stated to be *"A loft over an outbuilding facing the priest's house received the Catholic children of the parish for educational purposes".* The new school was run by the Sisters of the Holy Child Jesus, who travelled daily from Layton Convent.
St John the Evangelist's Sunday school is also first listed in Poulton. It could educate 177 pupils and is now a nursery school.
In 1962, a new school building was completed, and the younger children of St John's moved across the grass to the new buildings. The old school building then became the Parish Club.

The brig "Mary Hall" was lost off Lytham in a gale on the 5th of March.
This year's *"Cursory Description of Lytham"* remarks that in the town could be found *"Innocent recreational delights, riding, walking, sailing, and other modes of pastime banish cares from the mind, whilst the salubrity of the air expels disease from the body"*.

St Michael's School, Kirkham: The National School for Boys and Girls was built opposite St Michael's Church vicarage at Kirkham, *"For the instruction of poor children".* In 1859, a second floor was added, and the boys were then taught upstairs, with the girls downstairs – they were reintegrated in 1874. There was also a small infants' school, and today's teachers' car park stands on the old infants' playground.
The first Master of the Boys' (Senior) School was Mr Peter Freeman.
In the Girls' School from 1903, due to large class sizes (there were 79 girls in the 1st class) and little money to spare, Kirkham Girls' National School employed "Pupil Teachers" or PTs. These were boys or girls over the age of 13 who worked alongside the teacher.
From the 1st of January 1907, the name was changed to St Michael's Church of England School.
In September 1939, the school received several evacuees from the Sussex Street Council School in Salford.
More changes occurred in 1942 and 1958, when the seniors began to attend the new Carr Hill Secondary School.

Pilling Wesleyan Chapel: was opened on Wheel Lane on the 12th of September. Its Sunday school opened on the 25th of March 1821.
The first chapel was replaced by the current building which opened on the 13th of June 1894.

James Jenkinson (Owd Jemmy) of Churchtown and Joseph Isles (or Hoyles) from Nateby, began to build cottages and farm buildings at Eagland Hill. The raised area was a portion of the Moss listed in the 1797 lease to Mr George Parkinson. The sites at that time had no communication by road. The two men then built a road from their own dwellings to the Birks, the newly-built house of the local priest, Doctor Slater. They then built another road from the Birks to Bradshaw Lane Head, with the help of the priest. Eagland was derived from the Norse *"Ekke Lund"* meaning "hill with a grove of oak trees".
The Eagle and Child Inn at Cockerham hosted a dinner for the town Benefit Society on Whit Monday.

1814
Marton Sunday school was founded with money bequeathed by Margaret Whittam in her will dated the 26th of July.

The Red Lion, Bispham: The Red Lion public house opened on Church Lane. It had been an alehouse since at least 1773, run by James Clegg, and then by Robert Brodbelt. By 1803, the licensee was John Walsh, and he soon saw off competition from two nearby alehouses, run by John Croft and by John Crane.

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The alehouse was altered this year to take guests and gained its name (it was known locally as the Red Cat). A bowling green was added behind it in May 1893, by landlord J Swain, who, by the 1910s, had made way for the Holland family. Opposite for many years stood Fleetwood Villas.

JW Lees brewery sold the establishment to Dutton's brewery of Blackburn in 1937, and the current Red Lion Hotel was opened on the 17th of July 1939, now facing onto Devonshire Road. It later opened its own Dutton's Restaurant on the first floor, together with an off-licence. The restaurant was later re-named the Red Lion Grill.

The old inn, complete with its own stables, and oak-beamed ceilings, was located on what is now the far eastern end of the current car park and survived into the 1940s, being used for various meetings, including the saying of Mass for the users of St Bernadette's Church before its own temporary Nissen hut was erected. During World War 2, 4 Ex-Servicemen and their families took possession of the hotel. They were the Ratcliffe's, Sharps, Culls, and the Proudlocks.
The Red Lion also had its own football team, Red Lion FC, who played in the local Sunday League.

All of Dutton's 784 pubs were bought by Whitbread breweries in 1964, and in 1974/75, they converted the Red Lion into a Beefeater pub/restaurant. Then, in 1996, a 3-storey extension was built and they added a Premier Inn motel to the complex, which opened on the 29th of July. In 2007, another 27 bedrooms were built, making 68 in total.

The boat "William Leece" became stranded near Blackpool on the 23rd of December.

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Bold Fleetwood-Hesketh became so annoyed with storms on the west coast wrecking his fishing boats that he had them moved into the Wyre Estuary, later building huts for his fishermen. This was the very beginning of Fleetwood - built on land shown on old maps as the "Rabbit Warren", where warreners used to eke out a living catching and selling rabbits. Fishermen's cottages were soon built between West Warren House and East Warren House. The Fleetwood fishermen at the time used small fishing smacks for fishing the coastal waters. They also gathered shrimps which were most popular for many years, being sold from stalls on the new promenade when it appeared.

The Catholic Church of St John the Apostle, Poulton: was opened on Breck Road on the 18th of October, on land given by W Brockholes of Claughton.
Known locally as Breck Catholic Chapel, it was replaced in 1912 by a nearby church.

The first mention is seen of a bath house in Lytham. This was later the site of the Queen's Hotel.
Congregationalist minister Reverend James Morrow, from Kirkham, began to preach in Freckleton. Then, in 1817, Edward Singleton's farm – Marsh View Farm (now called Quaker House) – "*was registered as a place for religious worship of 'Protestant Dissenters'*". This worship is not mentioned anywhere after 1829.

1815
The Blackpool Sunday fairs at the Lane Ends were stopped due to their drunken rowdiness.

1816
The Fylde Union Stage Coach from Preston began a daily service to Blackpool, via Whitegate Lane, taking three hours. This was the first public coach service. People were still travelling how they could - some even walking the 40 miles from Manchester.
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James Blundell's cottage in Lower Blackpool had been made into a lodging house and was occupied by one family for the whole season.

1817

Blackpool's first school: Derbyshire visitor John Gisborne, with subscriptions from local residents, friends, and visitors, raised enough funds to provide Blackpool's first Free school. He had finally managed to raise the £50 needed to buy the plot from the executors of William Yates.

The school was built, on Raikes Hill, Poulton Road (now Church Street), at a cost of just over £621. It was called the Blackpool Free School and had forty scholars - boys and girls were taught separately - the two schools being separated by the Master's House. The first master of the school was Anthony Hodkinson, who was paid £50 per school year.
Its name very quickly changed to Blackpool National School, but it became a Trust School in 1819, and was known officially as the Blackpool National Boys' School, which by 1871 had 260 pupils.
It was so close to St John's Church, that locals began to call it St John's School, even though there was no connection between the two.

The school was extended in 1866, and by 1884, there were 465 children on the roll. A report from a school inspector in 1892, said of the school *"The buildings are destitute of suitable provision for hanging hats and cloaks, and are very poor and unworthy of the parish and the teachings given in them"*. This meant that in 1895, the school had to be almost completely rebuilt, as another inspector's report condemned the classrooms as being *"excessively crowded"*. New buildings were added, and it then opened, as St John's Parish Church National School, Blackpool. The original buildings were then incorporated into the row of several shops that were adjacent to the new premises; the Wedding Shoppe now occupies part of the original school buildings. Sadly, those changes meant that the school buildings were now hemmed in by shops and the Stanley Arms, with the playground being tiny.
St John's National School was finally renamed simply St John's School.

In August 1927, the school re-opened as St John's Junior Mixed School. Its pupils were finally able to be split into boys and girls, as children between 11 and 14 had been moved to the new senior schools in the town.
In the mid-1930, a new assembly hall was built on the site of one of the old buildings, and internal changes were made. Sadly, the outside toilets had to stay (until the 1970s). Then, in 1939, a cloakroom was adapted into an air-raid shelter, and an ARP centre was created.

1984 saw Blackpool's oldest school boiler finally replaced, and in 1985, a small conservatory was added to the main corridor.

St John's was closed for rebuilding in 2007, the pupils being taught temporarily in the nearby Winstone House (in the Salvation Army Citadel building at 199 Church Street). It was then demolished in May 2008, prior to being rebuilt
Contractors Silcock Dawson, and architects Aedas, constructed a new school containing *"a 16-place nursery as well as 1FE primary school. Classroom space is accommodated above the dedicated ground floor administration centre, with each teaching level having its own play-deck. The building has a large rooftop playground, providing for social and learning activities, and will support the school's individual identity"*.
The project cost £4.5 million and the new school was re-opened in September 2009.
The current name is St John's C of E Primary School.

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Town End Bridge at Kirkham was replaced by a pipe under the road. There are persistent tales of a water mill (last recorded in 1332) existing on the Town End triangle – probably working from the brook over which the bridge ran.
The County issued *"Orders for the relief of the families of militiamen serving for the township of Kirkham"*.

Inskip Baptist Chapel: was opened on the 17th of October, on Preston Road.
In 1794, Reverend Timothy Senior had begun to meet some of his old Elswick congregation in an old thatched building near Inskip. In 1815, the Baptists had a room in Myerscough, but on the 20th of August 1816, some of them began to meet in the old school at Inskip, which they then used as a meeting house.

The Inskip school house, which was still used on Sundays for worship, became too small and the new chapel was built in 1817. It was the first Baptist chapel in the Fylde, and the only one in West Lancashire from Lancaster to Lytham until 1859. The first child to be baptised was Richard Crook, and his service took place in the mill race at Inskip Mill dam in January.
The chapel was extended in 1854 with a porch, vestry, and Sunday schoolroom, the minister's Manse being built in 1837.
In 1917, to celebrate the centenary of the chapel, the renowned annual "Inskip Convention" (or Fylde Convention) was first held. It *"gives an opportunity for the people of Lancashire and beyond to hear for themselves biblical exposition by some of the most gifted preachers of our time"*.

100 yards to the east of the Inskip chapel stood the Old Hall Inn, next to the village smithy. The site of the inn is now occupied by a house known as the Hedgerows, next to the Old Hall.
"Carr House Green Common near Inskip is a mosaic of semi natural grasslands and scrub and a Biological Heritage Site. It is a rare survival of a Fylde landscape little changed from the 19th century".

1818
A meeting was held on August the 22nd to consider the need for a town church for Blackpool. Apathy ruled and no decision was made until a second meeting was held at Forshaw's Hotel a year later, where it was finally decided to erect a church.
A map this year shows, north to south, Lamos House (possibly Henry Lamb's House?), Bispham Lodge, Old Factory, Little Bispham, Knowle, Beryl Hill, Warbrick, Blackpool, Layton, Whinny Hall, Rakes Hall, Old Margery's, Fox Hall, Great Marton, Marton Mear, Little Marton, Hayes Side, it also shows Layton Hayes to be in somewhere called "Bispham in Little Marton".
Two hamlets, called Rossall and Town End are also shown, to the south of Rossall Hall.
Thomas Lund was selling potted shrimps and whey from his cottage on Nelsons Road - this short road was originally known as Nelson's Row, as it only contained a row of cottages built by Mr Nelson - it is now called Bethesda Road. During the next decades, small, narrow streets grew up, and *"Terraced streets such as Richmond Road, Lewtas, and Cross Streets were occupied by skilled workers and artisans such as joiners, builders, shrimp dealers, and bathing van proprietors"*. Even smaller two-storey cottages for workers still stand on back streets such as Francis Street and Clyde Street.
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Shipbuilding at Lytham: The first ship was built at Lytham this year – the 98-ton brigantine "Grace".

In 1824, Squire Clifton established an inalienable claim to all rights of anchorage and salvage in Lytham. After years of arguments, he had taken the local shipowners to court, and had won his case, setting up Lytham Dock, at Lodge Pool near Warton. Lodge Pool was also known as Nancy's bay by locals and was where the main sluice from the mosses drained into the river.
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Lytham's first Customs Officer, Thomas Cookson, was also appointed.
In 1825, Lytham mud dock was described as *"large enough to contain a fleet of men of war".*

Lytham Dock was first leased for use in 1841, by Squire Clifton, to the Second Ribble Navigation Company, and its wooden quay (with cranes) opened for use in 1842, soon extended by a graving dock. During the 1800s the yard made shallow-draft river craft which were sent in pieces and rebuilt at their destination. In addition, the yard made a variety of stern wheel, quarter wheel and tunnel propulsion river boats, barges, and tugs.
In 1860, a new drainage channel was dug to allow better access to the docks.

In 1888, Richard Smith moved his shipbuilding and engineering company from Preston to Lytham Creek at the mouth of Liggard Brook. Their first vessel was "Sunlight", a twin-screw steamer. Smith had set up the yard at Lytham to attempt to replace a similar one at Ashton Quays in Preston.

The Lytham Shipbuilding and Engineering Company: Previously known as Richard Smith and Company, the LSEC was set up in February 1893, on the Ribble estuary to the east of Lytham, at Lytham Creek.
At its height, the shipyard covered 9 ½ acres and could boast 110,000 square feet of workshop space. The site was bounded by tall single-storey brick buildings and could construct or maintain up to six ocean-going ships at a time. It was a unique yard as it could design the ship and then construct all the parts - both the mechanical ones, and the hull and superstructure. It employed 400 staff, and the main destination for its craft was the newly-opened-up continent of Africa.

Lytham's "film star" boats:

An unknown Lytham ship was used in the 1931 American film "Trader Horn".
Another boat from Lytham had been used as the boat "Zaire" in the 1935 film "Sanders of the River".
In 1912, the story goes that the Lytham Shipbuilding and Engineering Company built the "Lugard", or the "Lugard" later renamed "African Queen" for use in the 1951 Humphrey Bogart and Katherine Hepburn film of the same name. After its film role, the boat became idle in Uganda before being bought by a Californian. It then moved north to a river in Oregon, where an old 1903 cider mill steam engine was fitted to it. After that it was moved to Florida and was bought by Jim Hendricks, who arranged for it to become an official Historic Monument displayed at Key Largo in Florida.

The Truth about the African Queen: There is actually **NO** written evidence that this boat was constructed at Lytham, but there IS proof of where the "Livingstone" was built. The boat was constructed - as the Steam Launch Livingstone - in 1912, by Abdela, Mitchell and Co in Queensferry. She was commissioned for service in Africa on the Victoria Nile and Lake Albert, and was used by the British East Africa Railway from then until 1968. In 2012, its boiler plate was traced to Lytham, but not the boat.

The Great War kept the yard working continuously, making almost 30 steam tugs, 4 minesweepers, 5 quarter-wheel hospital steamer ships, 3 large rescue tugs, and up to 17 minor vessels.

During the 2nd World War their main output was water carriers for dockyard use, naval steam lighters, landing craft, and coasters. Between 1940 and 1946, fourteen steam-powered Fresh-class water tankers were built for the Admiralty by the company. They were intended to carry fresh water to warships at dockyards and naval anchorages, and also had a limited fire-fighting and salvage capability. "Freshspring" was the last of the class to be built, launched on the 15th of August 1946, and completed on the 10th of

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February 1947. Her engines were manufactured by builders. She became the sole survivor of her class and is now a historically significant preserved vessel.

The last coaster built at Lytham Shipyard was the "SS Hazelfield", launched in 1948 for the Zillah Shipping and Carrying Company Ltd. She was renamed "Sprayville" in 1959 when she was sold to JS Monks Ltd. Also, by 1948, the silting of the Ribble had stopped all large traffic and made the business unviable. The docks closed in 1954.

In 1955, the company built the Windermere to Hawkshead car ferry "Drake", but the Lytham Shipbuilding Company Limited (yard number 600) went in liquidation on the 26th of July 1955. Its buildings, plant and stock were auctioned off between the 26th and 29th, and the company was dissolved in February 1957. The site was turned into light industrial units in 1967.

The Lytham Dock Branch Railway was opened in 1848. A railway station – named Warton (Lytham Docks) - was opened in 1865 and lasted until the station closed for business on the 1st of May 1874. It closed finally on the 1st of July 1874, when the newly-built Station Road railway station was opened as a through station. The railway branch line to the dock finally closed in 1963.

The Bourne Arms, Knott End: There was a beerhouse shown in Knott End on a map of this year. By 1844, the Bourne Arms Inn was in business there, listed as holding a land auction on the 24th of September. In 1857, the licensee Mr Rogers was receiving char-à-banc trips from Blackpool, and providing refreshments in the hotel gardens.
By 1912 it had been transformed into a hotel, its landlord by 1934 being Fred Roscoe. The hotel bowling green was the main such area in the town. The motto of the Bourne family *"Semper Vigilans"* meaning "always watchful" is carved above the main door. The hotel was extended in 1968, by its owning brewery, Magee Marshall.
The Bourne Arms' address is now Bourne May Road, and runs its own restaurant with sea view.

1819

"New Blackpool" - South Beach - South Shore: Thomas Moore, the miller and corn merchant at Great Marton, built the first houses at South Beach at the western end of Cow Gap Lane (which became Waterloo Road in 1881) near the site of the old Brighton Hydro – a McDonald's café now fills the site. The road was named after Cow Gap Bridge, which stood near the present Spen Corner, adjacent to Cow Gap – an old house (sold by George Swarbrick in 1835). Ivy Bridge also ran across the dyke behind what is now the Lane Ends Hotel on Hawes Side Lane. This was used to take cattle across the dyke and was demolished in the late 1990s for the building of Council flats.
Moore also bought the *"inn called the Yorkshire House, with close called the Intack, in Blackpool"* on the 24th of November. He later built Moore's Baths; Bath Street behind the old Woolworths's building bears its name.

In 1835, "the tenement known as Cow Gap", and the pieces of land with it, was sold off. Cow Gap Lane was clearly named after this house, which, we may assume, was itself named after a gap in borders of Spen Dyke, which allowed cattle to pass across.

From Yates' 1786 map: "*the area was rural with a main road (Lytham Road) running north to south parallel to the coast and one or two properties at Lawton Hayes"*. Greenwood's map of 1818: *"shows the development of a network of roads off Lytham Road with a few buildings along it".*

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Locals soon started calling South Beach "New Blackpool" and it quickly became THE place for middle-class families to stay and shop, with Church Street (Bond Street) being the main shopping centre. In 1837, South Beach was described as being *"a pretty hamlet, chiefly comprised in a row of handsome cottages fronting the sea, having a lawn or Promenade at the front".*

There was an unusual marine tower built opposite the beginning of Cow Gap Lane on the sea front. It appears to have been an early viewing point.
In 1841, the Fleetwood House was built at South Beach by John Bonny, who built a coal-weighing machine opposite the shore, where the coal barges from Wigan were beached and offloaded.

South Beach then carried on expanding into its own, distinct village (between Bolton Street and Britannia Place), and became a small resort, until in 1893 – by then known as South Shore - it was subsumed by Blackpool. Southshore – one word - was known as a village in its own right, from now until the 1870s.

Queen's Hydro Hotel, South Shore, Blackpool: Henry Moore's son Alexander built some houses called "Doctor's Cottages" on the South Parade. The College Français was opened on the site in 1857, run by Messrs J and C Sanceau. It became Merchants College, and this stayed there briefly before moving to Claremont Park by 1882, when it was run by the Gregory brothers.

The South Shore Hydropathic Hotel was built there in 1892, and the Queen's Hydro Hotel replaced it in 1897/8. Since 1982, it has been known simply as the Queen's Hotel, and has its own cabaret bar in the Rawcliffe Room.

Henry Banks bought the whole of the Lane Ends estate for development.
Congregationalists in Bispham began meeting in a barn in May.

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The Wesleyan Methodist chapel, Poulton: was founded on Back Street (now Chapel Street). It was extended in 1861 and closed in 1965, to be demolished in 1966. A dry cleaner's now stands on the site. The Methodists, had for 8 years previously, held their services in a small outhouse behind the King's Arms Inn.

On the 27th of September, John Benson *"of Half Penny Hall, Freckleton, a sprightly youth of 63"* married Miss Agnes Tinkler, aged 22.

1820

The Bolton Cavalry visited Blackpool for the first time on manoeuvres on June the 10th.
Tommy Topping founded a builders and undertakers in Temple Street (off Church Street). Temple Street originally ran from Church Street to Victoria Street, but it was lengthened to reach Sefton Street in later years.
The Fylde Union Stage ran all year round by now, although others ran in the summer. The Vice Chancellor, Neptune, Invincible, Union and Champion, and Sovereign all only ran in fair weather during the "bathing season", terminating at the Yorkshire House, Simpson's, and Bank's Hotels. The Post horses were housed at the stables of the Yorkshire House on Beach Street.

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Robert Hesketh of Rossall Hall was made High Sheriff of Lancashire.
The Customs officers for the South Wyre district were based at Preesall, covering from Pilling to Wardleys. The chief officer at this time was Mr Ronson, and his wife was the first Wesleyan Methodist in Fleetwood.

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A small contingent of Customs Officers worked from a cottage at Knott End, where they could assess ships entering the River Wyre and then pilot them to Wardleys.

The Ship Inn, Lytham: was built, and next door in 1849, the Royal Hotel was constructed. In the early 1850s the two were joined together and renamed the Ship Inn and Royal Hotel, now including guest accommodation. From 1897, that 2-storey building was demolished and rebuilt in Tudor style, being reopened in 1899 by Thomas Windebank.
By then titled The Ship and Royal, it was briefly renamed Royales in 1986, and on the first floor, in the Figurehead Bar, for some years was a restaurant, whose names included the Schooner and a Berni Inn.

John Cross started his knitting shop at 10/12 Poulton Street in Kirkham.
Lawrence Disley was born at Salwick. He was later converted to Methodism by Anne Cutler, and his *"whole family joined the Methodists, and their hospitable house was known as the 'Pilgrim's Inn', where the preachers and evangelists were entertained"*.

1821
The Coronation of King George IV was celebrated on July the 19th, the poor and needy being entertained by public subscription at a party in the National School. All school pupils received a Coronation Medal.

St John's Church, Blackpool: An "Episcopal Chapel", dedicated to St John the Evangelist, began to be built in the town centre, from bricks from the croft on the cliffs. It was a perpetual curacy under Bispham, and the first church was dedicated to St John the Evangelist by Doctor Law, the Bishop of Chester, on July the 6th. The church could hold up to 900 people.
John Butler (aged 3 days) was first to be buried in the new churchyard on the 14th of October 1822.

In 1826, St John's parsonage began to be built almost opposite the church, with lawns, and with a *"kitchen garden"* extending to where Adelaide Street is now. The Empress Ballroom was later built there, when the site was sold to the Winter Gardens Company. The parsonage was completed in 1829, standing across the street on a site behind today's Empress Buildings. It later moved to 74 Park Avenue (which was renamed Park Road in 1924, when the house was renumbered as 61), and it was moved again, to 64 Park Road in 1893, the curate being housed at 2a Lincoln Road.
The church bought its first organ in 1834. St John's Church and parish became part of the Diocese of Manchester in 1848, and in 1853, St John's started its Provident Society. St John's became the recognised Parish Church of Blackpool on the 9 of March 1860 after an Act of Parliament. The church installed iron railings in 1862, to replace the cobbled wall, and in 1866, it was given a larger tower, with a clock and eight bells.
The original burial ground was closed by the Minister of State on the 31st of May 1870, on the creation of the new Municipal Cemetery at Layton.

The original St John's Church was demolished in 1877 –the last service being held on the last Sunday in March. While the old Church was being demolished and the new one built, services were authorised to be held in the Blackpool Assembly and Concert Rooms (on the site of the present Yates' Wine Lodge), and in the school on Bank Hey Street.

WH Cocker, the Mayor, laid the foundation stone on the 11th of July 1877, and the second church was consecrated by Dr. Fraser, the Bishop of Manchester on June the 25th 1878. It had been designed by Garlick, Park, and Sykes of Blackpool.

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In 1885, St John's Church was given a carved reredos, showing the "Last Supper" by Leonardo da Vinci. All grave stones at St John's were transferred to Layton Cemetery in 1923, with the exception of the Reverend W Thornber and WH Cocker. A monument stands at the east end of the church frontage, in memory of the removed graves. 334 bodies were then removed from St John's churchyard to Layton cemetery in 1927. Their names were recorded on a memorial stone at the east end of the ground. The old churchyard was made an "Open Space", with the Corporation responsible for its upkeep. The burial ground at St John's Church had not been used after 1873, and the bodies were moved in the night so as not to disturb or unduly upset the local inhabitants. St John's Church was then incorporated into the new Blackburn Diocese.

Thurston Simpson built his shoemaker's shop at the corner of Lane End Street and Back Lane.
The bathing house at Blackpool was *"completely washed down, leaving scarcely one brick upon another"* in April storms.

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Lytham Printing was established at 45 Clifton Street. The premises are currently an Oxfam charity shop.

1822

The Trawl Boat Inn, Heyhouses: (the old Trill Boat) was in business again, just to the south of Smithy Lane, on the site of Scott's farm. The old inn was closed by Lady Clifton in 1821 due to there being a *"somewhat noisy carousal"* outside it when she drove past in her carriage with estate manager James Fair. Indeed, a writer of that same year stated *"You may trip to the Hey-houses and get bad ale"*. Thomas Greaves was granted a licence to sell ale, beer, and liquors in 1826. The building had been an ale house for many years before.

The Trawlboat Inn - note the now joined name- was rebuilt in 1840 and again in 1866 in today's form. Standing just south of the corner of Heyhouses Lane and North Houses Lane, it ceased to have a drinks licence in 1883, when its last licensees were James and Mary Ann Houseman. The licence was revoked because the Clifton family had decreed that all pubs on their estate must be closed or demolished. They had finally decided that drinking alcohol attracted the wrong type of person to Lytham and St Anne's, and until the 1950s, they would only allow bars for guests, inside hotels. Also, Eleanor Clifton had discovered the staff drinking alcohol in the kitchen, and her daughter-in-law Lady Drummond had witnessed a brawl outside the inn.

The Trawlboat had its own bowling green and strawberry gardens, and after it stopped trading as a pub it sold dinners for a few years and was run by Mrs Houseman as the Trawlboat Reading Room and bowling green. It soon became Trawlboat Farm and was converted into two houses in 1967.

Nearby was a wayside grocer's shop, owned by Mary Richardson, where for many years Miss Hester Threlfall held mothers' meetings for the mothers of Commonside. Heyhouses Smithy stood 100 yards to the west of the farm, at what is now number 4 Smithy Lane, having originally stood directly opposite the Trawlboat. It was *"relocated to Smithy Lane when it was cut through in the 1850s"*.

The Heyhouses Garage stood on Smithy Lane, and was demolished in 1971, for the building of two houses – now numbers 8 and 10. It was originally called Smithy Lane Garage and was run by Simmonds of St Anne's Ltd (dissolved in 1975). Just prior to its demolition, the current garage and filling station was built in new premises on the corner of North Houses Lane on the eastern side of Heyhouses.
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A touring gentleman called Geoffrey Gimcrack reported of Lytham that *"many of the nobility and gentry make it a rule to visit there during the months of May, June, July, and August, and even in September and October, which are deemed the cool months for visiting the seaside"*.

Leyland Hall, Medlar: This quite small country house was built.
It later became the home of Fryars bulbs, and became a simple farm. In 1966, the farmer was John Isles.
In December 1998, Andrew Gee, found a pewter "horn book" at the farm. It had the letters W, X, Y, and Z above a grid pattern. It also had fragments of the letters Q, R, S, T, and V above, separated by a line. It is thought to be an aid to learning to read.

1823

William Nickson built Emerald Cottage on Back Lane, using it as a boarding house.
The Alexander Hotel was built on Yorkshire Street.
Post coaches left Liverpool daily during the season for Blackpool and Lytham. Operated by Mr Bretherton, they left at 6:30 and 8 each morning.

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Charlie's Mast, Lytham: was erected on the front by Charles Townsend, a retired Guinea trader, who had worked as a boatman for HM Customs and Excise since 1786. It was originally a cart shaft with a lantern on top and was the only light available to shipping entering the River Ribble. From 1861, it also flew the "storm cone".
The Lytham Improvement Commissioners assumed control of the mast until that was taken over by the UDC in 1895.
There were two figureheads from locally-wrecked ships at the base until the 1920s.
In 1878, a coarse effigy of out-of-favour William Gladstone was suspended from its yardarm.
The "mast" was replaced in 1921, 1959, and 1976, when it was surrounded by a pedestrian' shelter.

Woodplumpton Workhouse: A workhouse was built by the Belford canal bridge in Woodplumpton Road. Costing £1,200 to build on a 2-acre site, it was said to be capable of accommodating 72 people. The building had 3 storeys and a lot of very small windows. The master of the house was Mr Duckworth (said to have been *"brutal"*). His wife acted as the matron. The *"clothes were inadequate, and the pea soup poor. The lavatories were continually criticised".*
It closed in 1864, when a larger institution was built in Preston. The chimney stood for many years afterwards, but was finally demolished when a coal and corn business moved onto the site.
Nearby at the time stood the Tabley Arms Inn – now closed.
The workhouse was demolished in 2000, but its mortuary, a small stone building, can still be seen in Hollowforth Lane.

1824

A visitor wrote of the excellence of Blackpool hotels and mentioned that up to 800 people every weekend passed through the Clifton Turnpike on the way to Blackpool and Lytham.
A ship called "The Fanny" was wrecked off the coast on March the 7th. She was carrying red and black flannel, sugar, manganese, and potash to Belfast. The same fate happened to this cargo as happened to the lace and peas of previous wrecks – "Fanny petticoats" were prevalent for years in Blackpool.
Congregationalists began worshipping in Rose Cottage in Lower Blackpool (South Shore). The house was licensed as a Methodist meeting house in November.
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John Forshaw of the Gynn died. He owned a great deal of property in Layton and Marton, and after his death, it was sold off for development. For example, on the 20th of February, sold to John Winstanley of Leyland and Peter Catterall of Preston were:

- A message at Layton, called Lancashire House in the tenure of William Parr;
- A cottage in tenure of Edward Whiteside;
- An Inn in tenure of Cuthbert Nickson; house adjoining late in tenure of Henry Hulton; building shop adjoining used as Public News Room and Billiard Room; message and shop adjoining;
- 6 cottages and barn at west end of the last mentioned message;
- A house and smithy in tenure of John Carter;
- Closes called Carters Field, Twalance, Cunfliffe Shawe's Field, Garden Field, Sea Field, Masters Field, West Field, Wheat Field north of Rawcliffe's Dobson's Leys Meadow; and
- A close in Layton Hawes called Tuit Cucks Field.

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Kirkham Post Office: A Horse Post was instituted this year, from Preston to Kirkham and Poulton, with Blackpool and Lytham being then serviced by an onward Foot Post. The Kirkham Postmaster was Joseph Hardman and his office was at his public house, called "Letters", on Freckleton Street.
By 1828 this had changed its name to the Post House – also listed as a tavern, run by Joshua Hardman, and by 1880 had opened at 25 Poulton Street as the Post Office Hotel.
The town post office by 1934 had moved to 83 Poulton Street.

The warrens to the north of Rossall were valued at just £50; Fleetwood would be built there.
The Hornby Flax Mill at Kirkham closed, but reopened as a linen mill in 1850.
Virgins Square was constructed at Broughton, for *"single women of the parish"*.

1825
A large orchard covered most of the land now taken by Church Street and Birley Street.

Bethesda chapel, Blackpool: Bethesda Congregational chapel and its burial ground were opened by Doctor Raffles on the 6th of July in Lower Street, near Nelson's Row (later, Bethesda Road), and Bonny's Lane. By 1848, *"for most of the year* [it] *was used by no more than 80 worshippers. But in summer all its 290 seats were occupied. The holiday-makers took over"*.
The Gazette in 1901 described it: *"In 1820 the Congregationalists, who worshipped in the old barn between Market-street and the Lane Ends were induced, by the inspiring gift of £5, to consider the question of a new building; and, owing to the religious conditions of those days, they were forced to go out from Blackpool to a place known as "the garden", situated at the end of Kent-road.*

The new chapel was known by the locals as the *"little white chapel"*, and Chapel Street and Bethesda Square were soon named after it. Bethesda Road also became the new name of Revoe Road.
The chapel was licenced for marriages on the 9th of October 1844, but in 1849, the Victoria Street chapel was opened, and took away the Bethesda congregation.
The foundation stone for a new Bethesda chapel was laid on the 13th of September 1899, and a bottle containing an order of service and some Jubilee records from the Victoria chapel were buried at the same time. This bottle and its contents were unearthed during the demolition of the building in 1971, when the Bethesda congregation moved to Grasmere Road.
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On the 1st of June 1935, Grasmere Road Methodist Church opened on the corner of Lune Grove and Central Road (now Grasmere Road). This church closed in September 1966, to be taken over by the Bethesda Congregation in 1971.

Jenkinson's/Rumours, Blackpool: Jenkinson's Confectioners and Café was opened, in what later became 9-11 Talbot Square, by two sisters, J and B Jenkinson. The business was also an outside caterer and tea dealer. The original cast iron façade and posts are still visible in front of Rumours club. The company had one branch, on Warbreck Road.

In 1960, the Lobster Pot Group bought the café and in 1963, they converted it into the Movenpick Restaurant (later the Lobster Pot Theatre Restaurant), with the Orchid and Candle Rooms on the first floor, and the Zurich Room in the basement. It had 4 storeys. The Movenpick was one of the earliest gay meeting places in town.

It was later called Jenkinson's Bar (the Lobster Inn), which evolved into Mama Jenks, with the Revolution club upstairs. Mama Jenks was the name of the ground floor bar, but it became locally known as Jenks. Papa Jenks was the replacement in 1973 for the Revolution which was on the upper floors. Papa Jenks became Rupert's Discotheque in April 1977 but closed on the last day of the 1978 season. It then became Whispers, and then Park Lane at various times.
Jenks hosted many famous bands, such as Sad Café (24th of October 1977), the Sensational Alex Harvey Band, the Buzzocks (3rd of October 1977), and U2. Local band Rainbow Cottage had done two summer seasons in Blackpool at Papa Jenks Bar. They didn't do a third season but the group who replaced them in 1973 was a little-known group at the time called Kindness - soon to become Smokie of "Living Next Door to Alice" fame. Other groups who appeared there in their infancy were Son of a Bitch – they later became Saxon, and Urchin (on the 16th of September 1979) – soon to become Iron Maiden.

In 1970 Lucy's Bar was open downstairs in the old Zurich Room. The bar featured Ivor on *"Blackpool's gayest organ in town"*, and until then, the only bar openly accepting gay people had been the Lounge at the Clifton Hotel. Rupert's Disco (over-18s only) was upstairs. Lucy's Bar closed in 2002, and moved to 68-70 Abingdon Street, to be replaced by the Hush night club.

In April 1983 Rumours "Fun Pub" opened in the building. It became renowned in town for its scantily clad bar staff, who were expected to perform impromptu dances on the bar, and at its height, 12,000 local people were members. Jenks had by then moved to 124 – 130 the Promenade, and when Jenks closed, the mosaic "Jenks Bar" was removed from the pavement in front of the doors facing Talbot Road. Above Rumours in 1986 was the Park Lane Disco with DJ Mike Vitti.

Rumours closed in April 2014, to become Nyx bar and kitchen, with Hush Nightclub on the first floor.
On the 29th of September 2016, a new enterprise, called Home and HQ, opened in the premises. Home and HQ closed in January 2019, to be replaced in Spring 2020 by a new three-storey club called Trilogy.

The Bull Inn, Blackpool: was in operation on Cow Gap Lane. It was at this time a low, two-storey building. On the 4th of June 1884, it re-opened as The Coffee Tavern, presumably to advance the growing Temperance movement in town - South Shore had a LOT of taverns. It had previously been built as a house and developed into a full-blown beerhouse in the 1860s. In 1892, it was owned by William Hampson, and had its own rear bowling green and a billiards room.

©

The Bull was always a small, community venue, known locally as a "proper drinkers' pub". Now called simply The Bull, it is now owned by the Craft Union Pub Company.

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Dudley Hall was on Bull Street in Poulton and is thought to have been named after a local landowner who was an infamous extortionist of the 1480s – Edmund Dudley. Bull Street is now known as Blackpool Old Road, and the ancient thatched cottage stood near to today's library.
Poulton and the surrounding countryside was well-served by "carriers". These were the many local people who earned a living by transporting goods and produce from the small hamlets, villages, and towns to the likes of Preston and Liverpool. They even carried money – up to £800 – and had to protect themselves with stout cudgels against the many local bandits.
The Curwen family had taken over the Parke family's ferry service from Hambleton, and about now they built a small inn, known as "the Boat" inside their house.
A terrace of houses was built on Dicconson Terrace on Lytham. It was of simple construction, with just the centre house having a pediment (showing the number 1825). Numbers 5 and 7 remain, but the ones to the north have been replaced by today's National Westminster Bank at number 9. The bank interior was fully re-modelled in 2004, with the 2nd-floor offices now being rented out.

The Coach and Horses Inn, Freckleton: was opened by the Hornby family, as a staging inn for the coaches from Preston and beyond, which travelled the marsh road. The coaches could change horses there, and the "used" horses were put into the field at the rear to graze and recover.
The first licensee was Robert Clifton. The inn had just one guest bed, but 3 stables, and could feed up to 60 customers at a time. It soon hosted land auctions, and had its own row of cottages, a croft, yards, stables, and outbuildings.
It went through several changes of ownership until being bought by Swales Brewery in 1926.

It later became known affectionately, as Ponky's after the nickname of former landlord William Hankinson. In 2019, new owners Punch Taverns, fully re-furbished the pub, giving it a new bar and kitchen, and a bigger beer garden.

Freemasons began meeting in Freckleton.

1826

Fresh water was scarce and many used that from the Mere, or their own fresh springs. For example, Fumbler's Pump was supplying fresh water from the hill of the same name.

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Cockles, Shrimps, and Samphire in Lytham: In Lytham, a guide stated that *"Hornby's Chinese cottage — Lizmahago houses- — and the others continuing in a parallel line to the sea, are genteel buildings".*

That guide also mentioned cockles - "The poor generally get their livelihood by catching flowks, getting muscles, cockles, andc".
The most popular place for gathering cockles was on the Horsebank, and the cockle men used a short-handled, three-pronged rake called a *"craam"* for this. Lytham was also famous for many years for its locally harvested shrimps.
In 2011, the North Western Inshore Fisheries And Conservation Authority closed Lytham's cockle beds to all fishing indefinitely.

©

Another locally-collected delicacy was Samphire, which fishermen would pickle in spiced vinegar and sell to tourists. The folk of Pilling Sands were also great Samphire collectors and eaters. Also known as Sandfirth, it was locally known as Sawfer, or Samfer. The name is a corruption of St Peter's Herb, whose Latin name is *Chrithmum Maritimum.*

The Willows Roman Catholic School, Kirkham: A Catholic school and school house were built at the corner of Bryn Fern Lane in 1826 at the Willows by Father Sherbourne of Mowbreck, being opened for use in 1828
A new Willows School for Girls opened on the 1st of September 1871. It gained a boys' department in 1901, which was housed in two extra classrooms which had been built from 1889, at the Bryn Lane end.
By 1900, the Girls' School was no longer needed, and it became a young men's social club.
In about 1939, the school house was demolished, allowing new windows to be fitted at the rear of the school to give more light, and the old Girls' School, was converted into a men's club with a bar.

In 1971, the Willows opened new Junior and Infant schools, which were built in two phases between now and 1976, on a field adjoining the presbytery on Victoria Road.
The old school which had served the parish for 150 years was demolished in 1981, except for the men's club in the old girls' school, which was retained as a youth club.

1827

Vast numbers of cotton workers from Padiham, Blackburn, and Burnley inundated town. Their lodgings were often so crowded that the workers were forced to sleep in shifts. They became known locally as "*Padjammers*".
There were two cottages, one at the corner of Dig Street (now West Street), and another, next to a grocer's shop, across the street. This building could only be reached by walking across a ship's beam that had been thrown across because the street was liable to impassable flooding.

Earthquake in Blackpool: An earthquake was thought to have struck the town on the 23rd of March, but it was actually the concussion felt from the explosion of the gunpowder ship "Commerce" in the Foulney Island harbour in the Irish Sea.

The ship "Agnes Louden" was driven ashore at Bispham on the 22nd of December with the loss of all lives.
TF Marriott ran his grocery shop at 40 Bank Hey Street.
F Swindell's chemists' shop was at the corner of Market Street and Church Street.

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The town of Lytham was clearly progressing, as notice in a local paper stated: *"The following are much needed in Lytham names to the streets, numbers to the houses, lamps for dark evenings, a public clock, a market, livery stables, gigs and horses to be lured by the hour, decent bathing machines, a news-room, and bath carriages to convey folks to church in wet weather"*.
A Wesleyan Methodist chapel was built in Weeton, but it has long since disappeared.
Also, just outside Weeton, reference was found by a Mrs Braithwaite, to the use of a local marl pit as a bear baiting pit before this year.

1828

Green Walk was laid out. The seaward end was soon renamed Victoria Terrace, and was later renamed Victoria Street.
Also, a grass walk was laid out from the Promenade to St John's Church, and work began this year on covering it with gravel. This is now Birley Street.
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Blackpool's First Theatre: The Grand Promenade building was erected at the north-east corner of Victoria Terrace and a newly-widened New Road (soon to be renamed Bank Hey Street). This was the first building to be erected in Blackpool specifically as an entertainment theatre.
Some of the building still survives, as the Majestic Restaurant and its café above.

Albion Hotel and Burton's Buildings, Blackpool: The Albion Hotel was opened on the north corner of Central Beach and Lane Ends Street by Thomas Nickson, on the site of Lane Ends House. The Albion's stables were located in Bank Hey Street.

In 1925, the Albion Hotel and Restaurant, now numbered at 66-74 North Promenade and 2-4 Church Street, was bought by Montague Burton Limited. It closed on the 21st of April and was quickly demolished to make way for Burton's Buildings, complete with a ballroom, a café, and a gents' outfitters.
The Albion's licence was transferred to the Beach Hotel.
Burton's later housed Diana Warren's dress shop, then briefly in 1980, Handley's Caféteria.

Burger King opened its first Blackpool outlet in the old Burton's Café in January 1989. They opened another restaurant on the 25th of July 2000 at 525 the Promenade, by the Pleasure Beach entrance – claimed to be UK's largest outlet, with 420 seats.
Burger King closed the Church Street store in July 2009, reopening soon after, due to public demand. This closed again after the 2014 season, to be replaced from November 2015 by an outlet of the Latin-American restaurant chain Las Iguanas.
The basement is occupied by the Laser Quest attraction and the upper floors by Phil Winston's Theatreworks a drama school.
In January 2019, plans were submitted to turn the rooftop into an open bar area. It was originally designed as such, but never used.

James Caunce of Preston bought much of the land between Raikes and Talbot Street. The later road, Caunce Street, bears his name. He lived at Layton Villa on Westcliffe Drive. Layton Villa was sold on the 25th of April 1878, with a field called North Hoo Hill attached. It was also known as Hoo Hill Villa.
The Lancaster Gazette reported that *"No less than £20,000 has been expended this season at Blackpool"*.

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A tavern called the Wheat Sheaf is listed in Kirkham, run by landlord Robert Dewhurst.

1829

A waterspout was seen off Blackpool in August.
A large house was built by the Bethel chapel in Bispham. It was later changed in to Fern Villa by Thomas Poole and eventually became Fernleigh House, which in 1891, was owned William Hardman, a retired doctor. The house and its popular riding stables were later owned by Sam Coope, the self-styled Squire of Bispham. The buildings were demolished in 1961, to be replaced by Fernleigh Close.
A map of the year shows, from north to south, Norbreck, Church Town, Bispham, Crookers, Fanny Hall, Old Moor, Far Bank, Knowle, Gezzard, Higher Bank, Ginn, Hoo Hill Mill, Warbreck, The Hill, Little Layton, Layton Hall, Whinny Heys, Rakes Hall, Blackpool, Bethesda Chapel, Marton Mere, Hayes Side, Great Morton Moss, Harrow Side Lane, Milkhouse Gate, Stoney Hill, Fold Lane, and Moss Edge Lane.
Moss Edge Lane (the lane at the edge of the Moss), Hey Houses Lane, (the later Queensway), and Hawes Side Lane (the lane at the side of the Hawes) developed as separate entities, from an ancient, winding track across the Hawes, which linked Lytham with Marton and Layton.

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In July, Sir Peter Hesketh received a *"new-fangled air chariot"* (sand yacht) – probably the Fylde coast's first. It had been made in Dover to a French design and was shipped to Knott End from Liverpool.
Matthew Ennis began running a light post coach from Lytham to Preston in May.
The "Ribble" steamer sailed from Preston to Lytham on the 16th of August, with 200 people on a pleasure cruise, which continued to Liverpool. The venture failed as the boat was too big for the River Ribble.

Catforth Primitive Methodist Chapel: was built – the worshippers were known locally as *"Ranters"*. This group had been formed in about 1815, meeting in each other's houses, and subsequently in a barn in today's Chapel Lane, near to which this first chapel was built.

In 1863 that chapel became too small, and the present building was erected, the old chapel being utilised as a Sunday school.
It was rebuilt in 1929 and was closed in 2006.

Sweetings Farm was built in Cockerham.

1830

Seaside Donkeys, Blackpool: During this decade, donkeys graduated from carting packages and giving rides into the countryside, to providing tourists with a little excitement as they arrived at the seaside. It soon became big business, and in 1854, a group of Southport donkey men invaded Blackpool beach, but fled after a pitched battle with local owners.

Ibbison Street Donkey Backs and many small stables on Marton Moss became fondly-kept housing for up to 200 Blackpool donkeys.
The council soon erected their own Corporation Donkey Stables on Rigby Road, and in 1924, they erected an old hangar on the site of some of the old stables. This was named the "Carnival Shop", and where floats etc. were manufactured. In January 1936, the Illuminations Department became independent, becoming established in the former, after the Corporation decided not to hold any more carnivals, and in 1938, the building was roofed over to give more workshop space for the Illuminations. The building had its own ghost *"Ted".*

In 2009, the remaining donkey stables were bulldozed, and the Illuminations shed next door was knocked down, along with the Waste Transfer Depot and the Rigby Road council offices. The Central Illuminations Depot remained in place until July when it, too, was demolished; the function being relocated to Squires Gate. The whole site was cleared by the middle of August.

The first coloured donkeys in Britain were used by the Elston family of Lytham in the early 1920s. Lytham last hosted donkeys on the beach in 1960.

Issued on the 14th of May 1942, the "Donkeys Charter" banned fat people and adults from riding the animals, and obliged Donkey men to give their charges rest breaks. There had been grave concern about the conditions in which many were being kept. At that time, there were over 200 donkeys registered. The donkey had to be licensed every year thereafter, and this was done at Charnley Road.

A peculiarity of Blackpool's donkeymen, was the unwritten rule that "stands" as they were known, would move south one each day, so as to ensure each stand holder got a fair bite of the tourist trade.

©

Sands Way donkey stables, known as *"The Paddock"*, were built by the Council in 1970. Prior to this, many donkeys were kept in tiny back yards belonging to terraced houses in the Ibbison Street area, where the stables were known as the Top Donkey Back and Bottom Donkey Back.
There are 18 stables at the Paddock, and a single 15-foot-square stable can hold up to six donkeys. They live at The Paddock from April to October and are sent out to farms for the winter months.

Blackpool's donkeys were micro-chipped on the 14th of June 2002, to allow RSPCA officers to keep a closer eye on their activities.

In August 2014, Blackpool's Dillon the donkey became the first one in the world to offer cashless rides. He had been fitted with a contactless payment saddle.
The town's donkeys now over-winter at Lathom House Farm in Orrell near Wigan.

James Roskell, a Methodist Preacher of Little Layton, started moves towards founding a permanent church in Blackpool. He was helped by a Preston Methodist, named Robert Bird, who had a drapery business next to the Aquarium, in a terrace known as Bird's Cottages.
James Cragg ran a delivery cart between Blackpool and Preston twice weekly.

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Sheaf Street School, Poulton: opened *"a spacious building, capable of holding three hundred persons, was erected in Sheaf Street by voluntary subscription for the purposes of a Sunday school, previous to which a small cottage in the Green had been used as a meeting place for the scholars connected with the church"*. Thomas Threlfall had given up his garden land for the building.

In 1892, it was renamed the Poulton National School, and extended to allow day children up to 14. Sheaf Street is now known as Hardhorn Road.
It was extended in 1936 and houses more modern extensions, comprising eight classrooms in total (three of which were built in 1957). There are kitchen facilities incorporated in the building and large grassed playing fields are included in the grounds in addition to hard play areas. During 2005/06 a new school hall was built, and in 2008/9 major refurbishment gave the school extra facilities.
It is now known as St Chad's Church of England Primary School.

Peter Hesketh of Rossall Hall was made High Sheriff of Lancashire. He *"processed"* through the Fylde and Wyre, *"guarded"* by retainers dressed in red and white, costumed as trumpeters and javelin men. He soon sold all his shares in the Ribble Improvement Scheme in order to concentrate his funds on the development of his new town of Fleetwood.

The River House, Skippool: Wyre Bank was built at Skippool, complete with its own stables and coach house. In the 1920s, it became known as the Wyre Bank Hotel and Restaurant, and then the River House, which in turn became the River House Restaurant in 1958. It was once popular with the likes of ballet dancer Rudolf Nureyev, singer and guitarist George Harrison, and prominent politicians, but is now a private house.

A barque, called "Hope", was built on the Wyre at Skippool by Mr Lewtas. At 415 tons, she was the largest ship ever built on the river, and her launching caused the water at Skippool Cottage to reach over the knees of the observing locals.
Lytham stocks ceased to be used.
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Two packet boats sailed regularly from Preston to Lytham in the summer season, and a passing ship's captain assessed that Lytham Pool was big enough to take a "*fleet of warships*".

The Plough Inn, Freckleton: A beerhouse, described as a "Public House at Thomas Bambers" was licensed this year, owned by James King and Thomas Cross. It was not known as the Plough Inn until several years later, and in 1871, it was sold by King's grandson William, to Robert Richardson. The beerhouse had many licensees, such as Henry Whiteside, Christopher Bamber, Thomas Adamson, and, from 1874, Thomas Parker.
By 1890, it had 2 stables and 2 guest beds, but could handle up to 40 diners.
Then, in 1907, the Plough left the Richardson family and was bought by its licensee John Threlfall.
The present building was built on the same site on Kirkham Road in 1930, as the original needed to be demolished to allow the construction of Preston New Road. It was owned by Scottish and Newcastle breweries for many years.
Now called the Plough Hotel, and with an address of 2 Kirkham Road, the pub became a Limited company in 2014. It was registered as the Plough Hotel Limited on the 9th of January.

Kirkham and Wesham Cricket Club: was founded. A team from Kirkham played Preston in 1837.
After the final formation of a proper committee, their first match was on the 22nd of April 1865, and was played in a field loaned by Hugh Hornby at his Ribby Hall. In about 1900 the club moved to its present site on Woodlands Road and shared the fields with Kirkham Football Club. They joined the league on its foundation in 1902, and first won the Palace Shield Division A Cup in 1904. They won it again in 1906, 1908, and 1935.
During the First World War, the football club had to give up its ground to permit the Kirkham Volunteer Force to practice drill. Before World War 2 the club was known as the Kirkham and Wesham Tennis and Cricket Club, and the grounds also housed tennis courts.
The club's slow left arm bowler, Bill Roberts, left to play for the County, and represented England in the "Victory Tests" in 1945.
They bought their ground in 1946, and a new pavilion being opened in 1989, followed by an extension in 1994, comprising new changing rooms and scoring facilities. The new clubhouse was opened in 1991.

1831

Roberts Oyster Bar, Blackpool: Campbell's Cottage was on Dig Street (now called West Street), and Blackpool's most famous oyster bar was opened in its place at 10 Central Beach in 1876 by John Roberts of Preston. He had the original Campbell's Cottage demolished for the purpose.
Those first customers could buy seven oysters for a shilling. They were allowed to take their own *"black velvet"* – stout and champagne – to drink them down with. Most oysters were actually shipped from America and stored, before sale, in beds off Knott End. Although they soon opened a second bar at 1 West Street – renaming the original at number 92 as "Roberts' Central Oyster Rooms", only the original business is still running today.
By 1911, E Little's Oyster Rooms had opened next door in competition.
The original Roberts' Oyster Bar is now numbered 90 the Promenade, and the famous wood-panelled restaurant is today a basic, shopfront shellfish stall.
John Roberts (who was succeeded by his son, Fred) later lived in Agnew Villas on Whitegate Drive, next door to Crifton Villas. The private road beside them was owned by Squire Clifton, and ran to his Layton Hall estate. It later became Woodland Grove.

©

Little Marton Windmill: In Tudor times, a tower mill stood in the same place, on the site of an even earlier wooden post mill.

Into the 1740s, William Willans and Randolph Penswick were joint millers at Little Marton, which was owned by the Clifton Estate. On the 7th of June 1746, Willans became the only miller. By 1759, John Whalley was miller. He was succeeded by his son William, who lived at Fall Brow (later Grame House) across the main road to Preston. Fall Brow stood at the head of a long-disappeared lane which ran from Mill Lane (now known as Preston New Road) towards Staining.
By 1818, John Whalley was the miller, and Richard Hodson of Kirkham quoted him for the insurance of new Little Marton Mill on the 7th of November. Also, in 1831, Nancy Whalley was *"given the chance to rebuild the mill she and her son John were using. Any bricks that were needed had to be bought from the local brick works nearby and any salvaged material also. The bill when completed was not to exceed £800. Richard Blezard and Sons were the local millwrights and some of the work was carried out by John Hayes"*. The current mill was built, and opened for use, owned by the Clifton Estate. A new drying kiln was also erected, and from the mill's cellar, a long underground passage led to the kiln. This was later demolished along with the other outbuildings, and until recently, the mound which used to cover the workings of the post mill lay against the south side of the mill.

In about 1850, her son John was miller. It then came to be milled by the local Bagot family at the end of the century. Their first miller was George, and then it passed to Cornelius, to whom it was sold by the Cliftons on the 20th of February 1922.

The miller's house was said to have been *"originally the Old Coaching House an Inn for weary travellers on the old Roman Road that went to Kirkham"*, and stood on the other side of Mill Lane, beside the old clay pit. It was originally known as Fall Brow, and then The Grames, Grame House, and Greame House, before finally being named Graham House. The millers all lived there.

In 1924, Bagot sold Graham House to Adam Braithwaite of Mill Lane Farm and moved to Richmond Villa - 251 Whitegate Drive (built in 1900), renaming that "the Grahams" after his old abode.
In the late 1930s, the house and its land became a caravan site, but the house itself was destroyed by fire in 2005 and demolished in 2010, to be replaced the car park of the Harbour – an NHS mental health facility.

The windmill last turned for working on the 1st of January 1925, when owned by Cornelius Bagot. Grain milling ceased completely in 1928, and the mill itself became famous locally for its large advert for the C&S Brewery Ltd (Catterall and Swarbrick) – Cornelius Bagot had become chairman of C&S Brewery when he left the mill, and also owned Rawcliffe Hall. The mill store also carried a C&S advert on its roof and offered teas and ices to visitors.

After the death of his friend, Allen Clarke, Bagot gave the mill to the Allen Clarke Memorial Fund (The Speedwell Fellowship) on the 30th of October 1935, stating that it be maintained as a memorial to the local author.

In 1936, it was declared to be the last windmill in Lancashire still to be worked by the wind, and by 1939, it had been given new sails, a new roof, and had been painted on the outside.

1950 saw the Speedwell Fellowship take over its running. They soon found it too costly to maintain, and they managed to get Blackpool Corporation to take it on informally.

©

From 1950 to 1955, the tenants of the mill were the Shepherd family, who manufactured poultry equipment in the old malt house, under the name Shepherd's Poultry Appliances. They also lived in the malt house, which was demolished in 1957.

The Speedwell Fellowship formally transferred it to Blackpool Corporation on the 24th of May 1955, and its official title became "The Allen Clarke Memorial Windmill". The transfer deed stated explicitly that *"the mill must be maintained to a reasonable standard of repair and must be maintained as an everlasting memorial to Charles Allen Clarke and the surrounding sward of green"*.

Another set of new sails was fitted in 1968, the roof was re-laid again, and the outside was repainted. Also, the main beams were replaced and the sail brake wheel replaced.

The windmill became the home of the 53rd Blackpool (St Wilfred's) Scout Group in 1970, and they moved in during May 1972.

Little Marton Windmill was awarded Grade 2 Listed status in 1983, but in 1984, a sail was snapped off in a severe gale. The mill had to be closed in 1985 – the scouts lost their home – and extensive repairs were needed. In August 1986, the cap was removed to allow the timber cradle to be re-built, the outer render was stripped away and the walls sealed and re-rendered. Yet another main beam and new roof were fitted (the roof was now a different shape to the original). The windmill was re-opened in January 1987.

In 1989, The Windmill Group was set up by Stewart Sykes, after he had leased the windmill as its home. He had set up a group in 1978, for *"all young people from all walks of life, to be able to achieve and enjoy reaching their full potential and be ready to face the world with confidence and every chance of success"*. Many achieved the Duke of Edinburgh's Award through the group's efforts. The group helped to renovate the inside but the building soon became too small for the Group's all-round activities.

In the latter half of the 20th century, the exterior of the mill was rendered and painted white. In the mid-1980s recycled timber piles taken from Preston Dock were used to support the windmill's original spur wheel on the second floor, and at the same time the mill's roof was rebuilt to a different shape and the internal machinery was rebuilt reusing original cast iron equipment wherever possible.
A sail blew off in the 1990s and was replaced.

A plot of land was bought on Whitegate Drive, and John Lightbown of Accrington had Blaydon House (now known as the White House) built there in the 1870s. His family built the nearby Lightbown Avenue shortly after 1901.
Stodham's Farm (or Stoddam's, as it was listed) was sold on the 14th of November in an auction at the Saddle Inn.
William Walmsley founded his decorators and plumbers in Temple Street. He later moved to 9 Birley Street and then to rear 139 Red Bank Road.
Blackpool's population was recorded as 943 – Preston's was over 33,000.

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Peter Hesketh received Royal Assent in March to change his family name to Hesketh-Fleetwood. He had inherited the Rossall estate in 1824. The family had been called Hesketh, then Fleetwood-Hesketh, now Hesketh-Fleetwood.
Thomas Smith resigned as headmaster of Baines Free School and opened his own school on Blackpool Road (next to today's cricket ground). It was known as Smith's School and catered for both boys and girls.
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The Black Bull Inn, Poulton: was sold in April, on the death of John Smith. At the time, it had a bowling green and its coach house could take 40 horses. It was purchased by Mr Mather, but by 1851, the landlord was John Dagger, and was the home of the local Excise officer.
The pub had a false bull's head over the main doorway for many years.
The group of cottages opposite the Black Bull housed another of Poulton's dozen pubs, the Sportsman's Arms. This became the Merry England café in later years.
In 1910, the proprietor of what he then called The Bull Hotel, was JN Barrett, and offered a *"Bowling Green, Billiards, and Good Stabling"*.
The Black Bull was completely rebuilt in 1963 and is now simply called The Bull.

Cartford Bridge: The bridge over the River Wyre was built by the Squire of Out Rawcliffe to replace the original low-water ford and ferry crossing. Its construction was deemed necessary after one of his servant girls and her friend were being pulled across by rope in a ferry, when they were washed away; after this, the squire's wife refused to cross the river until a bridge was built. The hamlet and ford of Cartford had developed from the original Cart Ford (the ford was only passable in a high-wheeled cart).

The first bridge, was constructed of asphalt and wooden sleepers, and had a metal cart track down the middle. It was included in a block of land bought by William Binks, a Blackpool corn merchant, and was replaced in 1929 with the current steel and concrete structure. It then provided an alternative crossing point for the Wyre, being described at the time as *"a wooden bridge of very limited width"*. The Toll Bridge is a "non-statutory undertaking" – not set up by Act of Parliament.
There were by now six fording points over the river, connecting the farm communities on each side.
The Cartford Inn stood on the Little Eccleston side of the river, in a part of the village known as "Gillas" derived from the local Gillow family. By 1853, the inn had become the Cartford Hotel, and by the 1980s, the Cartford Arms. It was originally a farm house.
In 2007, the venue was taken over by Patrick and Julie Beaume, and it is now a "gastro-pub" with 15 bedrooms. In October 2016, they won the title of Best Inn in the Great British Pub Awards, and in April 2017, they were voted the second-best small eating venue in the UK.

Matthew Ennis, the landlord of the Clifton Arms at Lytham began running a daily coach to Preston on the 4th of April.

Lytham's pebbled streets: The first of these was constructed in Bath Street. The neatly-designed small terrace of houses on bath Street were built in 1834, and their date is sculpted in the pebbles on the pavement, along with a ship, an anchor, and a crown.

Several more cobble-built, patterned pavements scattered around Lytham were also built from beach cobbles and pebbles, and some were in place earlier in the 19th century.

Others followed, for example, in Queen Street in 1854, which has a similar terrace of houses and their date in the pavement stones.

The Lytham Times in 1855, posted an article, which said that Lytham's main street was *"paved with sharp thin pebbles which did not suit bare feet, or those who, in wet weather, wore iron pattens to keep themselves dry-shod. The pebbles were worked into patterns, mostly geometrical; there were also arches, ships, and other devices, and a most ambitious effort showed a Mongolfien (sic) balloon with a flag at each end of the car"*.

©

The Horns Inn, Churchtown: This established inn, on what is now known as The Avenue, was being run by James Stuart, and by August 1834, it was in the hands of James Salthouse. Several original Fylde inns were named "Horns", presumably harking back to the days when herds of deer roamed here. In September 1860, landlord Mr Seed purchased the largest pork in Britain at the Liverpool auctions, for use in breeding his own pork.
The inn was a popular venue for livestock and land auctions, and was also, for many years, the venue for the local Coroner's sessions.
Duttons Lancashire and Yorkshire Brewery Co Ltd completely re-constructed the pub from June 1954, and renamed it Ye Horns Inn. Soroptimists International of Garstang had its beginnings in the inn in Spring 1973.
In 2009, the Horns was purchased, but this failed to rejuvenate the venue. Then bought by Michelin chef John Noon, and his partner Jeni Perrin, the venue re-opened on the 25th of March 2013, after a major refurbishment – needed after several years of dilapidation. It is now known as The Horns Country Inn.

This year, Thomas Clifton decided to change his religion and conformed to the Church of England. He then summarily closed all Catholic chapel on his land.

1832

Many people came to Bispham and Blackpool to escape the outbreaks of cholera in the towns and cities. The sea breeze kept the disease away – although it still managed to reach Poulton.
James Roskell and Robert Baird began to hold Methodist services in a room at Bonny's Bathing House. They shortly moved to Robert Baird's Bazaar, near to the site of the 1862 Chapel.
The Reverend Mr Drawbridge established Blackpool's Church Missionary Society. It was formally begun at a meeting in the Clifton Arms Hotel on the 5th of April 1854.

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The Old Moor Estate at Carleton was sold by auction at the Ship Inn at Poulton on the 19th of September. The landlord of the Ship in 1860 was George Porter, and the inn was famous for its Nuttall's King's Ales.
Francis Blades and William Moxam were listed as *"gamekeepers in the manors of Lytham, Little Marton, Westby with Plumpton, and Warton for Thomas Clifton of Lytham Hall".*
Church Lane at Lytham was renamed Church Road.
The Preston Savings Bank opened a branch in Lytham. By the 12th of November there were 12 depositors.
The Freemason's Arms Inn on Bunker Street in Freckleton was sold in August by landlord and owner Robert Alston. It had a bowling green and was bundled with 21 cottages.
The Anchor Inn was in business in Warton, holding regular land auctions.

Clifton Hall, at Clifton: The grand hall of today began to be built, in a Tudor style, near Preston, by Thomas Clifton of Lytham Hall. It was opened in 1838, but continued to be added to until the late 1860s.
The new hall was built on the site of an ancient farm called Hall-stedes. It was NOT erected on the site of the old hall - partly destroyed by fire in 1745 – this often-quoted fact refers to Clifton Hall near Penrith.
Clifton Lodge, at the entrance to the hall, was erected in 1889.

The hall is described, in a 1916 sale catalogue, as having an "entrance hall, inner hall, dining room, morning room, drawing room, library, business room, eight bedrooms, nursery, four servants' rooms, two bathrooms, servants' hall, good kitchens, butler's pantry, and other offices". Outside there were stables, coach houses – now garages, and an electric light engine and accumulator house.
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The hall was first occupied by Edward Pedder, a banker, of Preston, and the last was Thomas Pickles, a cotton manufacturer from Preston. Again, contrary to popular belief, the hall was never lived in by the Clifton family, but was always tenanted.
Clifton Hall was converted into a nursing home in 1979, after the death of Mr Pickles.

It appears that the nearby village of Clifton, which is basically a single street, grew up as houses and cottages built for the staff at the hall. Except for the windmill, there are now no known buildings older than 1861. *"Many of the cottages have been altered over the years. Some started life as one-roomed houses with attached shippons, and others were the dairy, laundry etc belonging to Highgate Hall"*. *"Until the 1970s the village shop was part of Moons Cottage in School Lane. When a purpose-built store and hairdressers were erected in Bryning Lane the village shop closed. Mr Joe Eastham was the local barber for many years, cutting the village people's hair in his barn. There is a DIY and garden centre in what was once a dairy"*.

1833
The "Alert", a Scottish schooner from Lerwick was wrecked at the Gynn on June the 11th. The daughter of the landlord, Billy Snape held a light in a window of Gynn House, and only this saved the crew.
In winter, the sea washed away two houses at the south end of the village, and only Mr Whiteside's plank-faced protective banking saved the Yorkshire House. The tide was a mere 17 feet, showing the vulnerability of the sea front.

The New Inn, Blackpool: Blackburn House was built at Hounds Hill by James Butcher. He soon began to sell beer, and after extending the building, opened it as a public house in 1840 - he called it the New Inn. It was then known as Barlow's New Inn after its next owner.
By 1852, Duke's New Inn was owned by Mr Duke, and during the Crimean War - from 1853 to 1856 - he deliberately changed its name to the Duke of Blackpool, in order to capitalise on the martial spirit of the time.
In 1896, the pub was rebuilt as the New Inn and Central Hotel – T Smith was the main building contractor – and the new building was constructed 33 feet further North to ease the growing congestion at Hounds Hill. The cottages next to the inn had overlooked Brewer's Meadow, on which the Blackpool and Lytham Railway was constructed in 1862.
The New Inn and Central was demolished in 1973, to make way for the new Palatine complex.

James Caunce bought some land, which soon became known as Caunce's Yard. The Borough Bazaar was later built there.

The BLESMA Home, Blackpool: John Openshaw was living at the family home, Hughenden House, which was on the southwestern corner of Lytham Road and Harrowside. It was a very large house, approached down a long drive from Lytham Road and had gardens and orchards stretching down towards the railway. By 1911, it had become Stony Hill Lodge, which was a *"Two storey double pile villa constructed from brick with terracotta detailing, now painted. Slate roof with terracotta ridge and hip tiles"*. The main entrance faced southwards and its address was 539 Lytham Road.

In 1949, Blesma (British Limbless Ex Servicemen's Association), opened their Elizabeth Frankland Moore Home at what was by then 529 Lytham Road. The BLESMA Home was opened officially by the Duchess of Gloucester on the 25th of June. It was the charity's first home and soon opened its own bar – the "Legless Arms".

©

John Bennett allowed the Methodists to worship at his Runnell Farm on the Moss.
Marton Bank Farm was sold by Thomas Pedder on the 16th of October, together with its extensive orchards and gardens, comprising 30 acres of land. When it was sold again in 1855 it also had a surgery attached.
Thomas Crookall advertised his two cottages at Prospect Hill, South Shore. They came with free use of a pew at Marton chapel or Blackpool Church.
The Tract Society set up a book repository, which lasted for just three years.
On the 31st of August, Signor Paganini, the celebrated violin player, and the company of vocalists who attended him, performed at Mr Dickson's Hotel, to an audience of about 150; he earned nearly £50.

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Around Rossall, a long line of sand dunes covered in marram grass had finally disappeared, due to the continual encroachment of the sea. Only Starr Hill remained – soon to be the focal point of the new town of Fleetwood. Extensive flooding occurred this year, and many cattle and horses were drowned, with several outbuildings at Rossall Hall being damaged.
The Preston Pilot newspaper began to be published from 14 Queen Street in Lytham.

1834

The Dog and Partridge, Blackpool: This new inn had recently been built by Cornelius Bagot on the northwest corner of Cow Gap Lane - what is now the junction of Waterloo Road and Lytham Road. It boasted stables and had a bowling green to the rear - the bowling green became a coach park in later years. Boddington's Brewery bought the inn in 1893 and expanded it.

In 1961, the pub re-opened next door on Lytham Road, as the Dog and Partridge Hotel at 265 Lytham Road. It was run for many years by the Crossley family, and was the "accepted" pub for "away" fans for matches at Bloomfield road. The original Dog and Partridge had been slowly demolished, although a small bar was kept open during the work, in order to maintain the drinks licence. It was thus demolished in sections, which explains the shape of the bookmaker's shop which was then built, to occupy the corner site. It is now William Hill's.
A stained-glass window from the original inn is still displayed at the rear of the current pub, which is now part of the John Barras chain.

The Royal Oak, Blackpool: Another beerhouse stood on Northeast corner of Cow Gap Lane and Lytham Road. By 1893, it had been purchased by C&S Brewery, who re-furbished it, called it the Royal Oak, and painted the exterior brickwork white.

In 1930, C&S rebuilt it, and it was changed from the old simple inn to a modern hostelry, which opened on the 12th of July.
The new pub was built from brick salvaged from Whinney Heys Hall and was faced with glazed terracotta. Inside were *"a large lounge, a central bar leading to a snug and the Oak Room, a public bar, and an outdoor department"*. Its fireplace is famous for its hidden carved wooden mice, which is suspected to have been designed and carved by Robert Thompson, the famous "Mouseman".
The main drinking area is now simply one large L-shaped room, with a stage for the many live bands which the venue is locally-renowned for hosting.

Albert House was built on the corner of Lane End Street, and Albert Street (Corporation Street) came into being shortly afterwards.
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The Oddfellows Arms, Blackpool: appears to have been built on Euston Street in about this year. The landlord by 1856 was John Atkinson, and in 1859, when run by John Headey, it was still Listed as a beerhouse. By the 1870s, the landlord was one William Taylor, who became so well-known, that the Oddfellows became known locally as the Taylor's Arms.
The business was later purchased by Dutton's brewery and turned into a true public house.
The pub closed in 1923 and became a warehouse. Its drinks licence was transferred to the Trocadero, later the Huntsman Hotel.
When the Oddfellows Arms was demolished in about 1939, its ceilings were found to be made of reed – a technique that had ceased to be used in the 1830s.

Bethel Chapel and Five Ways Roundabout, Bispham: The Bethel Independent Chapel was built at the junction of Westgate (now known as Red Bank Road) and Tiddicar Lane (now Cavendish Road). Tiddicar Lane was named after the Great Bispham area of Tidaker, where Robert Brodbelt is recorded as living in June 1688.
This chapel replaced a small Independent Chapel that had been built, probably by and for the Tinkler family, in one of their fields, called Twenty Lands in the latter quarter of the 17th century. It stood on a piece of land measuring 46 feet by 32 feet, and its last minister was John hardy, in 1736. After this, the building lapsed into disrepair, until, in 1766, a wall was erected to separate it into two halves. The Bispham scholars were taught there (each in a separate half), until the now-disused chapel was completely taken over by the trustees for use as a school until a new school went up near the site of today's Five Ways Roundabout in 1800. That chapel is sometimes shown as being on Chapel Lane, so that lane was clearly named after that first edifice.
This first chapel was entirely destroyed by 1837.

The chapel was closed in 1861, when many of the worshippers began to attend the new chapel that had been formed by some members of the Victoria Street Chapel. It re-opened in 1869. Also, the chapel opened its own Sunday school in 1892, but it lasted just 3 years.

The chapel was closed on the 25th of February 1912 and was transferred to the new Congregational Church building which opened on Cavendish Road on the 28th of February. That is now called the Bispham United Reformed Church. The original chapel was pulled down in 1914, and the wooden church hall was replaced in the late 1930s, with a brick building. The name stone from the chapel can now be found inset into the boundary wall of the Bispham United Reformed Church.

The original Five-ways Roundabout was opened at the junction of Red Bank Road and Devonshire Road in 1924, with Five-ways Garage being built at the same time. The current roundabout was opened for use on the 17th of May 1947.

Birchall and Company Ltd, tobacco factors, opened in Preston. Moving to Blackpool's Clifton Street in 1899, it remained the town's oldest retail outlet until its dissolution in February 2005. It was briefly at number 14 and then 16-22 Talbot Road, having a second shop at 21 Market Street
Little Marton Lane, Broad Lane, Higher Lane, and Broadway in Little Marton were stopped up by an order dated the 29th of October.

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Charles Butler opened his butcher's shop in Workhouse Square in Poulton (this became Queen's Square in 1837 on Queen Victoria's accession). He later opened a second shop at 35 Coronation Street in Blackpool.
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Peter Hesketh-Fleetwood applied to improve the Wyre Harbour, including *"the tying up of vessels at that part of Poulton known as "Cold Dubba".*
A daily light post coach began, from the Clifton Arms in Lytham to the Castle Inn in Preston in March.
The Preston and Lytham Ship Canal Company met in August to discuss the building of the undertaking. It was an ambitious proposal to construct a canal channel, north of the Ribble, to run from Preston Marsh to the mouth of the river at Lytham.
The Poor Law Amendment Act of this year was used to establish the Fylde as one of the Poor Law Unions.

Freckleton Episcopal Church: A temporary Episcopal Church was built in Freckleton in 1834, but it was replaced in 1839 by a permanent brick-built building, with nave, a chancel, and a small spire at the west end. The new church had a wooden pulpit, moved from Kirkham. Reverend GH Waterfell was the first incumbent.

Holy Trinity Parish Church: was begun on the 31st of July 1839, with the laying of its Foundation Stone. It was then consecrated on the 13th of June 1838 by the Doctor Sumner, the Lord Bishop of Chester. Replacing the original small, wooden building, it was a brick-built church measuring 58 feet long by 27 feet wide and could hold about 400 worshippers. Its architect was John Latham of Preston.
Today's church contains a pulpit made in 1633 for Kirkham church by John Weaver.

On the 21st of January 1846, it became a church of ease to St Paul's Church, Warton. The first resident curate, Reverend CH Waterfall, was not appointed until 1860. He remained for just one year, to be succeeded by Reverend Walter Scott, who then became the first Vicar of Freckleton when Holy Trinity became the Parish Church on the 26th of January 1874.

In 1860, a house, owned by the mayor family, on Preston Old Road was bought for Reverend Waterfall's use, as Freckleton Parsonage. The house – now numbered 75 and 77 - was sold in 1930. In April 1926, the contract was awarded for a new vicarage on Naze Lane. It was built by Barron Brothers of Preston and contained a memorial to the local men who had fallen in the Great war. That vicarage was sold in 1980, to be replaced by today's vicarage on Sunnyside close.

The church was re-furbished in 1874, as the walls had become cracked and covered in damp – due to the ivy on the outsides. It was painted, heating was installed, a new harmonium was bought, as was a new set of Commandments.

The churchyard was opened in 1896, and was enlarged for the first time in 1832, then again in 2000. The communal grave of the victims of the 1944 air disaster lies within.
The church was extended in 1900, and the church tower was rebuilt in 1934. Electric lighting was installed in 1936

In 1976, the original tower was replaced by an 18-foot hexagonal bell-cote, and a new gilded cross was installed in 1980.

Freckleton Church of England School was opened nearby on Lytham Road in 1839. It was a primary school from 1839 until 1944, and a junior school from 1944 to 1969. It soon became known as Trinity School.

In 1928, a "house" system was introduced, using the local names of Balderstone, Hillock, Marsh, and Naze.

©

The Trinity School was destroyed by an aeroplane in 1944 (see the entry for that year for details), and began to be rebuilt nearby in 1954, being then renamed the Freckleton Memorial School. In Phase 1, three infant classrooms were built, Phase 2 in 1959, saw the school hall, the kitchens, and the staff room open, and the final phase was in 1970, when four junior classrooms, and more admin and storage rooms were brought into use. Also, in 1970, the playing fields were completed.

In 1970, it was again renamed, as Freckleton CE School, and it is now called Freckleton Church of England Primary School. There is now also a pre-school playgroup in the same premises. The remains of the original school were demolished completely in 1974.
The school motto is *"In Fide Scientia Consistat"* meaning "Let knowledge be grounded in faith".

The Running Pump Inn, Catforth: was built by James Smith, on the site of a previous alehouse. Its name derives from a water pump built into the front wall – a tribute to the natural springs thereabouts. Spring Cottage next door is thought to have been its original brewhouse. The pub was let by Smith in 1841, together with the adjoining blacksmith's shop and provisions shop. It was then greatly enlarged in 1843.

There are two fields at Black Hill Farm in Pilling which on the tithe map are marked "First Dyehouse Lot" and "Second Dyehouse Lot", clearly indicative of the site of a dyehouse.

1835

Blackpool Wesleyan Chapel: The Wesleyans had first started to meet and worship in John Bonny's bathhouse, before moving to a large room in Robert Bird's bazaar. That venue soon became too small and a dedicated chapel was built by George Lewtas on Adelaide Street.

In 1859, Adelaide Street chapel started a Wesleyan Mission. Services were first in a large room in the Hydropathic Establishment. The first leader was HT Wilson, a bookseller, of Talbot Square.

The New Wesleyan chapel Blackpool: The corner stone for the replacement chapel was laid on Bank Hey Street on the 8th of November 1861, and The Central Methodist chapel was opened on the 4th of July 1862, further down from the original one. It was constructed of red brick, with stone highlights, and could seat 760 people.

The Free United Methodist Church: opened in Adelaide Street in 1864. The foundation stone for the Wesleyan chapel was laid on the 8th of November 1861 and there had been a church on the site since 1835.

It reopened as Adelaide Street Trinity United Methodist in 1881, and in 1894 became the first local church with electric lighting. By 1906, it was known as the Adelaide Street Wesleyan Church, but soon changed its name to the Adelaide Street Free Church. Fielding brothers had just installed new galleries in the now-lit chapel.

In 1972, the church and its church hall closed. The buildings were then used by the Central Methodist Church, until its own building opened in Adelaide Street in March 1975. The ladies of that church began their annual summer show in 1963. Central Methodists amalgamated with Chapel Street Primitive Methodists in 1997.

©

George Lewtas went on to build many houses in the town, particularly in the Larkhill area, where a street was later named after him. In Larkhill Street for many years was a corporation doss house which, by 1937, was called Larkhill Working Men's Hostel.

The Adelphi Hotel, Blackpool: This well-appointed hostelry was built by Esau Carter (postmaster George Cooke's former assistant), on the site of the original Adelphi public house. The hotel had *"six sitting rooms with rooms for 25 beds, a large club room, coach houses and stabling for 14 horses".*
Carter ran an off-licence from its side entrance in what is now Adelphi Street, and carried on his postal business from a side window. Esau Carter was probably Blackpool's first postman.
On the 25th of November 1836, "buses" started to run through Poulton from the Adelphi and the Clifton Hotel. These were presumably coaches.
By the time it was advertised by new owner, Charles Brown, on the 20th of September 1862, it was called the Adelphi and Post Office Hotel, having had *"good stabling and a coach house"* added in 1860 by George Ormerod. By 1876, Mrs WH Gaskell had left the Derby Hotel to run the Adelphi and was offering *"A First Class confortable Hotel"* with *"Burton Ale and Dublin Porter in cask and bottle"*.

The hotel was taken over by the C&S brewery by 1893, and the building was rebuilt in 1923, and the new Adelphi Hotel was then opened on the 23rd of December 1924.
It was mostly demolished in the 1960s, and replaced by a Stylo Shoe shop, but Adelphi Street still runs alongside the remains of the building. Some of the hotel's 1920s' white tiles remain, at the side of the opticians Vision Express, who occupied the building until 2013.
It then became a Morrison's Local store, which opened on the 3rd of April 2014.

The Market Inn, Blackpool: was on Lytham Street, run by William Gill. It was small beerhouse next to the Blackpool Market, opposite the future site of the Grapes Inn.
In 1880, the Market Hotel was constructed on its site by Mr Ashworth, with beer by Browns of Preston. It was a favourite haunt of actress Florrie Ford.
The pub was bought by the Mathew Brown brewery in around 1885, was briefly known as Holts Market Hotel, and closed in 1923.
The building was demolished in 1939, and the drinks licence was transferred immediately to the newly-built Squirrel at Bispham.

The Halfway House, Blackpool: The Half Way Inn was built around now by Ezekiel Salthouse (licensee of a beer house on Chapel Street) on the corner of Middle Lane (St Anne's Road) and Squires Lane (Squires Gate Lane). Tenanted by Thomas and Jenny Braithwaite, the Half Way House inn passed to his widow, Margaret, and then to her "*trustees on her death in 1866. It was then purchased in May 1867 by Ellen McLevy, a widow, who sold it to brewer Matthew Brown"* in March 1874. Matthew Brown then *"transferred the property into his company (Matthew Brown and Co Ltd) in February 1876*.

The first brewery licensee was Thomas Mason, who wasted no time in getting himself charged with selling spirits out of hours, being charged in the October. Other early licensee landlords included Robert Ormond, Thomas Braithwaite, and Thomas Melling.
On the 31st of July 1888, Matthew Brown bought the adjoining land for the formation of a bowling green. This had a new stand built in 1980 but is no longer used.

In August 1897, Thomas Melling obtained approval to erect a new building, and he also ran a small shop from the building, selling *"Aerated water, New Milk, Fruit, Flowers, Eccles Cakes, Biscuits and Choice*

©

Sweets". It was still known as the Halfway Inn when the brewery had the current building constructed on the site from 1908. The new building opened in 1909, as the Halfway House. The commanding red brick building has a large, central drinking area and central bar.

Matthew Brown was taken over by Scottish and Newcastle breweries in 1987, and the pub was bought by Enterprise Inns sometime later.
A 2015 sale brochure lists the premises as comprising:
"Ground Floor - Traditional public bar and lounge to a central bar servery. Games area off the public bar. Dining area, with carvery, for50 covers. Catering kitchen and storeroom. Customer toilets including disabled.
First Floor - Four bedrooms, lounge, kitchen, office, storeroom and bathroom with separate WC.
Attic Accommodation - Six rooms in a dated and shell condition, presently not utilised.
Basement - Beer cellar and stores.
External - Car parking to the side and rear for approximately 36 vehicles. Bowling green and clubhouse which is not utilised".

Work to upgrade the premises ground to a halt in summer 2018, due to serious structural problems being found. It was bought by brewers Joseph Holt in October 2018, and renovated. The bowling green was been dug up and an extension was constructed on the existing car park. The pub re-opened to the public on the 23rd of September 2019, under managers Paul and Suzanne Tingle.

The whole of the "Revoe Estate" was sold by John Fare (who owned and had built it up) on the 9th of September. The advert stated *"All that Freehold MESSUAGE or DWELLING-HOUSE with the outbuildings and several Closes and Parcels of LAND thereto belonging, situate and being in Great Marton in the said county, containing in the whole 24a 3r 20p"*. It was sold again, at the Mill Inn in Great Marton, on the 29th of December 1859.
One of the two houses at 124 and 126 Bolton Street has a window sill engraved "EM 1835". It is not known if this is the date the pair was constructed.
An earthquake shook the town with two massive tremors on August the 20th.

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Christ Church, Thornton: the new church and its Parsonage were built on Parr Road (later renamed as Meadows Avenue after the Reverend Thomas Meadows) in Thornton. The church originally comprised a West tower with corner pinnacles, and a nave and chancel covered with a single roof.
The church was consecrated on the 6th of October 1836 by the Bishop of Chester and was a Chapel of Ease to the parish of Poulton-le-Fylde until 1862, when it became Thornton Parish church. The first burial in the church yard was in 1837.
It was extensively rebuilt in 1914, when *"the new chancel was built of yellow and red sandstone, and the five-light east window has stained glass by the local Lancaster firm Shrigley and Hunt, depicting Christ flanked by nine saints, with angels above and an Agnus Dei. On the north wall is another window by Shrigley and Hunt, this one with three lights and depicting the empty tomb. A transept to the north contains the vestry and the organ loft. To the south side of the chancel lies the Lady Chapel"*.

In 1963, *"the current nave, tower and parish rooms were built in 1963 by Leach, Rhodes and Walker after demolition of the 1835 nave and tower. The bell was hung from a tree for 9 months during the building project and rung for services whilst hanging in its temporary home"*. More changes were made in 2004.
It is known locally as the "*little church within the trees*".
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The parsonage was an extension of an earlier house built in the 1700s. When the new vicarage was built next door, it was named Calf Heys and became a home for the elderly. It is now a private house.

The building of Fleetwood began on the warrens known as *"Quaggy Meols"*. Decimus Burton marked out the basic street plan using a plough borrowed from Robert Banton, the farmer of East Warren Farm. Burton had planned the town to resemble a wheel, with the streets being spokes from the hub of the Mount.

The first wharf on the river was levelled and edged, ready for use. George Landeman, who prepared the original dock proposals, and George and Robert Stephenson, who built some of the port facilities, were all leading engineers in their fields. Renowned architect Decimus Burton designed the town for Sir Peter Hesketh-Fleetwood – then Squire of Rossall – who had been inspired by a visit to St Leonard's On Sea and wanted to build a similar town in the Fylde.

At first, the workers building the new town had nowhere to sleep at night, so they were obliged to stay in and around Preston, travelling in daily by stagecoach, carriage, and wagon.

Fleetwood was to be the UK's first "new town" and would be based around Tup Hill. London Street was the first to be marked out, running from the Mount to the riverside and a small beer house at the river end was the first to be started – this would be the Railway Inn (soon renamed the Fleetwood Arms Hotel) – standing on the Southwest corner of Dock Street and Preston Street.

Five farms existed within the proposed building area: Fenny, Flakefleet, Larkham, West Warren Farm (later named Rossall Grange by John Smith – a name which originally applied to Rossall Hall. It was demolished in 1928), and East Warren Farm. This was built by Bold Fleetwood-Hesketh, who owned the Rossall estate before his nephew, Peter. It is likely that he was responsible for the reclamation of the sandy area at the northern end of the estate.

The town was originally to be built at Thornton and the foundation stone for the new railway terminus was actually laid there by Sir Peter. He then decided it was not close enough to the coast and chose Rossall Point instead.

The new Local Act banned any building in the new town from having a thatched roof.
Burton planned the town to be laid out on streets resembling the spokes of a wheel, and the grand town hall, was planned for the west end of London Street, from where it could overlook the whole town. Sadly, it could not be funded. A significant weakness in Burton's design was the complete lack of a focussed retail area for the new town, except for a few on Dock Street.

The first shipbuilding company at Fleetwood dock belonged to Mr Hallburton, whose first ship was a 60-ton sloop, the "Atlas", built for the Preston and Wyre Railway and Harbour Company in 1838.

The town was known officially as Fleetwood-on-Wyre for the rest of the 19th century.

Warrenhurst, Fleetwood: East Warren Farm was in use as a licensed brewhouse at this time, but by 1876 it had been developed into a private manse known as East Warren House (later the site of the town park), which was built for John May Jameson, Peter Hesketh-Fleetwood's civil engineer.

©

By 1885, East Warren House had become a true "gentry villa" and been renamed Warrenhurst, by its latest owner, Commander Baugh from the Belfast ferries. Its lands had been redeveloped into the Warrenhurst estate. By then, Warrenhurst was a large dwelling with 5 bedrooms, parlour, billiards room, drawing room, study, garden room, kitchen, a sewing room, a wine store, a pantry, and a school room. As well as the main staircase, the house had a servants' staircase at the rear. There also two bedrooms over the kitchen for servants.
Warrenhurst had its own gardens and pasture, two vineries, a large orchard – with apple, pear, and plum trees, an ornamental pond, an aviary, conservatory, a shippon, other various outbuildings, and a flock of peacocks, all within its 26-acre estate. To support the household, there were stables and piggeries too.

Soon after Warrenhurst Park was opened next door in 1902, the new park was extended slightly at its north-west corner to incorporate part of the gardens of Warrenhurst. Warrenhurst House itself was demolished in 1936.

The Freckleton Oddfellows Society was formed.
Preston and Wyre Railway and Harbour Company was incorporated on the 3rd of July 1835, and on the 5th of May 1837, the Preston and Wyre Dock Company was incorporated. The two companies were consolidated into one company – the Preston and Wyre Railway Harbour and Dock Company on the 1st of July 1839. That company was dissolved in 1888. The formation of the first company signed the death sentence for the planned Preston and Lytham Ship Canal.
Thomas Clifton was made High Sheriff of Lancashire.
The gamekeeper of Treales Manor was Richard Kirby.
This year, the Municipal Corporation Act obliged boroughs with large populations to organise their own police forces. The whole system of law enforcement undertook its largest change for 600 years.

1836

Holy Trinity Parish Church, Blackpool: South Shore's own church was built, with a graveyard, in a field called Starr End, on what was then called Common Edge Road, to serve the 40 houses of Southshore hamlet. Its first vicar was Mr Greene, and Peter Hesketh-Fleetwood endowed the church with a tithe of £35 per year from Layton Hawes.
In 1847, the church's prayer rooms were at 47 Dean Street.

This church was enlarged in 1878, and was finally consecrated on the 23rd of September 1889, although it had been irrevocably damaged in a storm in 1886 and required rebuilding.

In April 1894, the original western part was demolished, and on the 21st of July, the foundation stone was laid by James Parrott. The remainder of the original was soon demolished, to allow the completion of the current church, which opened on the 27th of November 1895. The original foundation stone can be seen inside the main doorway. The replacement church is now a Grade 2 Listed Building, and Dean Street, on which it stands, is named after the Reverend CK Dean of the church. Church Street, the street on its western side, was named after it and later renamed Bond Street.
The church's vicarage was briefly in Dean Villa, on the northern corner of Station Road and the Promenade. By 1934 the vicarage had moved to 1 Windermere Road, and the current vicarage is at 92 Watson Road. Behind the church from the 1920s was a coach station.

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West Hey, Blackpool: Sir Benjamin Heywood, of Claremont in Manchester, bought a large plot of land and began to build his own summer retreat on the Promenade - he first named it Blackpool Hall when it opened in 1837.

When it was finally completed in 1838, he renamed it West Hey after the Manchester field where he had built his first house. West Hey was sold in 1866, by Heywood's son, who declared that "*I sold it when Blackpool had grown into a town, and had become a great resort for cheap trippers, and had lost its charms as a residence. In our early days, there were no carriages for hire, the bathing machines, with two wheels and no springs, supplying their place. I have seen, on wet Sundays, a row of them, when we came out of church, waiting to carry families to their respective hotels or lodging houses. I believe Blackpool as a health resort to be unrivalled*".
West Hey was demolished in 1867 for the Prince of Wales Arcade and is now the site of the Tower.

Sewage was still thrown over the low cliffs at high tide, but many fresh water springs were discovered, allowing people to dispense with using water collected in cisterns dug in the marl.
It was estimated that two hundred new visitor beds were added to Blackpool this year.

William Henry Cocker: On the 9th of December, a baby boy was born on Hygiene Terrace, in a house that his father had built. The boy grew up to be perhaps the most influential man in the growth of the town of Blackpool.

His father John Cocker had already built what was the first purpose-built place of entertainment, when he had the Victoria Promenade constructed. Also, soon after marrying the daughter of another prominent landowner, Henry Banks, he bought Bank Hey House at the top of Victoria Street in 1851. Banks was fondly known as the "Father of Blackpool".

William inherited all this valuable land and buildings, and after becoming a general practitioner, he lived in a bungalow on Bond Street, before moving to his own bungalow "Bloomfield" in 1888, on Spen Gap lane. In 1928, the road was renamed Bloomfield Road after it. He finally moved to Whitegate Drive.

In 1875, he offered Bank Hey and its adjoining land for the building of the Winter Gardens - part of Bank Hey House still stands inside. He also opened his aquarium at West Hey on the Promenade and, after selling his property company to the Blackpool Tower Company, this was later to house the Tower.

In 1876, William became Blackpool's first mayor and in 1896, its first Freeman. He died on the 14th of April 1911, being buried on the 18th of April in the churchyard of St John's Church. The Cocker Tower in Stanley Park was erected in 1926 in his honour.

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A small cottage opposite the end of Little Poulton Lane manufactured "twine and cord for shipping". There was also a dye-house at the bottom of the Breck.

The foundation stone of the first house in Fleetwood was laid on the 7th of April by Robert Banton. In earlier years, Trinity House had made the owners paint all the farm's buildings with whitewash, to provide a landmark for ships. The new resort was to be named Fleetwood, with the commercial end to be called Wyreton, and the docks to be known as New Liverpool.
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The Fleetwood Arms: The first building to be started in the new town was built and owned by Robert Banton, a farmer and beerhouse owner from East Warren Farm. He opened his small beerhouse and Licensed dwelling on the Southwest corner of Church Street, but soon lost interest in that venture, which was demolished. Thomas Parker, a stonemason, took over construction, but the hotel was then finished off by Thomas Parkinson, now fronting onto on Dock Street.

Fleetwood's first hotel finally opened on the 29th of June 1837 as the Railway Inn, and Parkinson advertised the new hotel as being able to *"offer every accommodation for visitors"*. However, it was quickly taken over and re-named the Fleetwood Arms by Peter Hesketh-Fleetwood, who took on James Hornby to run it for him.

The first coaches to Preston ran from the Fleetwood Arms in 1838, and, being by the Dock Gates, it received Fleetwood's first mail delivery in 1839. In the 1840s, it became the headquarters for the hare coursing folk, who raced their dogs on the warren. The pub was THE local for the town's fishermen and was fondly known as the "first in and last out" pub in the town.
The building stood on the corner of today's Dock Street and Preston Street, and soon became Richard Warbrick's outfitters. It was also the town's first school – albeit a small one - as *"In December 1838, Mrs Cumpsty removed from Preesall to Fleetwood, and opened the first school in the town. It was one room in the house now occupied by Mr. Warbrick, and she had only the use of it during the usual school hours. For this privilege she paid three shillings per week"*. The premises finally became the local office of the Transport and General Workers' Union. Some of it has now been demolished but was for many years it was used as the parts department for Joseph Armour's garage. Upstairs for some years was the Blue Flamingo Club (later called the Jubilee and then the Coronation Club).
The Fleetwood Arms closed in April 2009, and on the 6th of December 2010, it became the Fleetwood Arms Dental Practice.

The Fylde Timber Company was established in Fleetwood, with trading premises at Skippool.
W Armitstead opened his butchers' shop in Albert Square, Fleetwood, later opening a second shop at 44a West Street.

The town pump was in Albert Square, and it was still in use until at least 1880, despite the plumbing in of water to houses from 1863.

Fleetwood Mount: The new town of Fleetwood was designed to be based around starr hill known as Tup Hill, and all the town streets were laid out to radiate from it. The hill was renamed the Mount by Sir Peter Hesketh-Fleetwood and was sometimes called Top Hill or Starr Hill - the hill being the highest sand dune on the Fleetwood peninsula. Rolling eggs down the Mount was popular at Easter.
The original summer pavilion was soon built to Decimus Burton's designs, by Robert Parkinson of Garstang. It was a small decagon-shaped building with an adjacent mast/flagpole, from which Esau Monk, one of the first commissioners of Fleetwood, dispensed refreshments.

In 1838, a second, Chinese-style pavilion, named Temple View, was erected in its place. Designed by Decimus Burton, it was a pagoda-style tearoom with a surrounding decagonal platform terrace and was known locally as *"Prophet Place"*.
The cobble wall around the Mount was built by Sir Peter in 1861, who intended to establish his own right to that particular part of his estate. After a public meeting on the 20th of May though, the members tore the wall apart, saying that their public right of way had been stolen. The wall was mostly washed away in a storm in 1863

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The single-storey entrance building to the 7-acre Mount Gardens was built in 1841. It has since been described as a hunting lodge, although its original use was as Decimus Burton's office. In later years, it was a private house – occupants had to cross the gateway opening to get their bedrooms. It then became the Mount Craft Centre for several years in the 1990s.
The Meteorological Office installed an anemometer in the pavilion in 1886.

The current grounds were opened on the 12th of July 1902, and a new brick wall was built, surrounding the area for the first time. The town motto *"Onward"* was spelled out in flowers in front of the pavilion for many years. There was a small outdoor swimming pool and a children's playground, and the Mary Hope Garden was soon developed for the enjoyment of blind people.

The new pavilion was a 2-storey octagonal building, with a copper roof, and was officially opened in 1904. When a copper cupola (with fishing boat weather vane) was added in 1919, the Memorial Clock and a chime of two bells were installed on the eastern side of the top of the pavilion, having been presented to the town by Mr Isaac Spencer (a local fish-meal producer) in memory of those who fell in the war. The clock first ran on the 19th of February. The Fleetwood War Memorial Plaque was mounted inside the pavilion at the same time.
For many years, the ground floor of the pavilion was occupied by the Fleetwood Citizens Advice Bureau. The pavilion last had a tenant in 2007 when the Proud to be British flag company ran their business from the building. They were soon forced out by a devastating fire on bonfire night.
In 2014, the pavilion was chosen to host a "pop-up" art show. The first artist to take up residence was Pete Moser, a composer.

The annual ceremony known as the "Blessing of the Waters" is conducted from the pavilion balcony.

In 2016, Arts organisation LeftCoast began operating the Mount building as a community studio with free weekend and holiday activities such as drama workshops, storytelling, and craft sessions. The gate lodges are planned to re-open as a tea room in 2017, and the restoration of the grounds will be carried out in two phases - the first phase being restoring the railings, shelters, and landscaping to the seaward side of the Mount.

The origins of some Fleetwood street names include:

- Abbotts Walk – follows the track of the walk made by the monks of Rossall (dating back to 1228) to check on their sheep on Tupp Hill
- Albion Street – after the old name for England
- Aughton Street – after Richard Aughton, the designer of Fleetwood's first Custom House
- Blakiston Street – after Arthur Blakiston, another early investor in the dock scheme
- Bold Street – after Bold Fleetwood Hesketh, an uncle of Sir Peter Hesketh
- Brooke Street - Reverend Brooke established a local Bible Society
- Dronsfield Street, Agnew Street, Galloway Street, and Abercrombie Street – after investors in the Warrenhurst expansion. Abercrombie Street soon acquired the nickname "*Skippers Row*" due to the number of ships' captains who lived there
- Fielden Esplanade/ Fielden Library – after the Fielden Family who were local benefactors
- Hesketh Street - Sir Peter Hesketh's family name
- Kemp Street – after Frederick Kemp, Sir Peter Hesketh's land agent
- Laidley's Walk – after John Laidley, an early developer in the Town, who brought the first cotton ship to the Port

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- London Street and Preston St – after the town's first railway connections
- Milton Street, Chaucer Street, Tennyson Street, and Burns Street – after contemporary poets
- Park Avenue - linked to the Memorial Park
- Pharos Street – after the ancient lighthouse at the gateway to Alexandria in Egypt
- Poulton Road and Poulton Street – were part of the original main route to Poulton
- Queens Terrace – named after Queen Victoria
- Styan Street – after and early investor in the Fleetwood
- Victoria Street, Albert Street, Kent Street, and Adelaide Street – named after members of the Royal Family
- Walmsley Street - after Joseph Walmsley (plumber), the first leading Catholic in the Town

Bethel Independent Chapel, Preesall: was built on Lancaster Road, holding its first service on the 28th of December. Services had first begun in about 1830, owing to the efforts of Reverend Gothard, the minister of Elswick, who described this district as *"destitute of the Gospel"*, but *"ready to attend it if preached"*. The new chapel was neat brick building and could hold 200 worshippers. It had been built at a cost of £250, with the congregation carrying all the materials for free.
The chapel was solemnised for marriage on the 23rd of February 1858, and the attached schoolroom was completed in April of that year, opening in 1859. The chapel was enlarged in 1888.

The Lytham Agricultural Society was founded, merging with Kirkham in 1858. The next year, they held their first annual meeting, in a wooden pavilion by the Clifton Arms Hotel. In the 1860s, they also merged with Blackpool and the joint society held an annual show at the Raikes Hall Gardens from 1881.
A public news room was opened in Lytham in July, but its location is unknown. By the 1860s though, by then re-named the Working-men's' Reading Room, it had moved to the upper floor of the Baths and Assembly Rooms at the southern corner of Dicconson Terrace. Then, by 1871, it had moved again to 71 Clifton Street, but had closed by September 1880. By a strange co-incidence, the public library moved back into the rooms in late 2018.
Mrs D Ward, straw hat maker, was in business on Preston Street in Kirkham.
On the 19th of April, Thomas Parkinson's house on Poulton Street in Kirkham was blown up by 30 pounds of gunpowder ignited by Richard Bennett, a frustrated suitor.

1837

Victoria Terrace, Blackpool: Celebrating the Ascension of Queen Victoria, Doctor John Cocker's Victoria Terrace and Promenade opened on Green Walk on the 24th of May. It housed seven shops, with a first-floor assembly hall called the Victoria Promenade, and provided the town's first public entertainments - a newsroom, library, and billiard room. The "grand opening" was attended by just 16 people and a band of three musicians. Green Walk was renamed Victoria Terrace at the same event.
The Victoria Inn was incorporated into the build.
By 1859, Victoria Promenade was known as the Crystal Palace Room, and run by John Cocker. Within a year, it was run by John Smith Holt as the Crystal Palace Bazaar, with another shop at 14 Victoria Street. In later years, the building became the Windsor Restaurant. The last vestiges of the Victoria Promenade were demolished in 1999/2000.

Joseph Turnbull, a hairdresser and perfumer, started his shop at 1 Central Beach, adjoining Nickson's Hotel. He also sold sporting goods. In 1866, he opened a new shop on Bank Hey Street.
Mawdsley's confectioners and tea dealers opened on Market Street.

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The Reverend William Thornber, Vicar of St John's, published the first history of Blackpool. The book contains many misleading and romantic assumptions but is generally verifiable. It was printed by one Thomas Smith, who had his works in Poulton Market Square, in a shop previously owned by William Smith. Smith also ran his own circulating library from the premises.
Blackpool Register Office opened on Hygiene Terrace on the 1st of July, covering the whole of the Fylde Coast. It moved to Devonshire Square in 1944 but closed in 1974 and moved to South King Street, leaving that building empty. It now houses the Council's Vitaline service.
An additional burial ground was consecrated on the 3rd of July at Marton Church.
The Windermere Steam-packet called daily, en route from Liverpool to Ulverston.
A large rock off the sea at Blackpool – known as *"Old Mother's Head"* – was sighted and was apparently covered in pink sea anemones.
There are still mentions this year of Layton Market House and Market Field.
The population of Blackpool was 710 people.

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William Thornber wrote of a Fairy Well (or Wrangdomwell) at Staining:

> "*The fairies of our fathers…were kind good natured creatures, at times seeking the assistance of mortals, and in return liberally rewarding them. They had a favourite spot between Hardhorn and Staining, at a cold spring of water, called Fairies' Well to this day*".

Half a mile to the south east of this well stands another, called "Bull Well", in Bull Meadow. Next to this can still be seen the remains of a "*Teanla*" or Halloween bonfire cairn. There is another "Fairy Well" at the foot of Preesall Hill.

Poulton Police: Poulton received its first two part-time constables early this year, and although paid by the town council, they were not true uniformed policemen. However, by July, a total of 12 special constables had been taken on. This was followed in 1839, by a town lockup, and by 1842, the number of constables had increased to 20. The town also became the base for a Police inspector.
By 1860, the Police Sergeant is shown as being based on Tithebarn Street. His name was George Morrison, and by 1910, he had been replaced by Sergeant Brandrick.

The town's first purpose-built police station was built in the Market Place in 1895, in the shell of the family home of the Walmsley family. Costing £3,500 to build, it had 3 cells, but it did not receive a first floor until 1960. There were also two police houses in the station yard.

The station was demolished 1898, to be replaced by the Masonic Hall. The second police station opened at the same time, now at 12-16 the Market Place, being a simple single-storey building with a castellated roof edge. The building was given a first floor between 1959 and 1960. There were 2 police houses in the yard at the rear.
In 2011, the station saved from closure, and became a part-time-staffed unit. It was finally closed in 2018, and was sold to a private investor on the 19th of February 2019. The building still has its original cells.

Reginald Sharp opened his academy to students on the 23rd of January in Poulton.
Fleetwood's first established shipbuilder, John Gibson, arrived, and formed the company Gibson and Butcher, with blockmaker James Butcher in 1839. The company began by repairing and refurbishing boats on the shore, with a small yard off the Canshe Hole. In 1848, they constructed their first boat, the "Mary Jane". The boat was launched from the company's own yard and river slipway, which were on the site of today's lifeboat house.
The first child to be born in Fleetwood was Isabella Roskell on the 9th of October. She was the daughter of a Customs officer.
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Sir Peter Hesketh-Fleetwood had 10 single-masted "flats" built. These proved invaluable for sailing through very shallow water to offload cargo directly into carts on the sands.

New Theatre, Lytham: Mr Ridyard erected his New Theatre next to the market hall in Lytham and opened it for a short season on the 15th of August (he had done the same in the last year). In future years, the Lardner family and their repertory company would be the stars in the New Theatre, singing, dancing, performing with talking marionettes, and teaching dancing.

Thomas Catterall of Kirkham presented a specification and estimate for "New Fish Stones" at Lytham and they were replaced in the Market Square.
The Fylde Poor Law Union was formed in Kirkham on the 27th of January, lasting until 1918. Poulton workhouse closed at the same time.
Lancashire Constabulary was formed to police the whole county, but a Chief Constable was not appointed until 1839, when recruiting began, under the Rural Constabulary Act of that year. Blackpool was policed from Poulton, which had its own constable and even an Inspector.

Freckleton Club Day: was first held on the 31st of July, instituted by the local Friendly Societies. The first procession was watched by almost 3,000 people and ended with the laying of the foundation stone for Holy Trinity Church. In 1845, the Wesleyan Methodist Church had representatives, and by the 1860s, the Primitive Methodists had joined in – being replaced in 1871 by Holy Family Church.
When club days were restarted after World War 1, the friendly societies no longer took part. There followed several years of argument about the appropriate date for the event, and after World War 2, it was fixed at the third Saturday in June.
It is now known as the Three Church Club Day, as it is supported by all the village's churches, and the villagers' procession now finishes at the Hodgson Playing Fields on Bush Lane.

Ralph Copeland was born at Moorside farm in Woodplumpton on the 3rd of September. He attended Kirkham Grammar School and went on to become Royal Astronomer for Scotland in 1889.

1838

The Sun Inn, Blackpool: Jane Singleton was living on Bolton Street in South Shore. By 1895, her house had become the Rising Sun, a beerhouse, owned by Robert Wilkinson. C&S Brewery was the owner by 1893, and by 1897, the name had been changed to The Sun Inn, at 34 Bolton Street.
In 1900, today's pub was re-built on the site of the original 1838 building, now addressed as 88 Bolton Street. It contains two ground-floor bars, a cellar, and two upper-floors for living quarters.
Closed in 2007 due to falling custom, the Sun was re-opened in 2010.

The Liverpool to Barrow steamer began to call regularly at central beach, despite there being no landing stage. This was the forerunner of the steamer cruises instigated from the piers in later years.
The Tithe Map shows a house and garden, and a barn and fold that were named Higham at Bispham. It was owned by JP and tenanted by George Singleton. By the time of the 1892 Ordnance Survey, Higham was called High Holme, and by 1939, the house had been demolished. By 1962, all evidence of habitation there had gone, and from 1971, the first buildings of the new Technical College had been constructed next to the site. The site of Higham House itself is now covered by a college car park.

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A coach began to run between Poulton and the new bathing station at Fleetwood.
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Fleetwood Custom House: Fleetwood's first Custom House was built at what would soon become 6/7 Lower Queens Terrace on Dock Street, its officers having transferred from the now defunct Poulton Custom House. This house had replaced an old smithy when it began to be built in 1838.
The Custom House stood alone, with its own ornamental gardens to both sides and at the rear of the building, and it became a private house in 1876, when it was bought by Alexander Carson, a gentleman, who used it as a private residence.
The Wyre Holm boarding house was added later, and the town council bought the enlarged building in 1889, for use as the Fleetwood Urban District Council offices. The council was then able to transfer its offices from the town's depot in London Street (later the health centre site).
The Custom House had a special window from which staff could observe ships sailing up river.
In 1839, Fleetwood Customs Watch house was built on the seafront. By the end of the century, the watch house was used merely as a boarding station, where Customs officers could shelter before boarding the ships to carry out their checks. In the 20th century it became a simple ice cream stall.

Fleetwood's Customs Officers at the time lived in a row of specially-built cottages on Custom House Lane. They had been converted from the Customs Store with one cottage, to a full set of cottages. Known locally as the *"Flat Toppers"*, they were demolished in 1966, during slum-clearance, to make way for the Market Car Park, which also covered the houses of Elizabeth Street, Victoria Square, and Cherry Tree Row.
The Bonded Warehouse, run by the Customs officers, was built in 1845, on the corner of Dock Street and Adelaide Street.

In 1877, the second Custom House opened to the corner of Elizabeth Street and Custom House Lane (named because it housed the Customs stores). This Custom House was staffed until 1919, when the officers were moved to new premises.

The third Custom House on Station Road was called Orient Buildings and was used from 1919. This later also housed the Employment Exchange, and (from 1928) the Navigation School. Marconi Marine housed radio trainers there, and the accountants Hodgson and Harris had offices in the building too. Customs staff occupied those offices until 1989, when their work was transferred to Preston. In March 2017, after many years of neglect, Orient Buildings had its windows replaced in preparation for being converted into apartments to house students from the Nautical College once more.

The first Custom House building became the Town Hall in 1933, and in 1974, the Finance Department for Wyre Borough Council. After the Borough Treasurer's Department left in 1990, it became for a very brief period, the Emmanuel Christian private school, then Fleetwood Museum moved there. The Municipal Rates Office on Custom House Lane had been demolished to give extra room. That first Custom House is now the earliest complete building in Fleetwood.

The Victoria Hotel, Fleetwood: In 1938, Thomas Parker built his new Victoria Hotel on Dock Street. The Victoria was therefore Fleetwood's second pub, and immediately became the meeting place of the Fleetwood Lodge of the Oddfellows Friendly Society.
In September 1840, the Victoria was let as a *"well established"* inn with attached brewhouse and stables, to Edward Edmondson. By the time it was sold on the 6th of May 1862, it was advertised as "rebuilt" by Thomas Ward, and had its own piggeries. At 40 to 46 Dock Street, and called the Last Orders, it closed on the 31st of October 2010, to be converted into 6 flats.
The building is now a Grade 2 Listed Building, whose list entry reads: *"1836-41. Shown as completed on Decimus Burton's plan of 1841, and therefore built at least under his supervision, and probably to his*

©

design. Rendered. 3 storeys. Moulded eaves cornice. 19 ranges of sashes (1st floor windows of the Victoria and of No 58 have moulded stucco surrounds). Contemporary shopfronts to Nos 52 and 54, with pilasters taking entablature. No 50 has slightly later shopfront with gadrooned consoles to entablature".
Although not the oldest pub, it is now the oldest building in Fleetwood still to serve its original purpose.

The Pavilion was opened in Dock Street, Fleetwood.
Fleetwood-on-Wyre Coursing Club was formed in November: the winner at the first meeting on the 16th of December received the Fleetwood Cup. On the 23rd of January 1839, the Fleetwood cup race was held at the Rossall Coursing Meeting, which started from the Fleetwood Arms in Cleveleys – later renamed the Cleveleys Inn.

Fleetwood Gas Works: were built on Cop Lane, being run by Willison Strode.
Fleetwood Gas Company was formed on the 8th of October 1840, starting operations in its own works immediately. The gas holder measured just 38 feet by 18.
In May 1866, the gas works were bought from Mr Strode by Mr Jameson, an agent of Peter Hesketh-Fleetwood. His first job was to lay mains gas from Poulton Road to the Hutments barracks.
The company was incorporated in 1912.
Most of the gas works was demolished in the early 1960s, and the remaining buildings were cleared for the erection of the new Asda supermarket.

The Gas Workers' Social Club was later built on Preston Street (known locally as the Tank Club) – attracting bigger stars such as Matt Monro, who played the Tank on the 17th of November 1983. The Tank Club closed on the 9th of September 2013, to be officially opened by Snooker icon Steve Davis, as the North Lancashire Training Group's (NLTG) Vocational Centre of Excellence on the 22nd of October 2014.

A parliamentary bill was passed to establish a new Ribble Navigation Company of which the Cliftons were sponsors. The stated aim of this company was the construction of a dock at Lytham. The new dock and wharf were completed by 1842.
The Lytham Agricultural Society held its first annual Ploughing Match in March. The society ran its own stud paddocks for many years.
Number 12 East Beach was built in Lytham. It is now spilt into two houses, named "Pinewood" at 12 and "Fountain House" at 12A. The building retains most of its original 12-paned windows.
The Fylde Union's Board of Guardians was formed, with its first Chairman W Birley. By 1934 it was working from the council offices on Derby Road (these were known locally as the Union Offices).

The Kirkham Gas Company: was formed, by Charles and Thomas Birley, opening a gas works on the site of the old tan yards on Old Earth Lane (now Orders Lane) in 1839, to supply the town with lighting. There were 2 gas holders, one just north of the linen mill, and the other where 9 to 11 Milton Crescent now stand.
The works were rebuilt in 1882 in Moor Street, and a larger retort house was built in 1910, to keep up with increased demand.
The works was decommissioned in the early 1960s, and the site was rapidly cleared. The retort house then became a builders' merchants, and its offices later became the home of the Citizens Advice Bureau.

The Queen's Arms, Kirkham: was on Poulton Street. It had been renamed after Queen Victoria, after previously being the King's Head. Strangely, in the 1860 Brown's Directory, it is listed as being on Freckleton Street. It was extended to the rear in 1992.

©

Westby Charity School: was opened next to Westby Hall after its schoolmaster was appointed by the trustees on the 15th of September.
There are records of a school in Westby village as early as 1805, on Ballam Road, near to Westby Hall.
A free school was opened there by Thomas Clifton in 1849 – this still stands, next to Westby Hall Farm.

In 1869, the old school was closed and replaced with new one at Westby Mills. St Anne's School was opened on the 18th of January 1870, with just one classroom, under head teacher Martha Bradley. A porch was added in 1881, and in 1896, a second classroom was built, along with a cloakroom. The adjacent school house was known as Holliday's House.
Remembered by a celebratory mass at the church and a grand party in the school itself, Westby School closed in 1977, and was turned into a private house.

Keeper's Cottage stood on the southern side of the main road to Blackpool between Westby and Plumpton. It was tithed from the Clifton Estate and housed their gamekeeper (Dick Wilson in the mid-20th century). The cottage was demolished to allow for the widening of the road and was replaced by a house taking the same name.
Warton Post Office was opened on the site of the local smithy.

Derby Arms, Inskip: Thomas Crook's Cavendish Arms was at Inskip, opposite the stocks at Carrs Green. By 1841, the Derby Arms had been built next door, and the Cavendish Arms was knocked down sometime after 1853.

In 1958, the pub became perhaps the first in the Fylde to serve bar meals, and from the 1960s the Derby Arms became famous for its motoring theme. This featured a vintage 1928 Lancia Lambda car (owned by Mike Clarke) that had been winched onto the roof by Dick and Ted Newbold, and Europe's biggest tyre outside the main door. Landlord George Allinson kitted out the whole pub with motoring memorabilia and the two bars were called the Grand Prix, and the Veteran and Vintage. The car was replaced in a 2009 refit by a 1942 Ferguson tractor.
Another re-furbishment in 2012, saw the creation of Thorpey's Fish and Chip shop in the pub's extension. The tractor on its roof was removed, and the inn's motoring theme was cleared away.

The Church of St John, Out Rawcliffe: was consecrated on the 15th of June by the Lord Bishop of Chester. After the opening, a selected party of 50 gentlemen were given dinner at the Cartford Inn.
The site on Crook Gate Lane had been bought and donated by Thomas France, and the funds for the church itself raised by parishioners.
The church could seat 300 worshippers, and was designed, in a "Prusso/Romanesque" style, by John Dewhurst, the designer of Preston Prison. It has a Norman door, and is constructed of red brick with some sandstone dressings and a slate roof. Its plan is rectangular, with corner clasping buttresses carried upwards as square turrets.

The first Rawcliffe Coursing Meeting was held in October.

1839

The Star Hotel, Blackpool: A ship called "The Crusader" was wrecked at South Shore on the 8th of January, opposite the coastguard's house. The few survivors were looked after in the Britannia Inn at the corner of what is now Shaw Road. A few Marton men were sent to prison, in the House of Correction on Marsh Lane

at Preston, having been caught taking silk from the wreck. The sandbank that the ship hit is now known as Crusader Bank. The ship's chronometer was found at South Shore in July – made of gold and encrusted with diamonds and pearls!

A house was also built next door in 1852 but was mostly washed away in a storm in the same year. The land on which it stood was owned by farmer Cuthbert Cardwell, who lived opposite Arnold School on Lytham Road. His land stretched all the way to the sea at the time.

In about 1856, that coastguard house was transformed into the Seven Stars Inn, run by Josiah Hargreaves. It was later called the Starr Inn, then the Seven Stars Inn again, and by 1880, under landlord Mr Kirby, back to the Star Inn.
By the 1890s, there was another, wooden, building just to the south of it, known as Uncle Jack's Cabin. The staff of the pub lived in two wooden cabins at the rear. Food was delivered by way of a *"black and yellow trap which came every day to The Star with meat pies from Carter's Bakery in Milbourne Street"*. On fine summer days, *"customers took their refreshment in the open, sitting on benches"* … *"on a large wooden platform facing the sea in front of the inn"*. Old Oyster Tom would also set up his stall in one corner, and busy days could fine over 200 customers on this platform. By 1910, Oyster Tom had been replaced by Oyster Paddy.

The inn was only accessible from either the beach or through the sandhills at its rear.

The landlord from 1915 was Fred Oliver, and his wife did the cooking for guest on a Dutch oven on the fire-bar. *"Beer was brought across a sleeper track from Burlington Road and bottled in a washhouse at the back"*. The Old Star Inn was renowned for its long, wooden bar in the vaults – The Long Bar, and was used in the first World War as a dressing station for the Royal Army Medical Corps.
Mr Oliver placed a large advertisement around the outside drinking area, proclaiming the *"This is the Better 'Ole"* and inviting passers-by to *"By all means darlings, have a drink"*. His hostelry was called Fred Oliver's Star Inn.

1931 saw the old inn demolished, and in 1932, the Star Hotel and Public House was opened in front of the site of the original, on the 17th of January, by the C&S brewery. The old inn had been demolished on the 13th of May; it had boasted Blackpool oldest bar.
The original coastguard house, and the subsequent Star Inn were both located in the dunes by the sea. When the new Star Hotel was built, promenade extensions soon meant that it was then on the landward side of the road.

After years of commercial interest, The Star was finally purchased by the Pleasure Beach in 1994.
Part of the pub was relaunched as the Apple and Parrot in July 2014, after refurbishment.

The building was demolished in February 2018, to be replaced by a new £12 million hotel complex. Owned by the Pleasure beach, it is called the Boulevard Hotel, and has 120 rooms, including 10 suites and family rooms with a mixture of coastal and park-facing rooms. The hotel also includes the 90-seat Beachside Restaurant, Ocean Bar, Surfside Café, and the Shoreside Conference Centre. The new hotel opened in early July 2019.

The Lancashire House at Fumbler's Hill was sold on the 17th of September, along with many other holdings of the late John Forshaw, including shops by Nickson's Hotel and "The Gyn" and its land.

©

Wray Brothers began as monumental masons, working from Talbot Road for many years, and moving to Layton Road in 2004.

Lord Nelson Inn, Marton: This house was built, becoming the Lord Nelson beerhouse in about 1841. It would later become number 15 Preston Old Road.

The beerhouse was sold at auction on the 3rd of September 1855 as *"ALL that well-built BEER-HOUSE, BUTCHER'S SHOP, and Appurtenances thereunto belonging, together with an excellent Garden, well stocked with Fruit Trees of various kinds, in full bearing, and containing, in statute measure, Oa. 2r. 4p., situate in the village of Great Marton, and in the occupation of Mr. James Walsh, as tenant thereof"*. In 1858, it was sold again, by James Walsh, together with the nearby butchers, on the 23rd of September. The new owner had the Lord Nelson extended, and new tea gardens were opened.

It was called the Lord Nelson Inn by March 1879 and held regular auctions, run by landlord J Barrow. The tea gardens were eventually replaced by a wooden workshop, which still stands. For many years in the 20th century, this small building was the shop for Kavanagh's builders, who owned the wooden sawmill behind the beerhouse. When Mr Kavanagh retired, the shop became various short-lived businesses, including a sandwich shop, a florist, and latterly, a hairdresser.

The Lord Nelson later became the Boars Head Chippy, and then the Far East Chinese Takeaway. That closed in 2011, to be replaced by a domestic dwelling (with the wrong date - 1837 - on the front).

The Knowle, Blackpool: A farm, two cottages, outbuildings and several acres of farmland was auctioned on the 7th of October at the Bull Inn in Poulton. It had been mentioned in Parish records in the 17th century. By the time it was sold again in 1870, it had acquired *"charming pleasure grounds and a croquet lawn"*. This time it was bought by Lord Howard of Glossop, who sold it at auction in July 1872, complete with 130 acres of land.

In 1905, then called Knowle House, it was the home of Lord Mount Temple - Sir Wilfred William Ashley (MP for North Lancashire 1906-1918), whose daughter Edwina married Lord Louis Mountbatten in 1922. Edwina later lived briefly at Blenheim Lodge at 162 Whitegate Drive, during the summer of 1910.
On the 29th of July 1920, the Knowle was sold at auction at the Masonic Hall. It was listed as having *"Entrance Lodge, Garages, Stables, Coachhouses, Conservatory and other Buildings, Ornamental and Kitchen Gardens and Lawns thereto belonging, and now in the occupation of Mr Councillor Thomas Fielding"*. After the sale, Fielding's Builders then built Ashley Close on some of the land.
In 1948, the house was taken over by the Blackpool committee of Rest Homes and converted for use as a rest home for old folk. It was then home to the offices of a company of civil engineers, and then the home of a single elderly lady.
In 1974, Tyson's Builders demolished the building and constructed several more houses on the site. Knowle Farm opposite was demolished in 1931.

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The Railway Hotel, Poulton: was built, facing Back Street, in anticipation of the imminent arrival of the railway. It was a posting house, and auctions and inquests were held there on a regular basis.
In 1840, it was renamed the Railway and Station Hotel, and was owned by Massey's Brewery of Burnley. It was turned into flats in the late 1920s and was demolished in the 1950s, to be replaced by Gillaspy's car salerooms. Back Street soon became Station Road.
The railway gates remained for many years next to the garage.
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Poulton Savings Bank was built at number 1 Vicarage Road. It was the town library in the 1880s and is a Grade 2 Listed Building. The building now serves as a branch of the Butson Blofeld estate agency.
Fleetwood was designated a "Distinct" (or Warehousing) Port. The designation reduced Preston to a *"creek under Fleetwood"*, but in 1844, the positions were reversed. Fleetwood regained its independence in 1849.
A regular 4-horse stage service from Fleetwood to Preston began on the 11th of October to replace the Horse Post. It ran from the Fleetwood Arms Hotel, via Poulton, to the Red Lion in Preston, until the Preston and Wyre Railway opened for use. A Mail Receiving House was set up on Queens Terrace and Fleetwood received its own Penny Post stamp. A public dinner was held to celebrate the event. The "Brilliant" afternoon coach from Preston to Fleetwood was continued – it had started 2 years earlier.
Fleetwood's first civic procession took place when the Oddfellows marched down Dock Street.

Preesall Windmill: The new windmill began to be rebuilt in brick, replacing the previous peg mill on Mill Lane, which had blown down on the 6th of January. Its miller was Thomas Bisbrown, who had the Mill House constructed in 1846.
The mill closed in the 1920s, and had its sails removed in June 1926. It still had a miller in 1938, as a John Hunter is listed, but the mill was ravaged by fire in 1948. It continued to be used until 1988, although operated by electricity, and was painted white during the 1970s.
"Originally the ground floor was where sacks of corn were stored, 1st floor an office, 2nd floor where flour ground by the mill stones was collected with the rest of the floors housing the mill stones and associated machinery. Little remains inside the mill other than a worse for wear staircase. An original mill stone has been built into a wall outside underneath a wrought iron "Pressall Mill" sign".

The Blackpool to Lytham dunes are estimated to have occupied 505 hectares in 1839, compared with 79.8 hectares today, a decline of 84%.

St Peter's Roman Catholic Church, Lytham: was opened by Reverend Doctor Briggs on the 1st of August, on the corner of Clifton Street and Church Road, Lytham. It could house 700 worshippers and was funded by Mr Thomas Clifton and by subscriptions by the congregation, who had outgrown their old premises.
Mass was formerly said at Lytham Hall, where a regular chapel was built 1764 and used till 1800. The nearby tithebarn was then fitted up for worship and used till the opening of St Peter's.

The Presbytery was opened in 1850, in a house next to the church, to which another house had been added for the purpose. In 1875/6, the side chapels, sacristies, and confessionals were built, and in 1877, three new altars. The high altar was paid for by the parishioners in memory of the late Father Walmsley, the first priest. In 1878, the church tower was built at the expense of John Talbot Clifton, and in the same year, the organ, built by Messrs Ainscough of Preston, was installed. In August 1894, the peal of six bells was installed, and the timber framed stone lych gate was constructed in 1899 by Pugin.
The presbytery was for a time occupied by a group of nuns, and the priest lived in a listed, late 18th century terraced cottage.
St Peter's Cemetery was opened on Saltcoates Road in 1890, with its own chapel being opened on the 15th of May 1892.

Bank House boarding school was opened on the 15th of July in Lytham, by James Stevenson.
R Rawlinson opened his Temperance Coffee House in Lytham in May.
Freckleton's first Policeman was appointed, living and working on Higher Road.
The Gun Tavern was on Station Road in Kirkham. It later became Clegg's boot, shoe, and clog stores.

©

1840

The Beach Hotel, Blackpool: was constructed on Hygiene Terrace next to West Hey. During the 1860s, it was owned by William Thornber.
In 1866, it became Woodley's Beach Hotel, but by 1874, its proprietor was Joseph Blakoe. He had just enlarged the premises, which now had 52 beds, a large dining room, and a new billiard room. He had also just introduced what may have been Blackpool's first Winter Tariff.
The Central Property Company Ltd owned it in 1889, and the hotel was demolished from the 10th of October 1893 to make room for Blackpool Tower.

The Grapes Inn, Blackpool: was probably built this year, at 22 Lytham Street (now 32 Corporation Street), and in 1889, it was owned by John Gartside, for the Brookside Brewery.

By the 1920s, it was in the ownership of the Burtonwood Brewery and being run by John Brook, and Mr Wallworth's tin-plate working shop was next door. Burtonwood employed local designer and builder JB Singleton, who re-built it warm red brick, with a small, homely lounge, a snug, and a separate smoke room. The use of old, seasoned woodwork enhanced its cosy feel.
The pub was later run by Tetley's for many years, but now, after having had its exterior brickwork painted, it is now an Irish-themed bar called Scruffy Murphy's, last owned by Greene King.

Mary Ramsay of Anchor Cottage, Blackpool bought Thomas Rimmer's cottage.
The "Powhatton" was stranded near Blackpool, and a claim for damage to the beach "*in consequence of lighting and leading the cargo*" was submitted to the Council.
RR Walker of Layton Hall made a complaint on the 10th of December, about "*the guin in front of Mr Bennet's Hotel*" – the guin was the Gynn.
The Old Hall at Bispham was built, as a Sunday school.
David Cox, a famous watercolour artist, visited Blackpool, but found *"little worth painting"*.
The Preston Pilot newspaper of August the 22nd recorded over 3,000 visitors in Blackpool.

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The Rossall Hoard: A large number of Roman coins dating from 70 to 200 AD was found by brick workers in the ground near Fleetwood. They soon passed into the ownership of Sir Peter Fleetwood-Hesketh and became known as the Rossall Hoard. When, in 1844, Sir Peter went bankrupt, he sold the hall, and its contents - including his large coin collection, of which the Rossall Hoard formed part. The auctioneer mistakenly identified a different hoard of Roman coins, dating from 355 to 402 AD as the Rossall Hoard. Alderman Brown of Preston bought those coins at the auction, believing them to be the Rossall Hoard found in 1840. He passed them on to his son, Dr Charles Brown, upon his death, and Dr Brown donated them to the museum in Preston in 1883.
In 1887, somebody noticed that the dates of the coins did not agree with the reports from the 1840 find, so the collection currently displayed in Preston's Harris Museum is not the Rossall Hoard. The whereabouts of the actual hoard is still a mystery.

Poulton Railway Station: the first Poulton Station was opened, opposite the Railway and Station Hotel. In 1841, Horse drawn coaches began to ferry passengers from Poulton Station to Blackpool Hotels.

In 1896, the second Poulton Railway Station began to be rebuilt in a new position, at the top of Breck Road, as a result of an accident at the nearby Poulton Curve in 1893. The lines were realigned, a turntable was constructed, and the new station was repositioned.
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Although put into use on the 5th of April 1896, the new station was officially opened on the 29th of March 1897. It has one of the longest platforms in the United Kingdom. The main station and goods yard were in Station Road just across from the current Civic Centre, on the land opposite the Royal Oak, and there was a level crossing over Breck Road where the new apartments are now. The original station was used as a goods depot until 1958, being demolished in 1968.
In September 1956, British Railways approved a name change for Poulton Station. After a request by Poulton Urban District Council, its name became Poulton-le-Fylde Station. The station was radically modernised in 1970.

Poulton Curve railway halt was opened on the 1st of February 1909. Poulton Curve Station buildings were opened in March 1923, staying in use until the 29th of November 1952. *"The railway house still stands on Tithebarn Street just by the railway bridge".*

The Poulton Curve Train Crash: An excursion train, returning from Blackpool to Wigan, was derailed on Poulton Curve on the 1st of July 1893. The driver, Cornelius Ridgway, and two passengers (James Healy and James Marsh of Wigan) were killed.
The injured were treated at the Railway and at the Station Hotel on Breck Road in Poulton (later the site of Gillaspy's car showroom). The bodies of the dead were kept in the basement of the Station Hotel, giving rise to its local title of the haunted cellar.
The subsequent inquiry found that the driver had taken the curve too fast. As a direct result, in 1896, the tracks were realigned to follow a much gentler westward curve to Blackpool, with the new station halfway along the curve. The Fleetwood branch then curved to the east to re-join the original alignment.

The Railway comes to Fleetwood: Sir Peter Hesketh-Fleetwood's Preston and Wyre Railway Company extended their railway from Maudland Station in Preston to Poulton and Fleetwood, opening on the 15th of July (run at first by the North Union Company). The single line was 19 ¾ miles in length, and construction work had begun in 1836, with such famous names as George Stephenson (he of the Rocket) and his brother Robert acting as engineers. The line had originally been declared complete on the 22nd of February, but several arches of the Maudland Viaduct at the Preston end had collapsed. The opening was somewhat marred when a drunken passenger on the return train to Preston died when he fell off a carriage roof.

On opening, stations had only been constructed at Kirkham and Poulton. Ramper Station was later built at Thornton, being renamed Ramper Road in 1842, and closed in April 1843, due to lack of use. Other intermediate stations followed, at Lea Road, Salwick, Weeton, Singleton (near Todderstaffe), Burn Naze, and Wyre Dock. The first railway station in Fleetwood was built on Dock Street, opposite the Crown Hotel on Church Street.

The single-track line ran over an embankment and a timber trestle bridge in straight line northwards across the marshy Wyre estuary at Kirkscar Bay, with the station at the far end of the bridge. Beyond the passenger station was a goods station at the south end of Queen's Terrace. The railway embankment was abandoned in 1856, due to frequent flooding – a rare failure for renowned engineers George and Robert Stephenson. In the first month 20,000 passengers used the railway.

The Mail Coach lost its passengers to the railway and as a result, it was replaced by a Mail Cart.

That station was replaced in 1883, by the second Fleetwood Railway Station. This was opened on the 15th of July, alongside the Steamer Pier at Queens Terrace (Burton's Houses had been renamed this in honour

©

Queen Victoria's visit in 1847). The new station had been in use since the 1st of May. The town council was unhappy at its *"inconvenient"* location and sought a relief station.
The railway tracks entered the station from the south. Platforms 1 and 4 ran the full length of the station, the northern half of each platform being under a glass-roofed train shed. Between the platforms were the booking office, waiting rooms, left luggage office etc. Platforms 2 and 3 were shorter bay platforms which did not enter the train shed, and Platform 5 was the boat train platform, and ran outside the train shed along its eastern side. At the north end of the station was a glass-roofed concourse, running from the Queen's Terrace entrance, to the Steamer Jetty. On the north side of the concourse were refreshment rooms, one for first-class and one for second-class passengers. To the east of the station were more goods sheds, and sidings. A glass veranda was added to the front elevation in the 1890s, to provide shelter for the queues for the Manx ferries.
The new station was one of only 5 "First Class" stations in Britain, and in 1901, Lancashire's first attendant corridor service was introduced on a breakfast train from Fleetwood to Leeds.
Fleetwood Railway Station was closed on the 18th of April 1966, the last train being the 08:56 on the 16th. When the station was demolished between 1967 and March 1969, the two bridges on Adelaide Street and Victoria Street went as well. The stone bridge had a slope, up which horses and carts had been taken for loading purposes, and the iron bridge had steps. The station site later became the Pandoro depot.

Wyre Dock Railway Station soon replaced the original Wyre Dock Station and became the third and main Fleetwood Railway Station from the 18th of April 1968. The first train out was the 0546 to Kirkham. The new station was a single-storey wooden building with a booking hall and waiting room and was accessed by a ramp from Dock Street. It used the existing Wyre Dock platforms but was itself closed by British Rail on the 1st of June 1970, because of falling custom. The last train was the 2130 to Poulton on Saturday May the 30th. Burn Naze and Thornton stations were also closed.
The "fish train" from Fleetwood was stopped and replaced by a regular "Fish from Fleetwood" van service.

The old Wyre Dock station became the Old Station Public house, with the Manx Maid Café next door. It was then the Quayside Restaurant and Disco, with its Mariners Bar. This was later known as Bibby's on the Quay, and finally Planters – with the Manx Room Mariners Bar Restaurant, the Quayside Café, and Planters Lounge Bar and Disco. The car park for the current Home Bargains store, and a MacDonalds drive-through now cover its location.

John Kirkham started his decorating and plumbing business in Poulton.

The Steamer, Fleetwood: was opened as a public house at 1-2 Queens Terrace, in late November by John Dobson of Garstang. The venue did not become a "full" hotel until much later. The Steamer was therefore Fleetwood's third pub, but not its third hotel.
Its balcony was used by Customs officers to watch river traffic. The pub was named after the Ardrossan to Fleetwood steamer. In June 1843, then called the Steam Packet, Commercial, and Family Hotel, it was put up for let in June, on the death of Mr Dobson.
A second-floor meeting room, The Paddle Room, was used as the meeting place for clubs such as the White Ensign Association and the Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes.
The new market bar opened in June 1994.
The Steamer closed in 2011. As a result, the Fleetwood Folk Club moved – temporarily to the Mount – then to the Strawberry Gardens.

©

In April 2016, The Steamer was re-opened after having being taken on by local celebrity Syd Little and his wife Sheree. The couple also opened their re-located eaterie The Little Restaurant inside – moving from the Strawberry Gardens. Syd and his wife moved to the Larkholme Estate in 1998.

Fleetwood Lighthouses: Pharos Lighthouse (modelled on the famous lighthouse off the island of Pharos in Greece – and the Greek for lighthouse!) and the Lower Light at Fleetwood were first lit and officially opened on the 1st of December.
Counting the Wyre Light, Fleetwood then had three lighthouses, and it is still the only town in the UK to do so. As ships came down the river, they lined up the lights on each of the two lighthouses so that they appeared on top of one another, which meant they could then navigate in a straight line down the river. The lights still operate today and the system still works.

Fleetwood Market: Sir Peter and Lady Hesketh-Fleetwood opened Fleetwood's open market place on the 7th of November, on what would become Adelaide Street. *"The original market area was bound with a stone wall, with wooden access gates at each end. In the middle of the open area, was a basic wooden building with a slate roof – providing shelter for the stalls, from which local people sold farm produce, and traders from Manchester sold textiles and clothing"*.

In 1844, a replacement Fleetwood Market Hall opened, and on the 2nd of April 1868, a cattle market opened next door. It had 16 metal pens and was built to sell the young Irish cattle, which had previously been sold at Preston.

In 1890, the Local Authority bought the market, land, and slaughterhouse rights from the Commissioners for £6,750, and in 1892, a market hall was built of fine Longridge stone, to hold ninety-four stalls. There was now a large open area to the east, and the market now had offices and the superintendent's living accommodation. For a while, it rivalled Blackpool's own indoor markets.

The Queen's Theatre later stood opposite, occupying Benjamin Whitworth's warehouse building, and advertising itself as being *"Open Every Night"*.

In 1933 Fleetwood Market became covered, with the completion of the current stone building.
The Cheese Stall opened in the market in 1952 – now the longest standing stall.

The market extension was re-vamped in the 1960s, and the old Presburn's Stores building and others were demolished. The extension, known locally as the *"Birdcage"*, was added in 1975, when the old semi-outdoor market (known as the Desert) was demolished. It was again enlarged, with a single-storey brick extension, in 1990 into a large space between Adelaide Street and Victoria Street, now having over 250 stalls.

The Iron Quay and piers, Fleetwood: The River Wyre channel was dredged to make a new channel between the "Knot Spit" and the "Little Ford" and was first buoyed by 4 lights on the 20th of June. Work began on enlarging the quay with stone. It was then iron plated, and was finished in 1841, to be extended to the North in 1845 by adding a 400-yard long passenger pier. It was known as the Iron Quay.
In 1846, the wooden pier was given a roof, and the southern stone quay was extended to 1400 feet.
1850 saw the North End Pier being changed and given two separate decks, and in 1859 it had a goods shed built on it. Further extension in 1892 enabled the construction of the Number 1 berth for the Isle of Man steamers, and in 1910, the North End was taken further out into deeper water.

©

The North End was finally demolished in 1965.

Fleetwood National School: the town's first elementary school was a small National School which opened on West Street about now, opposite the parish church (the building later became the Manchester and County Bank).
The school closed in 1881 on the opening of Blakiston School.

West Street and East Street, Fleetwood: existed until 1899, when they were renamed Lord Street. 62 of the shopkeepers had petitioned the council to change the name, as similar streets in Southport and Liverpool had seen trade increase after doing this. It was hoped to reflect the "upper class" nature of the hoped-for shops, which had been attracted away from the original Dock Street commercial centre, to take advantage of the tramway laid in 1898.
West Street stretched from Ash Street to Warren Street, and East Street onwards to Albert Square.

Fleetwood Ferries to the Isle of Man: The first ship to carry passengers between Fleetwood and the Isle of Man was the "James Denistoun", sailing for Douglas on the 15th of August until the 29th. Sir Peter Hesketh-Fleetwood owned this and two other former Clyde steamers "Cupid" and "Express". The "Express" also sailed to Bardsea twice daily from July the 18th.
In 1842, the Isle of Man Steam Packet Company began a summer ferry service to the island from Fleetwood, using the "Mona's Isle". The first-class fare was 4s and 6d.
Then, in 1845, after a covered wooden section for passengers had been added to Fleetwood's iron wharf, the North Lancashire Steam Navigation Company introduced a twice weekly service to Man, on a year-round basis, using the paddle steamers "Orion" and "Fenella".
In 1847, the Isle of Man Steam Packet Company started to run a steamer between Fleetwood and Douglas. The Steam Packet Company began to sail from Douglas to Fleetwood from the 1st of July 1876, using the steamer "Douglas". There was a direct link to the Preston and Wyre Railway's trains.
Over the years most of the company's vessels worked the Fleetwood-Douglas route, the most notable being "Mona's Queen", "Viking", "Lady of Mann", "King Orry", "Ben-my-Chree" and "Manxman".
During World War 2, in 1940, Liverpool's daily Isle of Man ferry service was transferred to Fleetwood, being transferred back in 1946.

The "Mona's Isle V" last sailed to Man on the 11th of September 1961. She carried the message in flags *"Deeply regret. Fleetwood Goodbye"*. The Steam Packet Company had withdrawn its ferry service due to concerns about the safety of the wooden landing stage, and the fact that railway tracks to the berth were in an open road.

In April 1969, the ferry "Stella Marina" was chartered to Northwest Hovercraft Limited, who reintroduced services between Fleetwood and Douglas, Isle of Man between April and October. She also gave Illuminations "Starlight Cruises" from the 16th of September. The ship offered Starlight Cruises with live entertainment and *"Wining, dining, dancing, and gambling"* – by sailing after 10 pm, she could offer alcohol from her bar, as she would be outside British closing times! She was replaced in 1970 by the Lochiel, but NHL went into liquidation in 1971 and their involvement cased.
In later years, the "Stella Marina" was used as a local discotheque when moored.

In 1971 P and O persuaded the Docks Board to improve facilities at the North End berth and summer season sailings resumed once more, with the "Mona's Isle" departing from the newly-built berth.

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A Car Ferry service to Douglas was launched by the Steam Packet Company in 1975, and in 1978, the Company started a seasonal passenger service from Fleetwood, which ran until 1997.
In July and August 1986 ABP organised "Funboatin'" trips to the Isle of Man. The service offered music bars, talent competitions, bingo, and sing songs on the ships "Mona's Queen" and "Lady of Mann".
1994 saw the introduction of the Sea-Cat and a fast, twin hull service was also established to Douglas. The Sea-Cat "Isle of Man" sailed for the Steam Packet Company on the 28th of June, taking just 94 minutes. The service ended after the 1995 season.

The first sailings for several years between Fleetwood and Man took place on the 2nd and 30th of July 2008. The two one-off day trips were made by the Sea-Cat catamaran "Snaefell", operated by the Steam Packet Company. Another two followed on the 20th of June and the 18th of August 2009, and one in 2010, but the service was then axed, as the "Snaefell" had become too old. A regular service to Douglas had been scrapped in 2005.

The first steam dredger "The Success" was launched for use on the River Wyre in the channel off Fleetwood on the 21st of January. It was replaced in 1875.

The Fleetwood Fishing Company: was formed by Peter Roskell and others. They had begun to accrue more cash by using the pilot cutter for fishing, than through its main duties. They soon hired 4 fishing vessels, which they then bought in 1844. Those single-mast, half-deck vessels were the famous half-decked Lancashire "nobbies" (or prawners), with which the Fleetwood shrimping industry became synonymous.

The Leadbetter and Wright families then started fishing from the new docks almost immediately they opened. **This was the start of Fleetwood as a fishing port**, but the company was disbanded in 1847.
In 1850, a number of Southport fishermen from Banks and Marshside migrated to Fleetwood. The old direct channel between the Southport channel and Crossens had silted up, and their income stopped.
By 1890, the town had over 100 fishing vessels registered.

Thomas Salthouse founded his chandler's store in Adelaide Street, Fleetwood. It was taken over by Joseph Preston in 1855.
T Barton opened the Fleetwood Coffee Rooms on Dock Street in November.
Fleetwood Joiner Thomas Heaps was a devout Methodist, and this year he *"built a large workshop in Back Church Street. It was an upper room approached by a flight of steps from the outside, and was well lighted and*
ventilated. As soon as it was completed, he offered the use of it for preaching services on Sundays, and his own men fitted up seats and benches. A desk, made to fit a chair back, served as a pulpit, and when all the timber and materials were taken out of it, and the space utilised to the utmost, it was capable of accommodating about 150 people. Services were first held in this workshop in 1840, and were continued regularly there till 1846. In 1841 a Sunday school was opened in this workshop".

The Fernhill, Preesall: Fern Hill House was built now, as a country landowner's residence, and continued as such for over 100 years. It had existed in some form since the 17th century, owned by the Fox family.
By the 1890s, it had changed to simple Fern Hill Farm.
In the 1950's the building was converted into the Fernhill Restaurant (briefly owned by comedian Jimmy Clitheroe) before finally becoming both a public house and restaurant in the 1970s.
It was demolished in 2013 to be replaced by houses.

©

Springfield House, Pilling: was built on Wheel Lane by William Corless. It comprised *"entrance hall, two cloakrooms, drawing room, dining room, snug, sitting room with bar, orangery, two commercial kitchens, pantry and food preparation room, side hall, cellarage, nine bedrooms (eight en suite), first floor kitchen and a family bathroom. It also boasts extensive outbuildings/garaging, landscaped gardens and paddock land"*.
In 1947, it was turned into a restaurant and guest house/hotel, with 7 en-suite rooms and a function room (later christened the Corless Room). In 2004, it was bought by Richard and Sara Cloverly, and in 2010, the venue was bought by Mike, Lynne, and Leisha Cox, but was closed on the 31st of December 2017.
It is a Grade 2 Listed Building, whose Listing reads: *"Hotel, formerly house, early C19th. Punched sandstone ashlar with hipped felt roof. 2 storeys. South front of 3 bays with corner pilasters, plinth, cornice with blank frieze and blocking course, and projecting central bay. Windows sashed with glazing bars, with plain reveals and projecting sills. Porch has entablature supported on Tuscan columns. West front, of 4 bays, similar but without central projection. Chimneys on ridge".*
The house has 2 ½ acres of grounds with *"manicured lawns and a walled garden"*.
Sanctum Healthcare are to convert it into a mental health retreat with 10 rooms looking after people suffering from alcoholism, depression, anxiety, or stress.

An auction of the entire cargo of the wrecked barque "Margaret Millar" was held on the beach at Cross Slack on the 12th of February.

Lytham Green: Lytham's town commissioners finished the process of levelling and turfing the small sand dunes and marshes on the river frontage, which they had begun to do in 1821, and began to develop Lytham Green.
Until the Middle Ages, the green was a salt marsh, and looked just like today's beach, but from about 1400, sand dunes began to form, subsequently being flattened by continued use. Indeed, by 1503, the town had a *"common oven"* there, and it recorded as having been *"overblown with sand"*.

For several years from 1923, 2 bowling greens were laid out to the west of the windmill, operated by the Council.
In 1944, a small wooden theatre was on the Green, just west of the windmill, hosting Punch and Judy shows and the like.

Car parking was gradually allowed at certain places on the green, and parking charges were finally introduced in 1995.

Lytham Club Day: had its origins in the walks of the Oddfellows Society, formed this year at the Turf Tavern in Henry Street. The first "official" Club Day was held in 1891, and a list of Rose Queens from 1894 is provided at Appendix Y.
Lytham Fair was advertised in the Preston Chronicle in 1836, however, with trips from Preston in the steamer "Enterprise" (first launched for the purpose on the 23rd of May 1834).

Transfield's Grand Circus Company appeared on Lytham Green on Club Day on the 24th of June 1891. A grand sports gala was held on the football field in the afternoon. This was the first time Club Day was held in its current form – including the Rose Queen Festival.

The beach road between east Lytham and the graving dock was opened.

©

Little Plumpton Castle: In 1840, on the northern side of the main A583 road, lay a moated site which was closely associated with a deep hollow, and shown on the 1840 tithe award as the "Mere". This was subsequently divided into four fields with a small pond at centre and gave its name to Mere Farm - now on the corner of the A583 and the B5260 road to Wrea Green. The farm is still fully working and has been run by the Hargreaves family for many generations. The Mere drained southwards into Carr Brook.

Between the 14th and 20th of February 1993, Doctor TC Welsh recognised, to the South-west of the Mere, the moat of a possible motte and bailey castle at Map Reference SD386327. The moat lies 75% south and 25% north of the A583 Preston to Blackpool road which divides its site.

The ground area delineated by the moat is 60-70 metres wide by 100 metres long, being rounded in outline, and enclosed within a ditch about 20 metres wide on three sides. On the northern side, there is a steep slope above the Mere. 90 metres to the west of the moat lies a U-shaped hollow, now containing a pond, and each arm of the U falls 50 metres short of the moat. Therefore, this could indicate a bailey or courtyard enclosure of 90 metres by 110 metres.

Kirkham Railway Station: Kirkham declared a public holiday in town, to celebrate the first train – with 14 carriages - through its own new Kirkham Railway Station. The station was built on the western side of the road, and many drinks were taken at the new Station Inn. That had been built slightly to the east of the new station by Roger Charnock Richards. The fact that Kirkham station was sited in Wesham, but stilled named Kirkham upset many local Wesham people.
The station had a covered waiting room added in 1841.
In 1890, the station was rebuilt to the east of Station Road, being renamed Kirkham and Wesham in 1903. The new station had a ticket office on the ground floor, with twin staircases leading down to two covered platforms. The current road bridge was soon built to replace the original level crossing.

The 1930s saw two extra lines constructed to the north of the station, in anticipation of a new platform being built. Unfortunately, the second World War put a stop to the plans.
The 1960s saw the removal of the original cast iron and glass platform canopies.
In 1976, the signal box on Kirkham Station was closed and was demolished in 1977. In the southern field to the east of the station, for many years, was a famous advertised board in the shape of two painters carrying a sign. The sign advertised the Sissons paint company.

The 2018 electrification programme saw a new passenger light built from road to platform, and a third track constructed, complete with a third platform and new footbridge. The new platform and lift were officially opened on the 13th of September 2018, by Fylde MP Mark Menzies.

The Post Office Inn was in operation on Freckleton Street in Kirkham. Its malt kiln was let by landlord Richard Dugdale, in September 1854.
Nearby were the Ship Inn and the Farmer's Arms. The landlord of the Ship in 1860 was James Jolly. The building which housed the Ship is now two houses and a shop, from the early 19th century, at numbers 4 and 6 Freckleton Street.
Cuckoo House and Cuckoo Lane are recorded on this year's tithe map and apportionment of Weeton. It was probably demolished during the field reorganisation in the last 3rd of the 19th century.

©

The Saracens Head Inn, Preesall: was in operation, being known locally as "*t' Big 'Ead*", and was owned by the Reverend John Miller, Vicar of Stalmine. The inn originally had a carved Saracen's head above the front door. This was later replaced by a concrete replica.
There was also a wine lodge next door. The ground in front of the inn was one of the regular stops for the Fylde's touring dancing bear. An early proprietor was J Edwards, and in 1934, the licensee was Harriet Rhodes. The inn stood at 200 Park Lane and was run by the Thwaites brewery for many years, with landlords such as William Rogers. It had its own billiard table.
A new company, Saracens Head (Preesall) Limited, was created on the 27th of January 2010, by Jennifer and Roy Fairclough, to try and keep the business running, but the Saracens Head Hotel closed on the 1st of July 2013. It was converted into a private house in 2015.

1841
Sir Peter Hesketh-Fleetwood was obliged to sell some land in Blackpool to Thomas Clifton and to John Bonny, in order to pay outstanding accounts due on the new town of Fleetwood. Bonny soon began to build three-storey lodging houses and cheap cottages on the land, which became known as the "*Whitechapel of Blackpool*" – a virtual slum from the start.
On the beach at the time were three lime kilns, which continued to be used when bathers were nearby.
Robert Cross - a schoolteacher from Peel - began educating a few Marton children.

The Victoria Hotel, Blackpool: was built on central beach. It had three storeys and two canted bay windows.

It was rebuilt by John Bonny as the Victoria and Family Hotel on the corner of the Promenade and Brunswick Street in 1847. Bonny built himself a large house nearby, which he named Rockliffe.
The first landlord was John Earnshaw, and the next, James Cragg built a camera obscura there - his brother William ran bathing vans (and later, horse drawn coaches) from the yard.
Beside the hotel for some years was a public weighbridge, which first been on the shore, where it had been used by coal barges. Nearby at the time were Brunswick House, Salop House, and Leamington House.
By the 1890s, it was called Barratt's Victoria Hotel.

The hotel closed and was bought in 1970 by the Booth brothers from Wales, who built the Penny Booth Arcade. They already had another arcade called the Purple Penny, which became various discount stores, the last of which was Superpound – it is now B&M Bargains. The brothers also ran a Bier Keller and opened the original Sands nightclub below the Purple Penny.

In 1972, the grand old building was faced with a bland corrugates steel covering, and a Ripley's Odditorium opened there, becoming the first Ripley's to be built outside the USA. Ripley's had its own ghost for a while during the 1970s. When the skull of a local girl was displayed there, people reported seeing a ghostly female figure standing next to it. The skull's owner thought the thing was cursed and died a week after giving it away.
Another popular and memorable sight was created when Ripley's installed a miraculous tap with no pipework attached! A glass tube fed water from a pool below to a huge tap which cascaded water that seemed to just flow direct from the tap. In reality, this water obscured the tube so that the tap seemed to be suspended on a column of water.

©

By then called Ripley's Believe it or Not, the venue moved in 1992, to Ocean Boulevard at the Pleasure Beach, and the new Ripley's "Believe it or Not Odditorium" unveiled its "Fertility Statue" in 1999. Visitors are asked to rub it for luck; Ripley's have since been told of over 1000 confirmed pregnancies.
The Promenade building was demolished and became Funland after Ripley's left. Funland burnt down in 1992.

The marine villa called Mount Pleasant, on the north beach frontage, and belonging to Major General Yates, was sold in January, complete with its coach house, stables, and land.
The Population of Blackpool was now 1,304, with another 1,968 at Layton.

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The Bay Horse, Thornton: this beershop is shown on maps, and had clearly existed before this date (although a building shown on an 1836 map cannot be confirmed as being it). The beerhouse had become today's Bay Horse Inn by the time the auction of Butts Farm was held there on the 25th of August 1892 (although it was shown then as being "near to the railway station, Cleveleys").

The North Euston Hotel, Fleetwood: This very large, sweeping hotel was completed by April, managed by Mr Zenon Vantini from London, and opened with a massive ball on the 9th of August. Sub-Lieutenant Xenon Ruffino Luc Vantini was born in 1797, in Portoferraio, Livorno, Italy, and had been a courier to Napoleon Bonaparte. A grand regatta was held off the shore on the 9th of August in celebration.

The North Euston was Fleetwood's third hotel and was so named because it was the northern terminus of the railway from Euston Station in London.

It had its own t-shaped promenading and landing jetty to the shore, which was soon demolished as it caused havoc with shipping; the pier was built later at the same site. The hotel was built in a great semicircle with the three-storey entrance at the centre behind a "porte cochere" on columns (allegedly transported from the Black Bull in Ribchester). The left-hand wing has been pulled down - its entrance was on the site of the present magistrate's court - but the rest survives as a hotel.
The hotel also had its own garage for both storage and repairs. Next door, but separate, was a Bath House which in 1857, comprised *"two swimming baths, besides warm, tepid, plunge, and innumerable shower baths, with toilet and robing apartments to each. There are also a number of machines on the sands, under proper regulations, for those who prefer a dip in the sea"*. The baths were closed in 1998, due to lack of use, and their grand porticos were demolished in 1901.
At the end of the same block, Belle Vue House was built on the corner of Bold Street in 1845.

In 1859, the North Euston was bought by the War Department, for use as the School of Musketry, and became known as the Euston Barracks. It was finally used as the school from August 1861 until September 1867, when it became quarters for up to 60 officers. The hotel still shows a government wall mark "W.D.No.5". The barracks had their own swimming baths and the horses were stabled in the basement – prompting many future tales of tunnels.
After the army left, the hotel remained empty until 1900, when it had a second floor of bedrooms added, and was fully re-furbished and opened again.

Euston Gardens: A piece of land in front of the new hotel was transformed into a public area. Euston Gardens has sheltered seating and fully-planted flower beds., The intention was also to erect a statue to Sir Peter Hesketh Fleetwood, but despite part of the cost being publicly raised, this did not happen.
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©

In 1890, two local men died whilst at sea, and as memorials, the town had a cast iron drinking fountain made. It is now a Listed Building. A second memorial, the Obelisk, was also erected at the centre of the park. It bears a plaque with the following inscription *"Erected by public subscription to the memory of James Abram and George Greenall who lost their lives in the storm of November 1890 whilst heroically endeavouring to save others"*.
Directly in front of the Obelisk a memorial stone was sited in 1985. Its plaque reads *"In memory of all those who have lost their lives at sea. Dedicated on 19th May 1985 by Admiral Sir Desmond Cassidi GCB"*.
Two anchors were hauled onto Jubilee Quay by James Robertson and Son, and date to about 1870. They were put in Euston Gardens in the 1980s, for their preservation. A third ship's anchor was trawled up near the Nelson Buoy in September 1980, and was placed in Euston Gardens as a monument by the Civic Society in that November.
There is also a stone showing the Land and Sea Operations of the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway Company at Fleetwood, circa 1875. It was presented to the Civic Society in 1976.
Also, in the gardens, is a PWR boundary stone, with a plaque reading *"The Preston and Wyre Railway boundary stone commemorating the first train from Preston to Fleetwood on 15th July 1840. Recovered by Fleetwood Civic Society March 1987"*.
A life-sized bronze statue of Sir Peter Hesketh Fleetwood was finally unveiled in the gardens on the 6th of May 2018. It was sculpted by Lancaster man Alan Ward, and sited on a sandstone block weighing around 1750kg. The sculpture weighs around 180kg. The edifice sits on a substantial concrete footing designed by a local structural engineer, as the load is located on sand and shale being so close to the sea. It contains a time capsule.

In front of the hotel for many years were two underground public lavatories, which were covered over in the 1980s, the hotel's Chatter Box Bistro and Coffee Shop became a popular local meeting place. By 1994, the Chatter Box also contained Piper's Penny Bazaar, a recreation of old Fleetwood.

On behalf of the town's leaders, solicitor Owen Algar requested permission to bring a Bill before Parliament allowing them to levy rates in Fleetwood.

The Crown Hotel, Fleetwood: advertising itself as a *"Commercial Inn and Family Hotel"*, the Crown Hotel was opened at 114 to 120 Dock Street in November, by Mr Stephen Burridge and Frederick Kemp. It was Fleetwood's fourth hotel, not its third, as often stated. The designer was A Tuach.
The first manager, George Foster, advertised the Crown as being *"fitted with every convenience for the accommodation of commercial gentlemen and others"*, and soon became Fleetwood's best-patronised establishment, as its carriages met every train. As the hotel stood opposite the town's first railway station, a bell used sound inside, to alert drinkers and residents to the arrival and departure of the trains.
In 1840, Kemp and Burridge obtained the licence for the Royal Mail coach from the Railway Hotel at Poulton, as it could provide its own stables in which to house the coach horses.
The hotel building was finally completed in 1845, but in the 1870s, the Crown was extended by the addition of a billiard room, several sleeping apartments, and *"ample stable accommodation"*.

The Crown later became a simple public house, before it was bought off the C & S brewery in 1972, by Ma r Davies. By 1973, it had been converted into the LMR Club (London Midland Railway) by local rail workers. That club closed in 1985, and the building became the Pennine View flats. Pennine View itself was nearby and became Fleetwood's first library.
The building is now Grade 2 Listed.

©

St Mary's Catholic Church, Fleetwood: On the 9th of February, a meeting of the town's Catholics was held in the Steamer Hotel.

For the price of £629, *"four dwelling houses purchased in Walmsley Street which were converted to establish the first Catholic Chapel Mission in Fleetwood which was then opened for divine service in the Autumn"*. The first Roman Catholic chapel to St Mary was opened on the 15th of November on Walmsley Street. That small chapel was later replaced by cottages.
In 1847, Reverend E Gibson *"negotiated the purchase of land in London Street primarily for a school and Church. The construction of an infant school was duly completed in 1851 but in 1865 exchange of the remaining London Street site was negotiated for the present Church and Presbytery site on Lord Street"*.

The church we see today, St Mary's Roman Catholic Church, was built to the designs of Edward Welby Pugin, and was opened by Bishop Goss of Liverpool on the 24th of November 1867. Costing £4,000, it was on a plot of land bounded by Kemp, East and Warren Streets, and replaced the earlier building. The church consisted of a nave and two aisles, with an apsidal sanctuary at the east end. It was about one hundred feet long, thirty-five feet wide, and fifty feet in height, and could seat 600. The exterior was built of stone, the body of the walls being Yorkshire parpoints, whilst the dressings were of Longridge stone.

The presbytery on Kemp Street was added in 1878 and was built to a design by Innocent and Brown of Sheffield. It is a Grade 2 Listed Building; whose list entry reads: *"Rock-faced stone. Pitched slate roof. 2 storeys and attics. 1 range of Caernarvon-arched casements. 1 hipped-roofed canted bay with casements"*.
In 1851, St Mary's Roman Catholic School was built on London Street.
In 1896, it was moved to the site of the Fylde India Rubber Works, on the opposite side of the street, and in 1897 a junior school was added, with the original school being then closed.
The second school was further enlarged in 1915.
Also, on London Street, for 2 years, the Congregational Sunday school was used as a temporary Public Elementary Day School.
Now called St Mary's Roman Catholic Primary School, it was rebuilt in 1993. The original Victorian building was demolished and the replacement school reopened for use in January 1995, with an official opening and blessing on the 6th of April that year by Bishop John Brewer.

The Temperance Hotel was opened on Dock Street in Fleetwood, by the Jowett family, serving only tea.
A new iron wharf was opened to the north the original stone quay in Fleetwood. This allowed bigger ships to berth with ease.

St Peter's Church, Fleetwood: The new town's Parish Church was consecrated, by the Lord Bishop of Chester, on the 11th of June, on West Street. The ceremony was followed by a *"sumptuous feast"* and concert at the North Euston Hotel. The first vicar (of Thornton and Fleetwood) was the Reverend St Vincent Beechey. At first, the church was a Chapel of ease to St Chad's at Poulton, but in 1857, it became a Parish in its own right.

In 1882 and 1883, the east end of the church was altered by the Lancaster architects Austin and Paley, who added a chancel, a transeptal chapel and an organ chamber. The spire was taken down in 1904, for safety reasons. The Lady Chapel was built in 1911. The church has space for 400 people. 200 more could originally be accommodated in the galleries to the north and south, but these were removed in 1960. A glazed screen was added in 1994, to create a separate parish room at the west end of the nave.

©

A building was bought on Harris Street in Fleetwood in 1920, for use as the vicarage to St Peter's. It was replaced in 1973, by a new vicarage near to St Nicholas's Church.

The town's original war memorial for World War 1 is in the church grounds.

Nearby, in St Peter's Place is an old building, which had been used as Sir Peter's hunting lodge, when hare coursing meetings were held. To defray the costs of town-building, this was sold to Stephen Burridge, Collector of Customs in 1846.
Fleetwood Cemetery was opened on Beach Road in September, having been consecrated for burials by the Bishop of Chester at 3 o'clock on the 11th of June. Its first burial was in 1845. A new columbarium was officially opened in April 2012.

The Fleetwood to Knott End Ferry: John Croft was a Knott End fisherman and cockler who, for a small charge, would take people across to Fleetwood, running a small "well-type" boat from the beaches on either side of the river. This year, his family began a settled ferry service between Fleetwood and Knott End, replacing the ad-hoc services provided by sail and rowing boats for centuries beforehand. The ferry had been mainly for people but would also carry sheep and other small livestock – cattle were tied to the stern and swam across behind. The influx of migrant workers from the North into the new towns of Fleetwood and Blackpool required a more settled service from now on.

The first meeting to propose a formal steam ferry service was held in 1851: there was a total of 14 boats and a steam launch running across the river by then.
By 1881, there was just a single ferry, run by the Fleetwood Steam Ferry and Pleasure Launch Company Ltd – and the Croft family were still ferrying away, landing on the shingled beach at Fleetwood.

The Fleetwood ferry slipway moved to a slope built into the quayside in 1883. It was then more conveniently situated opposite Adelaide street, opposite the cattle market.
It was not until 1892 that the Fleetwood Improvement Commissioners reached agreement with the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway to build a ferry jetty at Fleetwood. A similar agreement was made with the local landowner to gain access at Knott End.

The Ferry Committee of the Improvement Act District of Fleetwood duly assumed responsibility for the ferries in 1893, and they used two small sailing boats "Playfair" and "Guarantee". The ferry slip was then moved to its current site, opposite Queen's Terrace, and Gibson's shipyard was bought to enable a new ferry dock to be built there. In 1894, the ferry operation was leased to local operators, Newsham and Myerscroft, with steam launch "Nelson" being used as the ferry.
From 1895 to 1898, the Croft family regained control of the ferries. Knott End ferry landing stage was built in 1897, in order to cater for the new ferry, the "Onward". She was the first cabin steamer and could carry 120 passengers. The Knott End landing had its own waiting room and booking office.

The Croft family again tendered for the service in 1898, but the council decided to run its own ferries. It bought its own steamer "Lune" and then bought the steamer "Onward" and sailing vessels "Quail" and "Nymph" from the Crofts. Members of that family were then appointed as Ferry Manager, Captain, engineer, deck hands and general assistants. The 140-passenger "Progress" was added in 1900, and in July 1901, the "Bourne May" was added to the small fleet.
In 1905, a record 10,200 passengers used the ferry in just one day.

©

In 1925, the service began to use the "Wyresdale", which was the primary vessel for over thirty years. The smaller "Pilling" assisted with off-peak services – especially in low-water periods. In 1935, she was joined by the slightly smaller motor vessel "Lunevale", and in 1941, the small "Caldervale" replaced the "Pilling".

Until 1928, cattle were towed behind the ferry.

The "Viking 66" began the cross-Wyre service in 1966, and the council chartered local boats when she was not available. For a number of years, "Viking 66" was joined by the larger "Wyre Lady", which had previously served on the river Clyde. The "Wyre Lady" had taken over completely by the mid-1980s, and she was replaced by the "Wonder" by 1995. In the 2000s, the service was proved by the Wyre Princess and the "Harvester" and was a very stop-start affair for a decade.

The service was finally reinstated on the 10th of April 2006, when the service was rescued by Lancashire County Council. They let the contract to Wyre Marine Services, renaming it the "Wyre Estuary Ferry". The current ferry, the 34-seater "Wyre Rose", is skippered by father and son Tony and Philip Cowell.

The steamer "Fire King" began sailing to Ardrossan from Fleetwood in May, carrying passengers off the London train every Wednesday and Friday. The steamer "Benledi" also sailed, crossing to Douglas every Tuesday and Saturday. The "Victoria" sailed to Donegal Quay in Belfast on Wednesdays and Saturdays.
Fleetwood's first murder took place on the 2nd of July - Michael Hand was beaten to death in Church Street.
Fleetwood's first Tradesmen's Regatta was held on the 20th of September and was followed by Cumberland and Westmorland Wrestling the next day.
Fleetwood's first Pilot was Charles Edwards, who was licensed on the 1st of September. He was provided with his own pilot boat, the "Pursuit" and this replaced the Lancaster pilot boat "Guide" which had been used previously on an on-call basis.
Fleetwood, Poulton, and Kirkham stations all had waiting rooms built, and the Fleetwood goods shed was doubled in size.
The Grey Horse Inn at Skippool was the location of the meeting of persons deciding the estate of Thomas Jolly, late of the Plough Inn at Poulton.
Robert Rawlinson, provisions dealer, was in business at Victoria Cottage at 22 Clifton Street in Lytham.
Kirkham Mill, a wind corn mill, had been recently restored by James Barnes and was sold in September.
The Manor or Lordship of Bryning-with-Kellamergh was sold in June, comprising the title, the "New House", 654 acres of land, and many properties in the area.

The Stanley Arms, Freckleton: A beerhouse was in operation at Marsh Gate on Preston Old Road, run by Nancy Kirby. John Baker had built a house on the site soon after 1823, but he died shortly afterwards, and the property passed to the Wright family from Kirkham. In 1868, they sold it to Doctor William Shaw from Kirkham, although Nancy Kirby was still its licensee until 5 years afterwards.
In 1869, Shaw opened it as the Stanley Arms.
1910 saw the premises owned by James Walmsley and Co, an engineering firm from Preston, and in about 1913, Betsy Brindle became landlady. She stayed in charge until the pub closed in 1922.
It is now a private home called Stanley House.

The Black Bull Inn, Clifton: This inn was in business on the *"high road from Preston and Kirkham"*, run by James Eccleston, but owned by Clifton Hall.

©

Great Eccleston Independent chapels: after holding meetings in a cottage in West End, then in a house on Chesham Street, the current chapel was finally built this year on what is now known as Chapel Street.

Great Eccleston Baptist chapel was opened on the 19th of October 1871, in West End. It was built by the Baptists from Inskip, but after 1885, it was taken over by the Methodists, to become the Great Eccleston Wesleyan Methodist Chapel.

1842

Sir Peter Hesketh-Fleetwood sold the manorial rights of Layton Hall on the 17th of June, to Thomas Clifton of Lytham Hall, who had held the estate's lands for some time. Sir Peter also sold more land in Norbreck and Bispham to clear debts.

Coburg House, Talbot Square, Blackpool: Doctor Baker had Coburg House built in the middle of what is now Talbot Square. It was reported to be *"recently erected"* and having *"extensive back premise, offices and yards"* when it was sold to John Poole in September. It stood in the centre of the square for some years, being one of the first houses to take in paying guests and had its own bowling green (the future site of Yates's).
Talbot Square was enlarged in 1845, but the house was still standing in July 1847, as a list of its guests was published in the local press. It is also still shown on the 1848 Ordinance Survey map.

Hoo Hill Mill at Layton was sold in February, complete with drying kiln, warehouses, and attached cottage. The miller was Robert Ward and the sale took place next door, at the Mill Inn.
Thurston Simpson's shoe shop in Great Layton was sold on the 23rd of November, along with Pepper Hill Cottage and several others.
Fleetwood Cottage was built on the shore at Blackpool by John Simpson. It had 7 *"good lodging rooms"*.
A scarlet fever epidemic hit the area.
A new coach began running daily from Blackpool to Preston via Lytham in May, beginning from Nickson's, and then Simpson's hotels.
Blackpool was described by Redding and Taylor as *"the Brighton of Lancashire"*.

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Poulton-le-Fylde: The words "le Fylde" were officially added to the town's name, to differentiate between it and Poulton-le-Sands, which later became Morecambe. The new "Penny Post" system was easily confused by the similarity. The decision to change was made on the 3rd of December by the town worthies, led by Paul Thornber, the clerk to the magistrates.

The Royal Oak Inn, Poulton: was built near the Breck Station, at the corner of 64 Breck Road, facing Back Street (later called Station Road). Its first tenant was Joseph Redshaw, and it was sold in July 1843. The beerhouse before it had been known as the Old Oak and was formerly a large dye works.
In 1860, its landlord was the splendidly-named Albany Featherstonehough, and during his tenure, the renamed Royal Oak Hotel housed the local Inland Revenue, with an Excise office upstairs.
Unusually, the hotel offered *"posting, hearse, and mourning coaches available"*.
After a brief period as Chaplin's Bar from 2003, it closed in 2009. It was demolished in June 2018, for eventual replacement by 14 apartments.

At the time, the visiting hurdy gurdy man would stay at Trapp Farm in Poulton whilst touring the Fylde.
On the 18th of June Fleetwood officially separated from Thornton by the Fleetwood Improvement and Market Act 1842.
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Fleetwood Council: The Fleetwood Board of Commissioners, led by Henry Bazett Jones, held their first public meeting on the 11th of July, at the North Euston. Those Improvement Commissioners gave way to the Local Board, whose first offices opened in the old Custom House in "Wyre Holm", at 6-7 Queens Terrace, in 1890. It became officially known as Fleetwood Town Hall in 1933, and stayed there until 1974, when the council moved to Poulton.

Fleetwood Urban District Council replaced the Board of Commissioners in 1894, lasting until July the 24th 1933, when Fleetwood was granted a Charter making it a Borough in its own right.

The town's coat of arms was granted on the 25th of August 1933:

ARMS: Per saltire nebuly Or and Azure in chief a Rose Gules barbed and seeded proper in base an Ancient Galley of the third and in fesse two Martlets of the first.
MOTTO: "Onward".

Fleetwood Charter Day was celebrated on the 4th of October, when the Charter was brought to Fleetwood and presented by Prince George, who would later become the Duke of Kent. Mr George Robertson, the first Mayor, received it on behalf of the town, at a ceremony which was staged on the open space in front of the brand-new Open-Air Baths.

Singleton's Boatbuilders was founded in Fleetwood.
Brickcrofts at Flakefleet supplied many of the bricks for the growing town of Fleetwood.
The first Fleetwood Tradesmen's Ball was held at the Crown Hotel on the 31st of January.
Drewry and Co started business on East Street (later renamed 23 Lord Street).
Fleetwood's population was 2,833.
The first cheap excursion took place on the Preston and Wyre Railway on the 3rd of July, when a Preston Sunday school hired a train to take children on a seaside trip.
Weeton Railway Station was built but had closed by 1848.
The first Lytham Regatta took place in September.
A party of emigrees left Lytham Docks for New York this year.
The Blue Bell Inn was in business on Church Street in Kirkham, being demolished in 1869 when it was owned by Peter Woods.
The Freckleton Salmon Fishery was up for let in January. In 1768, it was recorded that *"3,384 salmon and salmon trouts were drawn in one draught on June 24th"*.
Thomas Robert Wilson France of Rawcliffe Hall was made High Sheriff of Lancashire.

1843

The Brig "Aristocrat", on a voyage from Montreal to Liverpool, was wrecked off North Shore on the 18th of October. Two passengers were drowned.

Marton Bank: The Weaving Shed at the edge of Marton Green had been converted into a malt kiln by Moore, Banks, and Company, but the partnership was dissolved on the 19th of December 1838. After its sale by Richard Hill on the 17th of August, as well as being used for drying oats, it was used occasionally as a slaughterhouse.

In 1888 the land, by then on Flag Causeway, was sold to James Fenton of Agnew Villas, who knocked down the malt kiln and built the four "Malt Kiln Cottages" there, and in 1909 John Gregson knocked down those

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cottages and built numbers 1 and 3 Bank Road, immediately selling number 1 to the London Joint City and Midland Bank.

In 1923, the Midland Bank took over the bank premises, followed in 1951, by the ground floor of number 3. The bank, next to Marton Institute, was renamed HSBC in 1992.

Bank road was originally called Flag Causeway after the 1856 farm of the same name. It was renamed Bank Road after the nearby Marton Bank Farm and is now called Newhouse Road. The site of the current bank's car park is where the weaving shed stood.

John Johnson, a Derbyshire photographer, opened a "Daguerreotype" gallery on Blackpool Parade.

Talbot Square and Talbot Road, Blackpool: Thomas Clifton, Squire of Lytham, bought a large piece of Forshaw's estate in the town centre in December. This later became known as Talbot Square (named after his son) and Clifton Street.
Clifton also built a road from his Layton Hall estate to the sea front, which became Talbot Street, New Road, and then Talbot Road from 1924. In a contract dated the 17th of February, the Council engaged James Barker of Cockerham to erect fences for the new road. In 1846, plans were revealed for new roads at *"Talbot road, leading to the railway station, Clifton street, and Abingdon street, all of which are to be occupied with detached cottages, and Birley-street, which is planned, for cottages of less value"*.

Mr Bamber was tried for not maintaining his "Gyn Road" along the coast, but instead building a new road inland of the eroding cliffs. He was found not to be responsible for the actions of the land.

South Shore Post Office: Philip Rycroft opened the first South Shore Post Office on the 4th of September. By 1854, Lawrence Hall had established the business in Church Street. He also sold books, stationery, and newspapers, and later, boots and shoes. Church Street South Shore was renamed Bond Street in November 1924 to avoid confusion with the street of that name in central Blackpool.
In 1866, that shop became the Post Office and Telegraph office for the southern district, and the second South Shore Post Office opened on the corner of 44 Waterloo Road and St Bede's Avenue. That building was re-built in 1900 and opened on the 19th of October. The old post office building on Church Street was taken over immediately by Lloyds Bank.

This third South Shore Post Office was opened by Blackpool's Head Postmaster, Mr PB Tanner, at 20 to 32 Waterloo Road on the 29th of June 1929. The brand new 2-storey building was designed by CP Wilkinson of HM Office of Works and was constructed by W Eaves and Son of Blackpool, just to the west of the Waterloo Picture House. The building at 44 Waterloo Road later became a Lloyds Bank branch. In 2003, it was called Kathy's Kitchen, owned by Katherine Hunter, and it is currently a gift shop called House Proud.

The office itself had a 120-foot frontage, with a vestibule measuring 14 feet 6 inches by 16 feet, containing public telephone cabinets. The public space was accessed from here through swing doors, and it measures 500 square feet. The sorting office is immediately behind this room and measuring 1,735 square feet, also has "retiring space" for the postmen. The building also held the local telephone exchange on the entirety of its first floor – the apparatus room measuring 83 feet by 35. Its first postmaster was B Butterworth. In the other half of the building's ground floor, a suite of rented lock-up shops was constructed.

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That post office was closed in the 1990s. The first floor of the vacant building soon became home to various short-lived "unstable" businesses, selling cheap watches and other goods. The ground floor remains closed. The post office counter itself was moved inside a Spar outlet (now a Premier store) at 40 Waterloo Road, to become the fourth South Shore Post Office, which was closed in October 2019.

The Blackpool Herald was first published in November – on Fridays - by William Porter.
The steamers "Nile", "Lily", and "Eclipse" sailed for the Isle of Man from the shore in August.

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St Michael's Church, Weeton: was consecrated on the 4th of July, by the Bishop of Chester. It became a parish church in 1846, and was enlarged in 1852.
The building is made of red brick with stone dressings, and a slate roof. At the west end of the building there is a bell cote with a miniature spire, and the plan consists of a 4-bay nave and a single-bay chancel, with a porch at the main northern entrance. To the south of the chancel is a vestry.

Rinkton Farm was in the district of that name, just to the North of Carleton village. It is there today.
Ginnett's Equestrian Circus staged a show in the field by the Golden Ball Inn at Poulton in August. The inn had 4 acres of land beside it at this time.

Fleetwood to Belfast Ferries: Two iron paddle steamers, the "Princess of Wales" and the "Princess Alice" began sailing to Belfast, operated by the North Lancashire Steam Navigation Company, and carrying passengers, goods, and the Royal Mail. Steamers left Fleetwood on Wednesdays and Saturdays and return on Mondays and Fridays.
By 1853 each way sailings were established between the town and Belfast, with boat trains providing a rail link with the service and by 1892 sailings were fixed to coincide with the train service.
The Fleetwood to Belfast service ended on the 28th of April 1928, when the "Duke of Cumberland" became the last vessel to leave.
Privately-owned cargo services began to Londonderry but stopped in 1845. However, on the 18th of April 1849, the steamer "Londonderry" made her first cargo voyage to that port. That started a weekly service, which alternated between the "Londonderry" and the "Thistle".

The Fleetwood Chronicle: the Fleetwood Chronicle and Monthly Advertiser was first published on the 11th of November by William Porter. It was the first newspaper in the Fylde printed on a hand press and was issued from above Porter's stable in Dock Street, being sold by William Whiteside, a newsagent on West Street, who was also the town's first bellman (Town Crier). The Chronicle later took over the Smalley Brothers Printing Works and opened their head office in Albert Square.
The Blackpool Gazette and Herald bought out the Fleetwood Chronicle in 1921.
The Chronicle ceased to be published in 1984, with its last issue on the 10th of August.

West Street Independent Church, Fleetwood: From 1837, as there was no Congregational church in Fleetwood, early residents had to ferry across the Wyre to attend service at the Bethel Church, Preesall. Reverend W Gothard then set up the first preaching place in Mrs Garner's house in Flag Street, Fleetwood. This first little church of twelve members later moved to a joiner's shop over a guano warehouse in Aughton Street.

This year, the new church was founded, and the construction of a small wooden chapel began in November 1844. Thus, in 1847, a Congregationalist chapel was built in West Street, by Thomas Drummond, to seat 600 worshippers.
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A Sunday school had started there in 1841, and beneath the new chapel were separate classrooms for boys and girls. A proper Sunday school was built on London Street in the 1880s – this is now the Thomas Drummond public house (named after the school's designer). The school moved to Beach Road and Lothian Avenue in 1934.

West Street Congregational Church, Fleetwood opened for worship on the 31st of May 1848. The official opening was described thus: *"The new chapel with its castellated tower cost £1600 and opened on 31st May 1848. "The church was fitted up with gas and heated with hot air at considerable expense", wrote the first minister, John Farnham Guenett. Fifteen shillings was paid "to defray the expenses of the fiddle".*

The chapel was demolished in 1936 to make way for Marks and Spencer's (later Hitchin's).
The present Fleetwood United Reformed Church, which replaced it, was opened on Agnew Road in 1938, being extended in 1963.

Fleetwood Regatta: The first Fleetwood Regatta and Rural Sports was held on the 30th and 31st of August, with over 4,000 visitors crowding the esplanade between the Custom House and the North Euston Hotel. As well as many boating races, there were foot races, wrestling, and games - one of the messiest involving *"six well-treacled loaves"* being dangled on string in front of young men who tried to eat them with hands tied behind their backs. There was also a Gingling Match. A Gingling match is better known as a Jingling Match, *"whereby blindfolded participants chase a runner whose clothes are festooned with jingling bells"*. The regatta became an annual event.

Mesdames Brooks and Pitt opened a school for young ladies on Queens Terrace in Fleetwood in January. The Lytham Coursing Club held its first meeting on the 5th and 6th of December starting from the Clifton Arms Hotel. Lytham was also home to the Ridgeway Club of coursers, and in 1850, the Ridgeway Coursing Club meeting was first held in Lytham and Peel. It was transferred to Altcar in 1906, due to venereal disease in the local hares and amalgamated with the Waterloo Cup meeting. Greyhounds and whippets had competed at Peel for the Clifton Cup and other trophies.

The Sitting Goose Inn, Lower Bartle: on Lea Lane was run by Thomas Fazackerly. The village smithy was almost next door. By 1890, the inn's name had changed to the Birley Arms, but later reverted to its original. Since the 25th of February 2014, The Sitting Goose has been run by Fayre Table (Bartle).

1844

St John's Market, Blackpool: Blackpool's first market opened between Belle Vue Square and the Lane Ends Hotel on the 28th of July. Its foundation stone had been laid by W Thornber on the 8th of April.
It was christened Blackpool Market, and had been built on the former bowling green behind Nickson's Hotel, having been established by leasing the original 13th century Grant to Layton. Over its door was the motto "*St John's Market, Anno Christi 1844. Buy the truth and sell it not*", and it was for the sale of fish and other produce.
The 16th century-style market was designed in 3 sections – a fish market, a meat and cheese market and a general market, but it soon developed into just two sections – the Wood Market and the Brick Market – and was 111 feet long by 28 feet wide. The market builders had sunk their own deep well inside to get fresh water – one of several deep wells in Blackpool.

The Market Hotel opened next door and a "shambles" was built behind. By 1851, that small street had become known universally as "The Shambles". Opposite the market, on the corner with Birley Street, was

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the competing bazaar of John Eccleston. Mr Eccleston was one of many who resented the new market "stealing" their trade, and he also had bazaars on Talbot Road and Lytham Road.

Sadly, 1851 also saw a damning health report on the conditions in the market. It reads *"At the back of the fishmarket, there is a small black hole, into which stinking fish and other refuse is thrown. In this place, a tub of soft water is kept for washing the counters, fish, andc. When the great power with which water absorbs all putrid and offensive gases is considered, it will at once be seen that this is the very worst place in which*
to keep the water which has to come into contact with the fish. (Near this market there is a public slaughter-house, 7 feet by 12 feet, with a yard of about half this size behind it. A very (offensive middenstead, 4 feet by 12 feet, into which the greater part of the refuse from the market is thrown, opens out of the slaughterhouse. There is a drain outside the door, from which, as usual, proceeds an offensive smell.
The arrangements for the butchers' market are much worse than those of the fish-market. At the upper end of this market there is a small passage, 10 feet in length, which leads to a privy, used in common by the whole market: there is also an open cesspit, 8 feet by 4 feet, which receives the contents of this and two other privies. At the top of this market there is a very small yard, which contains at one end the above two necessaries, one used by the females in the vegetable market, who have to pass through the butchers' market in order to reach it, and the other appropriated to the use of the cottage inhabited by the clerk to the market. At the opposite extremity of this yard stands the market pump, considered to yield some of the best drinking water in Blackpool. Immediately below the pump a very offensive smell comes up through the sink-stone, which appeared to be caused by the over-spill How drain from the large cesspit above mentioned, which leads into the waste-water drain from the pump".

The new market was a private market initially but was bought and taken over by the local Board of Health in 1853. It was then doubled in size in 1854, by the addition of fish stalls.
Also, in 1854, the open-air Wholesale Fruit, Flower, and Vegetable Market was roofed over.
By March 1860, the market was so crowded that customers could not move freely, so stallholders were ordered to make the spaces between the middle tables to be *"equal to that of the entrance to the Shambles"*.
In October 1861, horses were banned from being sold inside the market: *"The centre of the Brick Market was directed to be devoted to the sale of edibles only".* The market was extended in 1864, and in 1875, it received a new cast iron veranda. By 1874, the Local Board were running both a retail and a wholesale market from the same stalls at different times. The market was demolished from the 2nd of October 1893, being briefly replaced by a fruit market.

The St John's New Market building opened on Lytham Street on the 25th of March 1895, firstly as just the library (which had moved from Talbot Square), and soon as the market itself. The market took up the ground floor, and the Free Lending Library and Reading Rooms were on the first floor, directly above the Paragon Hosiery store. Drummond's tobacconist's shop was next door. Lytham Street was later named Corporation Street.
The site later housed Boots and Riley's stores and in 1977 became an extension to the Town Hall building. The site of the covered extension later became an open-air market, and finally, West Street Car Park and British Home Stores.

St John's Market moved to King Street in 1938 and was opened on the 28th of May. The old open market was soon demolished. The site of the new market was previously to be a large field, which was used by the

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Tower Circus acts for their caravans and animals. This second market was closed by the council in January 2001. It was demolished in December 2002, and the site turned into a car park.

Bank's Public (seawater) Baths opened next to the Lane Ends Hotel.
On the western side of Whitegate Lane, opposite the Saddle Inn stood Gregson's (or Hill's Farm), whose place is now taken by Boots chemists, William Hill's Bookmakers (in the Pool Bookmakers shop) and other assorted shops.

Whyndyke Farm, Marton: was in operation to the east of the main Preston road, just to the South of Little Marton Windmill. The name comes the Whyn Dyke – a drain running from Whinney Heys. For many years thereafter, it was a tenanted farm owned by the Kirkham family of Peel.

In 1991, Whyndyke began holding giant Car Boot Sales, hosted by owner Philip Kirkham, and in 1996, Blackpool Football Club chairman Karl Oyston led a consortium of businesses, including McAlpine's builders, in arranging for a new stadium to be built there. This was shelved when Mr Oyston's father Owen was jailed.

Sudden Impact Paintball began life there in September 2000.

Marton's New Town: In September 2015, outline planning permission was granted to the Oyston consortium for over 1,400 new homes and facilities to be constructed on 225 acres of land at Whyndyke.

The proposal involves *"350 two-bed, 700 three-bed, 280 four-bed, and 70 five-bed properties on the northern part of the site along with a two-form primary school and two neighbourhood centres containing retail space, a health centre, a pub, residential units, a café, offices, and a takeaway, with vehicle access onto Preston New Road and Mythop Road"*. The putative name of the development is "Whyndyke Garden Village", and it will be Lancashire's first "Healthy New Town", with massive input from the National Health Service. Another 50 acres will provide employment, with manufacturing and distribution companies expected to locate there.
In June 2018, the partners involved in the £200m scheme signed the many agreements to begin the development and construction process.

Philip Rycroft of South Shore applied on the 29th of January to open a Post Office at Lytham like his existing establishment at South Shore. He also applied to have his Blackpool house turned into a hotel.
Cropper, a large house with gardens and other attached lands, was on the lane that was later named Cropper Road after it. By 1909, the house had its own plant nursery.

The Dunes Hotel, Blackpool: The Coffee House Inn was in business at Stony Hill on Lytham Road. On the 16th of December 1854, a shooting competition was held in its grounds: landlord John Pearson offered a first prize of a cheese. By 1857 its landlord was William Harrison, but by 1888, the landlord was Robert Harrison.

Boddington's Brewery bought the Coffee House Hotel in 1895 and rebuilt it as the Dunes Hotel in the early 1890s. It is now number 261 Lytham Road. Despite the claims of various landlords, there is no concrete evidence of it ever being a coaching inn.
The Dunes is now owned by Greene King.

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John Darlington, of Railway Colliery, Charnock Richard bought land near Blackpool Railway Station.
The steamer SS Nile sailed from Preston on the 21st of July. It called at Blackpool before going on to Fleetwood. On its return trip via Blackpool at the end of the day, passengers could also be dropped off at Lytham. A 1st Class cabin to Fleetwood cost 3 shillings.

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Newton Hall, Staining: Newton Hall was on the western side of Staining Road, with Newton Lodge opposite. By 1866, George Bartholemew Taylor lived at the hall, and went on to run the Raikes Hall Gardens until his death in 1890, at which time C&S Brewery built their new Queen's Brewery next door to Newton Hall. The new brewery used the shell of the previous Richardson's Newton Springs Brewery. Newton Hall Farm was also in operation just to the south.

In 1949, the Newton Hall Holiday Camp was opened on the site at 106 Staining Road, by the Partington family. The Newton Country Club was opened there in 1956, and in that summer, a special bus service (15C) began, to link the camp to Blackpool. A new swimming pool, amusement arcades, and chalets were built in 1975.

The Newton Hall Indoor Bowling Centre was built in 1985. A building, which had been the winter quarters of the Blackpool Tower Circus, was re-built for the purpose. The circus ring and the stalls for the animals formed the basis of the new centre, which was opened in October, and contained five bowling rinks. The outdoor bowling greens were turned into pitches for static caravans in 1987, and in 1991, a new entrance and reception complex was built. In 1998, Grunty's Fun Factory – a children's soft play facility - was opened in the old brewery buildings.

The Newton Country Club was gutted by fire in 2004 but was replaced in 2005.
In 2007, the touring pitches on the site were changed into statics, and the name was changed to the Newton Hall Holiday Park. The complex now advertises a *"licensed club with separate family room, indoor heated swimming pool, sauna and spa, flat green indoor bowling centre and coarse fishing lake. A coffee shop serving delicious home-cooked food, mini-market, amusement arcade, outdoor football area and children's playground. There's a fish and chip shop, launderette and new for 2012, a hairdressing and beauty salon"*.

The Red Lion Inn was on Kirkham Road in Weeton. It lasted until at least 1887, when William Parkinson was landlord.

Rossall School: The Northern Church of England School was opened at Rossall, on the 22nd of August, by the Reverend St Vincent Beechey, *"with the object of giving to the sons of clergymen and others an education similar to that of the great public schools, but without the great cost of Eton or Harrow"*.

Plans for a grand "Fleetwood College" had been drawn up two years previously but were abandoned in favour of developing Rossall Hall into a boy's school. Similar plans for a girl's school on the other side of the Wyre were also abandoned.
Originally the idea of a Mr Vantini, it soon became known as *"The Eton of the North"*. There were initially just 69 pupils (not 70). Canon Beechey had obtained a lease to Rossall Hall and its land off Sir Peter Hesketh-Fleetwood with power to purchase.

The original prospectus states that *"The appointment of the Head Master rests with the Council. He must be in Holy Orders and have attained the degree of M.A. at Oxford or Cambridge"*.
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On opening, *"Sir Peter's library was the common room, the servants' hall the needle room, the coach house the office, the dove cote, the sanatorium, and the chemistry lecture room was where corn was once ground. The big square was a green meadow"*. The school playing fields were 40 acres in extent.
Also, from the prospectus: *"The two lowest Classes are a lower or preparatory School, equally for the Classical School, and for the Modern, and in these all boys are required to learn Latin as the best foundation for instruction in the French, Italian, and Spanish languages. In the Modern School, the general course of study comprises English Grammar, Arithmetic, Writing, Dictation, History and Geography, Drawing, Latin, French, German, Mathematics, Natural and Experimental Science, English Literature and Composition. For these subjects the boys are divided into classes according to their capabilities or proficiency. Latin and German are optional, except in the Commercial Class, where German is taught to all, and Latin generally excluded"*.

The school was decimated by an outbreak of Scarlet Fever in 1846, which almost led to its closure.
The school chapel was built in 1848, and later converted into the Sumner Library.
On the 23rd of March 1850, the first edition of the school periodical "The Rossall News" was published. After a very brief period as "Charivari" and "Herald", this to "The Rossallian" in March 1867.

1852 saw the school purchase the lease to the whole estate. Also, in 1852 and 1853, they added a new dining room for 300 and with a dormitory above, a new wash-house, laundry, and sheds, and a large new schoolroom, with classrooms, studies, and masters' rooms.

The school was the first school to institute a cadet corps (which still exists today). On the 31st of May 1860, the Rossall Rifle Volunteers were enrolled as the 65th Lancashire, with 120 pupils making up two separate companies. The corps was then attached to the 5th Admin Battalion in 1863. A cadet corps was recruited in 1873, and the battalion was consolidated as the 10th Rifle Volunteers in 1880. The Rossall company was disbanded in 1890. And the cadet force transferred to the 1st Engineer Volunteers. It is one of only four Schools CCF Contingents to be awarded the Queen's Colours. *"Rossall CCF has produced a Field Marshall, thirty-two Generals, two Air Marshalls and two Admirals in its 156-year history, as well as two winners of the Victoria Cross"*. Rossall is one of 4 local schools to have cadets. They are now called the Combined Cadet Force – CCF – and are under 42 Infantry Brigade.

Rossall Preparatory School: opened in George Swainson's house at Anchorsholme in 1860, with Mr JR Pursell in charge of 28 boys. It moved to Mr Swainson's other house, Beachfield, which was purchased in 1868. The site of the prep school later became covered by Jubilee Gardens.

The sport of "Paper Chase" was a great school favourite in its early years.
Rossall's own chapel was opened on Prize Day 1862. Its cricket grounds were laid in 1864, funded by profits from the tuck shop. The school began to build its own swimming baths in June 1867. These opened in 1870, along with a new tuck shop to replace the previous shop inside the cottages.

The name of the Northern Church of England School was changed to Rossall School in 1870, and the School's Governing Body, the Corporation of Rossall School, was incorporated under Royal Charter in 1890. Rossall's school motto is "*Mens Agitat Molem*" - meaning "mind over matter".

The Fives courts were built in 1871, and the clock tower in 1872. 1877 saw new sewage works constructed, 1882 an Infectious Hospital, 1883, Racquets courts, 5 more Fives courts, and a gymnasium, a

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bakehouse was added in 1885, in 1892 a new sanitorium and offices, entrance lodges, and stables and teacher's cottages in 1894.
Rossall became a Public School in 1890.
The Rossallian Club was formed on the 22nd of June 1894, for old pupils of Rossall School.
In 1899, the Physical Laboratories were constructed.
The Old Rossallian Lodge of the Masons was consecrated in 1928.
Rossall School Museum was built in 1900, being changed into a theatre in 1968, and in 1960, the school opened its Beacham Music School.
The Rossall School 7-hole golf course was open by 1902 but closed in 1913.
A peculiar game of Rossall Hockey was occasionally played on the beach – usually getting chased off by the incoming tide.
1905 saw a new Assheton Observatory built and a fire brigade established at the school.

September 1994 saw the opening of a new Nursery School attached to the Pre-Preparatory School.

In August 2018, work began on a new sports centre, which will include a 50m sprint track, multiple indoor courts, a viewing gallery, and a fitness suite.

The 8 houses of Lower Queens Terrace (known as Stone Terrace) were completed at Fleetwood. Upper Queens Terrace (known as Brick Terrace) was the section including the Town Hall. The two terraces became known simply as Queens Terrace in 1921
Fleetwood was reclassified by the Board of Her Majesty's Customs as a sub-port under Preston.
Cargo services began from Fleetwood to Ardrossan, lasting until 1847.
The Albert Steam Corn Mill was opened on the north side of Albert Street in Fleetwood. It had six pairs of millstones and supported two adjacent warehouses. It was sold on the 22nd of August 1866.
Fleetwood Sports were held from the 27th to the 29th of June, funded by the Preston and Wyre Railway.
The P and W Railway joined with the Bolton and Preston and the Manchester and Leeds railways to run excursions from east Lancashire, paving the way for wakes excursions.
The Fleetwood Town Road Committee first met on the 3rd of June. Its first town surveyor was Mr DD Hawe, who replaced Mr Neeve, who had performed the duties until then, on a more ad-hoc basis.

Lytham Lifeboat: Due to the increasing number of casualties in the Ribble estuary - mainly on the Horse Bank, the Shipwrecked Fishermen and Mariners Society funded the first basic lifeboat for Lytham. A converted rowing boat, it was partly paid for by public subscription.

The Lytham Lifeboat Fund was started on the 18th of June 1851, and the new Lytham Lifeboat House began to be built on the site of the brick drying kiln to the east of the windmill on the Green by the Shipwrecked Mariners Society, who also provided the town's first proper lifeboat "The Clifton" in December.
It was funded by Squire Clifton, and opened in 1852, being taken over by the RNLI on the 7th of December 1854, to become its first station in the Northwest. On the boat's first practice launch on the 7th of October 1852, the first lifeboat capsized, and eight of her crew were drowned.

The original station was demolished when the current cobble-built house was built to the south of the windmill in 1863. The new house had public shelters added in 1900 and was seriously damaged by a fire in 1918. It ceased to be used as a working station in 1931, when the local branch was renamed as Lytham St Anne's Lifeboat Station on the 12th of March, after taking over the recently-closed St Anne's branch. It then received its first motor lifeboat, the JHW, which was moored off the pier.

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The current Lytham Lifeboat House was built on Central Beach at the head of what was left of the pier in 1960. It incorporated two buildings left over from the old mussel tanks and was officially opened on the 29th of June. The new house was home to a wooden boarding boat for use to reach the lifeboat itself, which was moored afloat at the end of the jetty. The boathouse extended in in 1985, in order to provide a look-out and additional crew facilities. Further extensions were made in 1991.

"Lytham operational lifeboat was moored in the channel off Seafield Rd (between Ansdell and Lytham) accessed from the shore until it was moved to its new home in St. Annes in 1999".

The old station housed the Lytham Lifeboat Museum between 1986 and 2004. It was re-opened in April 2016, by the Lytham Heritage Society.
A list of the Lytham Lifeboats is provided at Appendix BB.

Lytham Post Office: The first post office was opened in June in Clifton Square – Speaker's draper's shop was next door. Letter were collected from Kirkham and delivered to the small building in the Market Square on foot. On the 11th of November, a Mail Coach was introduced from Lytham to Preston.

In 1899, a new building was constructed on the opposite side of the Square, on the corner of Dicconson Terrace. The second post office opened there on the 1st of October 1900.
The Lytham Post Office closed in September 1995, to become a restaurant – currently a branch of Pizza Express. The business was moved into 17b Park Street, which is now the third post office.

Lytham Wool Fair was held in July by the Clifton Arms Hotel.
The Kirkham Savings Bank opened.
On the 5th of September, a new Wesleyan chapel was opened on Freckleton Street in Kirkham. It was built by R Catterall and could seat 200 people.

Rawcliffe Wesleyan Methodist Chapel: was built. Since 1837, local worshippers had met in each other's houses, and then in Robert Curwen's joiner's shop.
The chapel building was closed in December 1873, and then sold in 1900. It has now been demolished, but today's Chapel Lane was named after it.

1845

The Talbot Inn/Talbot Hotel, Blackpool: The Talbot Inn was built by Thomas Clifton at the corner of Talbot Street and what is now Topping Street. It had an attractive, pebbled façade, a bowling green, and its own Livery Stables. Richard Moore of Kirkham applied for the licence for the Inn. The inn was briefly known as the Talbot Arms Hotel in the 1840s and 1850s, but was renamed the Talbot Hotel in the 1890s, after being greatly extended to the eastern profile. Adjacent to the hotel later stood Talbot Terrace – now the bus station.

When its Talbot Hotel Mews was owned by Messrs Hilla and Tillotson, the Talbot Livery Stables offered *"Stylish Wagonettes"* for trips to Fleetwood, Lytham, Staining, and Singleton.

The bowling green was dug up in 1966, and the hotel was demolished in 1968. The Prudential House buildings, Ron Reddy's butchers, the Salad Bowl greengrocer's, Heyes Brothers furniture shop, and the Topping Street Co-op supermarket (later to become an Iceland freezer store) soon appeared on the site.

©

William Thornber, John Cocker, and Richard Banks bought the Yates's estate – what we now know as Cocker Square.
Blackpool Oddfellows formed in May. In 1846, Esau Carter prepared a room for the Blackpool Duke of Wellington Lodge at the rear of the Adelphi Hotel, Church Street, and the room opened in July.

The Crown Inn, Blackpool: This newly-built inn was on the corner of 14 Lytham Street and what is now Birley Street. By 1856, and called the Crown Hotel, it was listed as being run by Jane Swarbrick. In 1893, it was owned by the Oldham Brewery Co, and got a music licence in 1895.

The Crown was rebuilt in today's form at 22 to 24 Corporation Street in 1963. On the third floor for some years was a small private cinema seating about 100 people.
Promises Bar opened there in 1987, with its own disco upstairs. Then, the Cotton Club opened in 1988 in the old Promises Disco above the newly-renamed Rose and Crown. This closed in 1998, and it then became known as Beat.
The pub is once again known as the Rose and Crown and has outdoor "café-style" seating.

John Southworth of St Johns' Market was complaining of shrimp hawkers from Lytham stealing his trade.

Manchester Hotel, Blackpool: The Manchester House Hotel was built at the north end of the new drive from South Shore - Broad Lane – at the north end of the Tullet-Hey Estate. Spen Dyke discharged into the sea just to the north of the hotel.
The new hotel had *"three spacious Sitting Rooms and Dining Room, with Bay Front, Bar andc., on the ground floor; three Sitting Rooms, ten Single Bed Rooms, and five Double Bed Rooms, above stairs; two with spacious Bay Windows, commanding good views. Also, Tap Room, Brewhouse, Coach House, Stable andc".*

In a storm in 1852, the hotel's bowling greens were completely destroyed, and the bridge over what was locally known as *"Blackpool Brook"* was washed away.
By the 1860s, owner James Hemingway re-named it Hemingway's Manchester Hotel, but by the early 1880s, it had been changed back simply to be called the Manchester Hotel once more. Its proprietor by 1889 was N Moore! But by 1898, G Schottle was running it, when it is listed at 1-2 Lytham Road and 221 South Promenade.

The rebuilt Manchester Hotel opened on the 30th of May 1936 in what was known by then as Manchester Square. It had been fully rebuilt by Catterall and Swarbrick's Breweries, and boasted a brand-new art-deco façade with four striking vertical fins, sides made of blue brick, and a tall flagpole, to attract customers. It stood opposite Gordon Barker's Chemists and the Seacrest Café.

Today's red-brick Manchester Hotel was opened in May 1996 after being rebuilt by Bass Breweries due to excessive corrosion.

Philip Rycroft of South Shore built the "*grand Marine Drive*" between South Shore and Blackpool at his own expense. He had lost patience in the slow workings of the Local Board.
Watson's Lane was called Layton Lane and reached from Layton House (at the north-east of the junction with what is now Lytham Road), to Hawes Side Lane at Leach's Gutter Bridge.
A new stagecoach "The Safety" began running from Burnley and Colne on the 21st of May to Simpson's Hotel. There was also the "Shuttle" stagecoach, which ran from Halifax via Lytham every day at 3pm.

©

Peter Sanderson bought two closes in Great Marton called the Common Field, bounded on the west by the Middle Lane and on the east by Black Leach Gutter, from Thomas Hogarth. The land had been enclosed from Layton Hawes.
John Butcher ran a road through Marton Moss – this is now School Road.

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Trade through Poulton and its ports of Skippool and Wardleys dried up suddenly after the Clifton Estate transferred all its timber importations to Preston and Liverpool. The Port of Fleetwood had also opened, taking more trade. Since the mid-1700s, Thomas Worthington had employed over 30 local people to make sacking, sailcloth, and sheeting. There was also a flax dressing works and a rope works. By 1850, local records show NO people involved in the textile trades. Nobody in Poulton took up any industrialised trades, and Poulton returned to its previous life as a farming and market centre.

Weeton National School: was built, being completed in 1847. It was held initially in the kiln house of the Weeton Windmill at Weeton Lane Heads.
In 1887, Weeton Village School was built on Plumpton Lane, near to St Michael's Church. The old school at Weeton Lane Heads was soon demolished.

Fleetwood had "stolen" much of Manchester's traders, who found the new port's fees to be far more attractive than those offered by Liverpool.

Bonded Warehouses at Fleetwood: were erected at 1 Adelaide Street, and at 26 and 28 Dock Street, to provide storage space for up to 400 hogsheads. Sixteen hand-operated cranes were installed along the quayside at the same time.
The Dock Street building is Grade 2 Listed, and *"It was purportedly designed by Decimus Burton and was erected as a 3-storey bonded warehouse for the Customs Authorities. It was here that wine, spirits, tea, and tobacco were stored until the duty had been paid. The building is of sandstone construction and has pitched slate roof with a moulded modillion eaves cornice. The principal façade has a range of two sash windows with moulded surrounds, whilst the first floor has continuous sill band and moulded cornices on scrolled brackets"*.
When the building was de-commissioned as a bonded warehouse, it became the Fleetwood Doss House – popularly known as "Thompson's Lido", but in January 1980, Lynn and Rod Worth opened Lynn's Diner there, and this is still in business today.

The Adelaide Street building later housed the Fylde Home Brewery Co, and then became a pub/club known at various times, as Sloopy's, The Tropicana Steak House, then the Market Tavern, and now Javid's Fashions. It still has the original wooden loading doors above the main entrance.

A carriage drive and promenade were built to the west of Mount Terrace in Fleetwood.
The Fleetwood Building and Savings Fund was set up at a meeting held in the Fleetwood Arms Hotel on the 19th of May.

Fleetwood Working Men's Club: was opened on Kemp Street. Constructed in ashlar, it has a pitched slate roof, with 3 storeys, and a moulded eaves cornice. There is a parapet, and a 1st floor band, together with 6 ranges of sashes, of which 2nd and 5th have moulded cornices on scrolled consoles. It is a Listed Building and still fulfils its original purpose.
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©

Fleetwood Freemasons: began meeting in the Fleetwood Arms Hotel, closing in 1853. They founded Hesketh Lodge in 1863, and by 1865, they used their own Lodge Rooms at 12 North Albert Street.
By 1872, they were meeting in the Crown Hotel on Dock Street, by 1873, in the Royal Hotel, and by 1885, they were back in the Crown Hotel.

Fleetwood Masonic Hall opened in the disused Fleetwood Orphanage at 32 the Esplanade on the 22nd of March 1956. Pharos Lodge was founded on April the 10th 1956, Wyre Lodge on November the 10th 1960, and Broadwater Lodge on September the 23rd 1982.

A new beacon was built on King's Scar off Fleetwood, sited on a man-made "perch". In 1851 *"The two pilots, brothers, called Charnley, of Sunderland, after a long struggle were fortunate enough to make their way to the perch on King's Scar, opposite the land mark, and to which they were seen clinging by Captain Scott, of the Helvellyn steamer, on his way from Fleetwood to Piel. Captain Scott immediately put back to Fleetwood, and got out the Life Boat. The men were soon after got off in safety, though much exhausted having been on the perch for several hours"*.
The Poor Hall at Preesall was next to buildings called Poor Hall Cottages.

Green Drive, Lytham: The thoroughfare from Lytham hall to Saltcoates was known as Green Road on the first Ordnance Survey map this year. In 1883, the mock-Tudor Saltcoates Lodge was built at the eastern entrance, by Madeleine Clifton, in memory of her husband Squire TH Clifton, and the entrance road was renamed Green Drive. Saltcoates Lodge was renamed as Swiss Lodge in 1893.

The route had previously been part of an ancient mossway from Lytham Hall to Warton Hall. It passed Saltcoates Farm and Lodge Hall on its way. After it was left cut-off when Ballam Road was opened in 1843, it became virtually useless, and so Green Drive (between Station Road and Ballam Road) was given to the town of Lytham by the Clifton family in 1905, as a public walkway.
In 2005, the "Beast of Green Drive" was sighted several times in Lytham. It was reported to be the size of a Labrador dog, but the shape of a hare!

E W Dobson reported the arrival of a new Fire Engine at Lytham Hall.
Around now, another terrace of 8 houses was built on Clifton Street by local builder John Collinson. They were known locally as Hetty's Cottages as they had been built to provide pin money for Sir Thomas Clifton's wife, Hetty. Now numbered 4 to 18, they are all Grade 2 Listed Buildings. The Listing states: *"A terrace of eight pebble-dashed cottages with sandstone dressings and slate roofs. They have two storeys and each cottage is in a single bay. On the front are three double gabled porches with doorways on the sides and two-light mullioned windows on the front. There are single porches on the sides; all the porches have apex finials. The windows are mullioned casements"*. The gardens in front of the small dwellings still stretch down to the pavement, but the trees that were within still stand within the current pavements. The 3-storey townhouses opposite later replaced some similar cottages, whose trees also now stand in that pavement.
The first Ordnance Survey map of Lytham shows a brick kiln, 50 metres to the East of the windmill, and a large bowling green on the site of today's Park View fields.

Pipers Height Farm, Peel: was in operation on Peel Road, and Edward Wade was born there, fathered by the incumbent farmer, Robert Wade.

©

By 1934, the farmer was Thomas Gardner, but by the 1960s, by then owned by the Rawcliffe family, the farm began to offer facilities for camping. This resulted in expansion by Richard Rawcliffe into having static caravans and then wooden holiday lodges, and this necessitated the formation of a company to run the complex.

Northwest Luxury Parks Ltd was set up to run the venue in 2004, and in 2009, that company bought out the neighbouring site owned by Gillet's Farm Caravan Park Ltd. They renamed it Clifton Fields, and joined the two sites into one large complex run by a new company, Clifton Leisure Parks Ltd. Their club house is called the Pied Piper. On the 18th of May 2015, they were able to open a second large field to 82 touring caravans, and a new reception building was constructed.

Inskip School: Inskip Free School was founded by Lord Stanley, Earl of Derby, and the Reverend John Cross of Red Scar, and opened for use in 1848. It was renamed the Inskip National School in 1892.
The School moved to the present building (an old RAF Radar Station) on Preston Road in 1953 and was extended twice. It is now called Inskip St Peter's C of E (Aided) Primary School.

Between now and 1850, the savage Potato Blight in Ireland forced over two million Irish immigrants to come to work in England. They were prepared to work for far less than the locals and were of particular use in the many local mills.

1846

Blackpool North Station: Blackpool Railway Station was built on a gentle rise opposite the Talbot Hotel. It only had two lines, but extra excursion platforms were soon built, opening onto the top of Queen Street. While the station was being built, the spoil from the excavations was dumped on the seashore – this would later be the foundation for North Pier.

After a deal with Thomas Clifton, his land was used as a route, and the railway was then extended from Poulton to Talbot Square Station, opening on the 29th of April. This allowed cheap excursion trains from industrial Lancashire and Yorkshire and for the first time brought many thousands of working people to Blackpool. The station was designed by Mr Rampling of Fleetwood and constructed by Towers and Westall of Fleetwood. The opening was celebrated afterwards in the Clifton Arms Hotel, and the 400 railway construction workers were later fed and watered at Mr Carter's Talbot Hotel.

Blackpool Station was renamed Blackpool Talbot Road in 1872. In 1883, the new excursion platforms were opened for use on the 14th of May, complete with a new signalling system installed by the Railway Signalling Company. The signal box, 21 signals and all associated metalwork was built and assembled in 4 weeks. The station was rebuilt in 1898, with a veranda and impressive clock tower. The rebuilt station consisted of two immense parallel train sheds, and a terminal building, in Dickson Street (previously called Warbreck Road and later renamed Dickson Road) between Talbot Road and Queen Street. Platforms 1 to 6 were located in the sheds, with a larger island between platforms 1 and 2 to accommodate taxis. In addition, there was effectively, in all but name, a separate station at the east end of Queen Street, with open excursion platforms 7 to 16, used only in summer.
The massive sidings at Enfield Road were soon filled with rolling stock.

Blackpool North Station was opened for use in January 1973, based on the canopy of the old Excursion Sheds at the top of Queen Street. It was officially opened by the Mayor on the 8th of April.

©

The old station was last used in late January 1974, and in March the main station was demolished, to be replaced by the current station based on the former excursion platforms. The site of the station buildings became a temporary NCP car park until the construction of Fine Fare began on the 27th of September. Blackpool North received the area's first automatic ticket gates on the 21st of January 2008.

In September 2017, work began on reducing the number of platforms from eight to six, allowing trains to enter and exit the station more efficiently to deliver more reliable journeys from May 2018. Work also began at North station's train depot in order to accommodate greener and quieter electric trains. This includes changing the track layout, installing new electrical overhead line equipment, and building a new train washing facility.

Bank Hey House: was built by James Rodgett for Doctor WH Cocker. Facing down Victoria Street for many years, it is now part of the Winter Gardens interior. Much of the building remains, and parts of the external structure can still be seen through the skylight at the lower end of the Floral Hall.

Marton parsonage was rebuilt on Vicarage Lane, opposite what is now Penrose Avenue. Tenders had been submitted in March. A smaller vicarage (now number 56) was built on Vicarage Lane in 1954, along with several bungalows built by Mr Turner, and what we now know as Marton Vicarage stands behind those bungalows on Vicarage Lane (opposite Penrose Avenue).
Leeming's farm was on the corner of Vicarage Lane and Rough Heys Road. It was later demolished to make way for Brewer and Turnbull's furniture depository. This was also knocked down in the 1970s to make way for a Queensway store, which became the Glynn Webb store - now B&M Bargains store.
Phillip Rycroft's Boys School opened at South Shore on the 11th of July.
Still standing today, the barn at Runnell Farm was built.
Mr Carte's rocket apparatus - for signalling to stranded ships – was demonstrated at the Lane Ends Hotel on the 20th of August. After strenuous efforts by Mr Viener, the Board of Trade finally allowed the town to install one in March 1860.

Cuthbert Grundy: was born, moving to Blackpool in 1884, with his brother John (known as Jack). They lived for *"some time in a furnished house in South Shore (Alexandra Road)"*, and then at the newly-built numbers 11 and 10 Moore Street, before moving to brand new 8-bedroomed houses – Cuthbert to Holmfield, at 456 Lytham Road, and Jack to an identical house, next door at number 458.

Cuthbert lived there from 1888 until his death on the 1st of February 1946. He was the first man from Blackpool to be knighted – on the 18th of August 1919 - and was a founder member of the Blackpool branch of the League of Nations Union.

Grundy House Museum: The Home Art Museum opened in 1949, in Cuthbert's old house at 456 Lytham Road. The museum boasted a ship's cannon from the New Inn on South Beach.
By then known as the Grundy House Museum, it closed in 1980, and was taken over by Arnold School as a girls' boarding house. It later became a private house once more.

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The Poulton ropeworks were in Sandy Lane.

Fleetwood Testimonial School: The foundation stone of Fleetwood Testimonial School for Boys and Girls was laid on West Street on the 26th of August, in memory of Sir Peter Hesketh-Fleetwood. The first Sunday school procession was held in Fleetwood, to commemorate the laying of the foundation stone. The stone
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©

was laid by Charles Swainson, and beneath it were placed a parchment copy of the Fleetwood Chronicle, a plan of the new town, and the silver coins of the reign. A feast at the North Euston Hotel followed.
The schools opened for use on the 2nd of June 1847, having been designed by RP Rampling. Sir Peter's own hopes for a statue of himself had been dashed, although a bust of him was placed in a wall niche in the girls' school. After a grand parade, led by the town Beadle, a tea party was held in the school that evening.

The schools were surrounded by an enclosure wall, and elegant railings and gates, with an extensive area of play and garden ground. The building was 71 feet long, built of neatly-faced brickwork, and the mullions, window jambs, door jambs, and mouldings, were of Longridge stone. The Hesketh-Fleetwood armorial bearings were on a plaque above the door. The school contained two classrooms – one for boys and one for girls, and a headmaster's house at the eastern end. This house was soon demolished to make room for an extra classroom, but the school was further enlarged in 1880 and in July and August 1886, then able to take up to 360 children. It stopped being used as day school on the 4th of November 1931.
During World War 2, the school premises became home to the American soldiers stationed in the town. As a local resident, John Quinn, says *"The Yanks took it over during the war. They used to march from the ferry area, living quarters to Lord St School swinging and rattling their tin plates and utensils in time to their marching. They used to have their meals there. We used to watch them ball tossing in the yard. "baseball tossing"*.

In 1963, the Church Army Youth Centre was built on the site of the school, opening in 1964, complete with its Black and White café for the kids, and a fenced-in concrete pitch for 5-a-side football matches. It closed down in the early 1990s.
That building was later demolished, briefly making way for a car sales firm on the old football pitch, before the site was redeveloped in 2000, by Dransfield Properties who opened Carleton Court to provide retail space on the ground floor where Poundstretcher, Farm Foods, and Subway became tenants.

Thomas Cook - the now-famous travel agent – ran a trip to Scotland for the first time in June. A party of about 350 people travelled from Leicester to Fleetwood by train, then onward to Ardrossan by steamer, and lastly, by rail to Glasgow. Special trips were made to Edinburgh, Stirling, and Ayr. He used Fleetwood's new harbour facilities.
The new Fleetwood railway line over Kirkscar was opened on the 10th of August. At the same time, the Preston and Wyre Railway introduced the telegraph to town.

The Wesleyan Methodist Church, Fleetwood: A Wesleyan chapel was opened on the 24th of May, on North Church Street. It seated 600 worshippers and had the town's first officially-appointed Methodist minister. This first site had been open warren, and *"Devoted Methodists beat a track across the shifting dunes with carts and wheelbarrows full of tools".*

Porter's history of 1876 states: *"divine service being first conducted in it on Monday, the 24th of May, by the Rev. George Osborne, of Liverpool. As the town gradually developed in size and population, the attendants at this place of worship outgrew the space provided for them, and lately, in 1875, it became necessary to enlarge the edifice. The west gable-end was taken out and the main building extended in that direction. Galleries were placed along the two sides and across the east wall; the old-fashioned pulpit was superseded by a platform situated at the centre of the west end, and extending to within six feet of the galleries at either side. The new sittings resemble the old ones in being closed pews, and not open benches. The chapel is now capable of containing double the congregation it could have held previous to the recent alterations".*

©

It was clear that the chapel was too small, and it was rebuilt, along with an attached Sunday school from August 1889. Memorial stones were laid by John Anderson, Thomas Smith, Thomas Cumpsty, Mrs Fielding, Mrs Joseph Jackson, and Miss Porter. The brick-laying ceremony followed.

The new church was finally opened in 1900. It had cost £5,000 and could now seat 850 worshippers. The opening ceremony lasted 3 days and *"The committee have engaged the services of Professor Weber who will give, at intervals, exhibitions consisting of conjuring of a most mysterious and startling description, also his uproariously funny ventriloquial entertainment"*.
The original chapel closed shortly afterwards, and at the last service *"North Church Street was blocked with crowds who had assembled for the ceremony of locking the Chapel doors".*
It was knocked down for the building of the Wesley Court flats.

Fleetwood Mechanics Institute: opened in a small room inside Peter Hesketh-Fleetwood's estate offices on the 18th of May. It soon expanded, adding a popular reading room, and hosted the first annual meeting there in April 1847.

Whitworth Institute: Benjamin Whitworth MP, a resident of Fleetwood and the head of a Manchester firm of cotton merchants, opened Fleetwood's Whitworth Institute on the 15th of December 1863, on the site of the Fleetwood Estate Office on Dock Street, which had provided a reading room for a Mechanics' Institution since 1846. Whitworth lived on Queens terrace at the time.

The new building provided a social centre for the education and recreation of working people. It was designed builder Thomas Atkinson in the Venetian Gothic style, and the two-storey building was constructed in red brick with ashlar dressings, with an ashlar parapet. The legend "Public Hall and Reading Room" is still carved above the entrance, along with the year "AD 1863".

In 1887, the Institute was bought by Samuel Fielden and given to the town on the condition that the Improvement Commissioners adopted the Public Libraries Act and provided a free public library for the use of the townspeople. The first-floor hall could hold 350 people and became the town's main meeting hall. On the 10th of September 1888, the Fielden Library and Public Hall were opened there by Mrs Sarah Fielden. The opening ceremony was followed by an athletics gala and football tournament on Ranger's Field (the home of Fleetwood Rangers Football Club). The library's curator was local poet Samuel Laycock and *"Miss Martha Mason was Fleetwood's first Librarian. Combing the Office with that of caretaker, she was paid 15/-a week and lived on the premises"*.

The Fleetwood Maritime Museum opened there in 1976, in the basement, which was previously the hall's billiard room. The building stopped being used as library and hall in 1988, and the museum moved to Queens's terrace in 1991. After this, the building briefly became an advertising agency, before finally settling into its current role as private housing.

To the left of the library for many years was the Fleetwood Doss House – popularly known as *"Thompson's Lido"*. The doss house had *"ropes slung across some rooms, so patrons could cheaply sleep standing up, slung across the rope"*.

The barque "Diogenes" landed Fleetwood's first cargo of cotton in February. The cargo, from New Orleans, had been organised by Messrs Kemp and Laidley as an experiment. The cotton trade died out during the American Civil War, but trade in timber grew.
J Preston opened his plumbers' merchants on Adelaide Street in Fleetwood.

©

Also, at Fleetwood, a public abattoir, or slaughter-house, was constructed on the outskirts of the town, and a notice issued "*prohibiting the slaying of any cattle, sheep, or swine anywhere except within its walls, under a penalty of 5s for every offence*".
Sir Peter Hesketh-Fleetwood's hunting lodge was sold to Stephen Burnidge, the Collector of Customs from Poulton. The building later housed Toole's Solicitors.

Fairlawn, Fairhaven: was built at what is now Fairhaven, by James Eden. It was the first exclusive villa to be built in the sandhills and faced what is now "The Triangle" on Church Road. Its walls and Summer House are Listed Buildings. Like Thomas Miller, Eden was an art collector of some note. His *"favourite artist was Thomas Webster R.A. (1800-1886) who painted romanticised versions of scenes from everyday life, often including children. A regular visitor, who, impressed with the efficiency of Lytham's climate to clear his gout, leased a plot and started to build The Elms, next door to Fairlawn in 1854"*.

Mr Eden later built the neighbouring Fairfield and Edenfield.
The Fair Lawn old people's retirement home was officially opened on the 12th of July 1961.
In 1975 Fairlawn was sold by the then owner to a Masonic Trust, who converted it to a Masonic Retirement Home.
It is now the Fairlawn Apartments.

Lytham Railways: As Fleetwood had not turned out to be as popular as was expected, the Preston and Wyre Railway opened a branch from Kirkham to Lytham. The first train of 14 carriages was pulled on the 16th of February, by the locomotive "The Little Queen". On the opening of the new line, trade to Fleetwood declined further. Another branch ran to Lytham Docks.

Lytham Railway Station, designed by RB Rampling, was opened at Marsh Fields to the east of the lane to Saltcoats - this lane became known as Station Road. On the left-hand side of this first Lytham Railway Station were the spare carriage sheds and engine house, and on the right, the goods warehouse, and other conveniences. The station building itself had a domed roof surmounted by a lantern, and its platforms were covered by a roof, supported by 12 wooden arches. The main doorway opened onto a large octagonal hall, containing the booking office.
Attached, were 3 small cottages, which accommodated the stationmaster, engine driver, and fireman.

At the junction of the two lines stood a small halt, known as Lytham Junction – this closed in 1853.
The General Post Office also authorised the transfer of Lytham Mails from the long-used stage-coaches, to the new Railway.

Thomas Clifton's Blackpool and Lytham Railway was incorporated on the 17th of May 1861. The company was taken over jointly by the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway, and London North-Western Railway in 1871, and the two Lytham lines were connected – opening on the 1st of July 1874.
The old station on Station Road was immediately closed (three of its columns are preserved in the Witchwood carrying notice plaques). The station building was used occasionally for things such as entraining and detraining the Manchester Volunteers for their exercises in Lytham Hall Park.
That station, by then being used solely as a goods depot, closed for good on the 14th of May 1958, and the coal sidings were finally closed on the 1st of April 1963. It was rapidly demolished, to be replaced in July 1966, by the current Fire Station.

©

The second Lytham Railway Station: The new railway opened a single line from the new Lytham Station, on Ballam Road, to a small cabin called "Blackpool", at Hound Hill, on the 6th of April 1863. A new street had been constructed to serve the station, as a continuation of Dicconson Terrace, and this was then joined to Ballam Road, which had just been cut through to Higher Ballam.
The second Lytham Railway Station opened as a full terminus for the Lytham Branch Line on the 6th of April 1864. The original entrance gates for Lytham Hall had been moved further north on Ballam Road in 1862, to make room, and a new gate lodge was built there in January 1863.
Rolling stock for the Lytham to Blackpool line was delivered to the original Station Road station and was then hauled down Westby Street by a team of 17 horses on temporary rails to the new one.
The coat of arms of the new railway company shows a picture of the Lytham Lighthouse, which could be seen whilst the track was being laid but had been blown down by the time the line was opened.

The second Lytham Station ceased to be manned after the cut-backs of the 1960s and the station building became derelict, but in 1986 it was restored and transformed into a public house, Porter's, which then became the Station Tavern.
In April 2016, this became Barrique, a delicatessen, wine shop, and bar.
The station's car park is on the site of the bay platform *"from which the railmotor service to Blackpool Central departed"*.

Bath Street Wesleyan Methodist Chapel, Lytham: The first Wesleyan chapel was built in Lytham by Mr TC Hincksman, on what is now Bath Street. Costing £600 to build, it was constructed on the site of fisherman James Mercer's fisherman's low, thatched cottage, where the first Methodist worship had taken place. The date stone showing 1846 commemorates the foundation stone. The building was completed the following year and opened in the spring of 1847, by the then Chairman of the Liverpool Methodist District, Reverend Dr Robert Newton. The chapel seated 200 and was known in the local community as *"Hincksman's Chapel",* after Thomas Hincksman who had raised the funds to build it. The church hall was opened next door in 1880.

The building (then known as Chapel House) was superseded by a larger chapel in Park Street 1868.

In later years, the Bath Street chapel was used as a Masonic Hall (from 1869), the Lytham Institute Reading Room (from 1872), a Coffee Tavern (from 1882), a Council Technical School (from 1892), and the auction rooms of Edward Wilson and Son (from 1895). In 1943, during World War 2, it became known as a *"Donut Dugout"* - a hospitality centre for American GIs - complete with paintings of Mickey Mouse! 1947 saw it being bought by the Town Council, who immediately sold it to the Lancashire County Council. They opened it as an NHS Health Clinic (child and maternity) and a dentist until 1992, when it was taken over by Coupe Bradbury's solicitors.

East Holme was built at number 19 East Beach in Lytham. It later became a private school – St Paul's (until 1970) and then the Convent of the Holy Cross and Passion, when the sisters moved there from number 31. It is currently a Catholic nursing home run by the Sisters of the Cross and Passion. A large conservatory and a wooden veranda were added in 1900.
The terrace of houses at 14 to 22 Station Road in Lytham was built by Peter McIntyre of Preston. He wanted to call the terrace St Peter's place but was denied. Number 14 does however have a plaque showing that name. The houses were once number 1 to 5 St Peter's Place.

©

Wrea Green and Moss Side Railway Stations: were built - Moss Side first being known as Kirkham Road when it opened on the 16th of February. It originally possessed facilities for goods, parcels, and passengers, and the station house in 1900, was occupied by the Fowler family.
Both stations were closed on the 25th of June 1961, and Wrea Green Station was completely demolished. The track was then cut down to a single line once more.
Moss Side signal box was built in 1876. It was "a Saxby and Farmer type 8 design, fitted with a 13-lever Saxby and Farmer frame, built for the Preston and Wyre Railway. A replacement 16-lever Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway Company Tappet frame was installed in 1922.
The signal box was closed on the 30th of March 1983, and subsequently demolished. The crossing then became automatic. The station house was also knocked down, but the platform was then reopened on the 21st of November 1983, as an unmanned halt.

Weeton's small "chapel of ease" was built, by subscription. Weeton Church was re-opened on the 21st of November 1853, after being doubled in size.
On Marsden Street in Kirkham at the time were the Britannia Inn, which stood opposite Clegg Street and closed before World War 2, and the Royal Oak (at number 42). At number 88 was a beerhouse known as the Joiners Arms, which had been converted to two houses by 1909.

1847
John Bonny built more cottages at South Beach, which continued expanding along both the coastline and inland. Bonny Street was later named in recognition.
Brewer's Hotel was also on South Beach.

Blowing Sands Wesleyan chapel: this was the first to be built on Marton Moss and was constructed at the junction of Stanley Road (now Squires Gate Lane) and Common Edge Road, opening in June. Prayer meetings had previously been held in the house of John Hall on Stockdale Road.
The original chapel was sold, when it was replaced by the Moss Side Wesleyan chapel in 1872 – its stones were used to build two cottages on the site.

EH Booth's: Edwin Henry Booth founded his grocery business, when he bought a barn in Market Street from J Nickson in June and converted it into a tea shop which he named "The China House". He lived in Church Street and introduced the first Italian delicacies to Blackpool. After branching out into "different" product lines, in 1896, he also began to sell wines and spirits. In 1902, the shop, at 22 Market Street, was extended by his son, who added the first in-store cafés, amid the rising "café society" fashion of the day.

EH Booth and Company Ltd was incorporated in 1896, and in 1900, the main shop moved from Market Street to 6 Albert Terrace (opposite the future War Memorial), converting a private house into a shop and upstairs café. Booth's Restaurant opened there on the 30th of July 1908, on the first floor – it was unfortunately burnt out on the 4th of October 1912. In 1925, the company bought the adjacent house (and the Lloyd's Bank branch inside), doubled the size of the Albert Terrace shop, and extended Booth's café across the first floor of both buildings. The Kardomah depot and coffee shop was next door at number 10, having their café at number 132 North Promenade for many years. In 1957, the upper floors of the store and Italian Warehouse on Albert Terrace became the Northwest regional office for Prudential Assurance, and in 1958, Booth's closed the café and let that too to the Prudential. The shop remained and became self-service in 1962, closing in 1972 to be replaced by the Studio 1-2-3-4 cinema.

©

Booth's opened another grocery store at 6 Park Street in Lytham in 1879. It soon moved around the corner to 19 Market Square, into a building which had been constructed in 1848. This store closed in 2008. In 1884, the company began to expand further afield, by opening a store in Blackburn.
Booth's St Anne's store was opened at 39-41 the Square in 1924, complete with a first-floor café. It was closed in September 2010, to be replaced by a Tesco Express store in December.
The company then opened another branch shop at 513 Lytham Road in 1928. The shop became self-service in 1962 and was doubled in size in 1974. This store closed on the 1st of June 2007, to be replaced by San Marco's Italian restaurant in 2008.

EH Booth began to build a store on the corner of Rossall Road and Woodlands Road in Ansdell in 1945, in what had previously been John Jopson's supply store. The shop opened in 1947, and later took over the neighbouring Briggs' Hairdresser's. This store closed on the 21st of August 2015, to be leased to the Co-op, who opened it on the 22nd of October.
In 1963, they opened a store at 108 Normoss Road, opposite the Newton Arms, another new store in Ball Street (to become an Aldi store in 2016), Poulton in 1973, and in 1985, they built their Marton Superstore on Highfield Road, between St Anne's and Midgeland Roads. The Highfield Road store closed on the 21st of August 2015. It was demolished in May 2017, to make way for a new Co-operative store.
The Normoss store was also closed on the 21st of August 2015, being replaced by a Co-op store on the 21st of March 2016.

In 2006, Booth's achieved second place in a list of the World's Greatest Food Retailers.

On the 14th of September 2008, the company opened a new supermarket on Haven Road in Lytham. The store is also home to the Fylde Gallery, which houses a collection of 20th century Art. The Heyhouses supermarket opened on the 9th of September 2015. The 36,000 square-foot store, part of a £55 million development on the former Government Work and Pensions site at Heyhouses Lane, in St Anne's, included a café, a butcher's, and cheese counters, and a state-of-the-art deli counter. In November 2015 Booth's opened a new store in Poulton.
December 2019 saw Booth's crowned Spirits Supermarket of the Year 2019 at the world-renowned International Wine and Spirit Competition.

Blackpool Freemasons: The first lodge started at the Beach Hotel but lasted less than a year. What is now the area's oldest lodge was formed on the 29th of April 1857, and the members met at the Railway Hotel, the Clifton Arms Hotel from 1860, the Royal Hotel (now Woolworths Building) from 1880, the County and Lanes End Hotel from 1888, and briefly at the Palatine Hotel (now Coral Island).
In 1889, the Blackpool Masonic Lodge moved from the Clifton Arms Hotel to a house near to what was soon to be the new Masonic Hall in Adelaide Street, holding their first meeting the 10th of October.

Lord Skelmersdale laid the foundation stone of the new Blackpool Masonic Hall, at 83/85 Adelaide Street on the 10th of May 1898, and the new hall was opened by the same man, by then known as the Earl of Lathom, on the 23rd of September 1899. The Masonic Club had been registered as a company on the 22nd of December 1897.

The adjacent plot of land bought by the company in 1888, was sold to Mr Esclome in 1900. He built a house on it, and in 1919, the Masonic Club bought back the land and the house for future expansion. They sold it on to the Blackpool Trades Club and 1920, and bought it back again in 1931. That house was then incorporated into the main club and the first extension was duly opened on the 22nd of April 1932, with a second extension opening on the 28th of June 1956.

©

The club now has two dining halls, and a large bar with dance floor, as well as meeting rooms. It also contains one of West Lancashire's foremost Masonic Lodge Rooms.
In May 1999, a time capsule was concealed in a void above the commemorative original corner stone.

By 1893, there was a second Masonic Hall on Waterloo Road, now the site of the New Market. That lodge had begun in the South Shore Hydropathic Hotel several years earlier.

The Lodges today are:

Clifton	703
Blackpool	1476
St John's	2825
Brotherhood	3967
Great Marton	3985
Progress	4120
Rectitude Lodge of Blackpool	4122
Blackpool Lodge of Sincerity	4175
Fraternal	4531
Symphony	4924
Ashlar	5154
Blackpool Temperance	5303
Blackpool Lodge of Integrity	5864
Mereside	6360
Blackpool Lodge of Tranquillity	6544
Emblem	6727
Saturnian	7563
Blackpool Lodge of Fellowship	7692
North Shore	7916

1948 saw the first meeting of the South Shore Lodge of the Freemasons being held at the Brighton Hydro Hotel on the 22nd of April – staying there until 1956.

Richard Seed of Poulton bought land on New Road, for a cottage, and a slate and flag yard.
White Gate House stood halfway between Raikes Hall and Great Marton – the lane was later named after it. On the site now stand numbers 187 to 193 Whitegate Drive.
Street lighting on the Moss was powered by swamp gas.
Talbot Road in Blackpool was dedicated.
The Reverend GK Dean of South Shore wrote to the Council, complaining about sanitary matters and cockfighting. Sanitation was still poor and his letter described houses as requiring privies and bedrooms as being open to the shippons.
The Reverend WT Preedy is recorded complaining about the nuisance caused by brick making in the town – another sign of the town's increasing growth.
Blackpool Agricultural Society's first meeting was held at the Manchester Hotel.

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A fortnightly cattle fair was started in Poulton.
The first county court session in Poulton was held in the Golden Ball in April, held in the billiard room.

Queen Victoria's visit to Fleetwood: The queen's first visit to Lancashire began when she arrived at "Fleetwood-on-Wyre" from Scotland on the 20th of September in the Royal Yacht "Victoria and Albert".
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The railway carried 6,000 people to see the visit. The row of houses opposite the spot where she would land was quickly renamed "Queens Terrace", and a cannon salute was fired, using guns specially brought from Tulketh Hall in Preston.
Queen Victoria's private secretary at the time, Arthur Bigge, was responsible for changing the royal family's name from Saxe-Coburg-Gotha to Windsor and was educated at Rossall School.
The Queen disembarked at just after 10am and was taken directly to the train. She returned to London by the Royal Train, leaving from Fleetwood Railway Station.
Queen Victoria was in Fleetwood for just over 15 minutes!

The drain on the town's three lighthouses was so great on the day, that the supply failed. The new gas works could not handle the demand, as all three were lit simultaneously to welcome the queen.

There were short-lived boat services from Fleetwood to Scotland during the summer, but the railway line to Scotland opened this year, spelling the end of Fleetwood's sought-after position as the only link between London and Scotland.
J Preston and Sons opened at Fleetwood.
The Towers was built about now in Fleetwood. It became the Fleetwood Orphanage and Children's' Home in 1945, and in 1956, the Fleetwood Masonic Hall (32, the Esplanade).
On the A595 Amounderness Way, there is the site of a milepost dating to 1847. The milepost is marked "Preston 19". At Appendix DD is a list of other mileposts around the area.

Rawcliffe Hall School, Out Rawcliffe: was opened on Crook Gate Lane, to cater for up to 70 pupils. The land and buildings for the school were donated by Squire Thomas Robert Wilson Ffrance of Rawcliffe Hall.
It closed on the 19th of July 2013, due to falling pupil numbers (4!), then being known as Out Rawcliffe C of E Primary School. It was bought in June 2016, by the Safehands nursery group.

Lytham Council: The Lytham Improvement Act of 1847 allowed a Board of Commissioners to be appointed, to begin the proper development of the town's infrastructure.
In 1894, Lytham Urban District Council was formed to replace the commissioners. They operated from their offices in the Assembly Building next to the baths on Central Beach, and from a small office on Dicconson Terrace.

Lytham Urban District Council was granted a coat of arms and motto in 1905. That motto was *"Pro Salute et Amaenitate"*, meaning "for health and amenity".

In 1922, Lytham UDC amalgamated with St Anne's UDC.

Lytham Gas Works: Lytham formed its own gas supply company and began to build its own works at Westcliffe. It started to supply the town from its single gasometer on the 28th of October 1850.

The new Lytham St Anne's Gas Works next to Eastham Hall were built in 1923-4 on a 10-acre site alongside the railway line and the old works at both Lytham and St Anne's were eventually closed. The works were supplied with coal by their own railway branch line.
By 1946, the plant worked on the water gas process, by which large amounts of hydrogen gas were generated for residential and commercial use in heating and lighting. This gas provided a more efficient heating fuel than the common coal gas, or coke gas, which was used in municipal services.

©

The Corporation works became part of the Fylde Group of the NWGB in 1949, and they rapidly reduced the price of gas to the borough.
The gas works closed in the mid-1960s, and large site at Eastham is now covered by the Eastham Hall caravan site.

Lytham Lighthouse: Since 1806, there were virtually no guidance lights at the entrance to the River Ribble, except for a few buoys at the entrance to the channel, a perch about 10 feet high, and a pole near Lytham windmill, *"upon which occasionally an oil lamp was hoisted"*.

On the 13th of May, Peter Haydock, Chairman of the Ribble Navigation Company laid the foundation stone of the new Lytham Lighthouse. At 72 feet tall (including light), it was built on the Double Stanner Bank offshore, being first lit on the 1st of February 1848, by its keeper, William Walmlsey. It was six storeys high and its lower lantern emitted a red light that could be seen for 8 miles. The white upper light could be seen 15 miles away.
The lighthouse survived a massive storm in January 1853, but the nearby old wooden landmark (known as the Mariners' Mark) was smashed into 8 pieces. The lighthouse was severely damaged by rough seas on the 20th of January 1863, and its foundations were much weakened. Although made of solid stone, it fell down completely in a gale at 12:15 on the 22nd of January. The last remains of this first lighthouse were removed in 1901.

The second Lytham Lighthouse was first lit on the 1st of January 1865, by the Ribble Navigation Company. It was a wooden structure, built 423 yards away from the first, and nearer to St Anne's, in the sand dunes. Its light would illuminate for 3 ½ minutes and then switch off for ½ a minute. *"It was an intermittent light (three-and-a-half minutes light, and half minute dark), lit by gas"*.
The light was finally turned off in December 1890, when it was replaced by the 2 new, gas-lit Nelson Buoys in the channel. The lighthouse itself was dismantled in 1901, to be used as firewood, and locals believe that the stones on which it had stood were used in the building of the promenade. By the time of its closure, it was known as St Anne's Lighthouse.
The last lighthouse keeper was Josiah Cartmell, who lived in a nearby cottage. The other cottage was for Squire Clifton's gamekeeper. They stood at the junction of today's Riley Avenue and Alexandra Drive. Further cottages soon sprang up, known as Lighthouse Cottages.

The lighthouse was a popular "demand" stop for passengers on the new railway from the 1860s, as they could alight for picnics on the dunes beside it.
Lightburne Avenue now stands on the site, and the lighthouse was where number 59 now stands. Tarsus Avenue was renamed in recognition – Saul of Tarsus allegedly being the carrier of God's Light.

The Nelson Buoy was a bell boat buoy. *"Originally the bell was operated by the action of the waves, but in 1931, it was fitted with an apparatus worked by compressed carbon-di-oxide, contained in steel cylinders, which rings the bell at intervals of thirty seconds"*.
The Ribble was lit by the Gut Gas Buoy, the Bar Buoy, and until about 1939, the Ansdell Buoy. The navigable "*channel was shown by Salter's Buoy, the lighthouse, various perches, and lamps on poles up to the Naze"* at Freckleton.

The Railway Hotel, Lytham: Robert Rawcliffe of Blackpool was granted a 99-year lease on this plot of land next to the railway station. He soon opened his new Railway Hotel on Station Road, run by Robert Nickson.

©

Nickson made such profits from the Railway that he was able later to open his own Talbot Hotel in Blackpool.
In May 1868, Samuel Walmsley, of the Cock Inn in Preston, took over as owner, advertising the Railway as having *"Good Stabling, Bowling Green, choice Wines and Spirits, Prime home-brewed Ale andc"*. He duly opened its new bowling green at the rear in 1870.
In 1895, it was taken over by Catterall and Swarbrick, who added a billiard room and four bedrooms, along with a new frontage; this retained the original Doric porch.
The bowling green made way for a builder's yard in 1955.
In 1968, the railway station was demolished, and the hotel was renamed The Hansom Cab in 1969, after being taken over by the Bass Charrington brewery. The Stables restaurant was opened at the rear.
The pub was reopened as The Railway Hotel, a JD Wetherspoon's pub, in April 2012, with an official opening on the 7th of July.

Seafield House School, Lytham: The Misses Tait opened their school for little boys on Dicconson Terrace, taking over the young ladies' school vacated by Miss Wilson.
In 1855, a large house, called Seafield, was built at what is now 23 Seafield Road in Lytham for William Cawkwell. In 1858, it became a small preparatory school run by Miss Tate and Miss Townsend. It was then taken over in 1878, by John Slater who built it up to take up to 50 boys as day students and boarders. It had *"extensive playing fields"* and a *"Private swimming bath"*, and proudly declared *"No Infectious diseases occurred in the school for 20 years"*.

Originally, Seafield stood alone as the only house in the road for many years, and, as well as having an outdoor pool constructed, Dr Slater, the headmaster, attached the field extending to Church Road to the school for use as a home farm. Its playing fields were severed by Seafield Road in about 1931, and officially became the YMCA fields in 1972.
The school closed in December 1937 and the building later became apartments called Seafield Flats.

John Stevenson, a boiler-maker from Pitt Street in Preston, bought a large plot of land on West Beach in Lytham. He commissioned the building of a family home for himself at number 16, and a home for his father in law at number 15. The former house is now spilt into numbers 16 and 16A.
Number 11 East Beach in Lytham was built. It is now called "The Coppice" and has been converted into flats.
Carr Bridge House was adjacent to Carr Bridge on the south side of the Preston to Blackpool road near Peel, spanning Carr Brook, over which the road ran. There is no trace of the house now. Another large house, called Stanhopes, was opposite, and the lane to that dwelling led onwards to Wildings Hill.

Plover Scar Lighthouse: This is one of two lighthouses built off Cockerham to guide ships along the deep-water channel of the River Lune to Glasson. It began to be built in 1845, and was officially lit this year. Although reported as being cracked, in 1856, it did not receive an additional exterior casing of stones until 1900. It was automated in 1951. In March 2016, the lighthouse was struck and severely damaged by a loose empty cargo ship. Glasson had a second lighthouse, also built in 1847. It was made of wood, and was taken down in 1954.

1848
Queen's Terrace was opened by George White, south of the Lane Ends Hotel. White was a silhouettist and photographer and lived in the last house at the north end of the new terrace.

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Albert Terrace was completed and the Promenade now held a full row of buildings from Bailey's Hotel to the Yorkshire House. Beach access from the Terrace, which had its own private drive, was by Peter's Slade. Unfortunately, there were still 3 lime kilns burning on the beach, even whilst the children were rolling down the grassy slope down to the sand.
Horse-drawn omnibuses first ran along the Promenade.

The Railway Hotel, Blackpool: An old inn on the corner of Parker Street (later part of Abingdon Street) and Talbot Street was rebuilt as the Railway Hotel. By 1851, licensee Nicholas Topping was advertising that *"a large room attached to the house was completed and was ready for the accommodation of cheap trips, tea parties, soirees, and as a saleroom"*. The Wesleyan Annual tea party was then held in this assembly room each year (on the 14th of February in 1855).
In 1854, Topping had to retire due to ill health and sold his newly-erected hotel *"situate in Talbot Road, Blackpool, together with the large room communicating and adjoining therewith, and the three-stalled Stable, Piggeries and other outbuildings belonging thereto, and also the two DWELLING-HOUSES behind the said Hotel"*. It was *"three stories high, and the interior has been fitted up by the proprietor for his own occupation, regardless of expense"*.

In 1855, the vaults of the inn on Parker Street (later to become 23 Talbot Street), the Reverend George Bampton celebrated the first Catholic Mass in the town since the Reformation. Bampton was the first Catholic priest to be appointed and be resident in Blackpool. The Railway continued to be used for Catholic Mass on Sundays and as a school during the week, until the Sacred Heart Church was constructed nearby.
Joseph Rawcliffe was licensee until 1945. Richard Bairstow was then licensee until his death in 1876, and the owner by 1889 was Albert Fisher, who sold it to Richard Swarbrick and Company in 1899. That company set up the Railway Hotel Company (Blackpool) Limited in 1899.

During the 1980s, part of the Railway was launched as Bogies wine bar, but in 1996, the whole venue was turned into an Irish-themed bar O'Neill's by new owners Mitchell and Butler.
The hotel at 23 Talbot Street remains the oldest in Blackpool town centre, and its original barrel winch can still be seen at the rear of the building. In 2011, it was renamed again, this time as Molloy's, and is owned by the Stonegate Pub Company.

William Cragg was running a carrier's business from South Beach, as was his rival Nicholas Bamber from South Shore.
John Stansfield was listed as Blackpool's first and only solicitor.
Wade and Company, tea and coffee merchants and grocers, were established at 1 Church Street. Mr J Wade was one of the six men who paid for the improvement of the Central Beach Promenade.

The Golden Fleece Hotel, Blackpool: was built by Robert Braithwaite on Market Street and West Street. Braithwaite also bought Simpson's Hotel, which became Braithwaite's Hotel and soon the Royal.

In 1855, the Golden Fleece was renamed the Fleece Inn. Joined onto the Braithwaite family home, it had an assembly room attached, which was removed in 1870. The Fleece Inn was sold on the 15th of September 1863, but carried on in business, being greatly improved and expanded in 1889, by owner Daniel Thwaites.
In 1938, the Fleece Inn was demolished and rebuilt as the Fleece Hotel, which opened at 23-25 Market Street on the 27th of May 1939. The new pub had three entrances – one on Market Street – to the smoke

©

room, one on West Street – to the saloon bar, and one on the very corner of Market Street and West Street.

After a complete de-design in 2000, by the owners, Thwaites brewery, The Fleece became the NTK (Need to Know) bar in 2002 and was completely restyled and modernised as the EGO Bar in August 2012.
On the 11th of March 2016, the venue re-opened as Brannigan's, which includes a bar on both the ground and first floors.

Our House Inn, Blackpool: was on the corner of Bonny Street and Oddfellow Street. By the 1870s, it was being run as a beerhouse by one William Monks, and in 1898, landlord William Whittaker *"was charged seven instances with having allowed his licensed premises to be used for betting purposes"*.
By 1899, its landlady was Hannah Anderson, the wife of an International footballer, but 1901 saw the owners, the Blackburn Brewery Company Ltd trying to sell the inn. In 1903, licensee William Marsden and the Blackburn Brewery were refused renewal of their beerhouse licence. The pub closed shortly afterwards.
By the 1950s, the pub had become a guest house, and it was later demolished to make way for the new police station.

The "Ocean Monarch" carrying emigrants from Liverpool to America caught fire and sank off Blackpool on the 24th of August with the loss of 300 - many were washed up onto the beach. The ghosts of its passengers are said to have later been seen passing through walls in Blackpool Tower.

The original Mister Blackpool, Sir John Bickerstaffe: A baby boy, to be christened John Bickerstaffe, was born in a small cottage at Caunce Square in Hounds Hill. He would grow up to be known fondly as "Mister Blackpool" – or "The Admiral" – for his penchant for wearing naval headgear.
He was elected a town councillor in 1880, an Alderman in 1887, and in 1889 and 1891, he served as Mayor. In 1905, he became a Justice of the Peace, and was awarded the Freedom of Blackpool in 1912. He was intimately involved in many of the most important developments in the town and was knighted for his efforts in 1926.
Sir John Bickerstaffe died on the 5th of August 1932 and was then taken to be buried in the town cemetery by a grand civic procession through town. The route of the cortege was lined by 100,000 people, who stood in utter silence.
I have included a list of all other "claimants" to the Mister Blackpool crown at Appendix R.

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The first annual show of the Fylde Agricultural Society was held in Poulton in October.
Breck Cross is shown on a contemporary map. There is now a more modern cross on the site. The cross bears the inscription *"Erected 1813, re-erected 1905"*, and lies in an extension of the graveyard of the Roman Catholic Church to the south.
Curwen's Timber Merchants and Importers began on Dock Street, Fleetwood.
When Glasgow was connected to the railway system this year, Fleetwood lost its advantage of being on the shortest route to the city from London. The steamers soon stopped.
The Strawberry Gardens Bowling Club, off Poulton Road in Fleetwood, was established.

The Seven Stars and The Pack Horse Inn, Stalmine: on Hallgate Lane (built in the early 1700s) and the Pack Horse (an old inn with a cockpit and rose gardens), opposite, are shown on a contemporary map.
Stalmine Post Office was originally in the right-hand end of the Seven Stars until it moved across the road to replace the Pack Horse.
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The Pack Horse had a "Club Room" which was used regularly for political and other gatherings.
The old bar of the Pack Horse is now the serving counter of the Post Office.
The left-hand end of the Seven Stars was used as the local mortuary, and the main part of the inn offered billiards. When William Stirzaker was landlord, the beer was by Burton's Ales.
The Grey Lady of the Seven Stars is reputed to haunt the hotel.
In 2016, the hotel opened its own restaurant, named the Black Rock Grill.

Lytham Market: The new Lytham Market was formally opened by M Deacon on the 19th of July, having been opened to the public on the 24th of June. It had cost £1,000 to build and had room for up to 23 stalls. On opening day, the stalls on the west side were the butchers, on the east were fish and game sellers, and toy stalls, while in the centre were fruit, vegetables, and flowers. Smoking was forbidden.
It was built on the site of the former village green, stocks, fish stones, open market, and pinfold - a pound for stray horses and cattle, which was looked after by a pinder. During the 1820s, the green had briefly become a palisaded ornamental garden, which was triangular, not square. The fish stones and iron railings were removed to make way for that.
The market had been designed by Charles Reed of Liverpool and built by Thomas Drummond of Fleetwood.
The town's Board of Commissioners met in room upstairs in the tower, and those same commissioners applied for 5 extra policemen to deal with the threat of trouble from the tourists brought in on the new railway.
In 1850, two annual outdoor cattle fairs were established at Lytham Market, on the second Tuesday in April and second Tuesday in October. Also, in 1850, the trees which now surround the market were planted.

Between 1868 and 1872, the Market's clock tower was added, being donated by Lady Eleanor Clifton. It was being called the Market Hall by 1877, and as trade in the market declined, the 40 stalls inside were made into shops in 1897, after a ceiling and partitions had been added.
The ornamental flower beds were added after 1909, and the outside lavatories were removed in 1941.

There were shops in the market for many decades, including W Bonney's chicken and farm produce store, and Bates's hairdressing salon, but in 1951, the shops were reconstructed with different internal wall arrangements. The long-standing Market Café went forever; it had been the destination of choice for hundreds of tram drivers, who had their tea canteens filled there.
1956 saw the market sold by the Clifton Estates to Richard Blackhurst.
In 1979, at number 11 Market Buildings was County Boutique – owned by J Chambers – "Because you like the nice things".

In 2016, the last of the shops on the eastern frontage, Clarke's of Lytham, a delicatessen and butcher's shop owned by John Sowden since 1976, was replaced by the Barrique wine shop and bar. Barrique means oak wine barrel, and the enterprise is a partnership between Jake Crimmin, Charles Furnell, and Michael Robinson. There is also a branch of Lloyd's bank in the building.

The Lytham Market Hall is a Grade 2 Listed Building.

Lytham's first sewer was laid along Clifton Street.
It was noted that at Great Eccleston *"Goldfinches are snared here in great numbers, by persons sent from great towns".*

©

St Peter's Church, Inskip: was built, being consecrated on the 27th of August. The first vicar was Arthur Sharples. Standing on Preston Road, it was financed by the Earl of Derby and Archdeacon Hornby and is now Grade 2 listed building.
Its Listing states: *"The chancel and steeple were added in 1925. The older part of the church is in limestone with sandstone dressings and a slate roof, and the additions are mainly in sandstone. The church consists of a nave, a south porch, a chancel, and a north transept with a steeple to its west. On the west gable is a bellcote with a cross finial, and below it is a wheel window. The steeple has a three-stage tower and a broach spire with lucarnes. The windows in the older part are mainly lancets, in the sides of the chancel they have two lights, and the east window has stepped lancets"*.

Fulwood Barracks were opened in June, providing the home for the Fylde's army ever since.

The Saddle Inn, Bartle: is marked the Ordinance Survey map this year on Sidgreaves Lane. In the 1950s, it was owned by Wilkins Ales. The pub closed in 2009, but re-opened in 2011, run by Thwaites' Brewery.

The West Coast Mainline railway was opened by the Caledonian Railway and rendered the Fleetwood route obsolete for London to Scottish rail traffic.

1849
The Fylde's railways were leased jointly by the London and North-western and the Lancashire and Yorkshire railways. Blackpool, rather than Fleetwood, became the prime target for excursions. Blackpool's first true railway excursion happened on the 1st of June, when over 10,000 people arrived in trains pulling almost 200 carriages from many east Lancashire mill towns.

The Carlton Hotel, Blackpool: The Royal Edward Hotel was opened on Claremont Park at the top of Fumbler's Hill by Anthony Salthouse. He was thrown into the debtor's prison at Lancaster in March 1853, and in 1856, the hotel was renamed the Park Hotel.
By the time that it was sold on the 29th of August 1855, it had been renamed the Claremont Hotel and had its own bowling green.
The original building was demolished in 1897, and in 1898, the Carlton Hotel began to be built at what is today numbered 282 North Promenade. It opened for business in 1900.

WC Richardson's chemists' shop was at 7 Central Beach.

Victoria Congregational chapel, Blackpool: The new Independent chapel was opened in Victoria Street (at the upper end of Green Walk), replacing the one in Chapel Street. The foundation stone was laid at the upper end of Green Walk on Victoria Street on the 22nd of March, and the chapel was opened on the 13th of September. It was named Victoria Street Chapel, and could seat 700 people, being 77 feet long and 40 feet wide.

From 1870, the children had been taught in a Sunday school set up in temporary rooms to the west of the chapel. The foundations for a proper Sunday school were laid nearby on the 9th of August 1912.

The last service in the original church was held on the 26th of March 1964, and in 1968, it moved to the Methodist Mission on Newton Drive, and the old building on Victoria Street was demolished – now covered by the Hounds Hill Shopping Centre. The move came after four years of worshipping in the Victoria Street Sunday school because the church was unsafe - the last services in the Sunday school being

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held on the 27th of October. The re-opening and rededication service for the newly-sited church took place on the 30th of October 1968.
In October 1972, the church gave the deeds of the Manse, at 2 Breck Road (bought in 1930), to Mr and Mrs Davies as a token of the church's appreciation for their devotion and service. In 1977, the church bought a new manse, at 46 Forest Gate.

In June 1981, Granada Television broadcast Victoria's morning service, including a baptism, live on ITV.

On the 8th of January 1989, the last services were held in the old premises. Whilst the new premises were being built, the congregation was allowed to worship in St Kentigern's School Hall, opposite. On the 21st of July 1991, the new church was rededicated by the Reverend Leslie Morrison. It is now called the Victoria Congregational Church.

Blackpool's "elders" were beginning to be scandalised by the increasing numbers of what they called "*shoeblacks and barbers' apprentices*" flocking into the resort. They pressed for controls and eventually had the railways' Sunday excursions to Blackpool banned in 1856.
Blackpool's first postal date stamp was issued on the 25th of January.

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Fleetwood was reclassified as a "Distinct Port". The event was celebrated by a public dinner on the 10th of January 1850 at the North Euston Hotel. Trade, however, began to decline from now on, as Lytham and Preston grew in importance.

The Brockholes Arms Skippool: This public house was in business just to the east of the River Wyre Hotel, with its landlord Daniel Fare. At this pub on the 26th of June there was a land auction in which the local coal yard and a "*commodious warehouse*" were sold.
In January 1868, the license at the Brockholes Arms was transferred from the late Robert Roe to his son John Roe. On the 7th of June 1894, it was sold at auction at Preston Auction Market.

St John's Church, Lytham: St John the Divine's Parish Church and burial ground were opened on the 12th of April, by the Bishop of Manchester, overlooking Lytham Green. Designed and built by EH Shellard, it was consecrated on the 11th of September 1850, and was enlarged in 1857. The first stone had been laid by Mr Clifton on the 24th of June 1847.
St John's was originally a mission church to St Cuthbert's Church in Lytham but became a parish in its own right in 1870.
The church building can hold 500 worshippers, and consists of a narrow nave with a clerestory, wide north and south aisles, north and south transepts, and a chancel with a south chapel and a north vestry.
Attached to the south aisle is a four-stage tower with corner pilasters.
Extensions to the transepts and the chancel, also by Shellard, were made in 1856 and 1857.
The 140-foot tower holds a ring of six bells, all cast in 1875 by Mears and Stainbank of the Whitechapel Bell Foundry. Those decayed bells were restored and re-dedicated on the 10th of January 1993.
In 1897, a lych gate was erected in memory of Reverend TG Smart, and in about 1920 a southeast chapel was remodelled as a War Memorial Chapel by Frank Mee.
The adjacent vicarage was demolished in October 1967.

W and H Williams, Lytham: Walter and Henry Williams, sons of the Rolling Stock Superintendent of the London Underground, had trained at Daimler and Darracq. This year, Squire Clifton placed an order for a
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car and a mechanic from a garage in Paisley, and Walter Williams was appointed to maintain his motors at Clifton's hunting lodge near Ullapool.
"By January 1904 Walter Williams had sent for his brother Henry saying 'U's great fun! Join me and we'll start a garage".
Their first employee at their garage on the Market Square was one W Huil. The company took stand number 87 at the London Olympia Motor Show in November 1910, advertising in the Lytham Times that *"The Car For 1911 is the VULCAN 15.9' which they could supply for 1920"*.
In 1903, Lytham tram depot was closed, and W and H Williams took it over in 1904, as a car saleroom specialising in "Vulcan" motors cars. The Williams' Garage began to sell Wolsey cars in 1910 and was later a British Leyland dealership. They lost that franchise in about 1980, then starting to sell Fiat, Citroen cars. By 1930, the garage was at Kings Road in Ansdell (now called Kingsway).
In 1992, the Portofino restaurant opened in the garage's body shop. The building was originally a coach house, which had been referred to in its previous incarnation as the Coach House Diner and Restaurant, owned by Roy Wilkinson. The restaurant, owned by Orlando Peracca, closed on the 1st of January 2019, along with its attached cocktail bar Mojito's.

The Lytham Volunteer Company was formed after a meeting in Edmondson's shop over Walter Williams' Garage in the Market Square on the 13th of December. Edmondson's later took over the whole building, but it was knocked down at the end of the century to become a branch of the London City and Midland Bank Ltd at 6 Clifton Square. That bank later changed name to the Midland Bank and then to HSBC. It closed on the 10th of February 2017, and its business was transferred to the Oxford Square branch in Blackpool.
Mr James Baron's Catholic Academy was established on Beach Street in Lytham. In the 1850s, he moved it to the corner of Clifton Street and Station Road, calling it the "Young Gentleman's Catholic Boarding School". It closed in 1882 after his death and was converted into shops.
The Dowbridge at Kirkham was made permanent. It was completely rebuilt in 1911 by the County Council.

The Railway Inn, Wesham: was opened next to the original railway station, run by innkeeper joseph Appleyard. Monthly "*Fat and other cattle*" sales were held there.
By the 1870s, it was called the Railway Station Hotel, and was known locally as the Railway Hotel, but by 1881, it had been renamed the Railway and Commercial Hotel.
Today, boasting a stone and blue brick frontage, it stands at 115 Station Road, further west of the current station, as the quadrupling of the line moved the whole railway to the north of it, leaving it isolated. It is known by locals as simply "The Railway" and closed in 2011, when again called the Railway Inn.

1850s

Sea Beach Hotel / Wylie's South Pier Hotel, Blackpool: Around now, John Bonny's bathhouse, standing alone on the corner of Chapel Street and the Promenade, was replaced by Jonathan Wylie's Sea Beach Hotel. Mr Wylie had first added an extension to Bonny's, before soon building his new hotel. He renamed the place Wylie's South Pier Hotel when the South Jetty opened in 1868, and by 1885, he had been bought out by John Bickerstaffe and reduced to simply running the hotel.
Wylie's was auctioned in June 1903, and demolished in 1904, with its drinks licence being transferred to the King Edward VII Hotel at the opposite end of Chapel Street.

The Mount Pleasant Inn, Blackpool: was also constructed in this decade, on the corner of Cocker Street and High Street. By the 1870s, the tiny pub was owned by the Mathew Brown brewery. Finally, in about 1992, it was extended after the brewery bought number 105 High Street next door.

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The Mount Pleasant closed in 2014, but on the 13th of June 2015, the premises re-opened as The King's Bar, advertising itself as "the UK's First Drag King Bar".

The Lifeboat Inn, Blackpool: is suspected to have been in business on Foxhall Road. That claim cannot be proven, but in the 1870s, Thomas jolly owned it, and in 1893, it was owned by his descendant Deborah Jolly, who also owned the Mount Pleasant. Blackpool's lifeboatmen used to meet there from about 1864, so this may well be where its name originated.
It wrongly claims to have been Wylie's at the start of the 20th century. Also, despite the claims of several owners, it is NOT Blackpool's oldest pub. That honour goes to the Saddle.

1850

Uncle Tom's Cabin, Blackpool: The Cabin's original hut was first built to the landward side of the cliff path. Margaret Parkinson began selling sweetmeats, nuts, and ginger beer from there, and it soon became popular locally as *"Little London".* Her husband Thomas Parkinson owned the three cottages that were amongst the encamped gypsies, north of the Gynn House, and he soon developed those huts into a refreshment house, selling ginger beer and sweetmeats to the visitors. He was known fondly as Old Tom by his friends, but this morphed into Uncle Tom when the book "Uncle Tom's Cabin" was published in America in 1852. Thomas duly gave his new venture the same name, to capitalise on the title of book.

In 1858, Robert Taylor moved from Lark Hill Street and asked William Parker, from 14 Clifton Street (Briercliff Cottage) to join him in running Uncle Tom's Cabin. The Parkinsons moved from the cabin to Gezzerts Farm after being bought out by Taylor for £5. These two gentlemen soon hired a violinist, a pianist, and a cornet player, and began to offer dancing on the grass. By 1860, they had constructed a wooden dance floor in front of the venue and had built a refreshment room – they had a beer and wine license by then. In 1861, the cabin became a fully-licenced public house, after they had built a complete red-crick pub on the site. The new pub had 6 bedrooms for hire, and 2 public rooms downstairs. There was also a wooden Tea and Coffee Room attached.
The Cabin's many side-show attractions then began to appear.

By now, Uncle Tom's was Blackpool's very first centre of amusements, and it inspired bigger and better centres in the centre of Blackpool.
In 1866, the Cabin was extended by Robert Hardman and William Parker by the addition of a concert hall and dance pavilion to the east of the pub. This assembly hall was built by J Morgan Smith and Son of Warbreck Road.
The venue became host to a daguerreotype photographer, James Wright, who worked from his own large wooden hut, offering *"American Portraits – Taken and Finished While you Wait"*.

Messrs Taylor and Parker were soon advertising refreshments from *"Bass Burton and other ales, London and Dublin Porter, Foreign and British Wines"*, *"A telescope is kept in the Observatory"*, and *"Excellent grounds for Cricket, Quoits, and Gymnastic Exercises"*.

In 1871, James Daniels, a carpenter from Bank Street, carved a figure of Uncle Tom from the story, and it was mounted on the roof of the assembly room. That was soon followed by smaller figures of Little Eva and Topsy.

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Note: There is an incorrect story that after the "Arethusa" was wrecked on the 21st of August 1882, a Negroid ship's figurehead was washed ashore and mounted on the roof of the Cabin by the owners, who rapidly added two more, calling them Uncle Tom, Topsy, and Little Eva – all characters in the book.

In the contemporary booklet "Seets I' Blackpool" by John Hartley, the author states *"until we stood ith' front o' th' singin' raam, ovver th' top o' th' door o' which stood Uncle Tom an' his wife an' family, —an' they say at they're considered to be varry gooid likenesses, to say at th' chap at did em nivver saw th' originals—but th' artist whoivver he wor managed to catch th' color o' Uncle Tom's complexion to nowt"*.

June 1878 saw the dancing room replaced by a new music hall and Dancing saloon, which double the capacity for dancing patrons.

There were also gymnastics and cricket fields, together with swings, shooting galleries, mechanical models, and photo booths.

In 1880 and 1881, the main act for the 18-week "season" was Mr and Mrs Leonard White – The great variety Artistes "Black and White". They advertised themselves as *"Instrumentalists, Vocalists, Negro Burlesque Artistes, Dancers andc"*. Not politically correct today, but clearly very popular then.

In 1882, William Parker left Uncle Tom's to become manager of the Duke of Cambridge (built in the 1860s), the predecessor of the Gynn Hotel.

A camera obscura was erected on the cliffs at the Cabin in 1883, by WH Tasker.

A Switchback Railway was built at the Cabin in May 1898, in a field off the road to Cabin Farm (which was demolished in c1908). The fare was tuppence per person, and its proprietors were Messrs Stock and Dewhurst of Bury and Ramsbottom. The twin track railway connected the gypsy camp with the cabin lawn and could take 50 specially-built bicycles at a time.

During its lifetime, there was no road to the north of the Gynn, and all patrons of the cabin had to either pay for a carriage trip, or simply walk.

After 1890, the cliff edge retreated 40 yards inland, and the smoking room slipped down the cliffs in June 1901. Uncle Tom's end was sealed by a serious landslip in 1902, and the ship's figurehead was taken down from the roof in 1903. The attraction was offered for sale by auction in 1905, but bids were too low.

Many of the amusements stayed after the sale, including the fortune tellers. A group of Pierrots called the Empire Serenaders performed for several years, just north of the cabin site – opposite the present St Stephen's Avenue. The path across the tram tracks was long known as the *"Serenader's Crossing"*. Comedian Randolph Sutton started his career at the Cabin.

On the 4th of October 1907, the original cabin was closed, as a large portion had collapsed into the sea in the previous year. The roof figurines were sold, and its licence and trade were moved to Mrs Sumner's new Uncle Tom's Cabin Hotel on the landward side of the Promenade at 44 to 46 Queen's Promenade. The Cabin was demolished by the 14th of January 1908; its fairground lasted for two more years. The site of the original Uncle Tom's Cabin now houses the cabin lift.

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The new pub was built with a cellar and three floors. It has 16 bedrooms – including two Tower Rooms – in the towers at each end of the building. Although it took paying guests, it was never a true hotel. At some time, five wooden "cigar store Indian" figures were placed on display.

By 1920, the proprietress of the new Uncle Tom's Cabin Hotel, M Burnett, was advertising her re-built hotel as *"one of the Most Modern and up-to-date Hotels in the District"*, with its daily shows by The Cabin Entertainers. The new hotel also had 16 bedrooms.

"Time gentlemen please" was announced rather differently at Uncle Tom's in 1936. The Horatio Nicholls song "Waves of the ocean are whispering Good-Night" was played instead, by the resident band.

Uncle Tom's Hotel closed in July 2008, leaving just the public bars. In June 2017, the vacant building was purchased by Paul Kelly's "Ma Kelly's" entertainment chain, who will rename it "Ma Kelly's Showboat and Uncle Toms Sports Bar". The front of the pub is now a luxury cabaret lounge with a full floor show on Fridays and Saturdays. On Thursday and Sunday there is live entertainment and a sports bar at the rear with a video wall, big screens, pool, snooker and all the latest sport. The open frontage is a beer garden. It re-opened on the 11th of August 2017.

Gas was first introduced into Blackpool.
The brig "Portia" was washed ashore at the Gynn.
An ornamental flagstaff was at the bottom of Victoria Street, enclosed by a circle of railings.
James Pearson opened his china shop at Staffordshire House on Bank Hey Street.
Taylor and Company, drapers, hatters, hosiers, and shirt makers had a shop in Lane Ends Street.
Thomas Hall, coal, lime, and slate merchant set up a yard at number 2 Railway Coal Depot.
Freemasonry started to develop and the Fylde family of lodges was developed. There were six Masonic centres, which are at the Imperial Hotel, in Adelaide Street, the Esplanade in Fleetwood, West Drive in Cleveleys, the Square at Poulton and Garden Street, St Anne's.
William Cooke's Circus appeared in town on the 4th of September, before going on to Poulton on the 2nd of October.
George Routledge's "Pictorial History of the County of Lancaster" described "*Great and Little Marton, where a subterraneous forest exists, by digging out the oaks from which many poor people make a living. Some of the trees are firm enough to make agricultural instruments, barn roofs, fences, and ornamental furniture*".

Higher Fall Farm, Marton: This large farm, later called Levens House, was built on Clifton Road. It had a thatched roof and a stable, barn and cowsheds.
In about 1880, a building of brick with a slate roof was added. The building was fully slate-roofed in 1890. The outbuildings were demolished in the 1950s. It was home to James Whiteside for many years, and then passed to James Cowperthwaite, who was a dairy farmer and famous local horse-breaker.
It was renamed Levens House in 1975, and in October 2006, RNS publications moved in.

The house has its own ghosts:

- a tradesman's assistant working upstairs suddenly shrieked, ran outside giving no reason for his behaviour but vowing he would never set foot in the house again;
- on another occasion, a pair of old spectacles appeared in a drawer which had been cleared the day before; and

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- after a pet cat had died, the owner entered her bedroom one day to find an indentation in the middle of her bed in the shape of a curled-up cat.

Over two hundred thousand workers and families left Manchester for Blackpool in Whit week.

A drainage survey map of the year, made by B Babbage, shows the layout of Marton as follows:

- Great Marton Moss Side was a cluster of houses around where the Welcome Inn now stands;
- Hayes (now Hawes) Side ran from Cow Gap Bridge (Spen Corner) to Leach's Bridge (on Daggers Hall Lane – named after local landowner James Dagger, who lived at nearby Daggers Hall);
- Spen Dyke ran from Walker's Hill to the sea at Rigby Road.

Blackpool is, strangely, shown at the west end of Mythop Road, near the Clifton Arms Inn. The survey showed some other interesting facts, for example, Blackpool had 421 houses, but 181 pigsties; there were 35 open sewers, emptying onto the beach; and 173 water pumps.

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Derby Hill Farm started in Weeton, farmed by the Bradley family, who still run it. The farm is now solely dairy, selling its own milk (plain and flavoured) and butter. In March 2020, the farm was named Family Business of the Year for the North West area in the Federation of Small Businesses awards.
Two children were baptised in the spring well at Normoss Farm in Hardhorn on the 4th of October. By 1865, the farmer at Normoss Farm was Cuddy Fare.

Cleveleys Hydro: Eryngo Lodge was built on the promenade south of Cleveleys, by John Swainson, a merchant from Aigburth. The house was named after the Sea Holly (Latin name *ibex eringo*), which grew in the sand dunes nearby.
Doctor John Cocker then bought Eryngo for his son in 1868, and it was auctioned again in 1879, being finally bought by a Mr Sykes in 1886. It began advertising itself as a hotel in 1899.

Eryngo Lodge opened as the Cleveleys Hydro in 1900, after Sykes had added a deer park in the grounds. The tramline was obliged to turn inland from there, unable to cross the lodge's land, or that of the nearby Anchorsholme Hall. The new Hydro had heated bedrooms, an electric lift, various pools, a large billiard room with 5 tables, a games room, a ballroom and hotel orchestra, its own Palm Court, an 18-hole putting green, 9 tennis courts, and its own 9-hole golf course. There was also a hotel garage with a mechanic and parking for 100 cars.

Cleveleys Hydro Golf Club opened in 1900. It was a 9-hole course up to World War 1, when the longest hole was 385 yards. The club played a competition for an antique copper cigarette box made from Nelson's Flagship Foudroyant. It was inscribed *"Second Golf Sweepstake, Cleveleys Hydro*".

In 1918 Anchorsholme Hall and farm were sold to the Hydro Company who duly extended their own golf course to fill the land released by the purchase. The Hydro golf course had 18 holes by the early 1920s, being located between the shore, Anchorsholme Lane West, Victoria Road, and the main Fleetwood Road. There was a clubhouse and the course lasted until 195, when it was demolished for housing.

Cleveleys Hydro was closed in 1939 (apart from the Moorish Lounge on the ground floor) but was used as a military convalescent home during the war. It was finally demolished with explosives in 1958, and the site developed for housing. It was replaced by the housing on Alconbury Place, Chatteris Place, and Buckden Close, and part of Anchorsholme Park.
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Thomas Riley opened his North Lancashire Steam Sawmills and Creosote Works on North Albert Street at Fleetwood.
The Rossall Archery Club was in full flow, using their own range at the Archer's Field at Larkham.
Skippool Mill, a water corn mill, was put up for let on the 1st of February. The locals were unhappy that in order to use the mill, a dam was closed, which flooded several hundred acres of farm land.
Richard Gardner of Kirkland Mill was advertising grain for sale from his Skippool Corn Store on the 14th of March.
Thomas Clifton ran an *"extensive Tile Manufactory"* at Lytham.
Lytham acquired gas streetlights for the first time on the 28th of October.
Hastings Place was completed in Lytham Market Square. It had been named after Lady Edith Maude Rawdon Hastings, Countess of Loudoun, to whose daughters two of the Clifton family's sons had been recently married.

Lytham Customs House: This unusual, square building was completed in December, being taken over by HM Customs and Excise on the 6th of January 1851, when they closed their original Lytham office in Bath Street. The first occupant was Thomas Cookson, Principal Customs Officer. He supervised four Revenue Constables, who put out in small boats to collect harbour dues. Any contraband was stored in the cellar, which was also used as a mortuary for corpses found on the shore.

It closed on the 28th of April 1879, and HM Customs moved to the new Preston Custom House from August. Duties due were then payable to the Clifton family as the boundary of their lands extended out into the River Ribble. The Clifton water bailiffs would row out to all boats anchored off the shore and collect the dues. The building was slightly re-titled, with the "s" being dropped from the end of the name; a Custom House is run by HM Customs and Excise, a customs house is a private venture.

The building was occupied by artist Hugh Berry Scott from 1910 until May 1939. One of his paintings, "The Herdsman and Dredging on the Ribble", was donated to the local art collection in 1942, by Alderman JH Dawson.
The building was then unoccupied until being taken over by Lytham Sea Cadets on their formation in 1945. As Unit 227 of the Corps, they were registered as a Charity on the 10th of September 1963, with their HQ, TS Queensborough, in the old Custom House. They moved to Hoyle Avenue in Ansdell and finally to Haven Road, Lytham. The section was named after HMS Queensborough, a Q Class Destroyer sponsored by the town in 1942.

The Customs House began to be demolished on the 4th of March 1960, to be replaced by the Land Registry offices.

Siegfried Wartenburg (later to be a lieutenant in the Lytham Rifle Volunteers) opened his Parisian Bazaar on the corner of Queen Street and the Market Square in Lytham. It closed in 1882, and since 1950 it has been the home of Mountain and Cowell, furnishers. Next door from the 1860s was a skating rink at which the annual Lytham Flower Show had been held.
A pharmacy opened what is now 11 Market Square in Lytham. In 1924, the Pharmacy was bought by Thomas McNeal Tomlinson, and is now owned by pharmacists Ian and Anne Fleming who acquired the business in 2000. They also sell perfumes and beauty products.

Kirkham Club Day: began, before 1850, as the annual festival of the Friendly Societies or Sick Clubs. Most of the clubs, such as the Mechanics, the Oddfellows, the Free Gardeners, and the Shepherds, were

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attached to the Church of England. On Club Day (the first Tuesday in July) they attended a service in St Michael's Church at 10 am, after which they walked in procession around the town.

The New Inn, Kirkham: was on Poulton Street, with landlord Mr Eccleston. In 1860, it was bought by Peter Hornby, but in 1868 its landlord was still Mr Eccleston, who was providing free food for the participants of Club Day.
In 1971, the Penny Farthing disco opened in the empty building. It lasted until 1973 and had previously been called the Dolphin. The inn's site later became an Ethel Austin store, and is now still a clothes shop.

Summerer House was to the south of Singleton Windmill, later becoming Summerer Farm.

Crane Hall, Out Rawcliffe: This was a fairly small country house, which was farmed now by Charles and Ann Wilson, who held regular ploughing demonstrations. The Wilsons bought the farm, tenanted by T Bracken, in 1928 when it was auctioned off by the owners of Rawcliffe Hall.
Another Rawcliffe-owned "hall" at the time was nearby Moor Hall, run by the Bradley family. Stone Check Hall was yet another, farmed by George Bell.

1851

Public Health in Blackpool: The Local Board of Health for Layton-cum-Warbreck was formed on the 23rd of October. This effectively sealed the end of manorial Layton. The board had 9 locally-elected members, whose aim was to draw together the completely disorganised and fragmented way the fledgling resort was run. Poor drainage, bad streets, no street lighting, and worn sea defences were beginning to put off potential visitors. The first offices of the new Local Board opened in the new Town Hall.

Layton with Warbrick Board of Health was renamed Blackpool Board of Health on the 1st of July 1868.
By 1891, Blackpool Department of Public Health was housed at 49 Abingdon Street, the home of Alfred Anderson, who had been appointed to the post of Medical Officer in 1891. In March 1916, a clinic for infants and expectant mothers was opened at the Health Offices.

New Municipal Offices were opened for use on Sefton Street on the 6th of May 1911, by Sir James Crichton Browne, President of the Sanitary Inspectors' Association. The Annual Meeting of that association was then held in the same room, followed by a prestigious luncheon in the Tower Café.
The Public Health sections moved in on the 13th of May.
The contractors involved in the construction were Bickerstaffe's Ltd, Twyfords – for the porcelain, and G Morrison – the electrics. Inside the building were many offices, as well as testing rooms and disinfecting rooms. There was also a brand new – and revolutionary - Public Health laboratory with *"supplied with the necessary apparatus - and costly, intricate apparatus it is too – for modern pathological, bacteriological, and chemical research"*. The Blackpool Medical Officer, Dr Rees Jones, and the Sanitary Inspector, Mr Sanderson, at last had dedicated premises from which they could lead the town's drive to further reduce deaths from illness and disease. The building had cost £6,000 to construct.
The building was demolished in 1975 to make way for the Hounds Hill Centre.

Blackpool needed to begin to take full advantage of the arrival of the railway.

Blackpool Town Hall: The first Blackpool Town Hall was built in Lytham Street and Market Street, next to St John's Market. It was first used as the offices of the new Local Board of Health, until they moved to the

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ground floor of Mr Lewis's Temple of Arts building in November 1857 - the Temple of Arts had been built before 1828. Behind both buildings ran "The Shambles".
The first Town Hall was pulled down in 1895, and work began on the new one in Talbot Square. Many small shops were demolished beforehand, including JS Todd's silk merchants and J Wright's confectioners.

The second Town Hall was completed and opened in Talbot Square in 1900. Built by Potts, Son, and Hennings of Manchester, it is a three-storey building of pink stone, with a clock tower and belfry. Inside there is a council chamber for the use of the Corporation, Mayor's parlour, and reception rooms, four committee rooms, a suite of rooms for the town clerk's department, offices for the various borough officials, apartments for a caretaker, and a municipal kitchen. It originally had a spire on the roof of the main tower. The building retains the original Market street frontage, dating from 1896.

After a destructive fire in October 1936, the buildings were re-constructed and completed in October 1938. The Town Hall Extension, was designed by JC Robinson, and has a covered bridge linking it to the main Town Hall at first floor level. The basement and ground floor were initially occupied by Boots the chemists. The building is now called Progress House.

The Golden Hind statue and the iron weathervane were removed from the Town Hall for the sake of safety on the 3rd of February 1965. It had been made in 1900 by Manchester metal worker Sam Cooke (father of Alistair).
The spire itself was taken down in late July 1966.

John Butler's butchers shop opened at 37 Market Street. It was later taken over by Thomas Masheter.
Joseph Gill's ironmongers were in Bonny Street.
The Vegetable Gas Company began to supply some of the shops with gas from its Oddfellow Street and Dale Street works. It is believed to be Blackpool's first company and went out of business in 1857 in the face of competition from the Council's own coal gas works. *"Until the early 1900s, the street was named as three separate sections: South Bank Street, Wellington Street, and Warbreck Street, when it was lined with retail businesses".*

The Wellington Hotel, Blackpool: was built and opened by Robert Bickerstaffe, a local boatman. He had bought the old pinfold from Squire Clifton for the purpose of building a landing jetty for his boating business, but soon realised that a hotel would be better.
The Wellington faced the South Jetty (when it was built) on one side, the Promenade on another, and Foxhall Road at the rear. In its heyday, in 1875, the Wellington was the centre of business for the sailing boat trips from the shore and had to be enlarged that year. In the 1850s, *"A Steamer from Fleetwood or Lytham touches at Blackpool to take parties at reasonable rates".* These steamers would sail to Bangor, the Menai Straits, and Southport.
South Jetty was duly built in 1868, and by 1890, the hotel had been retitled the Wellington and Pier Hotel. Bickerstaffe proceeded to have several houses constructed around the hotel, and a community soon grew.

By then number 39 The Promenade, the Wellington and Pier was rebuilt, in November 1953, in a stark, blocky style, with a striking front wall, which protruded skywards above the facade.
It then became the Tavern in the Town, which incorporated Anderson's Bar, and Sequins Discotheque on the first floor. Sequins opened on the 13th of August 1986, and had a discotheque and 3 bars, attracting top acts like Jimmy James and the Vagabonds, and George McCrae. When Sequins moved to the old Oz Bar on Central Pier in 1990, the bar then became part of a McDonald's Restaurant. It is now a selection of small shops and kiosks.

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The road junction directly in front of the hotel was known as Wellington Square.

Dean Villa, Blackpool: was built at 50 Dean Street by George Sharples. It was briefly used as a vicarage for the Holy Trinity Church and is now probably the oldest remaining house in South Shore. It has had reports of ghostly visitations include "Shirley" in the dining room and various spectres in the bedrooms. The villa later became the Old Coach House Hotel, which still stands at number 50, having 11 "boutique" rooms for rent.

The Brewers Arms, Blackpool: was at North Shore, by 1851, it was being run by Mr J Lawrenson. It was in Regent Square on Cocker Street, near to Burnley House and North Shore Post Office and had been built on a piece of land originally known as the Croft. By 1881, it was fondly known as Ye Olde Brewers Arms. The pub was purchased by C&S brewery in around 1893, and they demolished it in late 1898. The site is now a car park.

A contemporary drainage report states that *"Fumblers-hill. Here I met with one of the few poor cottages which exist at Blackpool. None of the windows of this cottage were made to open. There was also at this place a very foul donkey-yard, near which the drainage from three privies and a pigsty opens into a small stagnant pond. The cellar of a house in this locality is rendered unpleasant by the soakage from a neighbour's cesspit. In a small yard, 16 feet by 15 feet, at the back of another house, there are two necessaries with an open cesspit, the smell from which was very offensive. Two bedroom windows opened into this yard"*.

The Blackpool Races took place on the Layton Hall Estate on the 2nd of October, with the $1^{1/2}$-mile Blackpool Cup being the main event.

Hawes Cottage was built about now on Hawes Side lane.

Blackpool's population was 2,000 but was already doubling when adding the visitors.

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Elizabeth Rogers was running a small school on the eastern side of Poulton Market Square. She had just 8 pupils.

Fleetwood's population had grown to over 3,000 and regular fish sales were being held. Fish storage sheds had been erected on the quayside on April the 7th 1836. By 2011, the town's population had grown to 25,939.

A rail link from Burn Naze to the west was opened on the 13th of February, but closed soon after, due to weak embankments.

The railway line at Fleetwood was re-laid further inland and the original trestle and embankment was closed. The Dock Street station was rebuilt and received new waiting rooms and booking offices.

The Primitive Methodists in Fleetwood: The local society was first formed this year, and held regular, but informal, camp meetings on the Mount for some time. Those early converts were under the guidance of Reverend William Rowe of Preston, and worship was even held temporarily in a barn.

The need for a permanent building meant that, in 1855, a small wooden Wesleyan chapel was built in West Street. The cost was £436, and later a school was added at a cost of £145. In a few years both chapel and school had become too small, and they were considerably enlarged in 1875 at a cost of £1,600. They called that wooden building St George's Chapel, but it was known locally as the *"Fishermen's Church"*.
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©

The Primitive Methodist Church was founded officially in 1907. The new Mount Methodist Church that can be seen today was officially opened on the corner of Mount Road and Seabank Road in 1908 as a Sunday school. The interior is beautifully decorated with hand-carved woodwork and a gallery.

When Wesleyan chapel on West Street was sold for £2,000 in 1912, to be converted into the Empress Cinema, the congregation decided to use that new Sunday school as a church as well. The sale of the old chapel almost wiped out the large debt that had been incurred in building their Sunday school. The Empress was partly demolished in 1934, and then re-built as the Regent Cinema, complete with a new white-tiled facade.

The church at the Mount was expanded by the opening of the memorial hall in 1931, and the inscription on the hall's Foundation Stone reads *"This stone was laid by Rev. James Burton in memory of our friends who made the supreme sacrifice during the war 1914 – 1918"*.

Following the amalgamation with the Wesleyan Church in 1971, the adjoining community hall and foyer was constructed in 1974.

Mount Road Methodist Church closed on the 31st of December 2013, and the building was offered to the Emmanuel Church for their use. The Emmanuel's first meeting there was held on the 2nd of February 2014, but the building was put up for sale later that year. It was briefly a Busy Bees nursery.

A Catholic school in Warren Street in Fleetwood was run by schoolmaster Michael Connor, and *"there were two boarding schools for ladies, one in Mount Terrace run by the Misses Crompton and Goodier; and the other in Dock Street run by the Misses Warbreck"*.

St John's Parish School, Lytham: was opened behind the church's burial ground on South Warton Street in 1851.
In the late 1950s, the state of the building required serious repair work. The floor was unsafe, and it had no lighting, heating, sanitary, or washing facilities.

It was closed in 1975, and on the 1st of July 1976, the foundation stone for the new Lytham Church of England Primary School was laid in Park View Road by William Salthouse. The new school cost £650,000 and could take 120 pupils.
Infants were first to move into the new school, in March 1977, but juniors had to stay in the old building until their accommodation at the new site was completed. They moved there on the 14th of February 1986, after the last ever event oat the original school – a pantomime – was held on the 11th, 12th, and 13th.

At the same time as St John's closed, St Cuthbert's School – also known as Lytham Endowed School on Church Road – was closed, and its pupils also transferred to the new premises.

The school began to be demolished on the 15th of January 1987, to be replaced by the sheltered housing scheme of St John's Court flats in 1990.

The villa called Ribblestone was built on East Beach at Lytham.

The Cyclist's Arms, Freckleton: John Clifton is listed as a beerseller at this alehouse, which stood opposite Holy Trinity Church. By 1854, his mother Jane was licensee, and she was calling it the "Lower" Coach and

©

Horses because of an argument with the owners of what was then being called the "Original" Coach and Horses.

Jane Clifton died in 1868, and the inn was sold to Peter Wareing who originally renamed it the Tewitt Arms. However, in 1871, he re-opened it on Lytham Road as the Cyclists Arms – the name was changed again, in order to attract the new crop of touring cyclists. Under a later owner, Mr Harrison, it was called Harrison's Cyclist's Arms, and was soon bought by the Burtonwood Brewery.

Burtonwood sold it to landlord William Helm in 1922, but the pub closed in late 1938. The building was destroyed in 1944, by petrol from one of the bombers in the Warton air crash.

John Hargreaves had just been appointed as the first postmaster at Freckleton Post Office in Lower Road. The Ebenezer chapel was built on Cornah Row at Greenhalgh.

Great Eccleston police station: was in High Street, and among its earlier officers were PC Wragg, Sergeant Joseph Cumming, Sergeant William Driver, Sergeant Boocock, and Superintendent Walters.

The station was closed and put up for sale in October 1918. It was subsequently sold, along with the adjoining policeman's cottage (complete with its own piggery), Mr Thompson's shop, William Ireland's Laburnum House, and the Isles family's builder's yard, on the 18th in Poulton.
The cell door from the police station is now on display at the Museum of the Fylde.

1852

Blackpool Gas Works: The Coal Gas Works began to be built on Princess Street in February, to light Blackpool's streets – although originally only to supply Bonny's estates. Princess Street Gas Works were officially opened in 1854. The works had two holders, a retort house, purifiers, and tar wells, as well as its own railway line. The works also bounded on Marshall Street.

In 1861, the gas works were taken over on behalf of the Local Board by William Crippin of the Southport Gas Works, and they became fully municipally operated in 1869. The works site to the west of the railway line was on Princess Street, and soon needed enlargement. A third Gas Holder was built at Princess Street Gas Works in 1898, and the Princess Street railway bridge was constructed. For some reason, the original bridge, which supported the railway line between Blackpool South and Blackpool Central stations, was demolished in about 1902, and rebuilt. Demolition and rebuilding of the original iron bridge began on the 9th of November 2015.

In 1900, new works were built to the east of the railway on Marshall Street and Rigby Road. The two sites were connected by a subway underneath the railway line. Gas from the works finally reached as far as Norbreck. Fire ravaged the gas works on the 17th of July 1914. Also, in 1914, Blackpool Corporation *"resolved to adopt motor haulage in connection with its gas works, for the haulage of coal and the delivery of coke"*.

The re-built works were enlarged with major reconstruction in 1924. The undertaking was the first in the country to adopt the Glover-West system of continuous carbonisation in vertical retorts.

Marton Gas Works: The original works still could not meet demand, and in 1933, a new gasholder was erected on the land owned by Arnott Farm, Marton, which had been demolished for the purpose. The gas

©

was connected through a main to the Princess Street Works. Then, in 1937, plans were drawn up for another large new works off Clifton Road. The new Marton Gas Works opened in July 1940, on the rest of Arnott Farm's land. There was no announcement of its construction or completion and its existence was kept a secret until 1945.
The works were linked at their southern side to the nearby railway and had their own shunting yard, running a Pecket shunting engine. Marton became a 45-acre site with two large gas holders, offices, and its own private railway sidings. The two large metal Gasometers were demolished in May 2015, with the rest of the gas works being flattened by the October. The red brick office block is all that remains.

The gas works on Princess Street were also closed in 1940, but soon reopened in order to supply gas to the Squires Gate Aircraft factories. The new works cost £440,000 and covered 50 acres, with railway sidings for 354 railway wagons, each capable of holding 10-20 tons of coal. During the war, 7,000 million cubic feet of cubic gas were produced requiring 420,000 tons of coal.

In 1951, the railway sidings to the Princess Street Gas works were closed and removed. The original gas works were demolished in 1957, leaving just the gasholder. They finally closed in the 1970s, and only the two gasholders remained, being disconnected from the mains in 2009 ready for removal. They were demolished in May 2013.
The gas works offices on Princess Street were demolished in July 2012, along with the adjacent Gas Social Club (The Gas Club), and the last gasometer was dismantled in 2016.

Thomas Morris's new baths and billiard rooms had been got up to "the square" - the square in question was Wellington Square, on the Promenade.
Whitegate House still stood in the centre of Whitegate Drive. It was sold in August 1887, along with the adjacent Revoe Villa. In 1974, Springfield Court apartments were constructed on the site, and Old Meadow Court apartments were built behind them on Old Meadow Lane. They replaced five large 1890s houses. Meadow Kindergarten opened on Old Meadow Lane in 1989.
The Blackpool Oddfellows' Widows and Orphans Fund was established.
During a stormy year, the "*road called South Shore, from the Manchester Hotel to the south end of the shore*" was washed away. A waterspout was seen offshore, and a hurricane at Christmas ruined several boats.
By now, four trains a day, each way, were running between Blackpool and Manchester.
Blackpool Athenaeum Club was formed in December, lasting until early in 1858. The Athaenaeum News Rooms were in the original Post Office building at 25 Church Street, surviving the closure of the group by many decades. It later moved to St Ann's Street, above Mason's Café (adjacent to the Grand Theatre), and by 1934 it had moved to number 8 The Strand (called Back Albert Terrace until 1924).
Bispham's first postmaster, William Crane, took up his post this year, in William Croft's cottage on Church Lane. Part of this property later became called Hermit's Cottage.
A Wesleyan Methodist church was built on Beech Street, North Shore.

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Thomas Miller and Singleton village: The Manor of Singleton was bought by Thomas Miller from the Hornby family, along with more land at Thistleton. Miller, allegedly, then proceeded to turn all his Catholic tenants out of their farms. He soon opened the Singleton Stud Farm. Miller was a cotton manufacturer from Preston, and when "*he died in 1865 his eldest child Thomas Horrocks Miller inherited it. Then, in 1916, the Great Singleton Estate passed to the eldest grandson of Thomas's sister, a man named Richard Dumbreck. When Mr Dumbreck died in 2003, he left his estate to be administered by a trust, the present Richard Dumbreck Singleton Trust".*
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The Miller coat of arms is:

ARMS: Ermine, a fess gules between three wolves' heads erased azure
CREST: A wolf's head erased azure collared ermine
MOTTO: *"sibimet merces industria"* which means "industry is recompense to itself".

Singleton Model Village: In 1853, Great Singleton was bought and Singleton village virtually demolished by Thomas Miller, who proceeded to create his "model" village. Alderman Miller later bought land adjoining Singleton plus the Thistleton Estate. He used his fortune to demolish and rebuild Singleton and improve its agriculture.
In 1916, the estate passed to the eldest grandson of Thomas Horrocks Miller's elder sister Henrietta, a man named Richard Dumbreck. Dumbreck took an active interest in Singleton and was keen that it should prosper as a community. He died on the 21st of January 2003, leaving instructions in his will that on his death, his executors were to set up a charitable trust to hold the estate for the benefit of the village and its community. This became the Richard Dumbreck Singleton Trust.

Miller was renowned locally for selling his butter for more than the normal price. He had a summer villa at number 3 West Beach in Lytham, and was a consummate art collector, and regularly hosted prominent national artists at West Beach. These included William Holman Hunt, Daniel Maclise, William Powell frith, Thomas Creswick, William Mulready, David Roberts, and John Everett Millais.

At Christmas, there was a fierce storm and according to a newspaper report "*Mr Peter Sykes, of the Carr House Farm, near Rossall Hall, has suffered to the extent of some hundred pounds. The sea broke through the embankment opposite his farm, and swept away with irresistible fury a great part of his corn stacks, drowned all his sheep, pigs, poultry, etc., and, in his house, destroyed all his furniture, actually breaking it into splinters. The horses, cows, etc. were got off, but narrowly escaped the same fate".*

St Peter's Schools, Lytham: were built on Norfolk Road by St Peter's Roman Catholic Church.
"The schools were rebuilt during the year 1902, from designs by Mr. T. C. Grimble, architect, and are now thoroughly equipped in the most approved style. The main school is divided in class-rooms communicating with each other. A new infant school with separate room for babies has also been added" - in 1874.
The new St Peter's Catholic Primary School opened in 1969.

The curved terrace of houses at numbers 1 to 16 Hastings Place in Lytham was built. It was funded by Charles Frederick, son of Sir Thomas Clifton, and named after Lady Edith Hastings, his wife. Local builder William Miller constructed the houses.

Kirkham Council: The Kirkham Local Board of Health was established on the 8th of March.
Kirkham Urban District Council evolved from the board on the 31st of December 1894, and moved into the newly-built Council Offices on the corner of Ribby Road and Moor Street soon afterwards. The local fire brigade joined them in the accommodation.

On the 9th of September 1950, Kirkham Urban District was granted its own coat of arms:

ARMS: Azure a Dove volant the dexter wing inverted holding in the beak a Branch of Olive Or on a Chief of the last a Rose Gules barbed and seeded proper between two Choughs also proper.
CREST: Issuant from a Circlet thereon four Mullets Gules a demi-Lion Or supporting a Pastoral Staff Gules headed Sable.
MOTTO: "*Firma et stabilis*' meaning "Safe and sure".

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The town Registrar of Births, Marriages, and Deaths was based in an office on Derby Road in Wesham.
The council ceased to exist in 1972, when Fylde Borough Council took over.
The empty council offices on Station Road were demolished in 2013, to be replaced in 2014, by 24 new houses, constructed by Applethwaite.

1853

Blackpool Police:
Blackpool was policed by Lancashire County Constabulary from the 22nd of February 1840, until the 30th of June 1887. The Blackpool Borough Police Force was established on the 1st of July 1887 and was responsible for policing the area until the creation of the Lancashire Constabulary on the 1st of April 1969.

This year, work began on a small police station in Bonny Street, to house the town's one policeman. Blackpool's first policeman was Constable William Banks – appointed in 1850. The new building also had a small lock-up prison. By 1857, there was a second constable, Thomas Aston. The station was converted into two houses in 1863, after the first true station was opened.
Marton police station was built - the house now being numbered 51 Preston Old Road. An annexe, for use as a detention room was also built. This is now number 53 (called Smithy House for some reason).

Blackpool's first proper central police station was built in Abingdon Street in 1862. Blackpool police station held offices, a court and three dwellings, one for Sergeant Morrison, and one each for his two constables. The cells were in the basement and survive today. The station was enlarged in 1880, to accommodate the town's three sergeants and thirteen constables.
Blackpool Police Court was opened in the same building on the 5th of March 1886. The court was known as the Sessions House and its first session was held on the 19th of May in the new buildings.
The Corporation's Watch Committee had negotiated the purchase of the leases of the police offices in Abingdon Street and South Shore.

Bispham Police House was built on the South side of Town Lane in 1870, to house the village's first resident policeman, William Pickup. It was used as the first Bispham police station and had one cell, and also its own mortuary in a building at the rear. Town Lane later became the Eastern end of Red Bank Road. The station was set back from the road, opposite what is now All Hallow's Road.

Six new police houses were built on Bispham Road in 1947.

The second Bispham police station was begun on Red Bank Road on the 24th of August 1962, on land bought from Blackpool Corporation for the purpose. It was opened in 1964. The original station and house were demolished in 1965 to make way for a Tesco store. The store was later bought by the Co-op, but closed in the early 2010s. It will re-open on the 24th of September 2018, run by Heron Foods.

When the Blackpool Police Force was established in 1887, John Derham was the first Chief Constable.

Hawes Side police station was built at 106 Hawes Side Lane, opposite Crossland Road in 1907, It had its own two cells in the basement, and was used until the 1950s, the small station being demolished in 1972. Several other houses were later built for police use. These are now numbers 127 to 133 but were never actually inhabited by officers. All buildings on Hawes Side were re-numbered in 1929, to accommodate new housing and shops development. The odd numbers 15 -139 became even numbers 10-132, and the even numbers 2-342 became numbers 15 -377.

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Another branch station – Talbot Road police station - was built at 223 Talbot Road, next to the Territorial Army Drill Hall. By the time the King Street police station had opened, the borough training school was in Talbot Road police station, which also housed the stores. Cadet training was held there every Monday, and in the afternoon, cadets went to Yorkshire Street Drill Hall to do drill (another drill hall was on Caroline Street). The CID Office was next to the fire station on Albert Road.
The site of this particular station is now covered by Devonshire Court social housing complex.

Two Police Houses were built in Queen Street (soon to be renamed as Montague Street) South Shore in 1892 – these were extended, and South Shore police station opened there in 1898. The building was on 2 storeys, but a single storey extension was added later. This station closed in 2019. The sale papers describe the station as having: Ground Floor - Reception Area, Offices, Hallways, Meeting Rooms, Storage Rooms, Staff Areas- 281 sq m (3,023 sq ft), and First Floor - Offices, Staff Areas and Storage Rooms- 161 sq m (1,732 sq ft).

The small station on Abingdon Street closed on the 5th of June 1893, and the second Blackpool police station was opened on Lower King Street on the same day. The last court was held in Abingdon Street on the 29th of May. Police Street to the rear remains (to the left of the market). The accommodation consisted of three court rooms, magistrates retiring room, solicitors' rooms, general office, chief constable's office, detective and sergeants' offices, parade room, police recreation room, waiting room, sixteen cells, and sleeping accommodation for 25 men. The station later added a Police Club and canteen at the rear, in a wooden building. One of the cells remains intact underneath the fish stall in Abingdon Street Market.
By 1934, the Borough Police Force had grown to comprise 125 men. It was *"comprised of one chief constable, one superintendent, seven inspectors, 18 sergeants, and 98 constables"*.

Blackpool's first Police Woman went on duty on the 29th of October 1915, but they did not get uniforms until the 1970s.

Blackpool police took delivery of eight Velocette motor scooters for patrol work in September 1959.

The Magistrates Court building on Chapel Street, and the third Blackpool police station and Divisional Police Headquarters on Bonny Street were both opened for use on the 19th of February 1971. Older streets such as Oddfellow Street, East Street, and Cragg Street (with its laundry) had been cleared by the Corporation by 1967, to make way for them. The original council plan was to build a new town hall as well, but funds were short.
The Police building was not officially opened until the 21st of April 1976, by the Duke of Gloucester. The Brunswick Pub was closed and refurbished in 1993, changing its name to the Pump and Truncheon from February, to capture a new clientele.
Nearby Richardson Street was named after murdered Superintendent Gerry Richardson. King Street police station was demolished immediately afterwards.
In April 1983, Blackpool police station took delivery of its first breath testing machine for drunken drivers.

On the 1st of April 1997, Blackpool Police divisions merged with Fylde, while Fleetwood, Thornton-Cleveleys, and Poulton became a part of Lancaster and Over Wyre.

In January 2016, work began on a fourth Blackpool police station headquarters building off Clifton Road at Marton, on the former gasworks site. The builders are Wilmot Dixon, and it opened in April 2018, on a new access road, which was officially named Gerry Richardson Way on the 10th of May 2018.

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On the 12th of June 2017, a yew tree branch was handed over as part of the 'topping out' ceremony, a celebration of progress on the project. The Bonny Street public counter service closed in September 2018, and moved to the Municipal Buildings. The Bonny Street site was then handed to Blackpool Council, allowing them to move ahead with its redevelopment.
The new HQ was officially opened in memory of the area's fallen Police officers on the 27th of June 2019.

The Blackpool Improvement Act was passed through Parliament. As a result, the town's first sewage outlet pipe was constructed in June.
James Hulme was appointed as Blackpool's town Bellman and Bill Poster in July. He was given "*special authority to wear a scarlet collar to his coat*".
Another, open, market was opened, becoming a general, covered market in 1873.

The Temple of Arts Photographic Studio, Blackpool: was opened on Church Street by John Eastham (Temple Street is named after it). The Temple of Arts had been on Lytham Street since at least 1828, but the Blackpool Council needed that building for their first Town hall. The new building had been erected on Church Street in 1847. Harvey Earnshaw, another well-known Lancashire photographer, soon moved in and re-built the premises into a purpose-built studio, but his venture went bankrupt in 1854, and he moved to Leicestershire. The business is considered to be Blackpool's first photographic studio, but by 1864, it had been occupied by Henry John and Co, wine merchants.
The original statue of Apollo, which stood on the western wall, was removed in the 1960s. The original "Three Graces" frieze was uncovered adjacent to that in 1976, and was restored in 1988. Created by artist Samuel Wood, it showed Love, Faith, and Charity, but was soon damaged during building work and replaced by a plastic copy.
The building now houses a Bella Italia pasta restaurant.

Whitegate Lane Farm was sold on the 31st of March, together with all its lands (which by 1865, numbered 102 acres).

The Mill Inn, Marton: At the same sale, the Mill Inn (complete with a coach house and stables), Great Marton Windmill, and the Marton blacksmith's shop were also sold. The Mill Inn was on Marton Green, next to the mill, and the smithy and wheelwright's workshop were next door.
I have a reference that in 1775, Great Marton windmill and the Mill Inn, along with "*the dwelling house, drying kiln and granaries, stable and other outbuildings, together with two gardens*" were sold to T Jolly, but I can find no authentication of this particular fact. The Mill Inn was reopened in two rooms of the main building in 1846, and by 1867 was it called the Windmill Inn.

The Oxford Hotel and Pleasure Gardens were built next to the Great Marton Mill on the site of the demolished Mill Inn in 1876, after all the buildings (except the mill itself) had been bought by William Flitcroft of Preston for the purpose. Mr Flitcroft quickly bought it and Mr Grime ran it for him. In the 1880s, when owned by J Gorse, the Oxford was also known as the Half Way House, and the Great Marton Windmill was emblazoned with that name. The inn had a protruding porch and large bay windows, with a decorative balustrade on the roof. It could also boast a bowling green and "*splendid views of the surrounding countryside*". Its land stretched northwards to the edge of Park Road.

By 1889, it had become known as the Mill Inn and Oxford Hotel, and the hotel soon gave its name to the nearby road junction - known as Oxford Square. The Bedford Brewery and Malting Company owned it by 1895, and then it was bought by C&S.

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The stables to the Oxford were built on Waterloo Road in 1893 and were the home of the famous three-horse bus, which travelled the Marton Route. Once Premier Garage, and then the Parts Department and Filling Station of Thomas Motors Limited, the stables then became the Budget Rent-A-Car garages and are now the premises of Mickey's Carpets.

For the many years that the Oxford was owned by Catterall and Swarbrick, the front walls were covered in laburnum foliage, giving the whole pub a green look. This was replaced by white paint in the late 1960s. In 2007, the Oxford was rebranded as "Bickerstaffe's" – for a mere three months.
It finally closed for good in October 2009, to be demolished in February 2015, and replaced by an Aldi supermarket in November 2015.

Rossall's Hotel and Cragg's Hotel were in business on the sea front in Blackpool.
Land was sold at the Claremont Hotel on the 1st of August for the building of new houses on the newly formed Templeton Street and Brown Street nearby.

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Anchorsholme Hall: This large house was built by Liverpool merchant Charles Inman, on 76 acres of land bought from the "financially challenged" Peter Hesketh-Fleetwood in 1852. The house came to be known as Anchorsholme Hall.
The hall then came into the possession of George Swainson, who allowed the hall to be used as the Preparatory School for Rossall School. By 1866 there were 27 pupils.

In 1868, the hall was bought by Oldham man Thomas Emmott, and it gained fame when Princess Louise, Queen Victoria's daughter, spent part of her honeymoon there in 1871. From late in the century, Samuel Charlton became its owner, and in 1918 the hall and farm were sold to the Cleveleys Hydro Company who duly extended their own golf course to fill the land released by the purchase.
In 1926, it was converted into a boarding and day school for boys by John Smythe, who called it Cleveleys College for boys. Its address was 11 College Road. By 1928, Smythe was admitting both sexes, and the college was advertised as a *"Boarding and Day School for Boys and Girls as well as a Kindergarten department"*, with a *"New School buildings and Gymnasium fitted with Vita-glass"*.

It later reverted to a hotel, boasting just two acres of grounds including a golf course, tennis courts, and putting green. The Anchorsholme Hall hotel advertised itself, nationally, as a *"Luxurious Old English Mansion"*. Smythe's family later opened an auction house on Victoria Road East.

In 1951, Anchorsholme Hall was sold, and became Castlemaine School, and in 1967, it was demolished to make way for flats. Anchorsholme Lane on which it stood was originally called Cockerham Road and led across Thornton Marsh.

The Miller Arms, Singleton: The Hornby Arms Inn at Singleton was part of the land bought by Thomas Miller. It was originally a working farm with cattle, pigsties, orchards and land.
He re-named it the Miller Arms and placed his family coat of arms over the front door, together with his family motto – "*sibimet merces industria"* which means "industry is recompense to itself". Miller then commissioned famous painter William Frith to paint a new inn sign for outside the inn. The resultant piece was called "The Pilgrim", and depicted a weary traveller entering on one side, and then emerging refreshed on the other. It was eventually hung inside the bar, as Mr Miller would not have it outside in case it became weathered! By 1863, the landlord was a Mr Redman.
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The village pinfold was located behind the inn, and the original village well is still underneath the building.

In the 1960s, the pub was owned by Dutton's Brewery, and the restaurant section was fondly known as the "Duttons Rooms".
The name of the pub is often spelled wrongly, with an 's' after the word 'Miller' – *"Millers Arms"*. It is now owned by Rural Inns Ltd.

The New Fylde Timber Company was in business in Fleetwood, importing and selling wood from Quebec and the Baltic.
John Talbot Clifton was made High Sheriff of Lancashire

The Great Eccleston Show: Great Eccleston Agricultural Society, originally named the Rawcliffe Farmers Club, was founded, for *"the improvement and advancement of agriculture"*. At the inaugural meeting held in the Cartford Hotel sixty-two farmers from Out Rawcliffe, St Michael's, Hambleton, and Great and Little Eccleston each paid five shillings (25p) to join. The society held their first annual show two weeks later on the 1st of March.
Prior to the formation of the society, the village had held 3 cattle fairs per year – on the 14th of March, the 14th of April, and the 4th of November. These stopped being held this year.

In 1955, the show was suspended. Fortunately, the Society had purchased the freehold of the show fields between the wars, and the accumulated rent money allowed the show to restart in 1972. However, two very wet shows in 1973 and 1974 forced the society to stage the event in July instead of September.

1854
Opposite the Saddle Inn at the time was Hill's Farm, with Green Farm slightly further south towards Great Marton windmill.

South Shore National Mixed School: was founded on Lytham Road. In 1872, the school kept its infants on Lytham Road, but built a separate junior school on the corner of Church Street and Dean Street. The new school was a large corrugated iron building, which was replaced in 1903 by South Shore Board School. The original building was rebuilt in 1930 as Holy Trinity School and Memorial Hall and was replaced in the 1950s by Cocker's Garage.

Waterworth's Temperance Hotel was in business on Bank Hey Street.
Mrs McLean's house at 2 Talbot Terrace was offering "*comfortable lodgings*", as was Mrs Stoyle's at number 4.

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Fleetwood police station: The town's first true police station was opened on West Street, having moved from a small lock-up inside the local bobby's house at 5 Flag Street (originally known as Cottage Court). As well as a station and cells, it also housed two officers (PCs James High and John Redfern) and a Sergeant James Fowler. It stayed there until the constabulary was transferred to Lancashire County, and in 1885, a second station was built in West Street (now Lord Street), near the Testimonial School (the County crest is still on the wall). For many years in the 20th century the building was occupied by Strachan Travel agents. It is now the Troy Pizzeria and Stott's opticians.

In 1880, the third station opened on Victoria Street – the site of the cattle market, having become too busy for the old premises, which were finally demolished in 1982.
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In 1898, PC Alfred Marsh of the local Railway Police was thrown into the hold of a ship during dockyard disturbances at Fleetwood. He was unfortunately killed.
A new dockside police station was opened at the entrance to Fleetwood's Wyre Dock in July 1960.

In 1975, all the whistles in the Lancashire force were handed in. Personal radios had taken over. However, fifty whistles were kept at Fleetwood divisional headquarters for use in connection with searches.

The station and court on Victoria Street were demolished in 1982, after the opening of the fourth station premises on Claremont Terrace, at 70 North Church Street. The iconic Prawn Shop of the Wyre Fishermen's Co-operative Society was demolished at the same time.
On the 10th of August 1982, Fleetwood police station was re-branded as the Operational Centre. The building had become unsuitable for modern working, so the 10 unused cells had been removed, and the interior was re-modelled. It was announced that *"All of Wyre's immediate response and road policing officers will now start and end their shifts in Fleetwood"*. These had worked from their own isolated little stations.

Fleetwood Coastguards: A coastguard station was established at Fleetwood, first staffed by officers from elsewhere. In 1858, Fleetwood was allocated its own coastguards (6 men and 1 officer), covering the whole of the Fylde coast. Royal Navy Captain Edward Wasey organised their establishment in 1859. They were based in Fylde Court, opposite the Mount, and in 1861, they built a wooden gun battery in the Mount Grounds, mounting two 32-pounder cannons there.

When the local headquarters moved from Fleetwood to Lancaster, also in 1861, the men were housed in a 6-foot-square wooden hut on the Lower Promenade. At first it had just a circular life belt and a rocket, for firing lines to ships. That was later replaced by a small cannon, called a Lyle Gun.

In 1864, six coastguard cottages were built on Birling Terrace (today's Abbots Walk). The boats were launched into a stream running to the sea outside the cottages – this is now Promenade Road. The cottages had their own boathouses at the rear and used the nearby stream to float their boats down to the sea. The coastguard station and its cottages were auctioned in 1883, and were bought by a Mr Lucas Hudson, who allegedly renamed it Birling Terrace after the Kent town in which his wife was born.

"Later a new base was created on Princes Way where a pair of semi-detached houses provided homes for the 2 full time officers. Garages and office facilities were to the rear. Across the golf course at Rossall Point was a permanently manned lookout operating 24 hrs a day. The town also had what was called a Coastguard Rescue Company. It wasn't a business but a team dedicated to Breaches Buoy Rescue from shipwrecks. The team were regularly champions in competitions until helicopters replaced the kit in the late 1980s".

The coastguard today is housed in the Lifeboat Station, which was opened by the ferry terminal in November 2005, sharing the space with the lifeboat staff. The 17 staff are on 24-hour watch and constantly patrol the whole of the Fylde and Wyre coast in Land Rover vehicles.

Rossall Coastguard Tower: In 1947, the Coastguard Tower was built at Rossall Point. When the coastguards received a new Landrover soon afterwards, their old Hillman Imp was given to the Knott End section. At first the station was a simple single-storey concrete box, but it later had a first-floor observation room added. The Fleetwood Lookout, as it had become known, was closed by the Department of Transport in

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July 1994, and several years followed, where cover was provided from other stations in mobile units. The station was finally re-staffed by the newly-formed National Coastguard Institution in 2007.

The Coastguard Tower was partly demolished in February 2012, to become a public toilet and storeroom. Its replacement, staffed by volunteers, opened on the 28th of February 2013.

In an attempt to provide good quality housing for Fleetwood's working classes, a row of model cottages was erected off Poulton Road.
In February, Preston's mill masters reopened their mills after a strike, to force a return to work. Pickets were placed on the mills and the masters tried to find "*knobstick*" labour to run the mills. A party of emigrants from Ireland was captured at Fleetwood, given a meal at the Farmer's Arms, and escorted home by union officials.
Thomas Turner and Sons opened a coal yard on Dock Street in Fleetwood in June.

The Talbot Hotel, Lytham: This imposing hostelry was built - about now – as the Talbot Inn on Clifton Street. It had its own cobble-built stables (now a Listed Building and shown to be from the early 19th century) and brewhouse.
Lytham's "Dead House" – its first town mortuary – was opened behind the Talbot in 1864. It was moved to the council yard at West Cliffe in 1894 until 1927.

In 1873, the license of the Talbot was granted to Charles Brewster, who took over from Alexander Seed.

The Talbot Dog, a wooden carving thought to have once been on display at Lytham Hall, stood at the door of the Talbot from the latter part of the 19th century through to the late 1980s. It was donated to, and displayed by, the Lytham Heritage Centre in March 2013. A former landlady said *"We believe that it was donated by John Talbot Clifton to The Talbot at a time when the Beesley family were running the pub in late Victorian times and it stood at the door for years. It is made of hard wood and its nose is very shiny, apparently from it being rubbed by generations of customers as they entered The Talbot"*. In 2019, the dog statue was taken to Lytham Hall to be valued on the visiting BBC Antiques Roadshow. It was valued at several thousand pounds.

In 1900, the Bath Street entrance was being used as the order office, under landlord Cornelius Salthouse, and this remained as the recreation room, until its refurbishment during the 1980s.
The Talbot was rebuilt in 1904, possibly by JJ Beesley.
After a short-lived re-branding as a "Vis a vis" outlet by brewers Whitbread Ltd, the Talbot was closed on the 1st of December 2004, to be replaced by retail units including Café Nero and Leonard Dews jewellers.

The Scotch Baptist chapel was on Clifton Street in Lytham.
The Elms, a substantial 5-bedroomed detached villa, was built at 4 Clifton Drive in Lytham, for the artist Thomas Webster. Webster moved there briefly from his long-time home in Kensington, in an attempt to help his ailing wife, Betsy, to benefit from the sea air. However, in 1857, he took himself off to the artist's colony at Cranbrook in Kent.

Kirkham police station: The town's first police station and courtroom were opened at 21-35 Freckleton Street. A beerhouse called the Fruiterer's Arms stood nearby at number 53.
On the 15th of May 1886, the station made the national news after Constable Alfred Bligh murdered his three children in their beds in the station's living quarters.

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A second station was built next door in the 1970s, with the old building being sold for business use. The station's front desk was closed to the public on the 7th of February 2018, although officers will continue to be based at the station.

1855

The Claremont Hotel, Blackpool: was built.
Mr Rushton of the Claremont tried, optimistically, to procure a license to erect a drinking bar on the lower walk at Claremont Park on the 27th of August 1884.
The Down the Hatch bar was in the hotel's basement for many years from the 1980s.

Warbrick's farm, an ancient, thatched longhouse, was demolished on Chapel Street.
Agnes House was "*open for the reception of visitors*" at 4 Talbot Road, and published a guide to Blackpool this year. The guide reveals that the original "black pool" had long since disappeared.
Blackpool became the head of a new Methodist Circuit covering the Fylde.
James Butcher and William Fish drowned while ice-skating on Marton Mere on the 11th of February.
Blackpool Local Ratepayers' Association was formed on the 16th of December after a meeting at the Queens Hotel in South Shore.

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Parkinson's Mill and Shops, Poulton: Parkinson's Stores opened in Queen's Square this year, selling groceries and provisions. They soon opened a café in the adjacent building, first run by Miss Anne Balderstone. Above the shop was a classical frieze made of terracotta, which was commissioned later by Robert Parkinson Tomlinson, to commemorate the centenary of his family milling cereal crops in their nearby corn mill.
The Parkinson and Tomlinson Corn Mill was in operation on Banks Street, with its warehouse backing on to the nearby chapel (Banks Street was later renamed Chapel Street), and the mill was in operation until 1962. After Parkinson and Tomlinson Ltd was wound up in 1970, it was demolished, to be replaced by a row of shops on Chapel Street and those of Chapel Walks around the corner.
The company warehouse was on Station Road.

The most celebrated member of the Tomlinson family, Robert Parkinson Tomlinson had been born in Poulton in 1881, and attended both Poulton Grammar and Claremont College in Blackpool. Living at 2 Higher Green, he became a staunch Liberal politician, and became MP for Lancaster in 1928. He was considered an expert in agriculture and corn milling.

In 1912, JW Brierley was operating his Saw Mill next door to the corn mill.

The first ocean-going ship, the "Wyre" was launched from Hope's Shipyard at Denham's Bank in Fleetwood in January. The launch was followed in March 1856 by the "Fleetwood" and in June 1857 by the "Fylde".

Lytham Cricket Club: was founded by Squire Clifton in July, playing at Lytham Hall. Their first match was a loss against Kirkham, played on the 24th of August, after which both teams were sumptuously entertained at Mr McKie's Commercial Inn.
The club opened its first clubhouse on the current site in 1855, after having been given a suitable area of arable land on "The Greyne". This land had previously been used as a camping and training ground by the Lytham Volunteers. The team originally played in blue and white uniforms.
Lytham joined the Manchester and District Cricket Association, and in 1987, they bought their ground from Guardian Royal Insurance, who owned the Church Road site.
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The old pavilion is now used as a scoreboard by the Cricket Club.

Lowther School for Girls, Lytham: Lowther House Private School for Young Ladies was in Lowther House on the West Beach.

A new Church of England church, Christ Church at Treales was consecrated on the 15th of February. It had been opened for use in 1853. Its parish was constituted about the 6th of May 1858.

1856

Blackpool Promenade: The original properly-constructed pedestrian walkway was opened between Bailey's Hotel and Hounds Hill – it was made of asphalt. At this time, a slade went down to the sea at the end of Lane Ends Street. A wooden bridge "The Bridge of Peace" was built, including a right-angle bend, over Banks' Slade, by Lane Ends Ginn, so that people might *"promenade over the slade without hazard"*. It began to be erected on the 5th of May, in celebration of the end of the Crimean War, with Richard Banks laying the foundation stone. The new bridge also replaced a previous public right of way over the hulkings, which had been washed away in storms. It was demolished in 1870.

Since 1786, there had existed a very basic seafront road, which stretched down to Fox Hall, branching then into what became Lytham Road. This was known as the Parade.

The first true Promenade was unveiled, with the grand opening of the new two-mile long Promenade and carriageway taking place on the 18th of April 1870. Around Bailey's Hotel was an iron walkway supported on pillars. For the opening, by Colonel J Wilson-Patten (Later Lord Winmarleigh), Lancashire dignitaries walked in procession through the specially built "Gate of Health", beside the Clifton Arms Hotel, where a dinner was later taken in the Assembly Rooms. Much of the route of the procession was illuminated.
To celebrate the event, an ornamental drinking fountain was unveiled in Talbot Square: *"The promenade on an average is 30 feet wide and set on top of a granite-sett slope, and is separated from the carriage drive, which is twelve yards wide, by a line of side stones. Some idea of the magnitude of the operations involved in the undertaking may be gathered when it is stated that the works comprise 135,000 cubic yards of earthwork, 15 acres of stone pitching in the sea fence, 5 miles of piling and planking in the sea fence, 21 acres of asphalting, 500 tons of ironwork, 40,000 square yards of carriage road, with the palisading, draining, lighting, andc."*
From 1876, these works were expanded, to provide similar protection to the likes of Queen's Drive and the Imperial Hotel. The promenade was extended in 1895 to the north of the town centre, and further expanded in 1902 and 1905.

The Crimean War ended and Blackpool celebrated with a town party by the Manchester Hotel. The village of Marton celebrated the event on the 29th of May, with a procession, followed by a party and band concert on the school green.

The "Sisters of the Holy Child Jesus" opened their convent in Queen's Square. Father Bampton had started a poor school in a cottage on Talbot Street, but as the 12 sisters had fetched another 4 children with them from Liverpool, they combined with him, and opened this new school to serve the Sacred Heart parish. Cornelia Connelly had founded the Society of the Holy Child Jesus in 1846, dedicating its work to the education of Catholic girls. The first Mother Superior at Queen's Square was Alphonsa Kay, and Cornelia sent Mother Teresa Hampson to become the new headmistress. The children then began to be taught in

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the back room, with school mass being said in the basement of the nearby inn at number 53 Talbot Street (later to become the Railway Hotel).

By August 1859, their Queen's Square school had 21 pupils and was too small. In the November, the Sisters took on a 7-year lease on the Raikes Hall, and on the 3rd of December, they brought the "Blessed Sacrament" to the Raikes and moved from Queen's Square. Raikes Hall was a large, but isolated house in the fields at the time.

St Mary's School was founded there in 1866 – they had renamed their own convent school.
Layton Hill Convent School: In 1870, the 12 Sisters moved their St Mary's School from Raikes Hall to their new Layton Hill Convent, on Lonely Lane in Little Layton, with 40 mixed poor pupils in July. The building is dedicated to Cornelia Connelly, who bought the land, and the nuns ran the convent for many years, keeping cows and hens for their use, and sinking their own well for fresh water. The school has tales of ghostly nuns, and of a white lady who walks the grounds.
In 1888, a laundry and boiler house were added, in 1898 a refectory and a dormitory block.

In 1900, now called St Mary's School, it was split into two sections; the girls and younger boys stayed at Layton Hill, and a new section was set up on Park Road for the older boys.
By 1905, the convent (the road was now called St Walburga's Road) included a boarding school for young ladies and held 80 pupils. The buildings then included a chapel, a school hall - 70 feet in length, thirteen music rooms, and a large gymnasium. It was under the sole management of the Reverend Mother.
A day school was begun in 1924, and was housed in Whinney Heys Hall, until it amalgamated with the main school in 1929.

In 1939, a building was constructed as the result of a legacy from Ethel Power (who had lived at the school until her death that year), and in November 1945 the convent was awarded Direct Grant Status. The junior school was opened in 1950 and closed in 1970. In 1959, a special block was built for the 5th and 6th formers.
In 1969 Layton Hill Convent School became a direct grammar school. Its motto was "*Actions not Words*".

In 1975, the Lancaster Diocese obliged all Catholic schools to become co-educational. Layton Hill Convent was prepared for a merger with St Joseph's College. The new name of St Mary's High School was chosen for the combined schools. From 1977 to 1984, the St Joseph's site became the sixth form centre for St Mary's, and Sister Maureen Grimley took over as head of the new school, supported by the Sisters of the Holy Child Jesus.
The school motto is "*Semper Fidelis*" – meaning "Always Faithful". It was later renamed as St Mary's Catholic College and was the largest Roman Catholic high school in Lancashire.

Many parts of the original school were demolished in 2013, and a new-look St Mary's Catholic Academy opened for use in September. It is now part of the Blessed Edward Bamber Catholic Multi Academy Trust, established by the Lancaster RC Diocese, who bankrolled the £22.8 million redevelopment. The college can now take 1220 secondary pupils, has a new Sixth Form Centre, and also, a new 210 place primary school.
On the 12th of June 2017, the school was designated as one of just 11 "Research Schools" nationally.
Blackpool Council withdrew the free school buses from St Mary's in July 2017.

The Castle Inn, Blackpool: was in Market Street; John Cragg had converted it from an old bathhouse. When the inn was sold on the 16th of September it had its own coach house and stables and was being run by Mary Whitworth.

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In 1873, the landlord was William Carr, and by 1889, it had been taken over by Threlfall's brewery.
The Castle was demolished in 1939, to become the site of a temporary car park until BHS was built in its place.
Next to the inn was a small shop which adjoined Rose Cottage - this had been taking in visitors for some years.

The schooner "British Token" beached on the cockle bed off the Star Inn on the 24th of November.

St John's Infant School, Blackpool: the school house was built on Bank Hey Street in the Gothic style by Thomas Topping. It had been funded by Benjamin Heywood. It opened on the 20th of October, taking an average of 90 children per day. The mistress's house was next door. Locals knew the school as Bank Hey Infants School.
In 1888, John Bennett, a draper, took over the now vacant school building.
The site of the school was later covered by RHO Hill's store.

The Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway's excursions to Blackpool had become so popular, that they now had to start using cattle wagons to hold the passengers!
William Walker and Company (Blackpool) Limited were established at 30 Elizabeth Street. Slaters, plasterers, and contractors, dealers in all kinds of building materials, they later moved to Talbot road, adjoining the Railway goods siding, and also worked from 41 Lomond Avenue.

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Preesall Cemetery was opened on what is now known as Cemetery Lane.
Old School Farm stood at Heyhouses, on the corner of what is today Blackpool Road and St Anne's Road East. The houses of Grosvenor Court now fill the site.
Garlick's butchers was established on the corner of Bath Street and Clifton Street in Lytham. John Parker Wood (JP) bought the shop at what was now 46 Clifton Street in 1923 from Mr Garlick. In 1964, the shop was bought by S Lever and Co as their estate agency and Halifax Building Society branch and is currently a charity shop for the North West Air Ambulance. Mr Wood bought a second shop in St Anne's in 1933.
The records of the Clifton family's gamekeepers show that during this year over 11,000 rabbits, 2000 hares, and 1000 partridges were culled on their lands.
The first Kirkham Cattle Show was held on the 28th of April, on Mr Slater's field at the end of Freckleton Street. The show was followed by a dinner at the Black Horse Inn.

1857

Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Blackpool: The Catholic Church of the Sacred Heart Church of Jesus and Mary opened, on the 8th of December, on Talbot Street, the first Roman Catholic Church in the town.
Monica Tempest from Broughton Hall, Skipton, had funded the building of a church in central Blackpool, specifying that Jesuits should run it. It was designed by EW Pugin and built by Yates of Liverpool.
Sacred Heart Church Presbytery was opened next door in 1859.

In 1894, the original High Altar and Lady chapel were moved eastwards and the new octagon with its lantern inserted. This provided seating for an additional 450 people, and the church was reopened on Trinity Sunday. The presbytery was demolished at the same time, to make way for the octagonal extension we see today.
The presbytery was built next door at number 17, as a Jesuit High School. It is now the priest's house.

By now, there were eight private schools in Blackpool.
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The building, which later housed the Blackpool Fabric Centre was built on Talbot Street. It is now Big Woody's skateboard shop at number 32.
Layton Hawes House was at South Shore, owned by Mr Rawcliffe.

The Bay Horse Inn, Blackpool: This mysterious business, with John Benson as landlord, is listed at Layton Hawes. By 1873, the landlady was Ellen McLevy, and in 1874, Mathew Brown's brewery owned it. Its exact location is as yet unknown, but it is thought to have been on Lytham Road.
The Preston Guardian of the 11th of November, 1876, reported: *"The Shovels Inn license was transferred from Joseph Melling to Thomas Braithwaite. Joseph Melling took over the license from John Mason at the Bay Horse Inn. On the same day, the license of "a house which has no sign" was transferred from Leonard Waddington to John Hartley"*.

Bispham Villa on Church Road (renamed All Hallow's Road in 1928) was built. The *"newly-erected and well-finished house"* was let in January, being advertised as having a stable, Coachhouse, piggery, orchard, and gardens.

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Fleetwood Docks: received separate warehouse and docks facilities for its fish trade. A fish shed was built and special fish wagons began to be pulled by the local trains. Until this time, boats arriving at Fleetwood had to use the various riverside quays.

The new dock opened for use on the 7th of October 1878, providing another supply route for goods for Blackpool and beyond. The enclosed dock, comprising 10 acres of water, was officially opened by Mr T Barnes, the chairman of the builders, the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway Company, on the next day, the 8th. A grand procession was held *"Led by the Band of the First Dragoon Guards, there followed the Local Board, Festivities Committee, Gentry and Tradesmen. Fire Brigade, Lifeboat and Crew, ships' carpenters and sailmakers, bricklayers, engineers, butchers, fishermen with boat complete for fishing, stonemasons, Oddfellows, Orangemen, Druids, mechanics, and representatives from all the churches. Altogether there were six bands, and the route was lined by the 94th Regiment from Euston Barracks"*.

By now, almost 100 tons of fish a shellfish per day were being sent inland, and there were 70 fishing boats working out of the port. The main trade however, was still in timber, cotton, grain, iron ore, and pig-iron. As larger sailing ships were now able to dock at Fleetwood, the railway company purchased two small paddle tugs, the "Jabez Bunting" and the "Wyre". Trade increased so much that in 1881, a new steam twin-screwed tug "Fylde" was bought instead.
From 1902, by now known as Wyre Dock, it became the base for the relatively new fishing industry in the area. Wyre Dock began to be used for fish landings from 1905, as the goods trade was declining fast.

The daily fish auction at Wyre Dock began in 1906, and the dock held its last major fish auction, apart for just three in mid-1985, in 1979.

A lock was constructed to join the new dock to the access channel, and a timber pond was built. In 1952, the sill on the lock was lowered to allow access by large trawlers with deeper draughts, and in 1991, it began to be converted into a 300-berth yacht marina.
1971 saw the docks gain a new system of mechanised unloading of the fish from the trawlers.

Harrison's Undertakers opened on North Albert Street in Fleetwood.
Mrs Lings' Ladies School was on Queen's Terrace in Fleetwood.
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The Queens Hotel, Lytham: The Bath House alehouse on East Beach (on the site of the old 1810 Bath House) had been demolished in 1857, and was now replaced by the Neptune Hotel, run by John Carter. The baths are thought to have contained a plunge bath for 5 - 6 people, and smaller, individual baths. They were run by Anne Middlehurst.
By August 1865, the hotel was running its own Neptune Hotel (Lytham) Coursing Meeting, but by the 1873 meeting, the Neptune had been renamed as The Queens Hotel, with a new address of Central Beach.
In 1924, the landlord was George Chance.
After a brief period as the Rat and Parrot in the 1990s, it returned to being the Queens Hotel, and is now a Listed Building. It has 10 bedrooms.
Queen Street runs next to the hotel, being named after it in later years.

William Speak's ladies' outfitters opened in the shop on the corner of Park Street in Lytham, which faced Clifton Square. By 1890, the shop had become Robert Crozier's chemists at number 5 Park Street.

Stringers of Lytham: Ferdinand Naples opened a high-class dress shop opposite Speak's, and in 1898, this became John W Stringer's "Fancy Drapery" shop. In 1952, the Clarke family bought the business, and set about expansion. The current store was opened in 1957, after Stringer's had knocked both the two original shops, together with another 3 neighbouring ones, into one unit, covering 3 floors.
In 2008, Stringer's opened a new branch in the newly-opened Booth's supermarket building on Haven Road.

Crozier's Tea Rooms were next door to Naples' shop in Lytham, and on its other side was William Cookson's bookshop and library. Numbers 1 and 3 Park Street went on to become a Nigel Holmes clothes store, and it is now Stone's jewellers and Fascination perfumery.
Between now and 1865, the Clifton Estate spent £5,200 on Lytham *"levelling the sandhills to the west of the town, extending the beach, laying out building plots, and forming a carriage drive. When the area behind Clifton Street towards the east end was being developed for lower-status accommodation and 'company' or lodging houses during the late 1860s and early 1870s the pace was set once more by the estate in building blocks of cottages along Westby Street, East and West Cliffe, and Freckleton Street".*

Esprick: The name Esprick is derived from "*es*" - meaning "ash tree", and "*breck*" - meaning "slope" – therefore "the slope on which ash trees grow".
Esprick had a windmill at one time, situated by the current roundabout linking the A586 with the newer M55. No trace of its existence remains, but locals knew it as Smith's Mill.

I have a fledgling theory that Esprick may mean the East Breck, and nearby Whitprick, the West Breck.

Esprick School: opened this year. There had been a school of sorts (built of clay and thatched with straw) on the site since 1655, and in 1805, Mary Hankinson had bequeathed £200 for the poor of the hamlet. Clitherall's Charity and others had later bequeathed it a rent of 6 shillings, and another of 27 shillings – whose origin was unknown – for the poor.

The original school was pulled down in 1850 and the present building erected. The headmistress in 1934 was Miss E Stirzaker. The school was registered as a charity in August 1970 but closed in 1975 due to falling numbers.

Warton Railway Station opened, closing in May 1874 due to lack of use.

©

1858

Blackpool Fire Brigade: The Blackpool Volunteer Fire Brigade was formed, and a manual pump was bought, by public subscription, for use by the firemen from a space on Hull Street. The brigade was first housed in a small station inside the Town Yard at Hull Street and Sefton Street, and by 1871 had moved to the Town Yard at Back Victoria Street.
Blackpool's first Fire Brigade and Watch Committee were formed in 1876. In October 1894, the Bell Tower was removed from the station.

The Blackpool brigade began to cover the new town of St Anne's in 1877, but by the time the horses had negotiated the sand on Clifton Drive, the fires were usually out. A second Fire Station was opened briefly on the 16th of February 1877, in the Corporation store yard between Hull Street (later called Board Street) and Back Victoria Street. The station housed a horse-drawn Merryweather steamer, called "Water Witch", and a horse-drawn manual pump. The station's position in the council yard was proving problematic, and a more central location was soon selected.

Blackpool's third Fire Brigade Station was built from 1878 on Albert Road – a site now occupied by the Hounds Hill shopping centre. The brigade headquarters shared premises with the Police. At this time, the brigade received its first horse drawn fire engines, which were housed in their own stables.

A building was constructed on Talbot Road, for use as a fire station, but it was turned into a garage instead, later becoming the Flamingo nightclub.
In 1888, Blackpool's policemen were appointed to the Fire Brigade, becoming known as *"firebobbies".*

The fourth Fire Station in Albert Road was opened for use in 1901, with three engine bays and its own stables. It soon had one steam fire engine and one manual, two hose carts and two fire escapes, and the brigade had a "Gamewell" street fire alarm system installed in 1903. The station was then formally opened on the 26th of October 1904. Its foundation stone had been laid on the 26th of October 1900. The lighting tower from the just-closed Raikes Hall Estate was erected at the new fire station for evacuation practice and hose drying. The Blackpool brigade began to answer calls in Marton and Poulton in 1910, and the brigade received its first motorised fire engine on the 14th of December 1913, made by Leyland. The second was received in 1918, and the brigade finally did away with horse-drawn appliances.

In April 1914, a mishap *"occurred to Blackpool's fine new motor pump, which, on its second journey out, much to the surprise of the inhabitants of a private house, crashed through the railings and came to rest in the front garden, with the fire escape pointing through the breakfast-room window"*. This prompted the brigade to instigate rigorous training of pump drivers for the first time.
The town received a new fire engine in December 1918.

The sheer size of the Pleasure Beach fire in 1934 forced the Borough Corporation to make its firemen professional for the first time. Indeed, by that year, the brigade consisted of 6 officers and 30 firemen, and *"The station is well equipped with fire appliances, comprising two 55 hp Leyland motor fire engines, fitted with centrifugal pumps of 500 gallons capacity ; first-aid pumps, one 90-ft. Leyland Metz turntable escape fitted with a 1,000 watts generator and a 1,000 watts searchlight ; one Morris Senior van, fitted with a 20-gallon soda acid cylinder and several types of extinguishers and smoke apparatus ; one 100 gallons capacity Leyland Trailer Pump fitted with a 9 horse power ; two six- cylinder Crossley motor ambulances. The Gamewell fire alarm system is installed, and 22 fire alarm boxes are erected in different parts of the borough. The police-firemen are provided with quarters at the station, to which are fitted fire alarms and electric light. Billiards and reading rooms are provided as suitable recreation for all ranks"*.

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A Drill Tower was built at the Fire Station in May 1954.

The fifth Blackpool Fire Station began working at 62 Forest Gate in January 1987, being formally opened on the 10th of April. The old station was demolished and the space is now a car park for the Register Office. The new station was built on the former playing fields of the Girls' School.

Bispham Fire Station: The original station building was constructed in 1911, for the purpose of erecting an electricity generating station. It remained as that until 1925, when it was converted into a library and reading room, but in 1938 a new library was opened, and the Fire Brigade took over the old library building turning it into a Training Centre for the Auxiliary Fire Service.

During 1939, the building became a fully operational Fire Station for the Second World War, and 116 trailer fire pumps were delivered to the ARP Fire Brigade HQ in August, in case of war. The original station was demolished from 1964 to make room for a new building. During the reconstruction, the fire fighters were accommodated in the disused tram sheds nearby. The new "North Shore Station" was duly opened on the 22nd of July 1966.

South Shore Fire Station: opened on St Anne's Road on the 26th of November 1973, to replace the previous Station on Lytham Road, which had been in a converted undertaker's shop. This station was built on the site of Civil Defence camps. The Fire Safety department was later accommodated in the refurbished garages at the rear of the station, in Phil Smith House - named after Station Officer Phil Smith, who died in a fire in 2004.

In 2019, the station will be re-vamped to provide bigger and better living quarters.

James Caunce's estate was given to Charles Gorton, after whom Charles Street and Gorton Street are named. George Street is named after Charles's brother George.

A gentleman's diary at the time described Norbreck as:

> "*Norbreck Villa, the seat of Joseph Lowe, Esq. is a pleasant residence, situated on the cliffs of the Irish Sea; there are also several other very neat villas situated on the coast. The Parsonage is a very handsome residence*".

A "Court Leet and Yearly" was still held in Blackpool by Sir Thomas Clifton on the first Tuesday after the 10th of October each year (a court leet was the forerunner of the magistrate's court). The County Court was held in Poulton monthly, in a building on the corner of Sheaf Street and Queen's Square, which later became the library.

The Lecture and Reading Room Association for Blackpool and South Shore first met on the 10th of May in the Assembly Rooms of the Clifton Arms Hotel.

Consideration was first given to providing Blackpool with the Telegraph service.

Bispham's population was 293.

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The village of Peel was known as "Fold Peel" and was situated around Peel Corner – not around Peel Hall Farm further to the south, as show on current maps.

Miss Day opened her private school at 10 East Beach in Lytham, having moved there to have more space.

Kirkham Working-men's' Reading Room and Library opened.

Kirkham Fire Brigade: The town's own fire brigade was formed. Kirkham Fire Station was built on Station Road in 1862, to house the newly-bought engine. The station was built on land behind the workhouse and stood opposite what is now number 44 Station Road. It later moved, to be incorporated into the newly-built Urban District Council offices in 1894. By 1916, the Fire Station was on Moor Street.
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Wesham Ambulance Station: In 1948, Kirkham and Wesham Fire Stations (Moor Street, Kirkham, and Derby Road, Wesham) merged in the Wesham station on Garstang Road, and it was used as a joint fire/ambulance service until 1969, when a new station was built, further out of town on the same road.

Kirkham's new ambulance and fire stations were built at the junction of Station Road and Garstang Road South in 1969, and these were in turn replaced in 1991 with yet another new fire station, which was opened for use on Fleetwood Road on the 4th of October, with the official opening taking place on the 25th of February 1992. The 1969 building is now a car dealership.

1859

Yorkshire House had its name changed to the York Hotel by Robert Caldicott. It had been bought and named the "Yorkshire House Hotel" by S Brewer in May 1843.
Viener's Bazaar and Museum opened next to the Sacred Heart Presbytery at 15 to 19 Talbot Road. The bazaar later became RG and Bateson and Sons' Furnishers, who by 1895 also had an outlet next door to the Empress Buildings

South Shore Methodism: Local Wesleyans began to worship in a large room hired in the South Shore Hydropathic Establishment. The mission was operated by bookseller HT Wilson of Talbot Road. They soon opened a small Sunday-school there, run by teachers and Christian workers from Marton Moss. Soon, the mission required larger premises, and the disused Temperance Hall between Bolton Street and South parade was converted for their use in 1862: it had been converted into a coach house after the hall closed. The lack of sea defences caused the building to flood regularly.

Rawcliffe Street Wesleyan Church: In 1869, they received sanction to erect a chapel in Rawcliffe Street, where Mr Wilson had bought a piece of land. Soon the Rawcliffe Street Ebenezer Wesleyan Chapel was built. Costing about £1,400, it opened on the 2nd of September 1869, to seat 350 worshippers. The architects were Thomas Bird and Sons of Manchester, and the builder was RW Braithwaite of Blackpool. In 1870, the church opened a Sunday school for 250 children next door.

The next Rawcliffe Street Wesleyan chapel was opened on the corner of Moore Street, South Shore on the 14th of June 1889. It had been begun in 1888, and was built next to the old church, which was then used as a school.

The Rawcliffe Street Methodist Church was closed on the 25th of July 1971, to be demolished in 1972. Four stained glass windows from the Church were moved into the South Nave of Holy Trinity Church. They depict the four Evangelists (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John). The church had been replaced by Clarence Court flats by 1974.

A memorial plaque, commemorating parishioners lost in World War 1, was discovered in 2008 – in a scrap yard in Kirby Lonsdale.

Blackpool Savings Bank opened on the 14th of May, using the offices of the Local Board of Health on Saturdays. The Juvenile Sick Club was also restarted.

The Concert Inn, Blackpool: was a beerhouse at the corner of 64 Bonny Street and 4 Chapel Street, run by James Ball. By the mid-1870s, John Wilkinson was its landlord. It closed in about 1964 and was

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demolished in 1966, along with other properties on the eastern side of Bonny Street, to make way for the new Police headquarters. The police station car park now stands there.

Blackpool still had 4 other beer houses, and these were run by Thomas Moore at South Shore – complete with its own bowling green, N Fisher on Lytham Road, James Turnbull on Market Street, and John Headey on Euston Street (this later became the Oddfellows Arms).

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Poulton Fire Station: Poulton bought a new horse-drawn steam-pump fire engine for the town. Poulton Fire Station was originally a small building in Chapel Street, opposite the corn mill, but during World War 2, it was on Station Road, likely being an Auxiliary station manned by volunteers.

Fleetwood Lifeboat: Captain Wasey, the chief coastguard, asked the RNLI for the town's own lifeboat, and, it was received in March, to cover the Fylde coast. It was the only lifeboat in the UK to be launched directly into a river. The lifeboat house was built on the beach opposite the North Euston Hotel, where the pier later stood. Opened in September, it was destroyed in a gale in January 1863. A replacement wooden one was built, on piles, where the present lifeboat sits, in 1879, with the remains of the first lifeboat house being sold off in 1881.

Within 3 months, a new brick-built lifeboat house was rapidly erected on the eastern corner of Lower Lune Street and Pharos Street. This later became a "Walk Round" general store, which is now a private house.

Another new boathouse was built in 1893, as the railway required the previous site. It moved again to a position between the pier site and the little lighthouse, and then moved to its current site in 1901, when, owing to the difficulty of keeping the slipway free of sand and shingle, a new slipway was built east of the Low Light, and the railway company moved the boathouse to the new slipway. They took down the lifeboat house, moved it on rails, and re-erected it near the new slipway in October.

The Fleetwood lifeboat service closed down between 1930 and 1933.

An Inshore Lifeboat Station and pen were opened in 1966, with the lifeboat being launched across the beach. In 1975, a new mooring pen was built for the all-weather lifeboat. In 1977, gales washed away the ILB house, and a new one was placed on the end of the mooring pen jetty - the ILB being launched from it by a davit. In 1980, a new ILB boathouse was built. Fleetwood's wooden lifeboat house was finally demolished in 1976.

In 2005, a new station and HM Coastguard station were built, and were opened on the Promenade in November, with staff being relocated from their original building on Princes Way. This station was officially opened on the 15th of July 2006.

There is a complete list of all Fleetwood's lifeboats provided at Appendix BB.

James Shaw Walker opened his menswear shop in Preston. In 1932 JS Walker and Sons (his two sons had joined him in 1889) opened a second shop in Albert Square in Fleetwood. It remained the area's oldest "high class" menswear outlet until it closed in January 2009, when in the hands of the Farquahar family.

The Lytham Volunteers: The Lytham Rifle Volunteers were formed after a meeting at the Clifton Arms Hotel on the 1st of December, and by the 28th of January 1860, they had enough men to be officially titled
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the 29th (Lytham) Lancashire Rifle Volunteers. Their uniforms were ordered from tailor Elijah Butcher of Hastings Place. The Lytham Rifle Corps met twice a week at the Clifton Arms. The Kirkham Artillery Volunteers had already been formed for several years.
The Lytham Rifle Volunteer's Brass Band is first heard of playing on the 29th of March 1861.
The corps armoury was first in the sergeant's house on Dicconson Terrace, but moved to 22 Church Road in 1864, where it stayed until the Drill Hall opened in 1915, on the corner of Henry Street and Queen Street.
The corps remained independent until it joined the 3rd Admin Battalion in 1864. The battalion was consolidated as the 3rd Rifle Volunteers in 1880 and became the East Lancashire Regiment's 2nd Volunteer Battalion in June 1888. The corps was renamed E Company, 4th Battalion Loyal North Lancashire Regiment in March 1907, then the regiment's 5th Battalion in 1908, and finally to the 1/4th Battalion in 1915.

The drill hall was demolished in 1985, for the building of the Homestead.

1860s

Fish and Chips: The first fish and chip shops began to appear in town in this decade, but tales about them being the first in the country cannot be substantiated.
Joseph Malin opened London's first in Bethnal Green in 1860, and Lancashire's first was recorded in Moseley in 1863.
The indoor version, the fish restaurant, was introduced by Samuel Isaacs, whose first restaurant opened in London in 1896, serving fish and chips, bread and butter, and tea for nine pence.
By 1937, Blackpool had 149 chip shops, along with 106 tripe shops and 201 cafés.

Deep-fried fish was first introduced into Britain during the 16th century by Jewish refugees from Portugal and Spain and is derived from the Spanish dish *"pescado frito"*.

Ice Cream: Blackpool first began to see the arrival of Italian ice cream makers and sellers, with names such as Naventi, Pini (anglicised to Peeney), and Notarianni. The making of ice cream had been simplified in 1843 by using *"a wooden bucket that was filled with ice and salt and had a handle which rotated. The central metal container, containing the ice cream was surrounded the salt and ice mixture. This churning produced ice cream with an even, smooth texture".* Swiss émigré Carlo Gatti set up the first British stand outside Charing Cross station in 1851.

By 1903, the town had 201 registered ice cream dealers, and the Blackpool and District Ice Cream Vendors' Association was formed on the 25th of January 1918. The number of ice cream dealers had increased to 323 by the end of 1947.
In 1962, "soft" ice cream was introduced, and this revolutionised its manufacture locally. By the end of that year, there were 27 local makers, and over 540 local sellers.

The Prince of Wales Hotel, Blackpool: was constructed about now on York Street. It was demolished in the 1960s, to be replaced in the early 1970s with the Gauntlet public house at 10-12 York Street, which hosted its own discotheque and video bar.
That 2-storey pub, with 3 bedroomed accommodation then turned into the Jaggy Thistle bar, managed from 1986 to 1998 by Val Campbell. The Thistle, which advertised itself as "The World-Famous Jaggy Thistle", was once named infamously as the 50th roughest bar in the United Kingdom. The site is now a car park. It closed in November 2010, went bankrupt on the 28th of June 2011, and was then demolished in August 2011

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The Bowling Green Inn / Woolworth's South Shore: A beerhouse called the Bowling Green Inn stood on the corner of Bath Street and Church Street in South Shore, complete with its own bowling green, to the north of the pub.
Francis Ball was Listed as its licensee in 1886. Then, in 1906, the inn was the subject of a bitter quarrel between licensees John Taylor and Daniel Haye, about who should re-furbish the enterprise. By 1938, John Eastham was in charge, but after the expansion of the adjacent Woolworth's store, the inn closed.

The plot immediately to the North of the green was built over in 1861, and the New Market Hall was built on the corner of Church Street and Waterloo Road. Blackpool's second Woolworth's store (store 309) opened at what was by then numbered 7 to 11 Bond Street on the 17th of March 1928, and in 1938, that shop was extended by the construction of additional building on the top of the old bowling green's playing surface.
The Woolworth's store was temporarily taken over by the war department from 1942 to 1946, and closed on the 8th of January 1993. It soon became an indoor market-type store called Browsers and then, in 1994, Linda and Leo Jones opened it as Hartes Homestore. Hartes closed at the end of the 2015 season, re-opening online only in 2017. The premises have been empty since January 2019, and are set to be demolished due to unsafe construction.

The Criterion pub, Blackpool: The Huddersfield Arms was built around now at 31 Topping Street. By 1934 it had been re-built by its new owners, Tetley's brewery, as the Criterion Hotel, now re-numbered 83-85 Topping Street, and William Heys was its licensee. The bar changed its name to Churchill's in 2005. The old name is still in mosaic tiles on the floor outside the front door – "Tetley – Churchill – Hotel".

The Duke of Cambridge Hotel, Blackpool: was built at the junction of the Promenade and Warbreck Road (now called Dickson Road). The Matthew Brown Brewery owned the inn by 1873, and in 1889, they built a small bowling green adjoining the building.
The inn closed in 1938, to be demolished for the construction of the new Gynn Hotel.

South Shore had 9 small fishing boats at the time, and they were catching up to 12 cwt of cod and haddock, which was sold at Preston Market. Man-mad baulks were constructed on the shore to aid the catching. Shrimps were also caught and sold, as were herring, but by the 1920s, the herring had dwindled away to almost nothing.
In September, *"A gentleman from Preston killed himself on the train due at Blackpool at 9-15 on Saturday night. Before getting to Poulton station, the passengers in the same carriage knew he had taken laudanum and was nearly unconscious as a result, but no one summoned medical help. When the train pulled into Blackpool, he fell among the carriages but was lifted on the platform and he then made his way down the street, with a small crowd in tow. He was found leaning against some railings by a couple of fellas and was taken to the Railway Hotel but he died there almost straight away"*.

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Pemberton's of Lytham: Thomas Pemberton was a cattle buyer from Wharles, who now opened a butcher's shop at 32 Clifton Street in Lytham (that shop has since been various bargain shops, and fashion shops – now called The Lily Pink).
His son John took over in 1907, and began farming at Lytham Hall's Home Farm. The Pembertons soon took on the dairying tenancy at Birks Farm, and have owned the farm since the 1950s, still delivering milk around the area.
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On the 1st of July 2017, the family opened Pembertons Farm Shop at the farm. It sells meat reared in the fields behind the shop on the farm, local produce, and their own raw milk, which customers get from a specialist self-serve machine.
In October 2018, Tom Pemberton won the Digital Innovator prize at the British Farming Awards, for his revolutionary YouTube internet video channel.

1860

The Alpine Hall and Borough Bazaar, Blackpool: were built opposite Hounds Hill Railway Station at Hound Hill, where several shops (such as J Park's Family Grocer's) were demolished. It is now the site of the Hounds Hill Shopping Centre.

In 1864, Thomas Bannister purchased the hall and bazaar, and renamed the whole building Bannister's Bazaar. He then rented off the ground floor to stallholders and sold foreign goods himself upstairs.
In 1877, the building was completely rebuilt, and the Borough Bazaar and Concert Hall opened on the 3rd of September, at a cost of £12,000. It was a purpose-built toy and vegetable market. The new building measured 89 feet in length by 105 feet deep, and the ground floor held the bazaar, with a theatre for 800 people above it – this first gave opera shows. The builder was J Fisher, and it cost £6,622.

It was renamed the Borough Theatre on the 28th of June 1878 and closed down in 1879, briefly being named the Corporation Music Hall, but was soon reopened as Bannister's Bazaar and Theatre.
In 1880 the theatre, was renamed as the Criterion Palace of Varieties, showing the "Star Company of celebrated artistes". This closed in the 1890s, by then called the Criterion Theatre of Varieties, and became the Alpine Hall, a popular venue which showed acts such as Professor André and his Alpine Ladies Choir. In later years, Professor André rented the hall for prayer meetings.

Once more called Bannister's Bazaar, it was leased on the 6th of February 1928 by Bert Feldman, a local impresario and music publisher – the Bannister family had retired from the business. Feldman had staged the "White Blackbirds" – an all-black song and dance show starring Florence Mills - on Central Pier before moving it to the Bazaar. He had turned that into two theatres; the ground floor became the "Hall of Novelties", and soon, the vacant first floor became "Feldman's Playhouse and Repertory Theatre", which was devoted to Repertory performed by the Fred D'Albert Players. The Bazaar was converted from two separate theatres to one 2,200-seater theatre in 1935.

The Bazaar was then renamed Feldman's Theatre in 1937, and finally, in 1952 it was sold by Bert Feldman to Jimmy Brennan, who renamed it the Queen's Theatre. The first show was "Singing in the Reign", starring Josef Locke and Nat Jackley. On the opposite side of the street, was the Saxone Building – Saxone moved across the road to the corner of Adelaide Street on the construction of the Hounds Hill Centre.

The Queen's hosted Barney's Bingo sessions from the mid-1960s and was pulled down in 1973. In 1974, C&A (short for Clemens and August Brenninkmeyer) opened their clothing department store on the site on the 4th of July. It closed in February 2001 to be replaced by a large TK Maxx store, which was opened on the 2nd of August. C and A had pulled out of Britain.

In 1923, Mr Feldman also built Feldman's Arcade at 100 the Promenade, which he opened for the 1924 season. The venue stretched through to 13 to 15 Market Street and had a shopping arcade underneath. This live music emporium had *"vibrant music parlors and song booths where musicians and singers would demonstrate songs and musical compositions".* They attracted customers by encouraging them with "shills" who were "planted" in the audience by the Arcade owners, to persuade the crowds to sing along

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and then buy to the songs by waving "dummy purchases" in the air. The Feldman's Arcade Café on the upper floors offered light classical music recitals, bar mitzvahs and private society functions, and Fred Ash's photographic studio was also located within the Arcade.
The arcade went into liquidation in July 1948, and was then bought by the Lyons family, who ran it until the late 1950s, with an exclusive ladies' outfitters and gown shop replacing the song booths in the arcade. In the 1960s the building was purchased by Israelite Marks, who opened up in the arcade with the Dianna Warren menswear outlet, consisting of The Powder Bowl and The Young Generation Boutique. The mosaic floor with the Feldman's name at the entrance was removed, and the store complex was advertised as their "International Fashion Arcade".

Actress Mollie Sugden based her Mrs Slocombe character from "Are You Being Served" on Betty Wansker (real name Irene), the manageress at Dianna Warren. Betty had acted in repertory at the Royal Pavilion, where Mollie had seen her style of acting.

Later, the arcade building became the Clifton Arcade Market, then Cahoots Night Club, and is currently a Yates's outlet.

The gravel promenade, known as the Central Beach, was asphalted, and sprinkled over with white "spar" (calcite and gypsum crystals).
Crossfield's Seminary was situated on Mount Pleasant and General Street, run by Miss Ann and Elizabeth Crossfield. By 1870 it was advertising itself as the Crossfield Academy.
Buildings began to be erected opposite St John's School on Church Street.
The Blackpool Winter Sports – suspended in 1852 – were restarted. They involved rabbit coursing on the beach and foot races between the Bridge of Peace and the Clifton Arms.
HT Wilson's Reading Room was in Belle Vue Square, offering books for loan or purchase. They also offered the use of a circulating library from Mudie's of London.

The Kings Arms Hotel, Blackpool: was built at the corner of New Road and what would later become Swainson Street. The landlord in 1866 was Thomas Taylor, and in 1870 it was Thomas Poole.

Its address was later amended to 170 Talbot Road, and in 1938, it was run by James Atkinson. It was Higson's Brewery's only Blackpool pub until they were taken over by Boddingtons Brewery in 1985. Boddingtons re-furbished the pub in 1987, and it briefly became Sam's Bar in 1990 before rapidly reverting to its original name.
The Blackpool Blues and Progressive Music Club and the Blackpool Folk Club both met at the Kings Arms in the 1960s.
The Fylde branch of CAMRA (the Campaign for Real Ale) was formed there on the 26th of March 1974, meeting there until 1995, when the Flying Handbag gay nightclub was built in the old Kings Arms building.

There is a rather dubious tale that this club was named after a handbag that was found on a roof in nearby Swainson Street, which was thought to have landed there after the 1935 air crash. I suspect however, that the name is a cheeky invention of owner Basil Newby.

The Flying Handbag was sold to the Corporation in 2004 for demolition under the resort's "Masterplan", and the club moved to new premises on Queen Street on the 20th of January 2006.
The Kings Arms building was demolished in 2007.

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James Lucas's removals and depository opened at number 3 Elizabeth Street, near the Kings Arms Hotel, with his Livery Stables nearby on Fairhurst Street. Elizabeth Street had been named after James Caunce's niece's daughter.
Cuthbert Nickson rented saddle horses and conveyances from next to the Post Office on Church Street.

The Pleasant Retreat Inn and Strawberry Gardens, Layton: was being run by Thomas Horsburgh, advertised as *"only 5 minutes walk from the parish church"*.

White Cottage was probably built on what is now called Macauley Avenue in Marton.
A new pinfold was opened on wasteland at Hawes Side in February.
In October, several premises were licenced as slaughterhouses. They were: Thomas Masheter, Raikes; Anthony Salthouse, Fumbler's Hill; John Braithwaite, behind his shop in Market Street; and William Ashhurst in the Old Gas Yard.
Mr Holt ran a photography studio at the northern side of the Royal Hotel – number 20 Bank Hey Street (now a Thornton's chocolate shop). He also ran a portrait gallery from the *"fourth door above the fish market"*, which later moved to 8 Central Beach. By 1926, his grandson Richard Holt had turned the Bank Hey Street shop into a popular local jeweller's. By 1973, Mister Dee's men's clothes shop was at 20 Bank Hey Street, owned by Jerry Tennant. Master Dee's boys' shop opened next door briefly, and Miss Dee was nearby. He also owned the Jebus boutique on Coronation Street.
There were several private schools and colleges in town by now, including the College Français at South Shore, Mr Neal's "University" on Hygiene Terrace, William Balshaw's Seminary in Netley House Talbot Square, Eliza Middleton's "Young Gentlemen's Academy" at 7 Queen's Square, and Mrs Vaughn's Seminary at 1 Crystal Terrace in South Shore.
A detached house with large garden was built about now, on the north-eastern end of Pleasant Street. It was called The Cliffe (or Cliff House), and is now called Lynn Grove House, on Lynn Grove.
Miss Catherine Rawcliff was advertising public baths at 13 Union Street in South Shore.

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The Bay Horse Inn, Poulton: The landlord of the Bay Horse Inn on Church Street was James Wilding.
The inn was rebuilt in 1910, becoming the town hall from 1921 until 1974, and being converted again, to be renamed the Old Town Hall pub in 1988.
The new building is a double range construction, with mock Tudor frontages to the two dormers.

Richard Leadbetter opened his fish, game and poultry shop on North Albert Street, Fleetwood, moving further down the same road into new premises in 1889.
Early brine mining was begun near Fleetwood. This was followed by a 170-metre-deep borehole being sunk by the Royal Engineers in 1890.
Tambourine Cottages were built at Commonside in Ansdell, now at numbers 61 to 74.

Lowther Gardens, Lytham: Colonel John Talbot constructed public pleasure grounds this year, with a pond and fountain issuing from a central rockery, extensive tree and shrub planting, pathways, lawns, a small wooden shelter (pavilion), and flower beds. The boundaries were marked by Lowther Terrace at the eastern extremity and Woodville Terrace the western.
This became Lowther Gardens, which were opened on the 27th of August 1872, to provide facilities for locals and to try to tempt away Blackpool's visitors. The event was described in the Preston Guardian thus:
"At one o'clock, a procession was formed at the market house to the gardens. It comprised: —Mr. Clifton, Mr. T. H. Clifton, Lady E. C. Clifton, Colonel the Right Hon. J. Wilson-Patten, M.P., Mr. J. P. C. Starkie, M.P., Mr. R. T. Parker (Cuerden Hall), the clergymen of all denominations resident in Lytham, Captain Alcock
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(chairman of the Lytham Commissioners), the gentry and tradesmen, visitors, Sunday schools, andc". The procession was led by the band of the Lytham Rifle Volunteers, and, after local schoolchildren had joined the band in a rendition of the national Anthem, Mr Clifton opened the park.

Squire Clifton had donated the space, 5.65 hectares (or nearly 13 acres) of arable land formerly known as "Hungry Moor", in memory of his wife's father, Colonel Lowther. In earlier years, Hungry Moor had been described as *"a frowsy and damp undrained piece of land fenced round and in its midst"* … *"stood the ugliest of wooden pumps"*.

The Gardens were laid out by Mr Barnes, of Lytham to the designs of Mr Rowbotham the Preston Corporation Park Keeper, and were planted with several species of tree, such as Evergreen Holm Oak, Austrian and Scots Pines, London Plane, and Sweet Chestnut.

Lowther Gardens were conveyed by Squire Clifton to the Lytham Urban District Council in 1905, to keep and maintain for Lytham residents and visitors. Immediate plans were drawn for improvements, the result of which was a wooden pavilion, bowling greens, tennis courts, and a bandstand.

That small wooden pavilion was built in 1906. It was allegedly first built on stilts to prevent damage by excessive rain.
Lowther Pavilion was rebuilt from 1921, and opened in 1922, when a small tea room was built on one side. In 1976, a car ran into the pavilion, and an examination of the structure showed that the original steel girders were rotting and in danger of collapse. Fortunately for Lowther, the theatre in Ashton Gardens at St Anne's burnt down in 1977, and the Operatic Society decided to relocate to Lytham. As a result, the pavilion was extensively rebuilt in brick in 1982, and only the roof and floor remain of the original construction. It now seats 454 people, and hosts over 100 events and shows each year.

The Bandstand was opened on the 17th of July 1909

The memorial sundial was erected in 1922/3. Its inscription reads *"A token of gratitude. The gift of those soldiers wounded in the Great War 1914 - 1918 who were restored to health by the skilled nursing of the Starr hills v.a.d. hospitals, and to the generous residents of this district who ministered to their comfort. (v.a.d. - voluntary aid detachments)"*.
The aviary was constructed and stocked with exotic birds in 1934.
New entrances and car parking were added in 1936. The original cast iron gates were removed during WW2 for melting down towards the war effort. Sadly, Lowther Gardens never reached the hope-for popularity.

A statue of a traditional shrimper was unveiled in the lake at Lytham's Lowther Gardens on the 23rd of November 2003, by shrimper Russell Wignall. It was sculpted by Colin Spofforth.
A cobble clock was unveiled in the gardens in November 2006, to mark the centenary of the Gardens as a public park. It was designed by artist Maggy Howarth, who also created the mosaic in Lytham Square.
The gardens were transferred to the Lowther Trust in 2012.

Lytham Baths/Assembly Rooms: Lytham Baths began to be built on Dicconson Terrace in 1860, after possibly the last several old thatched cottages in Lytham had been demolished. Charles Holt, the architect, won a prize for his design on the 25th of September. Lytham Assembly Rooms were opened next door on the 20th of August 1862, with music from the band of the 29th Lancashire (Lytham) Rifle Volunteers, and a fund-raising bazaar and grand ball on the 21st. Lytham Baths were opened on the 6th of April 1863, with

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part of the building housing Mr Siegfried Wartenberg's Parisian Bazaar, which proudly boasted that "*The stock is replete in every branch with the CHOICEST NOVELTIES*". Mr Wartenberg was also the treasurer of the Lytham Subscription Reading Room which had moved to the Assembly Rooms from Doctor Luke Fisher's house on the northern corner of Dicconson Terrace, after the Working-men's' Reading Room left. These first baths were filled with sea water, and the local paper reported that there were: "*fourteen private baths and four swimming-baths, two cold and two tepid; the swimming-baths appropriated to the gentlemen, with the necessary dressing-rooms, occupying each a space of about 80 feet by 40 feet, the baths themselves being about 60 feet by 25 feet in extent, and gradually and safely shelving in depth. The Assembly-room will accommodate several hundred persons at concerts, halls, andc., and below is another room of equal proportions, well adapted for a meeting room, or refreshment room, for large parties, and will, no doubt, be extensively used by members of Sunday schools, and other pleasure parties visiting Lytham. Over the Assembly-room is a neatly-fitted ladies' attiring room, and a news and general reading room; and there are also on the various floors the necessary offices and apartments for the keeper of the place, Mr. Thomas Moore, and the other persons on the staff".*

Lytham Picture Palace: This new Lytham cinema opened in July 1908, in the Assembly Rooms. In 1910, the cinema moved to the old skating rink building on Henry Street, so the Royal Picture Palace opened in its stead, on the 24th of December 1910. The cinema closed on the 19th of May 1917, and its film projection equipment was moved to the pier.

The New Lytham Baths: The original baths were demolished in 1926. They were rebuilt, and the new Lytham Baths and with the Assembly Rooms and Yacht Club being incorporated into a new design on Dicconson Terrace were opened for use in 1927. They were officially opened on the 9th of June 1928, by Sir William Milligan. The entrance was re-sited onto Dicconson Terrace, and the new baths boasted a sprung-floored ballroom-cum-concert room, the "Little Theatre", and a café.
Once more filled with filtered sea water, there was a grand Entrance Hall, A Cooling Room and Plombiere, an Ultra Violet Ray cubicle, a Radiant Heat cubicle, a Vichy Douche, and Brine Bath, Turkish and Russian Baths, 12 Slipper Baths, and a main plunge pool, 75 feet by 31 feet. This was 6 feet 6 inches at the deep end, and 3 feet 3 inches at the shallow end, holding about 71,000 gallons of water, maintained at a uniform temperature. There was dressing accommodation 60 bathers in 19 fixed cubicles.

The baths were closed by the Council in 1987, and were demolished in 1991. The refurbished Assembly Rooms are now the home of the town's Civic Trust, the Yacht Club, and a complex of apartments. From late 2018, they will be the new home of the library – now run as a charitable enterprise.

William Butcher was running the Temperance Hotel on Station Road in Lytham.
By now, Lytham had over 70 lodging houses listed in Brown's Directory.
There were 8 inns and over 15 beer houses and beer sellers in Kirkham by now.

The Patten Arms Inn, Winmarleigh: was built on Park Lane, named after the current head of the local Patten family. It had been built as a farmhouse, before changing into an inn called the Fat Scot. Now renamed the Patten Arms, it is now a Grade 2 Listed Building.
It is constructed of "*squared sandstone with a slate roof, and has 2 storeys with 4 bays. Its façade has chamfered quoins, a plinth, first floor sill band, eaves band, and cornice. The windows are sashed with glazing bars and plain stone surrounds. The door at the left has a plain stone surround with round head and fanlight, and there are chimneys on the gables and between the* 3rd *and* 4th *bays*".

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William Robinson started his nursery in Forton. It later became known as "*The home of the Mammoth Onion*". Originally, the nursery grew a very different range of crops, ranging from soft fruit, apples plums, and pears, to onions, leeks and all the usual vegetables of the time. He also kept cows and horses to use on the smallholding.

Great Eccleston Post Office: The first post office was in a cottage on Raikes Road, and about now, the townsfolk clubbed together to buy the postman his own horse and trap.
The post office was later moved just 50 yards to the west, and this second one was on the opposite side of the road. The original post office became the farm house at Post Office Farm. This was farmed by William Ball and Son, who also ran the town butchers.
The third post office is located inside Jay-Cee's Store at 17 The Square.

Southport opened its pier on the 2nd of August, to continue its competition with Blackpool, but even that was not the first in the country. That honour went to Ryde in 1814. It did, however push Blackpool into building its own.

1861
A second railway line was built from Blackpool to Lytham, with the first sod being cut by Colonel Clifton on the 4th of September.

The Union Baptist Chapel, Blackpool: This opened in Abingdon Street on Good Friday, having been found by disenchanted worshippers who had left the Victoria Street chapel in 1858.
The main building was brick and finished with moulded and polished stone dressings in the Grecian style. The front was topped off a bold cornice and pediment, and an ornamental tablet on which the word *"Union"* was engraved in relief. The two main entrances were in this front, approached by a range of steps and a landing. Inside, the floor of the principal range of pews was raking, rising from the Communion to the back pews. The building was lit by circular headed windows.
A Sunday school was built in Police Street, at the rear of the Baptist chapel in Abingdon Street in 1874.

In 1903, the Post Office bought out the Baptist Tabernacle site in Abingdon Street, briefly using its Sunday school as a Branch Post Office. The Baptists quickly repossessed their old site at 2 Springfield Road - the Post Office had agreed to build a new Tabernacle before the original church was closed - and in 1904, they began to build a new church there.

The new Springfield Road Baptist Tabernacle opened on the 1st of March 1906. The architect was Charles Hindle of Manchester, and it cost £15,000 to build. That amount *"includes furnishing and a new organ. It is seated throughout with plush covered tip-up chairs".* The Baptist Tabernacle on Abingdon Street was demolished in 1907, and from 1910 the site was occupied by the General Post Office.

In 1954, William H Davies became preacher at the Baptist Tabernacle. He was well-known by the evangelical churches in Northwest of England for his extensive guest preaching, and also by the many holiday-time visitors to the Tabernacle church, where he preached for 44 years.

Christ Church, Blackpool: The original Christ Church iron mission hut opened on the corner of Queen Street and Parker Street (later renamed Abingdon Street) on the 23rd of June, in a temporary building. Designed by J Medland Taylor, Christ Church's new building was opened on the 3rd of May 1866, replacing the iron shed. Christ Church was not consecrated until the 18th of September 1870, and the parish was formed on

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the 28th of March, 1871. The church was of stark red brick and stone in the Early English style, consisting of a chancel, nave, aisles, a west porch, and a western tower containing one bell - this had become a full peal of 6 bells by 1871. It had a reredos of Bath stone and granite, and could seat 1350 worshippers, although only 250 were free. The parsonage was soon built, across the road, and the church building was consecrated on the 28th of March 1899.
Christ Church School was erected nearby in 1872, and the Christ Church Men's Institute was opened on Maybell Avenue on the 6th of May 1912. Maybell Avenue is sometimes spelled Maybelle Avenue instead.

Christ Church Parsonage on Queen Street was demolished in 1960 to make way for a car park.
Christ Church merged with All Saints on Palatine Road in 1979, and the church building itself was demolished in 1982. The vacant site soon became another car park.

In 1993, the town's Job Centre was constructed on the vacant plot. The Job Centre was allocated number 43 Queen Street, and is now known as the Job Centre Plus, having incorporated some of the functions of the Department of Work and Pension (DWP) in the early 2000s.

Read's Bazaar, Market, and Sea Water Baths, Blackpool: Blackpool's second market, housing 30 different stalls, was opened on South Beach on the 4th of September by Jonathan Read. The buildings were called Read's Baths, Market Arcade, and Assembly Rooms. In 1871, the Baths advertised *"Each Bath is in a separate apartment, and on every occasion of use, is filled with 100 Gallons of Pure Filtered Sea Water. Each First-class Bath is supplied with two clean towels and brushes; and each Second-class Bath with one towel. These Baths have been fitted up regardless of expense, on purpose to secure the comfort and convenience of Bathers, the Water being drawn from the Sea by Steam- power, at the rate 100,000 gallons every tide".* Also *"The Gentlemen's Bath was 60 ft x 24 ft and the Ladies Bath was 40 ft X 15 ft. Both provided separate dressing rooms. The Baths were supplied daily with 60,000 gallons of pure tepid sea water. A swim was sixpence and hire of Ladies costumes 2d extra and Men's costumes 1d extra"*.

Read's Market was completely burnt out on the 8th of August 1877, and although three weeks in 1878, Read's Baths had displayed a live whale for public viewing, they too closed in 1920. The premises soon became the Coney Island amusement. The Read family also built many houses in the area, having Reads Avenue named after them.

By 1920, the Bee Restaurant was on Central Promenade, advertising itself as "The best and most up-to-date in Blackpool". It had its name emblazoned on the roof in large white letters. The restaurant even offered its own "Golden Fleet of Motor Char-à-bancs" on which customers could be taken home to inland towns such as Manchester.

During the late 1920s, the restaurant, the remains of Read's Baths and Market, and several private houses were purchased and demolished, and in 1929, Luna Park opened on the site. Luna Park was incorporated on the 3rd of July, being owned by the Silcock family. Its brown stucco Moorish Palace was surmounted by a green half-dome and a crescent moon and featured such acts as gas-breathing Abyssinians, a guillotine that chopped of the head of a girl - it then answered questions, an Indian Yogi (manager Harry Kamiya), a ghost train, a snake charmer.

Luna Park was destroyed by fire on the evening of the 26th of August 1937. It was by then owned by the Tower Company but run by Harry Kamiya, who also ran the holiday camp at Middleton Towers, near Morecambe. The fire was the worst of three at the premises in a very short time, and the gazette reported that *"Twisted steel girders and burned sideshows tell of the terrific heat and swiftness of the fire. Huge*

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beams crashed through to the ground floor, where flames quickly swallowed up machines and games which amused thousands of holidaymakers this season. When a section of the roof collapsed, ventilators and girders crashed into the body of the hall, sending up a shower of sparks like a wonderful electric display".

There was local speculation that as it was owned by "the Japanese" (they thought Kamiya was a Japanese name), it had been set on fire to cause a war between the UK and Japan! The Gazette was forced to publish a denial to stop the rumours.

In 1940, what was left of the Luna Park building became the Bee Amusement Arcade (named after the old restaurant), next door to Louis Tussaud's Waxworks. The Bee was a great draw at first, due to the chance of winning one of two motorcycles that were displayed in glass cases in front of the venue. The venue hosted many live attractions, such as "Chief Amerba and Madam Cara Calipha and their troupe of African performers".

The last vestiges of the buildings were demolished in November 1967, along with much other old and dilapidated Golden Mile property.

Fylde Waterworks: The Fylde Waterworks Act was made on the 22nd of July "*for incorporating the Fylde Waterworks Company, and for authorising them to make and maintain waterworks, and to supply water at Kirkham, Lytham and Blackpool*". The head office was on Poulton Street in Kirkham.

This single Act produced the biggest growth yet in activity on the Fylde Coast, and opened up the area to further occupation and investment.

Between 1861 and 1863, the company constructed the Grizedale Reservoir to supply the Fylde with its first proper water. This was followed by Barnacre East, Barnacre West, and Grizedale Lea Reservoirs.

The first Blackpool office of the Fylde Waterworks opened on Adelaide Place in November 1863. It had no water but was soon supplied from a pump in Caunce's Yard (site of Bannister's Bazaar). The company yard was behind Ivy Cottage at South Beach. The office opened in 1864, and on the 21st of July, the first piped water came into Blackpool from the Grizedale Reservoir via the almost-completed Weeton Reservoir. A water main ran to the north of Marton Mere and terminated opposite St John's School in Church Street. The house of T Masheter on Market Street was one of the first to be supplied.

Weeton Reservoir was first filled on the 14th of April 1866. It had been built on the site of an old brick hole, above the brick field on Whitprick Hill, on land granted by Lord Derby. It can hold 16 million gallons of water. The mains pipes from the reservoir were renewed in 1959.

In March 1871, the Fylde Waterworks bought land for a works and offices on Dixon Street in Blackpool. This later moved to Cedar Street. They also opened their offices at 30 Poulton Street in Kirkham. In the 1920s, after brief use by the Kirkham Institute, the building was demolished and replaced with a bank – now the NatWest.
The company built and opened an office and works in Fleetwood in 1873 and began to supply water to the town in 1890.

In 1896, they moved their headquarters from Kirkham (the old centre of the Fylde) to Blackpool (the new centre). The Fylde Water Board took over the Fylde Waterworks from the 31st of August 1899, by means of

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the Fylde Water Board Bill. The new company initially rented offices at 34 Victoria Street in Blackpool. The Board opened a new yard in Henthorne Street in 1904, with 6 workmen's cottages and stables.
The Fylde Water Board's Headquarters was officially opened on the corner Sefton Street and Board Street on the 4th of October 1906. The land, and another area in Dixon Street, had been bought from the Council on the 11th of January 1904. The temporary offices in Cedar Street and Victoria Street were vacated. The first board meeting was held at the new offices on the 2nd of October.
The building was fully remodelled in 1939 and demolished in May 1975, after the offices had moved to Talbot Road.

The Board bought more land and two cottages on Hull Street in 1910, with the intention of building a yard and works there.
Warbreck Hill Reservoir opened on the 3rd of July 1926. Leys Farm had been demolished to make room.

Westby Reservoir was opened for use in 1928. It had been begun in 1923, to boost the coast's water supply. The main road was diverted and the reservoir built on the site of the demolished Westby Windmill. It was originally to be called the Whinbrick Service Reservoir.
On the 3rd of July 1932, the Hodder Reservoir's water supply to the town was opened by Prince George, the Duke of Kent, as was the Westby Reservoir.
"A roof was added in the 1960s, but, prior to this, it was said that a full-time seagull scarer was employed! The reservoir is 650ft in diameter, the sides slope two in one, and it has a capacity of 38m gallons".

The Stocks Reservoir - fed from the river Hodder by the Hodder Aqueduct - opened in March 1933.

Warbreck Water Tower was opened on Leys Road on the crest of Warbreck Hill, beside the reservoir, on the 29th of July 1933. The unused brickcroft of R Fielding had made way for it. Fed by water from the Barnacre Reservoir, it was built to improve water pressure for Blackpool, and still dominates the skyline. It can hold 114,000 gallons of water, and its revolutionary concrete construction was once described as the best in the world – even its doors are concrete.
Two reservoirs were built next to the tower, landscaped to blend into the surrounding land. An electric pump delivers water from the reservoirs to the tank in the tower.
The Leys Road allotments were nearby for many years.

Between the 31st of August and the 4th of November 2007, for the Illuminations, images of rippling water were projected onto the outside of the Tower. The project was called 'Water is Everywhere', and was designed and created by Creatmosphere. It is displayed 360 degrees around the tower, and is controlled by an LED ring at the base, which projects the movement and texture of water. For the "Festival of Light" 2008 it became a permanent feature.

By 1970, all buildings, except 4 houses, in the Fylde District were connected to the main water supply

Fylde Water Board's new offices were built in January 1961, at Coleridge Road in Blackpool, near to their old yard on Henthorne Street.
Fylde Water Board was taken over by the Northwest Water Authority on the 1st of April 1974, and the headquarters building was soon taken over by Henthorne's builders as their offices and showroom.
Beneast moved into the building in 1998, modernising the building, which remained their headquarters until they moved out in 2013. The building began to be demolished from July 2014.

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A sign of the rapid increase in building at the time is when James Hall of Lytham and Colonel Clifton placed orders for 900,000 common bricks and arch bricks to be made in Lytham, Little Marton, and Salwick, and later, for 1,500,000 more bricks from Hestham (near Morecambe), Little Marton, and Clifton-with-Salwick.
The Schooner "William Henry" with a cargo of flour and lard was wrecked at South Shore. Despite warnings from the Customs officers, scavenging provided plenty of cheap lard for South Shore people.
The first Blackpool Poultry Exhibition and Show was held on the 3rd, 4th and 5th of July, despite the railway company sending all the bird pens to Lancaster by mistake.
Robert Park, letter carrier, was presented with an engraved watch on the 27th of February for his long service in delivering mail from Blackpool to Great Marton Little Marton, Staining, Layton, Warbreck, and the Moss Sides – quite a round!

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Poulton Methodist Church: A new Methodist church was erected on Bank Street - what is now the junction of Chapel Street and Queen's Square - in Poulton.
A second chapel was erected just to the north in 1889, and the original building was used as a school. A new Sunday school was opened next door on the 4th of March 1908.

The current Poulton Methodist Church was opened on Queensway on the 1st of January 1965. The architect who designed the new church was inspired by Poulton's maritime connections, and some of its features reflected this: a prow shaped pulpit, copper lanterns, and black wood window frames which were a reminder of the timber frames of the old trading ships. Between 2004 and 2008, the church was altered and enlarged, to include a public coffee shop, a new sanctuary, and a new chapel.

Fleetwood School of Musketry: The School of Musketry on the 23rd of September, to take up to 60 officers. The Lancashire Rifle Volunteers had opened a temporary musketry school at Fleetwood in October 1860, using the ranges at Rossall and Lytham. Together with the Lytham Volunteers (29th Corps) they took more than 180 recruits from the Fylde.

At the same time, Hutment Barracks were erected on the east side of Cemetery Lane. The hutments (hut encampments) could take 220 soldiers, 10 officers, 14 married soldiers, and had a lecture room, its own large hospital, and magazines. A large number of men were also usually encamped under canvas, for rifle practice, during the summer months. A stone perimeter wall surrounded the facility, and on its inside was a wooden walkway, used by the military sentries.

The School of Musketry left Fleetwood in September 1867 and migrated down to Hythe in Kent. Thereafter, the 48 officers were housed at the North Euston Hotel and a rifle range was laid out on the west side of the lane (the present golf course). The former ballroom became the lecture room (known as the *"Agony"* or *"Rack Room"* by trainees, and its walls were hung with dozens of ancient firearms.

Two ammunition magazines - to the east of the hospital - were completed in October 1878. They were said later to be the largest small-arms ammunition magazines in the country. When World War 1 started, the ammunition was moved south on special trains. Guards were stationed on bridges on the route. The magazines were guarded by troops until 1921. The army gun and rifle range was moved to South Shore in Blackpool in 1891, and the hutments and the rifle ranges were bought off the War Office by Fleetwood Council in 1929, with the hutments finally closing in 1930.

The Angora Works: were constructed in 1930, where the hospital buildings were, and the rifle range had been developed by 1938. The Angora works, and the row of cottages next door, finally began to be
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knocked down in 1959 to be quickly replaced by the houses of Rydal, Coniston, Borrowdale, and Grasmere Avenues.

St George's Home for Boys: The building adjacent to the hospital, facing onto Cemetery Road, was converted into an orphanage in 1939 by the Waifs and Strays, and in 1940, the St George's Home for Boys opened. It housed evacuees from the St George's Home for Boys at Kersal (who had holidayed there for several years until moving to Pont-y-Pant in Wales in 1943), and from the Rochdale Home for Boys. It closed in 1945, and after some use for light industry, was demolished in the early 1960s.
The Hutments site is now covered by housing, although the boundary wall – complete with firing loopholes - still exists on Shakespeare Road and Borrowdale Road.

Some of the butts, range boundaries, and an original protection mantlet still exist, and the nearby weapons pit is located close to the firing range and is left over from use of the range during World War 2.

Fleetwood Golf Club: The Fleetwood Links - also known as the North Euston Military Golf Club - was formed this year. Its first home was on the Warrens - land running south from the Mount Hotel down to the cemetery and bounded by the Promenade to the west and Poulton Road to the east, would approximately cover the site of the first golf course. The officers from the Euston Barracks were instrumental in the laying out of the links course, organising a golf competition, and presenting prizes to the eventual winners. That first golf club was disbanded when the School of Musketry was relocated to Hythe in Kent in 1867.

The North Euston Military Golf Club and its links is recognised, by the Royal and Ancient, as the UKs oldest links course. *"The Officers of the school included a Scot and an Englishman, Lieutenant Arthur Campbell Walker and Captain Alfred Waldy, two very keen golfers. Walker was" "the main instigator of golf at Fleetwood, and he was the winner of the first club competition for which he was awarded a handsome silver trophy, engraved with cross clubs and a golf ball"*. The expansion of golf around the world came as a direct result of these soldiers and others taking it around with them.
Fleetwood Golf Club was finally founded on the 21st of November 1893, at a meeting in the Fielden Library, first playing from Laidley's Walk. By January 1901 the course had been commandeered by the Government for military purposes and the club was almost defunct. Only two or three holes were being maintained by members for practice, and many members moved to the recently-opened course at Cleveleys Hydro.

The club moved to land between the railway and what is now the Fisherman's Friend site on Copse Road in 1904. They stayed there until 1910, when they began to share the course at Knott End, as the Knott End and Fleetwood Golf Club. After the 1927 floods, the council bought the rifle range from the War Department in 1929 in order to relocate the club, and the new Fleetwood Golf Club was opened on Princes in March 1932, by Earl Beattie. It had been designed by James Freer, and the 5th hole was christened "The Butts" in honour of the old military course.

Anne Hornby of Wardleys began making Wardleys Mint Cake. This morphed into the famous Wardleys Toffee 4 years later and was a famous local treat until she died in 1932.

Ansdell village: Artist Richard Ansdell of Liverpool was living in London, when he built his summer house "Starr Hills" at the site of the village that later took his name. In 1849, he had been commissioned to paint for Squire Thomas Clifton. He subsequently found that he missed Lytham so much that he called his London house "Lytham House". In 1860 Ansdell leased a plot from the Clifton Estate and built "Starr Hills".

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The area was so empty that locally it was known simply as "Ansdells". Ansdell sold the house in 1873, but the district still bears his name.
In World War 1, Starr Hills opened as a Voluntary Aid Detachment Hospital on the 19th of January 1916. The trustees of the late William Henry Hincksman had lent the house for use as a hospital, and it had 57 beds for wounded servicemen. The equipment was also auctioned off in May 1919, and its soldiers later presented the sundial in Lowther Gardens in recognition of the services of its nurses.
It was also used in World War 2 and was the Lytham St Anne's Central Hospital Supply Depot throughout the conflict.

Starr Hills – by then numbered 18 Ansdell Road South - was bought by the MHA (Methodist Homes for the Aged) in 1957, and opened in June 1958. It offers places for 36 people and was fully refurbished in 2008.
Ansdell Railway Station: opened in 1873. It was later known as Ansdell's Gate – as it passed right behind Richard Ansdell's house - and as Ansdell's Halt. The station boasted its own signal box, a tiny booking office, and a small house with Gothic windows, occupied by the station master. There was a level crossing by the station, and the footbridge we can see now was erected in 1901.

On the 10th of October 1903, the station was rebuilt 100 yards to the north, on the brand-new Woodlands Road bridge, being known then as the new Ansdell Railway Station.
On the 25th of January 1906, the new station was opened, being renamed Ansdell and Fairhaven. There was a booking office on the bridge, and this and a lift and stairs, to take passengers down to the platforms. A new house was also built to house the station master, and this now stood on the South side of the bridge. The first station master was William Stebbins. The original station became a goods yard and depot, and the station buildings on the bridge were demolished in 1972.
The station was originally an island platform with tracks on sides until the line was made single in the 1980s. Trains now use the southern side only, and a disabled access ramp covers the northern part of the station.

Ansdell Post Office was opened on Commonside on the 1st of July 1898, by George Trickett. Most of the village of Ansdell was built around this time, with Commonside being totally re-developed, and Rossall Road being constructed.

The Lytham Pier Company was formed, with the Lytham Pier Bill receiving its Royal assent on the 29th of July 1864.
Ballam Road was finished, linking Higher Ballam to Lytham – it was begun in 1844.

1862

The first Blackpool Pier is mooted: The Blackpool Pier Company was formed, to build Blackpool Pier in response to the new one at Southport. They engaged engineer Eugenius Birch and Glasgow company Laidlaw's to build it.
Captain Francis Preston, of the Manchester Artillery Rifle Volunteers, formally inaugurated the new undertaking by driving the first screw pile into the marl at 5pm on the 27th of June, just to the south of "The Mound" by the Clifton Arms Hotel. The Mound had been formed by the spoil from the building of the Railway Station, and a small jetty had been built upon it, but since the summer of 1860, it had begun to get too battered by the sea. The Blackpool Subscription Band played during the ceremony and dinner at the Clifton Arms followed.
A Local Board meeting in January had been advised that Southport's new pier was proving successful and that the one penny charge "*did not operate to exclude cheap trippers*".

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Claremont Park Estate, Blackpool: This upper-class estate, complete with housing, began to be developed by the Blackpool Land, Building and Hotel Company. It included Atkinson's Claremont Hotel – advertising itself as *"A Luxurious Home, with High-Class Catering"*. As the new estate was considered to be *"exclusive"*, the tollmaster at the junction of Carlton Terrace and Lansdowne Road, George Whiteside, collected a penny toll from every visitor and thruppence per vehicle. There was another toll house at the Gynn end, and an alternative path ran along the sea front, for use by the *"general public"*. Claremont Park itself was bounded by the Promenade, Derby Road, Warbrick Road, and Warley Road.
The two toll houses were demolished in 1899 after the Corporation bought the land.

The Albert Hotel and the Belle Vue Hotel, Blackpool: The Albert Hotel was built on Whitegate Lane by John Hodgson of the nearby Number 3. He then created the Belle Vue Gardens on nearby land. Several buildings were demolished to make way, including TH Smiths' Steam Sawmill. In 1864, Hodgson moved from the Number 3 Hotel to the Albert, and soon changed its name to the Belle Vue Strawberry Gardens. The hotel had a raised dancing platform and extensive gardens with *"winding paths and mazes, pretty willow walks, rustic summer-houses, lakes, and fountains".*

The Belle Vue Strawberry Gardens was renamed the Belle Vue Hotel in 1866. The extensive gardens of the establishment went from today's Mere Road (laid down from 1893), through to where the junction of Newcastle Avenue and Breck Road now stands. Indeed, Newcastle Avenue completely bisects the line of the gardens themselves.
The Music Hall at the Belle Vue was burnt down on the morning of the 15th of May 1870, by a Richard Hawkes. The hotel was reopened in May 1873, and John Hodgson applied for a spirit licence to compete with the Raikes. This resulted in up to 6000 customers using the facilities each year. It straddled the Marton and Blackpool boundary and the Blackpool end allowed an extra half-hour drinking, so people simply moved over the centre line for more alcohol.
In 1871, the hotel advertised *"These old-established and celebrated Gardens cover an immense area of land, are charmingly situated, and admittedly the most beautifully laid out grounds in the Fylde district. The intricate winding paths and mazes, pretty willow walks, rustic summer-houses, lakes, and fountains; and the abundance and variety of Flowers, Straw berries, and other Fruits (in season), combine to render these gardens the favourite resort for Visitors, thousands of whom frequent them every year. In addition to these attractions there are several large Vineries and Greenhouses, a first-class BOWLING GREEN and CROQUET GROUND, Large Swings, Skittles, Quoits, and other Games, LARGE AND SPACIOUS TEA ROOMS, and a splendid MUSIC HALL AND DANCING STAGE, A capital QUADRILLE BAND being in daily attendance for Dancing".*
The dancing platform stood exactly where Lyceum Avenue is now located, and the magnificent fountain was where the houses on the western side of Alexandra Avenue now stand.

In 1913, the Belle Vue Hotel was totally rebuilt, and the adjacent Albert Hotel was demolished. Its stables then became Belle Vue Garage.

The Belle Vue was converted to an Arena "Venue" pub and grill in 2002, and stopped hosting live music in February 2006, after 152 years of so doing.

In October 2018, the venue was given a full re-furbishment and turned into one of brewer Mitchell and Butler's Sizzling Pub and Grills.

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The John Hodgson mentioned above owned a great deal of land on each side of Whitegate Lane and went on to make a large amount of money by selling it on for housing development – for example, the whole of Portland Road was originally his, as the result of his purchase of the Robin's Hey part of the Whitegate Lane Estate in 1869.
John Coulston built a building in Bank Hey Street, from where he ran his plumbing glazing and painting business. He also ran a shop, selling stoves, sanitary ware, glass, and wallpaper.
The first telephone exchange was built in Abingdon Street for the National Telephone Company (it is now the Stationery Box shop). It was later replaced by the current Exchange Building on Deansgate – which was formerly called Upper Talbot Street.
There was a Roller-Skating rink in Dickson Road, behind the Carlton Hotel.
Dickson Road had once been called Warbreck Road, being the main road between Warbreck and the new village of Blackpool. A newspaper reported in 1863 that *"The present road to Warbreck, at a point just beyond the Hill Farm House; will be diverted a little towards the east, for the better laying out of the land for buildings. It will also run in a straight line, in Place taking a sharp turn to the east which it does at present down the short, steep length at its terminus. The new road to Warbreck will join the one which at present runs from the shore past the Gynn Inn, at a point just beyond that hostelry"*.
The Blackpool Young Men's Mutual Improvement Association met in the new Assembly Rooms at South Beach in February.

Chapel Street Primitive Methodist chapel, Blackpool: was built at Revoe. John Braithwaite built Greenfield Cottage nearby, and this was used as the caretaker's home until it was absorbed into the extended chapel in later years. Chapel Lane was made alongside and was later widened out to make Upper Adelaide Street.

The Primitive Methodist chapel was opened on Chapel Street (recently renamed from Bonny's Lane accordingly) on the 29th of August 1875, with worshippers moving from their temporary home in the Temperance Hall on Coronation Street. That church was built in red brick and could seat 300 people.
In 1877, the Methodists opened a Day School next to the Chapel, and in 1923, the Corporation opened it as a temporary Elementary Council School.

The Methodist Sunday school building opened in Chapel Street in 1937.
The chapel was refurbished in 1984, with a new church being built in one of the halls, and a Christian Centre in the old church building. These opened on March the 31st.
The church itself closed in 1997 and amalgamated with Central Methodists on Adelaide Street. The "Foyer Plus" residential training centre, for young people, was started in 1997 by the Manchester Methodist Housing Association. They converted the church into 38 self-contained flatlets and offices, which opened on the 10th of March 1999.

Work began on the first "Skew" Bridge on Lytham Road.
Worthington's Plumbers opened at 23 Birley Street
Charnley's Shoe shop opened in Foxhall Square. By 1903, they had another shop at 51 Foxhall Road, which they called the Glasson Boot Store.
The schooner "Ada" was lost off North Shore on the 7th of November.
The coastguard's rocket station was moved from Blackpool to a building at Norbreck Villa.

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The Preston Bank opened a branch on Lord Street in Fleetwood.
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The Queens Hotel, Fleetwood: was opened on Beach Road. It is thought to have been built in that location because of the newly-constructed army hutments opposite. From 1920, the pub benefitted the footballers of Fleetwood town, who built a training ground next to it.
The Queens was the home of the Fleetwood folk Club from when it was formed there in 1969.
It is now owned by the Thwaites Brewery and managed by Benny and Gail Emsley.

Fleetwood Gun Battery: In February, *"there was the erection of a battery for the exercise and training of the Coastguard and the Royal Naval Reserve and Coast Volunteers".* It was built in "*the form of a ship's side comprising a deck roofed in and mounting two heavy duty guns to be built by John Gibson, Shipbuilder of Fleetwood, and situated at the base of the elevation known as The Mount'.* The Fleetwood Chronicle reported that *"a battery built of wood in the charge of the coastguards and stood below the summit of the Mount was slipping down to the shore and was removed further along the coast"*. The battery was built in the Mount Gardens and supported two 30-pounder cannons which were used for gunnery practice, firing shot in to the bay. It was first used in April.

Mr Fearon opened his private school on the beach at Lytham on the 8th of September.

Belgrave House School / St Anne's High School for Girls: Miss Catherine Sharpe opened a small school for up to 12 boys in the back room of a house on East Bank, in Lytham. In 1866, the school moved further down the beach, to Miss Hall's house, The Coppice. This was already operating as a girls' school, and the two ladies agreed to merge.
By 1871, Miss Sharpe's School for the Accomplished was fully functioning for both boarders and day pupils at the new location of 11 Agnew Street. They named the school's new home Ribble House.
The school was then moved to a house called Amhall on St Anne's Road West in St Anne's in 1871, to be renamed Belgrave House School.
Then, in 1887, the school moved again - this time to the Promenade, and into a Porritt house that had been built for them. This opened in 1888, as St Anne's High School for Girls, at 40 North Promenade, and was soon extended into number 38 next door.

By 1917, the school had also opened their Preparatory House School for Girls in a house called Wynslade just around the corner in Beach Road, and by 1924, all the school was housed at Wynslade. Oliver Porritt had forced them out of their home on the Promenade. Wynslade was previously the home of Robert Boddington, the brewer, later became the Royal Hotel. It was later demolished and the Royal Beach Court apartments now stand on the site.
The school's owners also rented two other nearby houses, Oversands and Riversands, in which they housed the "overflow" of pupils.

In late April 1924, the school moved to Windermere, where it still exists. The move was undertaken by Shaw's Repository of Blackpool and took 24 of their pantechnicons 7 days to finish.

The school newsletter, the Stannite, has been produced since the very early years.

The original premises on North Promenade became the Princes Hotel in 1939. Between 1981 and 1998, it housed the Ormerod Home, which had moved from its nearby location, and in 2001, it was demolished to build flats.

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Edenfield, Lytham: This pair of semi-detached gothic-style villas was built by James Eden of Bolton for Thomas Threlfall at 2 and 4 Clifton Drive. In 1919, Edenfield – along with the adjacent Fairfield - became a girls' school, run by the Robertshaw family, before changing in 1930, when it became the Edenfield Residential Hotel, run by Mrs Prinner.
In 1956, it became the Furnishing Trades Convalescent Home until it was used as a country house hotel, before it was converted into apartments in 2009.

Lytham Congregational Church: was built on the corner of Westby Street and Bannister Street, being a *"neat Gothic stone building with a graceful spire"*. It was designed by WF Poulton, of Reading, and is in red sandstone, dressed in yellow sandstone. It has an entrance to the south and there is a tower rising to an octagonal spire with bell openings. It was extended to in 1910 to make a vestry and meeting room. A Sunday school was also opened next door.
It was later called the Lytham United Reformed Church, which closed on the 21st of September 2014.
In January 2018, work began on converting the church and meeting rooms into 4 three-bedroomed homes and 1 four-bedroomed home. The Adjacent Sunday school will be converted into a separate four-bedroomed house.

1863

Blackpool Pier: The pier was opened by Major Francis Preston on the 23rd of May. It was 1,350 feet long and 21 feet wide, with 10 kiosks and had been designed by Eugenius Bird, to provide dignified promenading space for the "well heeled", as the existing promenade was deteriorating rapidly. It was immediately successful, with the tolls being quickly reduced from 2d to 1d. Only two shops were allowed, one to sell confectionery and the other newspapers and books, as sales of tobacco and fancy goods were strictly forbidden.
The opening was announced by the specially recalled Town Crier, the playing of the specially written "Blackpool Pier Polka", and by Major Preston's 12-pounder cannon – the town's only artillery piece.
The Pier Head was opened on the 1st of August. It was 150 feet long and 55 feet wide. To celebrate the event, the first Blackpool Regatta was held immediately afterwards. It included two Yacht races, a Bay Boat race, a Bay Boat rowing race, two gig races, and a sculling match. The 1864 Regatta added trawl boats to the line-up. Two "dolphins" (wooden extensions at which steamers could tie up) had also been added – another 4 followed.

Henry Charles McCrea was chairman of the Blackpool Pier Company which built and ran the pier. McCrea made his fortune as a damask manufacturer in Halifax, and began to visit Blackpool in the early 1840s. His investment in Blackpool was so influential that money from Halifax money poured into the town and it became known by financiers as "Halifax-by-the-Sea".

The pier was cited as being a "Gold Mine", and in the first year, there were 275,000 admissions; by 1865, this number had risen to 465,000.
The pleasure steamer "Queen of the Bay" began cruises from the pier in 1866. A steamer jetty was added in 1867, and a landing stage was also built there in 1869, to extend the pier by 300 feet into deeper water, to allow more steamers to tie up. The pier entrance was also re-built.

Blackpool Pier was officially renamed North Pier from 1869.
The pier head was extended with two wings in 1874. Spurred on by the idea that people needed an indoor place of entertainment in poor weather, a band stand began to be built on the southern wing and a Pavilion on the northern. The decision to build the jetty outraged the original pier board, which thought

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pleasure boats would attract rough trade. They even chiselled the name of the man who suggested it off the foundations in protest. Soon, however, boats from the Isle of Man Steam Packet Company began trips.

The Indian Pavilion was finally opened on the 22nd of June 1877. It had been inspired by the Hindu temple of Binderabund and had its own orchestra under world-famous flautist Edward de Jong, which played to over 1,500 in its covered saloon. The Pavilion was known as the Indian Pavilion, and an inscription read *"The Hearing Falls in Love before the Vision"*. There was a tea room and several shops.
Fire devastated the north wing and its Indian Pavilion on September the 11th 1921. It was reinstated and was reopened in late-1923 and 1924. This too burnt down in 1938 and was then replaced by a new theatre and café in 1939. The new theatre could seat 1,564 people.

1880 saw the pier acquire another pleasure steamer, PS Clifton, and in 1895, the North Pier Steamship Company was formed to run all the pier's steamers. They began sailing the paddle steamer "Greyhound" to Douglas, Isle of Man. The Llandudno and Caernarfon Steam Boat Company had previously operated from the North Wales Coast but had been was taken over by the new company. The Greyhound first sailed on the 15th of June 1895, and she plied the route until 1923. The company soon began also to use the "Belle" (ex-Belle of Llandudno) from Blackpool from now until 1921.
In 1901, a new steamer jetty was built, as the beach beneath the pier was silting up. The company built a new steamer, the SS Deerhound, and she was launched in June.

In 1903, the Arcade Pavilion was built at the pier head, after the kiosks at the gates were demolished to make way for this new eastern-style pavilion, and in 1932, the bandstand was replaced by a sun lounge in 1932, with a café being added in 1938.

In 1965, the Merrie England Bar was opened on North Pier – complete with an indoor plastic tree! Building contractors included Salthouse builders, Brands 108 Scaffolding, and B and S Plastering.
By 1968, the Golden Gate Casino was operating nearby. Other attractions at the time included the Golden Fry Restaurant, the Seaway Restaurant, and the Mexico Bar.

Storms severely damaged the fishing jetty on the end of the pier in 1987. It was repaired, finally reopening to local fishermen in 1991, and was burnt down on the 24th of December 1997, being demolished soon afterwards.

The "Wall of Fame" was opened on North Pier in 1991 by Lord Bernard Delfont, where stars' handprints are set in concrete. Its first contributors were Lind Nolan, Roy Walker, Dana, Joe Longthorne, and Cannon and Ball. Others that followed include Russ Abbott, Stan Boardman, and Les Dawson.

Helicopter trips began from a new helipad on the pier, and the North Pier Tramway opened on the 2nd of September 1991. It closed after the 1997, briefly reopened, and finally ended in 2004. Also, on the pier, a Venetian Carousel was opened in June, to seat 70 passengers. It was later encased in a glass booth to defy the elements. The Carousel café was soon opened nearby, complete with engraved horses on the windows.

The pier opened up its former visitor centre as a Heritage Exhibition and art space on the 1st of July 2002. Owners Leisure Parcs had converted a former amusement arcade and franchise outlets. The Victorian Tea Room on the pier head was officially opened by Blackpool Town Cryer Barry McQueen on the 14th of May 2010. In 2011, Peter Sedgewick bought the pier as a gift for his wife, in commemoration of where he proposed to her.

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Thomas Clifton's Blackpool and Lytham Railway opened a single line from the new Lytham Station, on Ballam Road, to a small cabin called "Blackpool", at Hound Hill, on the 6th of April. It was renamed "Blackpool Hound's Hill". Stony Hill Railway station opened on the 1st of April 1865, closing in September 1872, Cross Slack was open from November 1870 (Cross Slack was renamed St Anne's in January 1875), and Ansdell from 1873. The halt at Gillett's Crossing opened in 1913, and Stony Hill station reopened on the 14th of September 1931, as Squires Gate Station.

South Station, Blackpool: This small halt station was opened on Lytham Road at South Shore, by the Blackpool and Lytham Railway. By 1877, Station Road had been built opposite, to link the station with the tramway.

In 1903, the Preston and Wyre Railway opened a second railway line into Blackpool, the Marton line, from "Waterloo Station" (South Station), across the Moss to Kirkham. It opened to goods traffic on the 21st of April, and a new station on Waterloo Road supplemented the original South Shore Railway Station, from the 30th of April, with a footbridge linking the two.
The original station was then renamed "South Shore Lytham Road". This meant that Central Station became the true terminus, thus attracting most visitors. The new line provided a faster link than the coastal line, and by now, the Manchester to Blackpool express trains took just 65 minutes.

On the 1st of May 1916, Waterloo Station was converted into a junction station, and South Shore Railway Station on Lytham Road closed on the 2nd of May, after its buildings had been demolished in March 1915. Its wooden station building was shortly moved bodily to Rough Heys Lane, Marton Moss, to become two semi-detached houses. By the 1950s, the station site had been built upon by Grand Motors. It is now the Bob Ward Physiotherapy clinic, and an adjacent car park.

The new station was renamed Blackpool South on the 13th of May 1932.

In November 1964, after the closure of Central Station, South Station became Blackpool's southern terminus. South Station at the time had 6 lines running through it, with 2 double-sided passenger platforms.

In 1973, the Booking hall and Parcels Office became Platform Three Model Railway. The platform buildings were demolished in March 1985, to be replaced by a small platform canopy serving a single track.

The Lytham Road railway bridge was opened and the tracks passed through the sand dunes at Cross Slack – where St Anne's was soon to be built.
The Blackpool Land, Building, and Hotel Company registered and started work on developing North Shore's Promenade buildings, starting with Lansdowne Crescent in 1864.
The Preston Banking Company established a branch in the town.

Blackpool Grammar School: Reverend JH Sharples opened a private boys' school, Chalgrove Academy, in Adelaide Street, on the corner of Coronation Street. It comprised a three-storey house with rooms for 25 boarders. It had one schoolroom, taking up to 80 children, and had a playground to the west. The school was put up for sale in September 1867, advertising "*extra thick cavity walls all round*".

In 1871, its name was changed to Bonny's Collegiate School. This was moved to as semi-detached house called "Frogmore" further up Adelaide Street, to number 116, in 1893 by its principal Thomas Sankey, who

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changed the name to Blackpool Grammar School and added a "*commodious tennis ground*". The other semi-detached was being used as Rougemont, a private school for young ladies, and by 1900 that school had moved to Reads Avenue. Mr Sankey was then able to expand the grammar into there.
The original school building was sold and shops were built on the site of the playground. One of these later became the "Galleon" club, and another, on the corner of Tower Street, the Lowery Café.

The grammar building became the Comrades Club in 1919, the pupils having earlier transferred to the new Blackpool Municipal Secondary School on Raikes Parade.

Thomas Ibbison bought 3 acres of land from John Moore and proceeded to build houses on what would later be Central Drive, with Ibbison Street running east from them. Ibbison Street originally terminated at a brick field which stood where Freckleton Street stands today. There were stables and a coach house on the back street, and this turned into the Top and Bottom Donkey Backs.
Carleton Terrace was built at Cocker Square.

The Mitre, Blackpool: A house and shop opened on West Street this year, the building having been built in the late 18th century. West Street had been known previously as Dobson's Row. The shop was then owned in turn by local grocer and confectioner John Braithwaite, Carleton yeoman John Poole, and Marton farmer John Hargreaves. By the time John Walker became landlord in the 1880s, the shop had gained beer and spirits licence and operated as a beerhouse.
When the grocer's shop was granted a drinks licence in July 1898, it opened as "Ye Old Glue Pot" alehouse. The licenced grocer's shop was sold in 1902, becoming the Mitre Hotel in June.
It is Blackpool's smallest pub.

The Counting House, Blackpool: The Preston Banking Company opened their first Blackpool branch on Talbot Square near the North-western corner of Talbot Square and the Promenade, having first demolished several old shops. Next door was Viener's jewellery store. The building was re-built in 1891 as a branch of the London and Midland Bank, on the western corner of Talbot Road and Back Albert Terrace. The Royal Liver Friendly Society was on the corner of the Promenade, next door.
In 1956, the bank building was further extended, to cover the complete block from the Strand – all the remaining shops were demolished, up to the promenade corner – these had included W Kettlewell's gent's outfitters, Cyril Chanter's, and others.
In September 1992, the Counting House pub opened in the building, having been converted from the bank - the large banking hall now forms the pub's main lounge bar.

The famous actor, Wilson Barrett, appeared for a season at the Theatre Royal.
J Jackson and Son, dispensing chemists, opened at 25 Talbot Road. The Jacksons also ran a dental practice and seed merchants from the premises, which went through to Abingdon Court.
John Hallmark and John Gill opened on Temple Street, with another branch of Hallmark and Gill's ironmonger's soon opening nearby at 21 Church Street. Their partnership was dissolved on the 28th of November 1892, with Mr Gill carrying on the business alone.
Two boats capsized off the promenade and had to be rescued by local fishermen. This prompted the setting up of a proper lifeboat service.

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Singleton School: Singleton Village Day School was opened on Church Road, replacing the original which had been located near to the church; building having started on the 17th of July. It had two classrooms. Until 1952 the village children received the whole of their education here but after that they transferred to
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the local secondary schools at the age of eleven. The school was extended to include 2 more classrooms, an office, and a kitchen in 1959, and in 1994 and 2001 extra classrooms were. The school hall was completed in July 2011, and the school is now known as Singleton CE Primary School.

Football in the Fylde: Rossall School held the Fylde's first organised football matches – 15-a-side!
Also, this year, the School of Musketry, Fleetwood played a thirteen a-side rugby team against Rossall School in a match that was played under the Harrow rules.

Defensive sandbanks were built to protect Rossall School from the sea.
As a result of a storm on the 20th of January, a wooden battery of two 32-pound guns, at the foot of the Mount in Fleetwood, was undermined, and was tilted so much that its removal became a necessity. It belonged to the Coastguards and was used for training the Naval Volunteer Reserve. The same storm washed away the wall of the Mount, together the white houses that stood where the Mount Hotel is now located. Fleetwood's original lifeboat house was also destroyed.
To allow large vessels to moor off Fleetwood, 1000-foot-long ground chains were secured to the river bed in mid-stream.

The Prince Arthur Inn, Fleetwood: was opened on the corner of 48 Lord Street and Warren Street by George Livesey. A new stone frontage was fitted in the 1920s.
It was reopened as the Prince Arthur Hotel on the 22nd of July 1975 by Tom's Taverns Ltd. The building is now Grade 2 Listed.

The Lancaster Banking Company opened a branch in Fleetwood on the 4th of December.

Alhambra Music Hall, Fleetwood: The Alhambra Music Hall, also known as the Albert Music Hall, was opened on North Albert Street.
The Alhambra was a "rather down-market affair with third-rate music hall turns and rough and ready seating".

Known as the *"Old Gaff"*, it was above what later became EH Horsleys's furniture store and was in use until 1887. Its entrance was via a set off double doors in North Albert Street, and the building's date is still over the doorway. Next door in later years was a Stone-Dri shop.

White's Music Shop was established on West Street (later 142 Lord Street) in Fleetwood.
AJ Priestley of Fleetwood opened a drapery store at 33/4 West Street, later opening a second shop at 1 St Peter's Place.
What is thought to be the first Volunteer encampment in the country was held in Lytham in September, and some of the 400 men were billeted the tap rooms of the Market Hotel and the Taps, with more in the yard of the Clifton Arms.
Mrs Fawcett of Preston opened a branch of her "Berlin Wool and Fancy Repository" in the Market Square in Lytham in September.

The Swan Hotel, Kirkham: Henry Rawcliffe moved from the Bowling Green Inn in April, to take over the Swan Inn from James Marquis. The date the original inn was built is as yet unknown, but it was known to have been thatched and to have stables at the rear.
In June 1877, the landlady, Mrs Hanson, was fined *"for permitting drunkenness in her house"*.
In 1892, it was re-built in the form we see today, and was re-opened by a Mr Swan, as The Old Swan Inn.

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It gained the unenviable nickname of "the Dirty Duck" for a time.
Now at 115 Poulton Street, the pub is called The Swan Hotel.

The Great Eccleston and District Agricultural Association was formed, holding an annual show and prize giving.
The Great Eccleston pinfold was across from the entrance to Butts Lane, run by the tenant of the adjacent cottage. In later years, the County Council took over its running.
Ridge Pool Farm was built on Skitham Lane in Out Rawcliffe.
Bartle school was built, and by 1867, it taught 17 boys and 27 girls. The name Bartle is derived from the Old English words *"bere"* – barley, and *"tungl"* – a tongue of land.

1864
The Blackpool South Jetty Company was formed, to build a rival to North Pier. By 1892, they had renamed themselves the Blackpool South Shore Pier and Pavilion Company.
J Ramsden started his confectionery business at 1 Assembly Arcade, Talbot Road. He made Blackpool rock and cough drops, having the first, patented ball-rolling machine. The company later had other shops in Church Street and 6 Central Beach.

The Queen's Hotel, Blackpool: was built on Talbot Road, Layton by WH Gaulter. It had a bowling green and croquet ground, as well as extensive gardens behind, now covered by North Avenue and Peel Avenue, and also offered *"excellent apartments for visitors"* and *"Lock-up stables and Coachhouse"*.
In 1871, Thomas Fisher and James Lee went to Court to decide the *"possession of the "Queen's Hotel" on the new road (Talbot Road) from Blackpool to Poulton"*. Mr Fisher won.
The hotel was rebuilt in 1902 and is now owned by Amber Inns.

Blackpool Lifeboat: The town received its first Lifeboat, the "Robert William" on July the 14th, and it was officially launched with a bottle of wine, from the slade opposite the Manchester Hotel on July the 20th – 20,000 people watched the occasion. A boat carriage, pulled by four horses, towed it from the station to the seashore when needed.

The first Lifeboat Station was built Lytham Road at the same time and stopped being used for lifeboats in 1937 when the new one was built on the Promenade. After acting as an amusement arcade, a rock shop, and a gift shop, the first station became the Boathouse Community Centre from 2009, and still stands today, opposite Hopton Road, as the Lifeboat Amusements arcade. The brig "St Michael" was wrecked on September the 18th, and on its first call-out, the new lifeboat saved the crew.

A second lifeboat station on the Promenade was opened by the Duke of Kent in 1937. An inshore lifeboat house was added to the station in 1978. This station was closed in 1998 and was later used for making and selling rock. It was demolished on the 24th of March 2009.

The town's third Lifeboat House and Visitor Centre opened on Central Promenade in May 1998, housing three inshore lifeboats. A new lifeboat arrived at Blackpool - a new Atlantic 75. It was named after the station's first coxswain, Bob Bickerstaffe.
A full list of Blackpool's lifeboats and their rescues is given at Appendix BB.

Henry Johns and Charles Warren opened a wine shop to the west of the corner of 2 Temple Street and Church Street, but in 1867, Warren left the business, which became Henry Johns and Co. By 1901, Henry's

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son had joined him, and Henry Johns and Son was still in business in 1907, advertising as *"Ale and Porter Bottlers"*. They were the local agents for the South African wines of W and A Gilbey of London.
WJ Gregson and Company, photographers, opened at 92 Talbot Road.
James Sefton opened his provisions store on Lytham Street (renamed Corporation Street in 1928).
In February, Revoe Hill House was up for lease. It had 12 acres of meadow lands, a vinery, a kitchen garden, stables, a boiler house, and a piggery.
Lansdowne Crescent was built by Thomas Love of Southport. Soon, the crescent was home to two boarding schools – at number 6 was Miss Watson's School for Young Gentlemen, and at number 20, the Ladies' School of Miss S and Miss H Hollist.

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Shard Bridge: The toll bridge opened in September, close to the site of the ancient Aldwath ford over the Wyre. The bridge was named after Point Shard to the west and Shard House to the east. The bridge had 16 spans of 60 feet each and carried an 18-foot wooden roadway with a 4-foot-wide footpath to the side. There was originally a toll house and tollgate at the Poulton end of the iron bridge which had been designed and built by Fairbairn and Co of Manchester. A new ½ -mile road was constructed to join with Mains Lane to the South. The original toll house was demolished in 1980, being replaced by several bungalows.
The ancient Shard Ferry ceased to be required and the service ended shortly afterwards.

In 1938, two gate men were employed to take payment and hand out tickets. Previously, it had merely been a case of dropping payment into a hat.

The second Shard Bridge was officially opened in July 1993, and the toll was abandoned, with the old bridge starting to be demolished on the 2nd of August. As a result, the Shard Bridge Company folded on the 10th of February 1995.

There are two inns by the northern end of the Shard Bridge:

1. In 1766, the Shard Hotel had been built on the site of the ferryman's cottage "Shard House" on Old Bridge Lane. The Shard Ferry Inn (now the Riverside) of today was built in the 1850s (occupied by Robert Roskell in 1861), 100 yards to the east, on the other side of the road, hoping to take advantage of trade from the proposed bridge. This flourished for several years until being closed in 1923, and rebuilt as the three cottages of today.

2. By late 1865, the Boats Inn nearby had been taken over by the Lingard family and was called the Three Boats. This changed again by the mid-1880s, to the Shard Inn, which by the 1920s, had itself become a large private house known as Shard House. This is now known as the Shard Bridge Inn.

The Preston Bank opened a branch in Clifton Street, Lytham on the 5th of January, but it was closed in July 1866 – strangely reopening on the 29th of August.
The Gate Office for Lytham Hall was built on Hastings Place in Lytham.
A large day and Sunday school, used also as a literary institute and lecture hall, belonging to the Independent Methodists, was built on Garstang Road South in Wesham by B Whitworth. Since August 1970 (the date of the formation of WE Salisbury and Company Limited), it has been the showroom for Salisbury's Electricals Limited – now christened Television House by the company. Salisbury's Wesham shop was at 55 Station Road, and their original shop was at 33 Poulton Street in Kirkham.
Peter Prostwich of Marsden Street in Kirkham died and his smithy and nail manufactory was sold in April.
TR Snape established his butcher's shop at 14 Kirkham Road in Freckleton. TR Snape and Sons is now the oldest butcher's shop on the Fylde coast, and sells only local produce.
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The Freckleton Embankment: began to be constructed this year, and this allowed the 3-mile stretch of regularly-flooded marshland to be reclaimed. It now holds two farms and the local sewage works, as well as providing grazing land for many cattle.
The embankment was seriously breached in March 1907 and October 1927, with the later breach requiring a temporary railway line to be built on piled gantries. This enabled "Jubilee" wagons to carry reinforcing stones to the breach point.

1865

FA Harris opened a "Fancy Bread and Biscuit Bakery" at 61/63 Church Street.
Homer Terrace was built in Cedar Square off Church Street. The square was named after the private house, called Cedar Villas, which had stood there.
Work began on the Imperial Hotel.
Cliffe Cottage on Fumbler's Hill was demolished to make way for the Promenade extensions. Burnley House stood opposite it.
J Wylie, R Ormond, W Singleton, R Swarbrick, J Craven, and W Cragg had bathing vans on the beach. A later location for many bathing vans was on the steep slade at North Shore, which was later concreted over as part of the new North Promenade – still housing bathing vans.
The occupants of the fishermen's cottages facing the sea ran small pleasure and fishing boats from the shingle beach. These were the likes of Edward Banks, Jack Stanhope, James Wylie, shoemaker, Daniel Atherton, a merchant-taylor of Vine Cottage, John Ingham, boot and shoemaker, Miss Simpson, confectioner, and Mr Coulson, draper. The fishing boat owners would sell their catches to people queuing on the beach.
Brown's Hotel was opened by Mrs Brown.
The 25th Lancashire Artillery Volunteers were raised at Blackpool on the 6th of July and placed in the 4th Administrative Brigade. They were consolidated at the 4th Artillery Volunteers in 1880.

The Ramsden Arms, Blackpool: The Golden Lion pub was built at number 6 New Road by John Dewhurst, who sold it to the North Cheshire Brewing Company in 1888. In 1890, they sold it on to John Ramsden.

In the late 1930s, the Golden Lion was knocked down to make room for the widening of Talbot Road, and the Ramsden Arms Hotel was built in its place (now at 204 Talbot Road) in 1939, by the Thomas Ramsden Brewery of Halifax, after which it was renamed.
The "Rammy" was Thomas Ramsden's seaside outpost and is now a Tetley Heritage Inn.

The Ayre family were running a printing business and builders by now. Ayre and Senior operated this later from Back Read's Road, with their Stationery Head Office on Carter Street, and by 1931, the company's works were at 93 Hornby Road.
J and J Hallmark were in business as furnishers and ironmongers on Victoria Street.
Revoe house, an "*eligible residence" …" with or without a few acres of land*" was put up for let. It had *"a garden and a greenhouse attached, and was within ten minutes' walk of Blackpool"*.
The barque "Lexington" was wrecked on the 7th of February, and the crew of fourteen was saved by the Blackpool lifeboat.
The brig "Favourite" was stranded and lost off Blackpool Pier in force ten winds on the 22nd of November. All hands were lost. Coincidentally, another "Favourite" was lost off Blackpool in January 1839.
There was horse racing meeting in the grounds of Layton Hall on the 27th and 28th of September.

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Fisherman's Friend Lozenges, Fleetwood: The famous liquid elixir was first made this year, by James Lofthouse, an apothecary in the town. His liquid remedy for trawlermen's ailments was soon changed into a lozenge. His original shop was at 103 Lord Street, on the corner of Lord Street and Preston Street, and another was later opened on Broadwater, together with seasonal outlets in the town (for example, outside the pier).
After World War 2 they started using the old Bold Street tram depot as a store, and then between 1969 and 1972, they made the tablets there too, before moving to Copse Road.

After starting to sell outside Fleetwood in 1963, the resultant company returned, and now has a turnover of £30 million per year and is one of Fleetwood's main employers and benefactors. The original shop is currently occupied by a Salvation Army Charity Shop, and the company operates from large buildings on Copse Road.

Thomas Riley's Ironmongers was established on North Albert Street in Fleetwood. He erected the North Lancashire Steam Saw Mills and Creosote Works in 1884.
Fleetwood became the only place outside the United States where a Confederate States Navy Officer was buried. Commander Arthur Sinclair had been in Paris when ordered home, so he came to Liverpool and took command of a steam ship, with which he intended to run the Union blockade of Wilmington in Carolina. He named the ship "Leila" after his wife, and on the 14th of January, the ship hit bad weather and sank, and Sinclair's body was fished out of the sea 10 miles off Fleetwood in the 31st of May. After an inquest at the Steamer Hotel, he was buried in the cemetery.
White's Music shop was opened at 142 Lord Street in Fleetwood.

Cleveleys railway station: was opened on the 1st of April. On the 1st of April 1905, it was renamed Thornton for Cleveleys. Another station was built further north between 1925 and 1927 and was the first to be built by the recently-formed London Midland Scottish Railway. This new version also had its own shunting yard, and a turning circle for buses.
The station was renamed again, as Thornton-Cleveleys in 1953.
In 1926, Thornton railway station was moved from the south to the north of the level crossing and opened on the 25th of May.
The station was closed on the 31st of May 1970, was quickly demolished, and was replaced by a Co-operative supermarket, which covered the station site and that of the goods yard. This then became a Kwik Save store and is now a Co-op once more.

The signal box and level crossing survived. It was built by Saxby and farmer in 1877 and had a 15-lever frame which was extended to 20 levers in 1913. In 1923, the frame was replaced by a 22-lever Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway Company Tappet frame. The signal box itself was reduced to just controlling the adjacent level crossing on the 9th of December 1973. The signal box was closed on the 15th of November 1987, and the level crossing was converted to trainman-operated barriers.

St Luke's Church, Staining: a small chapel was erected on Staining Road, opening on the 3rd of December. In 1895, it became St Luke's Church. The church tower has five crenellations, and its tower originally had a pitched roof.

St Luke's School: From the 1880s until 1970, the church was also used as the village school, first opened there by Mrs Whiteside of Hardhorn. In 1970, the new school was built beside the church, and is now called Staining C of E Primary School.

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Lytham Pier: The pier was opened by Lady Clifton on the 17th of April, for use by promenaders and by pleasure steamers linking Blackpool to Fleetwood, Southport and further afield. Although only 18 feet wide, it was 914 feet long and had three buildings – one at the river end (an ornamental shelter house, surmounted by flag staff and light) and a triangular entrance kiosk on each side of the entrance. A band enclosure was soon erected on the pier head, later hosting bands such as Miss Dorothea Vincent's Cremona Orchestra (1910 and 1911).
The winter of 1881 was so severe that three of the screw piles of the pier were broken by ice breaking against them in February.

A Pier Pavilion was added in 1892, being opened by Squire J Talbot Clifton at 3 pm on the 27th of June (Club Day). The Lytham Minstrels gave a special performance on the green. After a grand dinner, proceedings were closed by a grand firework display from Mr Dugdale of Blackburn, after which a concert was held in the new pavilion, by Joseph Cantor's Gems of the Opera. Just to the landward side of the new pavilion stood an isolated sweet shop.
During its life, the pavilion hosted concerts, band show, dancing, Pierrots, and a roller-skating rink. It was even a cinema from 1926 until 1928.

Two Preston sand barges crashed into the pier in a gale on the 6th of October 1904, and the pier was split in half. In 1912, the band enclosure on the pier head was replaced by a Floral Hall, which opened on the 16th of July.
The pier pavilion was later turned into an ice rink, then a small cinema, and was burnt down on the 19th of January 1928, and never replaced.
In 1931, the pier offered its "Whirlwind Follies of 1931" together with musical interludes from Miss Anne Hunter's Orchestra for Ladies, twice daily in the Floral Hall Café.

In 1938, the pier was closed for everything apart from boat access and angling, and despite a plan in 1945 to transform into a ship-shaped entertainment centre, complete with a massive restaurant, amusement arcades, and a rooftop sunbathing deck, only the entrance kiosks remained open. That plan, by the new owners, Lytham Pier and Amusements Ltd, did not meet with the council's approval.
The pier began to be demolished on the 4th of March 1960, disappearing by the end of the month. All that remains now is a wooden gangway leading to the water.

The new Lytham Jetty was officially opened on the 27th of July 2003, by the mayor, John Longstaffe.

The Clifton Estate Office was built on Hasting Place in Lytham. It is currently the Social Services office.

Lytham Fire Station: Lytham Fire Brigade was founded, first working from premises in Chapel Street, with the engine being kept in Squire's Wreck Yard, off Hastings Place. A fire brigade committee was formed, and regular meetings were held at the Ship Inn. By 1924, that first station was staffed by twelve officers and men, and the equipment comprised a steam fire engine and Ford tender, fitted with a chemical pump and a Cotton Hall Pump.

After 100 years, the Chapel Street station was deemed unsuitable, and the second Lytham Fire Station was built on Station Road. It was officially opened on the 7th of December 1966.

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Lytham Freemasons met in the Market Hotel on Church Street, before later moving to the Bath Street Wesleyan Methodist Chapel.
Kirkham and Wesham Cricket Club was founded on the 21st of April. They first played on Mr Hornby's field in front of Ribby Hall, before moving to Woodlands Avenue.
The Fylde Temperance Union was established on the 20th of November.

1866

Palatine Buildings, Palatine Hotel, and Coral Island, Blackpool: The Palatine Buildings were constructed on the Promenade this year, just to the south of the Royal Hotel, and in 1879, the 120-bed Palatine Hotel was built next door, on the corner with Bank Hey Street. Queens Terrace – a row of houses built in 1848 – was demolished to make way. The Palatine had its own ballroom, lounge bar, new lounge, and dining saloon. For a short time, it was known as the Palatine Family and Commercial Hotel, but by 1883, had reverted to its shorter name. Queen's Terrace and the Royal Hotel stables block had stood on the site previously.
By the 1940s, the Palatine was well known for the Electric Newsreel display on its roof, in front of the distinctive round turret.
During the 1960s, the Palatine Hotel's Beat City nightclub was a popular local haunt.

The Palatine Hotel, the New Inn and Central Hotel, and smaller shops like O'Hagan's Tea Bar (selling "Jugs of Tea for the Sands"), were demolished in spring 1973, to make way for redevelopment. The New Inn's famous cannon was taken to Grundy House Museum.

For several years, the Palatine site was filled with fairground rides, as was the patch of spare ground on the Southern side of New Bonny Street.

The present Palatine Buildings were opened for use in 1976, and the Coral Island amusement centre was opened there, by comedian Ken Dodd, on the 19th of May 1978. Lit up at night, it is the largest indoor arcade in Europe with its name written on its roof – visible from 2,000 feet in the air.
The complex initially boasted the Flagship Showbar, the Little Shuntin' Takeaway, the Viennese Clock Restaurant, the New Inn pub, the Joker's Bar, the Coral Social Club, a self-service restaurant, shop, and bars. It also offered a very large open area filled with amusement machines and children's rides. This area was advertised as the "Kiddies Wonderland".

Later, on the first floor, it had the Friendly Rooster, the Sundowner Grill, and the Yellow Submarine nightclub and cabaret bar (which became Jellies in December 1986 - named after the ITMA character Crystal Jellybottoms). The first-floor area briefly became the Golden Wheels roller disco from 1981, and in October 1986, The Palace Nightclub opened in its place, with its own Sands Disco.

In its heyday, the Palace was one of the most famous nightclubs in the country, appearing on television regularly. In the TV programme "The Hitman and Her", revellers flocked to see the likes of Hitman Pete Waterman and his sidekick Michaela Strachan bring stars of the day, like Jason Donovan, Sinitta, Rick Astley and Sonia, to the stage. It had 2 dance floors, 5 bars and its own restaurant, together with the *"largest moving lighting effects installed in any discotheque in the world"*. It closed in 2004.

Baron's Discotheque opened at unit number 8 of the complex in 1986. This turned into Rio's, and later Lineker's Bar. The whole of the Coral Island was extensively refurbished in 1990, including the Flagship Cabaret Showbar, the Island Diner, the Sunset Bar, Sundowner Grill, Coral Island Social Club, and Shades Disco. An indoor monorail was added at this time. In 1994, the Golden Mile Nightclub opened, complete

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with an Art Deco American fuel pump in the centre of the dining area. The Love Shack was opened there in 1996, later becoming Klub DNA.

Sands Venue opened on the first floor on August the 6th 2010, combining three restaurant-type eateries and cabaret. On the 20th of August 2015, the venue opened its 88-seat Sands Wild West Diner.

In June 2018, the Palatine building began to be re-developed, by owner Peter Swann, into a 96-room 5 Star hotel called the Sands Venue Resort Hotel, a restaurant, bistro, ground floor bar and restaurant, and an expanded Wild West Diner, plus a spa, barbers, hairdressers, nail salon and hotel shop. The building will also house the new Blackpool Entertainment Museum – to feature the history of the town, as opposed to the artwork in the original museum on Queen Street. It will be built by Kirkham builders Warden and Co.

The Assembly and Concert Rooms Company formed.
Church Street, Topping Street, and Edward Street began to be built upon, as did Caunce Street, Cookson Street, and King Street. Originally, all these streets comprised terraced housing.
The Lancaster Banking Company opened a branch at number 5 Central Beach on the 28th of July. The Manchester and County Bank also opened a branch in town on the 27th of July.
The National School was extended to house the increased numbers of children (now 211).

The White Swan, Blackpool: The White Swan Restaurant in Bank Hey Street was rebuilt; its date of construction is unknown. In 1885, it is shown as being run by John Leigh at 46 to 48 Bank Hey Street. C&S brewery had taken it over by 1894, and by 1910, it was called the White Swan Hotel, and was a single-storey building on Bank Hey Street, run by Denis Stansfield. The licensee in 1934 was Thomas Jackson. When the shops were re-built after the RHO Hills fire in 1967, the pub was relocated underneath them, in the cellar of the original pub. It was then called the Swan Bar and became known fondly as the *"Dirty Duck"* or the *"Mucky Duck".*
In 2005, the Underbar opened in the old premises, run by Steven Lawrence. It sits between the Boots and HMV stores.

GR Allinson's Bazaar opened in Palatine Buildings at Hounds Hill. It fronted onto Adelaide Place, with an Arcade known as the Palatine Bazaar.

Stanley Arms, Chapel Street, Blackpool: A small beerhouse on the corner of Bonny's Lane and Dale Street is now listed as the Farmer's Arms. Little is now known of the pub, except that in 1895, Delia Buckley was its licensee. The building, later became a simple shop, and is currently Arkwright's convenience store, listed as being number 7 Chapel Street.

By the mid-1860s, Richard Bray was listed as landlord of the Stanley Arms beerhouse, next door at numbers 9 to 11 Chapel Street, and in 1934 – listed as a beerhouse – it was run by John Colbert.
In 2008, that was transformed into the Stanley Bar and Cabaret, owned by Thwaites brewery, only to change again, into a Ma Kelly's outlet on the 1st of August 2011. The downstairs bar retained its name Frankie's Bar. In 2013, the venue hosted the Blackpool Music Festival, and the Rock City music club was opened on the 8th of November.

The Bird-In-Hand, Blackpool: this beer house was at 28 Bolton Street in South Shore, and by 1885, it had been acquired by the C&S Brewery. In 1889, the landlord of was fined for out of hours trading. It is not

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known when the pub closed, but the building now forms part of the adjoining Seaview Hotel at 4 St Chad's Road.

Uttley, Brown, and Greenwood: started business and opened their Clifton Livery Stables on Church Street. The firm ran buses to Lytham and Fleetwood and along the Promenade, and also supplied luggage carts for hire at Talbot Road and Central Railway Stations.
In 1881, Uttley, Brown, and Greenwood began to run wagonettes from the Clifton Livery Stables to Marton, watering the horses at the Mill Inn (Oxford Hotel).

John Uttley and Sons Ltd later built a dedicated storage facility in the Raikes Hotel Yard, on Cookson Street. That building later became Uttley's garage and later still, Mark's Warehouse. They moved the whole business to 85-95 Whitegate Drive in the early 1890s, and built their own large depository there, in 1900.

Shaw's Depository: Shaw's Depository Ltd was established and incorporated on the 26th of November 1914, by Harry Shaw, one of the Uttley directors. On the 7th of February 1925, his company opened Shaw's Depository there, and both Shaw's and Uttley's continued to trade from the site through the 1930s and 1940s.
Shaw's later expanded to take over the complete block – numbers 85 to 96, and by the 1920s, they had over 20 removal vans plying the country. The company of John Uttley and Sons (Blackpool) Limited was struck off in July 1971.

The building began to be used by Red Marsh Roofing in 2008, but in 2012, they vacated the building, paving the way for its conversion into a lavish eatery, called Michael's Indian Restaurant, which opened on the 16th of September 2013.

The Ardwick, Blackpool: This year, this pub at 32 Foxhall Road was being run by John Worthington, but by 1897, it had upgraded itself to the Ardwick and Blackpool Hotel, and was taking paying guests. It was run at that time by Mrs Dunderdale, who had been granted a licence for 6-day operation.
By 1902, the business was owned by the Cornbrook Brewery, and in 1932, they re-organised the interior by moving the kitchen and pantries to the first floor. This allowed more drinking space on the ground floor and meant that a back entrance could be made onto Dale Street.
It is now called simply The Ardwick once more. Tales abound that it used to be a church.

Riding and Smith set up an ironmongery business at West Street, off Market Street. They moved to 41 Church Street in 1888.
Robert Singleton became Great Marton's first Postmaster.
The brickwork of the railway bridges at Ballam Road, Revoe, and Cow Gap Lane was found to be giving way, and the bridges were repaired with iron girders. By 1868, the coping and part of the parapet was found to have been removed from Revoe bridge. The builders of the 1840s had done a poor job. Ballam Road Bridge was completely re-built in late 2017.

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Sir Peter Hesketh-Fleetwood died in poverty in Brighton on the 12th of April. By 1840, his personal debt had already risen to a massive £104,000 – over £10.5 million today.
The Lancaster Banking Company opened branches at 57 Clifton Street and in 3 Dicconson Terrace in Lytham on the 1st of August.
Madame Lowenthal opened her Pensionnat de Jeunes Demoiselles (girls' boarding school) on West Beach in Lytham on the 1st of August. She taught entirely in French.
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Grange Farm at Freckleton was first farmed, after it had been built on 551 acres of reclaimed land owned by the Ribble Navigation Company. The first farmer was George McQueen, who let it to William Allsup in 1873. By 1883, the farm, under Mr Allsup had become *"one of the best agricultural holdings in the country"*.
William Mander's' Grand National Mammoth Menagerie visited Kirkham.
Derby Lodge Farm in Treales was built. Its first tenant was John Hesketh.

1867

The Imperial Hotel, Blackpool: Was first planned in 1863, and a newspaper reported that *"The land set apart for this hotel and grounds is about four acres attached to the hotel will be promenades; archery and croquet grounds, covered buildings for recreation in unfavourable weather, bowling green, stables, andc"*.

Blackpool's grandest hotel was formally opened in Claremont Park on the 27th of June, standing back from Carleton Terrace in its own grounds. Accommodating 100 beds, and having 120 rooms, it was designed by Clegg and Knowles of Manchester, and constructed by Southern and Son. It was owned by Mr WB Head and had been completed for more than a year. The guest of honour was WE Gladstone, the Mayor of Manchester, and future Prime Minister. The 4-storey hotel had restaurants in the ground floor, coffee rooms, dining rooms, and lounges on the first, bedrooms on the 2nd and 3rd, and servants' quarters on the fourth.
The access to the beach had been specially sloped to ease access, and a proper promenade and drive had covered the many ravines and replaced the *"straggling road"*.
The four-storey central block was started in 1866, and the south wing was built in 1875, being designed by Mangnall and Littlewood. This made the completed hotel into a symmetrical block with a central tower. In March 1881, the name of the owning body was changed from the Blackpool Imperial Hotel Company to the Imperial Hydropathic Hotel Company.

In 1901, Turkish and Russian baths, and a sea water plunge bath were built in the basement of the south wing and a ballroom added, which would accommodate 400 guests. 1904 saw a new wing added to the north end of the hotel, which incorporated a dining room for 400 guests, with lounge and palm court adjoining, and additional bedrooms. Under the new dining room was a banqueting room of the same size, a billiards room, cloak rooms and other amenities. The North Wing had been designed by JD Broadbent, as had a new entrance porch. By April 1906, the hotel had "*a spacious lawn of about 12,000 square yards, used as a promenade, and for croquet, lawn tennis and bowling. Attached are baths of very complete character, erected at a cost of about £8,000. Considerable additions have been made, including a new dining-hall, capable of seating 450 persons, 40 bedrooms, smoke rooms, a new lounge, and winter gardens*".

During the 1930s, Miss Audrey Kidd ran her School of Music and Dancing from the Imperial Hydro Studio.

Central heating was installed throughout in 1958, and a cocktail bar was created in 1961. Work began in 1960, to give every bedroom its own bathroom suite, telephone and radio, television, and fire alarm. By the 1970s, the hotel offered Trader Jack's Night Club, and the Louis XIV Restaurant, with another *"four lively bars"*. The Trader Jacks nightspot was beside the hotel from 1968 until the mid-1980s, boasting its own Exclusive Polynesian theme nights and early (2 am) breakfasts. The club was a *"South Sea Island extravaganza built around a Swimming Pool"*.

In 1987, a £700,000 face lift also brought 14 new bedrooms in old staff quarters on the top floor. A further £5 million revamp in the early 1990s included a new health and fitness club.

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The Imperial Garage: Imperial garages (1966) Limited was formed, as a Vauxhall dealership, and opened later, on the corner of Dickson Road and Imperial Street, later extending its range to include Jaguar cars. As the Imperial Service Station, it stopped trading in 2004. The site was soon occupied by a Kwik Fit fast-fit outlet. Wynne's Garage occupied unit B of the site in 2008.

The Prince of Wales Arcade, Blackpool: was opened in July by Thomas Love, in Benjamin Heywood's West Hey, which he had bought and extended.
In 1877, Hygiene Terrace next door was bought off Doctor WE Cocker by the Lane Ends Estate Company. They demolished all previous buildings and erected a new Prince of Wales Arcade. This large building had 7 entrances and boasted an arcade and market on the ground floor, with two large assembly rooms above. One could hold 1,000 people, and the other, 500. The building had been constructed by Gardwell of Barrow.

Work began on the South Jetty.
South Shore Pharmacy was opened at 28-30 Church Street, South Shore, by Carter's the chemists.

Bispham Railway Station: was officially opened in May, providing both passenger and goods facilities. The station had two signal boxes linked to it, Bispham A and Bispham B.
Bispham Station changed its name to Layton Station on the 4th of July 1938, when its passenger bridge was built. That bridge was removed and its replacement was opened on the 15th of July 2011.

Arnold Villa, Blackpool: was built where a track to Springfield Farm met Lytham Road, and a matching house, Westover, was built next to it. Robert Rawcliffe had commissioned Garlick and Sykes to design the houses, but Rawcliffe died before they were finished. Arnold Villa was then bought by Richard Cookson, and Westover was bought by Thomas Nickson, with Cookson also buying the land on the other side of the track; this later became the site of Arnold School's main complex.
Thomas Ward moved into Arnold Villa, and by 1871, had turned that into Arnold Villa School. Arnold Villa's motto was *"Digenite vincit omnia"*, meaning "diligence conquers all". He then built and developed Arnold School on the adjacent site. His son Charles Ward took charge of the school in 1889 but closed it in the early 1890s.

Westover housed famous organ builder James Kirtland, and his family stayed there until 1920, when Arnold school bought it for expansion. *The former data is from the Gazette of 17.02.2017.*

South Shore Collegiate School opened on the 4th of May 1896, with Frank Pennington as the sole teacher. It was in the Victoria Hall in Gordon Terrace, off Church Street (now Watson Road). He soon had to move his school to the Masonic Hall in Waterloo Road (now the site of the New Market).

Miss Walker's Girls School opened nearby in Crystal Road, and in 1898, South Shore Collegiate at 19 Alexandra Road expanded into number 17, with boarders. This building became the High School when Collegiate moved on in 1901, taking over the old Arnold Villa Convalescent and Holiday Home (formerly Ward's first school). Arnold's headmaster, Frank Pennington, immediately changed the name of the school accordingly to Arnold House School. Architects Lumb and Walton soon altered Arnold Villa and Westover, and converted them into one, with Westover being turned into the headmaster's house. The High School on Alexandra Road was sold in 1938.

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Arnold School: The new school had its own tennis and croquet lawns, and, despite the name already being there in Arnold Villa, the tale is that it was named after Thomas Arnold, the headmaster of Rugby School. At the start of the autumn term in 1930, it became known simply as Arnold School. With its noticeable green uniform, its motto was "*Honor Virtutis Praemium*"- meaning "Honour is the reward of Virtue". Arnold Preparatory School was opened on Horncliffe Road in 1919.

In 1929, Pennington bought out the Girls' High School on Lytham Road, immediately renaming it the Arnold High School for Girls. On the 1st of April 1948, Arnold High School for Girls, was taken over by Blackpool Corporation. As they could not find a suitable site to allow the school to remain in South Shore, it was moved to new purpose-built facilities in Bispham, opening in 1954.

After Pennington's death in 1937, Frank Holdgate was appointed as headmaster in 1938, and his 28-year tenure revolutionised the school.

In March 1952, Lord Derby laid the foundation stone for new science laboratories for physics, biology, and chemistry, as well as a new staff common room, and the Memorial and the new gymnasium were added in 1958. These changes were followed by *"the Sixth Form Centre and Junior School in 1972; the Art and Music Departments in 1981 and the new Preparatory School in 1983; the Design Centre in 1990; the all-weather playing area in 1993; the Kindergarten in 1995; the Information Technology Centres in the Junior and Senior School in September 1997; the Modern Languages Faculty in 1997; the Centenary Complex, including Sports Hall, Drama Studio and additional laboratory and classrooms in 1998; the expansion of the Kindergarten in 2001; the major development of the Junior School in 2002; the expansion of ICT across the whole school in 2002; the opening of the Windmill Charities Room and the Alexander ICT Suite in 2003; the new staff Common Room facilities in 2005. In September 2006, the new music school development and staff changing facilities opened"*.

In the 1960s, the original Fives courts were demolished. The space was filled with a larger senior common room, extra administrative offices, a bursary, and a headmaster's study. A new main entrance was also constructed in Arnold Avenue.

The school was granted a new coat of arms in 1999. The shield bore three red roses on a silver field between wedges of Arnold green. The crest was a red rose between two laurel leaves (for scholarship), standing on silver and blue waves (for Blackpool).
The Lytham Road site of Arnold School closed for the last time on the 6th of July 2013 after its merger with King Edwards VII School in Fairhaven, and on the 4th of September 2013 AKS (Arnold King Edwards) moved to the Fairhaven site and all pupils changed to wearing a maroon uniform.
The historic school buildings were put up for conversion or demolition in early 2014.

In October 2016, it was announced that a new school would open on the site in 2018. Called the Armfield Academy, it will eventually take 1,280 pupils, but will launch with 24 youngsters in its nursery, 60 in reception, and 160 in year seven, with the intention of being fully operational by 2025. The school was constructed by Conlon Construction.
Demolition of the old buildings began in February 2018, with the northern complex. Sporting honour boards left in the old buildings will be mounted in the new school, as will other items, such as an old wooden lectern. Stained glass and foundation stones will also be re-used. Newer buildings, such as the design and technology block, the memorial hall, and the sports hall will be refurbished. The first head teacher is Mark Killmurray.

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In December 2018, stained glass windows salvaged from the Collegiate High School at Highfurlong were also installed in the Armfield Memorial Hall. These included a special window commemorating 16-year-old Head Girl Loren Stoker, who tragically and suddenly died of an undiagnosed heart problem in 1994.

The new school opened on the 10th of September 2018, with the entry of the Year 7 pupils. The uniform is navy blue blazer and navy and green striped tie. Girls wear a navy and green tartan skirt.

On the 1st of May 2019, the first Jimmy Armfield memorial Football Tournament was held at the academy. 15 teams took part – 14 from local schools, plus Button Lane Primary School in Wythenshawe, which competed following an invitation to the Manchester United Foundation. The overall winners were Anchorsholme Primary Academy.

Some famous ex-pupils of local schools are listed at Appendix L.

The Winmarith, Blackpool: Winmarith House on Lytham Road was the home of the Seed family. A large and imposing building, it was surrounded by a high wall. It had previously been the home of Joseph Woolstencroft JP and may have been named after his three daughters – Winifred, Mary, and Edith.

The building became the local Conservative Party headquarters on the 18th of October 1948.
It was bought by George Wragg shortly afterwards, and he began to develop it into the hotel it later became, by first letting off the first floor as a casino.

In 1961, Winmarith House was opened by Comedian Jack Douglas as a restaurant – he had run away from school aged 12 to work as a lime boy looking after the lights at Feldman's theatre. During the Second World War, when Jack was waiting for his call-up, he became a spotlight operator at Feldman's.
In 1962 Winmarith House was converted into a *"high-class dinner club"* and casino, but it shortly changed into a pub, The Winmarith.

In 1994, it was owned by Scottish and Newcastle breweries, but in 1996 it belonged to Pennine Inns ltd. They re-furbished the premises and changed the name to The Burlington. The John Barras group then bought the pub, but trade dwindled so much that in July 2016, it re-opened with three floors of seating and is now owned by Greene King.

Isaac Wilde opened his photographer's shop in Church Street.
Henry Riding opened his Ironmongery at 84 Church Street.
Blackpool and Fylde District Agricultural Association was established, holding its first Annual Show in September on Mr Dagger's Field at Raikes Hill.
The corner stone of the Temperance Hall in Coronation Street was laid on December the 19th.
Thomas Love's eight cottages in High Street were bought for development on the 29th of March.

The Albion inn / Old England, Bispham: A new inn, the Albion, was built on Town Lane, on the site of Robert Hodgson's shoemaking shop. By 1879, Richard Warbrick's pub had become a place where the local coroner held inquests, mainly into bodies washed up on the shore.

The Old England pub began to be built in 1937, and was formally opened on the 25th of June 1938, immediately to the south of the Albion Inn, which was then demolished on the 27th. The adjacent

©

Temperance Hall was also replaced, having been used briefly as a filming location by United British Film Studios. The new address was 226 Red Bank Road.
It is thought that the Old England was named by owners Burtonwood Brewery, after a well-known local shrimper, Thomas Smith, known as “Owd England” from the mid to late 19th century.
The pub had its own steakhouse for some years, called the Cavalier. It reverted to its old name The Albion in May 2013, after being revamped, by brewers Mitchell and Butler, into a new “Pizza Kitchen and Bar”.

The Holy Well at Bispham - one of only three in ancient Amounderness - was filled in.
Rock and Company of London were commissioned by the town to produce a series of engravings advertising Blackpool, to try and outstrip Bournemouth and other seaside rivals.
Two thirds of the buildings in Blackpool now had piped water.
The late William Proctor’s Revoe Farm was let in May, boasting 53 acres.
A cricket match took place on the frozen *“flashes”* at Starr Hills, between Blackpool and Lytham on the 16th of January. In 1895 and 1929, the sea itself froze.
The Blackpool Directory reported 27 hotels and inns, 290 lodging houses, 6 beerhouses and 1 newly-opened temperance hall – there were 13 people renting bathing machines.

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Avenham Hall, Singleton: This small country house was occupied by the Rawcliffe family. It had been known as Enam Hall in 1840 and is now known as Game Farm on Station Road.
Its large range of farm outbuildings was added by the Fox family in 1898.

The Royal Hotel, Fleetwood: stood at 114 to 126 Dock Street, soon becoming the home of the Fleetwood Freemasons’ Lodge. In the 1960s, it fell upon hard times, and by 1963, the LMR Sports and Social Club was in number 126. It later had its own casino in number 124, and that then became Club Sylvana, Misty’s, Maggie May’s, the Cove, and finally the WUD.
It is now a Grade 2 Listed Building, and its listing reads as follows: *“The 3-bay central pedimented part was built as the offices of the Preston and Wyre Railway, projected by Sir Peter Hesketh-Fleetwood in 1836, and subsequently absorbed by the LNWR. Ashlar (Nos 116 to 124 rendered). 3 storeys. Moulded eaves cornice and parapet. 1st floor sill band. Ground floor horizontally rusticated, except for Nos 118 and 120. 15 ranges of sashes, some with glazing bars. Ranges 4-6 and 10-12 break back. Ranges 7-9 have giant pilasters on 1st and 2nd floors and pediment over. Of the 1st floor windows the 2nd, 8th, 10th-12th and 14th all have moulded cornices, as did the 4th-6th formerly. The 7th, 12th also have moulded frames, as did the 4th-6th formerly. Tuscan doorcase to Warren Street. LMR Sports and Social Club has cast iron railings to area, with urn and spear finials. Return facade to Kemp Street has 9 ranges of sashes, of which 2nd and 8th on 1st floor have moulded cornices on scrolled consoles”*.
The part now numbered 114 to 118 was added later by Decimus Burton to house his own offices and accommodation.

St Michael’s and Westby were both supplied with piped water.

The Red Lion Inn: at Woodplumpton is listed as holding a land auction in August. Its landlord Mr Croft died in 1874 and his wife took over, but after many disputes over rowdiness and illegal drinking, the inn closed in 1878.
There was another Red Lion nearby in Catforth, which in 1891, was run by William and Mary Barron. This was closed in 1921.
At the time, there were three inns in Woodplumpton: The Wheatsheaf, and The Red Lion in the village, and the de Tabley Arms in Tabley Lane (also closed in 1921). There was also an ale house at Whittle Hill.
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1868

South Jetty / Central Pier, Blackpool: Originally intended to be a simple large jetty for passing steamers, the South Pier Jetty Company opened the South Jetty on the 30th of May. It was erected using the screw pile designs of Eugenius Birch. This involved twisting screw-tipped cast iron piles down through the sand until they hit bedrock.

The promenade deck was 1,118 feet long and had an entrance hall, two shops, 10 kiosks, and a pier head with 2 waiting, reading, and refreshment lounges. There was a 400-foot-long jetty at the end. Bonus additions were the lower level gangways running the whole length. These allowed steamers to berth

In 1869, his son, Robert Bickerstaffe - the chief lifeboatman - opened a refreshment room on South Jetty, and was asked, in 1870, to manage the whole enterprise.
Major Preston's name was rapidly erased from the foundation stone of North Pier, because of his support for the new pier. There was no public opening ceremony, the toll gates were simply opened at 10 o'clock. The band of the 3rd Lancashire Militia did march along the pier later however.

The pier was at first unsuccessful, but from 1870, Robert Bickerstaffe organised a steamer excursion to Southport, hired a band for its return, and introduced "Open Air Dancing for the Working Classes" on the South Jetty. He had seen the popularity of the "posh" North Pier, and these moves changed the fortunes of South Pier. Its fortunes shot up, and it soon became known as the *"People's Pier"*.

At first, the jetty could not attract steamers, so, 1873, Robert Bickerstaffe senior funded the construction of his own, the Wellington (made by Allsup's of Preston), and soon made the company fund a second, the Nelson. Soon, the Wellington and Nelson ran to Southport, Morecambe, Llandudno, Lytham, Barrow, Peel, and other places. It had been unable to attract any independent steamship companies, so Bickerstaffe had his own built. The steamer "Clifton" ran from North Pier at the same time.

In 1878, the pier was given a new tollhouse at its entrance, and on the pier, itself were shops occupied by photographers, confectioners, and fancy dealers, as well as a floor for dancing, and refreshment rooms. The wooden steamer jetty was replaced by one of iron, and Robert Bickerstaffe junior ordered a new streamer, the PS Bickerstaffe, which started running in summer 1879.

By 1888, the pier was featuring Professor Taylor *"eating, smoking, and writing underwater"* and acts such as the "White Coons" (sic). Pierrots were first seen on the pier in 1907. Starting with those of Adeler and Sutton, they were succeeded by Fred Allendale's Premier Pierrots and then by Wylie-Tate's Super Pierrots in 1922.
By 1890, the tollhouse had been rented out to Mitchell and Nelson as a booth for them as the "Photographers of the Pier". Also, the two large kiosks at the start of the pier had become the "Palatine Arcade", selling tourist goods. Tolls were now simply collected at the iron gates.

A central dancing platform was added in 1893, at the centre of the pier, which had been doubled in width. This became an open-air theatre from 1949. The old wooden steamer jetty was replaced with a 400-foot long iron pier extension in 1893. This steamer jetty was washed away in 1964.

In 1893, the new South Pier was opened and the South Jetty was renamed Central Pier to avoid confusion. 1894 saw the steamer "Great Emperor" hired to sail short sea excursions from the pier head during the season. Meanwhile, Mr Wilkinson's Quadrille Band began the season there on the 23rd of March.

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In 1903, the eastern-style White Pavilion, designed by R Knill Freeman of Bolton with ironwork by Mr Dryden of Preston, was added at the landward end. It was demolished in 1966. The Electric Grotto Railway was built by Messrs Meinhardt in 1904, but it was removed following objections from the Corporation in 1907: the building housing it was retained.

In 1906, the pier opened an open-air roller-skating rink, where it offered "Happy Al-Fresco Skaters" the use of its "unrivalled Firmit skating surface". Next, in 1909, the pier unveiled its "Rollerator" ride, an innovative mix of skating and switchback. It still kept its own Roller Skating Rink however. An early visitor to the pier described the rink thus: *"In other inclosures there was roller-skating, such as we may see even in New York, though there in Blackpool, under the electric glitter, it had a peculiar distinction, as the skaters rose and sank on the switchback inclines, and the girls flitted by, with the tilt of pretty ships, so swiftly that we could not say they were not pretty girls"*.

The Joy Wheel was opened in 1911, with speed boats in the pier's own pond, and racing cars rides following in 1920. In 1913, a suspected Suffragette bomb was discovered on the pier, just before a visit by the King and Queen. Redman's Café was opened on the pier on the 1st of December 1914, after the original premises had been converted into the Church of England Temporary Social Club for Soldiers on the 27th of November.

In 1932, an "Automatic Chip Dispenser" was unveiled on Central Pier, together with a new photograph booth, and a guess-your-weight machine. During its life, the pier has been home to many retail shops and kiosks. In the 1960s there was even a large shop called "The Fruit Shop" selling fresh fruit.

In 1945, the pier mounted a display showing a V1 and a V2 rocket which had been dropped on London. It cost 6d to enter. The pier later displayed a replica German U-Boat conning tower, showing the number "U2". That attraction had *"a cut-away diving suit which you could climb into, various telescopes and a replica periscope. There were also various decommissioned guns of different sizes, which I presume had been salvaged from naval ships after the war. It was set up like a navy ship"*.

1949 saw skating stopped on the pier, and an open-air theatre was created on the central open platform. The theatre at the beach end continued to present shows – with Morecambe and Wise topping the bill in "Let's Have Fun".
Peter Webster first appeared at the open-air theatre on Central Pier in 1951, playing to 1,000 people twice daily – mainly children. "Uncle" Peter Webster went on to star in over 5,000 shows, before retiring in 1982. Another attraction on the pier was the Orchid Room, a small theatre where the resident dancers, the Orchid Room Lovelies", would support big stars – the 1957 summer show featured Morecambe and Wise, Joan Turner, Kenny Baker, Denis Spicer, Maureen Rose, and The Three Belles.

Circlorama Cinema: In 1965, the Circlorama Cavalcade 360-degree cinema appeared on Central Pier. It had been backed by cash from Harry Talbot de Vere Clifton, after the success of the London original, and was made by the firm of Harkness Ltd, using Perlux plastic screen panels. When the London show closed, it was erected on the end of the pier ready for the summer season. It was a total failure, as it kept breaking down due to the salt air.
At the end of the season it was dismantled and removed/reassembled in Glasgow's Kelvin Hall.
Also, on Central Pier, the new Sea Breeze Café was opened at the western end.

The Central Pier Theatre was demolished in October 1966, and the front was rebuilt, to house the Golden Goose Amusement Arcade. The New Theatre was built on the site of the old dance floor, opening in 1967.

©

In 1967, the Dixieland Palace replaced Central Pier's pavilion, above the Golden Goose Arcade on the 31st of May. It had the *"official biggest bar service"* in Britain. The pier head's open-air dance floors became the New Theatre, dancing was moved to the White Pavilion, and the Venetian Bar was opened in the centre, to cater for both public and the pier's theatre artistes. The Dixieland Showbar was then opened in 1968 along with the Golden Goose amusement arcade. The Dixieland had its own Golden Fry Restaurant – specialising in "chips in a basket". Further out, before the theatre, was the Venetian Bar – frequented by performers during intervals. Fire destroyed the Dixieland on the 22nd of September 1973, but it was soon reopened, as Dixies club. It was refurbished in June 1986, becoming Maggie May's Showbar. Linda Nolan played nine consecutive summer seasons there, following this directly with two summer seasons on South Pier. Maggie May's was later renamed "Peggy Sue's Showboat" and "Legends".

The pier's steamer jetty was removed at the end of 1975, the low water jetty already having been demolished in 1968.

On the 24th of February 1979, a security guard on the pier, doing his rounds, reported seeing a UFO. A ball of orange light rushed past with a roaring noise, leaving a lingering smell of ozone. The Ministry of Defence was notified, deciding to take no action.

Cinema 180 opened on Central Pier in 1979. By 1981 it had changed into Cinema USA, and by 1983 to Cinema 3D. It was housed on the centre of the pier in a giant geodesic dome.
Oz nightclub was open in the old Bedlam nightclub on the pier in 1989. It changed to Sequins in November 1990, then Legends Showbar, Club 1-11, and finally, to Wicked.

After the pier was strengthened, the new Big Wheel was opened on Central on the 13th of April 1990. It stands 108 feet high and holds up to 216 people in 26 carriages. Burton's Wagon Wheels were the original sponsors. The pier also opened the Wheel House Bar and Disco, and the Super Waltzer.

The pier was put up for sale in 2015, and was eventually bought by the Sedgwick family, who now own all three piers as The Blackpool Pier Company.

Storms damaged the North Pier and the half-completed sea defence works.

The Stanley Arms, Church Street, Blackpool: The Neptune public house was built on Stanley Terrace, and a licence was granted by the Poulton Excise Officer Charlie Moore (based in the Golden Ball Inn). By 1870, it had been renamed the Neptune Hotel.

It is famous for being where Blackpool Football Club was formed in 1877.

The hotel was rebuilt across the road, at what is now 139 Church Street, in 1880 as the Stanley Arms, after Fred Stanley, Earl of Derby. The builder was Mr Whittaker Bond, who was a director of Richard Swarbrick and Co, the owners of the Railway Hotel on Talbot Road. In the 1910s, it was owned by Richard Seed and Co, with W McCaffery as manager and offered *"Well ventilated and lofty bed and sitting rooms"* for *"Full boarding terms"* of 7s and 6d.

It has since been known as the Blue Room, the Stanley Beer Engine, the Hogs Head (from April 1993), and once again, the Blue Room. It closed in 2012, to open after refurbishment, on the 13rd of December 2013. It closed once more in 2015 when owned by Enterprise Inns Ltd.

©

The Blue Room name is possibly based upon the number of blue-uniformed Blackpool Grammar sixth formers that sneaked in, although another theory attributes it to its popularity with the police and fire personnel from around the corner in Kings Street.

The pub was bought in 2017, by former Blackpool mayor Robert Wynne, who will rename it "1887 The Brew Room" in recognition of its previous name and the year in which Blackpool Football Club was founded in the pub. The opening date is to be the 15th of December 2017, and the new pub will have its own micro-brewery.

The Temperance Hall on Coronation Street was opened on the 1st of July. Coronation Street was originally known as Coronation Walk.

The Theatre Royal/Tivoli, Blackpool: In July, the Talbot Road Arcade and Assembly and Concert Rooms were opened by the Blackpool Assembly and Concert Rooms Company. The complex contained a basement arcade of 17 elegant shops, restaurant, refreshments, and billiard rooms, together with a spacious hall with a gallery on three sides, and a 20-foot by 30-foot stage for theatricals and entertainments. A contemporary source states *"The structure contains very elegant shops, a restaurant, refreshment and billiard rooms, together with an Assembly Boom admirably adapted for concerts, entertainments, andc., and which has long been required".* In 1874, several *"sleeping apartments were added"*.

Oscar Wilde gave a lecture in what had by then become the Theatre Royal Assembly Rooms on the 12th of December 1883 – to just 80 people. His topic was "The House Beautiful".
It was one of the first places in Blackpool to show animated pictures and the "Kinetoscope" cinema was shown there on the 16th of November 1894 and Blackpool's first proper moving picture show was at the Theatre Royal in June 1897 - the Lumiere Cinematographe. Rivals for the accolade for the first movie were the Tower Ballroom and the Cozy Café in Bank Hey Street; both of which showed a newsreel of the wreck of the Foudroyant.

The Theatre Royal was sold for development on the 8th of April 1896 to Peter Yates, of Yates Bros Ltd. He had bought a large part of the block in 1894, and now acquired the whole of the Talbot Dining Rooms building, as Yates's Wine Lodge. Yates had started in business with his brother Simon, in Oldham in 1884. His first Blackpool venture was when he had opened a small shop on the Talbot Road frontage in 1894 and had taken over Liston's Bar for use as a wine bar. He soon built a butcher's shop, cigar-rolling shop, and Bosley Grill Restaurant downstairs. In the early years, they were renowned for their *"fantastic steaks cooked over a bed of coals in the basement".*
Yates's became famed for its "Champagne on Draught" at 10 pence per glass; queues would form around the corner site before opening time and three retired policemen manned the doors to control them. It was known locally as "*The Blob Shop*" named after a cocktail of wine, brandy, sugar, lemon, and hot water. Always keeping the original bare floorboards, and the "In" and "Out" signs at the main bar, it was probably the largest of the Company's Wine Lodges.
The Off Licence was called "The Bottle shop" and had both indoor and outdoor access.

The Theatre Royal was renamed Tivoli Theatre in 1906. In 1907, it became the Tivoli. In 1909, it briefly became Van Beine's Theatre, with musical hall/variety and films on display and very quickly the Tivoli Electric Theatre.

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Reconstructed in 1912-1913, it became the Tivoli Picture Theatre, with films as its main programming. In 1914, it changed name to Tivoli Motion Pictures. The interior was reconstructed in 1930, when it was equipped for sound films and provided with 861 seats and a 26-foot proscenium. On the 8th of October 1964, a fire destroyed the interior of the cinema at the screen end - Yate's Wine Lodge beneath the cinema was not damaged. The Tivoli Cinema was refurbished and reopened in April 1965, with a reduced seating capacity of 650. The Bosley Arcade, between the theatre and the adjacent shops, was merely for access, as the box office was in the middle of the arcade, with the cinema stairs facing it. The stairs led to the first level, where the foyer was, containing an ice cream and sweets kiosk. In later years, the Tivoli Pet Shop, complete with infamous parrot, and Birchall's tobacconists abutted it.

Closed in the mid-1970s, the Tivoli became the Talbot Bingo Club, and in 1969 it became part of the Hutchinson's chain of bingo clubs. The bingo club closed in September 1980, and it was reopened as the Tivoli Cinema in February 1982 - 450 new luxury seats had been installed. The cinema was not a success and closed within a few months.
In 1984, a columned canopy was erected on the corner of the building.

It was later converted into a music hall and from 1987, it became the Music Hall Tavern. The Tavern was run by local singer Patricia Higginbottom – known as Miss Patricia, and drew many British music hall stars to its stage, as well as local talent. The tavern closed in 1995, moving to 115 Church Street.
Yate's Wine Lodge bar still continued on the ground floor of the building, and Carriages Restaurant briefly opened downstairs in the old Bosley Grill. The wine lodge itself briefly became the Café de Europe in the 1980s, and the upstairs, just as briefly, was called Young Yates's, catering for youngsters under 18.
In later years, the former cinema section was converted into Addison's nightclub, and more recently Wildcats (formerly Too Hot to Handle) lap dancing club. Yates's Wine Lodge was fully restored for its own Centenary in 1994, was refurbished once more in early 2009.

Sadly, in the early hours of the morning of the 15th of February 2009, Yates's Wine Lodge was burnt to the ground. The arsonist also destroyed the Bosley Shopping Arcade, including Blackpool Aquaria and Pet Supplies (the old Tivoli Pet Shop) – with all its animals, the Wildcats Lap Dancing Club, and a Subway sandwich outlet. The blaze caused damage costing at least £20 million, and the last of the original building was demolished in April 2009.

In July 2018, work began on replacing the building with a 150-bedroom Premier Inn hotel, and a linked Brewers Fayre restaurant on the ground floor. The construction being carried out by Barnfield Construction.

Berlin House opened in Talbot Square. The Misses SA and R Barton ran it, selling fancy needlework, jewellery cases, and wools.
Also, in Talbot Square was W Ashcroft's tobacconist's shop. He was a well-known local importer of fine tobacco, and also sold Meerschaum pipes and walking canes.
Ebenezer Fowler's carpet warehouse and drapers was in business on Market Street, as was William Carr's Carriage Repository, next to the Market. Whilst digging the site of the warehouse, a young Cuthbert Grundy reported that *"some workmen while digging out the foundations for a warehouse in this town, came upon an oyster firmly embedded in the clay at a depth of five feet from the surface. At the time of the discovery the oyster was alive".*
At number 2 Market Street was R Rushton. He was a watch maker, jeweller, and optician.

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Abingdon House Ladies School, Blackpool: (or Academy) was opened at 14/16 Abingdon Street, by the Misses Ashworth. Abingdon House had been on the site since at least 1858, its owner, Mrs Grindrod, was taking in paying guests at the time.
By 1870, it was slightly renamed as Abingdon Academy for Girls, and was being run by Miss J Smallpage. The academy later formed part of Arnold Girl's School.
In 1875, it moved to 2 Springfield Road, being renamed as Northlands High School for Girls. It started off there beside and to the rear of where the Baptist Tabernacle was later constructed, and by 1899 had expanded to include number 180 the Promenade, by then including a kindergarten. Northlands was surrounded by a large garden area, with its side garden wall facing General Street.
By 1912, Miss Smallpage had moved to the Yorkbourne School on Hill Street in South Shore, but still kept Northlands as a companion school.
Northlands High School survived into the 1940s, being privately funded, and still with a kindergarten.

Eccleston Bank School was at South Beach, run by the Holist sisters, and the Nansen sisters ran a similar boarding school nearby at Marine Villas.
The Blackpool and South Shore Carriage Company Limited began on Rawcliffe Street, South Shore.
Eringo Lodge at Norbreck was bought by John Cocker from John Swainson.
Pander's touring show and Circus came to Blackpool in June.
Bispham Temperance Hall and Institute was opened on the 29th of September. It had its own reading room, library, and assembly hall, and had been funded by public subscription. The hall was built next door-but-one to the Albion Inn by local man Robert Smith.
Pinder's Touring Show performed their circus in Blackpool.

Samuel Laycock: the Lancashire dialect poet, settled in Oak Cottage on the Promenade, as it was thought the local climate would be good for his health. He worked as a photographer and his poems were published in book form. He married his wife Hannah at Bethesda Chapel, on the 8th of November 1879, and died at his own bakery at 48 Foxhall Road on the 15th of December 1893.
In 1894, his wife sold the bakery business and its equipment to Robert Fitton of Rochdale, who continued running the business. Mrs Laycock and her family then moved into a house on Woodfield Road, that had been newly-built for them by S Butterworth and Son.

The first Blackpool Band contest on the 1st of September was won by the Black Dyke Mills Band.

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Fleetwood Cattle Market was opened on the 2nd of April to handle the increasing numbers of cattle imported from Ireland. Holding pens had already been built underneath the steamer berths, together with others under the railway station.
The 90th Lancashire Rifle Volunteers were raised at Fleetwood on the 3rd of June and placed in the 3rd Admin Battalion. The 90th became the 27th Artillery Volunteers in May 1870 as part of the 4th Administrative Brigade and is not listed in the Army List after 1875.

Fleetwood Fire Brigade: Fleetwood Fire Brigade was formed in the Town Yard on Preston Street, using an old manual fire engine and its leather hose reel which had been bought in the Rossall Hall sale. That first fledgling fire station soon joined with the police station at 125-131 Lord Street (now Mario's Italian Restaurant).

In June 1884, a new manual fire engine was unveiled, and in 1885, 6 more hydrants were delivered to the town. An old bell in the town yard was later rigged up to set off the electric bells in the firemen's houses.,
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which speeded up operations still more. On the 18th of May 1914, Leyland Motors Ltd delivered a Petrol Motor Fire Engine of 55 horse power with a 50-foot wheeled fire escape.

The Wyre Dock had its own fire brigade, and until 1938, its fire engine was horse drawn.

That first Fire Station (backing onto London Street) was demolished in the 1970s. The town had its own dock fire brigade which used a Shand-Mason horse drawn steamer, but in 1937, land was purchased in Radcliffe Road for the new fire station, and the building was delayed because of World War 2.

The second Fleetwood Fire Station was eventually opened in Radcliffe Road on the 14th of September 1962, at a cost of £49,000.

Fleetwood's latest, and third, new fire station was opened in June 2012 on Radcliffe Road.

Park Street Wesleyan Chapel, Lytham: was opened by the Reverend John Bedford, on the site of a painter's workshop, on the 23rd of September, after being temporarily housed in a chapel behind the Queens Hotel. It replaced the earlier chapel in Bath Street, which opened in 1846. The new chapel had seating for 360 people, and a further 200 in the gallery. A schoolroom was attached and this was extended in the 1870s. In June 1901 the church was enlarged, the apse and choir being added. The opening was performed by Alderman E R Lightwood. An adjoining domed lecture hall was also added. The church was designed by Thomas Bird and Sons of Manchester and has two Corinthian columns supporting the cornice on its façade. The Chancel was enlarged in 1900, and the memorial windows were added. The School Hall was soon extended, and in 1911 the courtyard between the church and the school was enclosed, creating supplementary classrooms.

In 1898, a new Manse was bought in Seafield Road, and this served until a house at 7 Upper Westby Street was bought in 1922. The present Manse at The Serpentine was acquired in 1958.

On the 21st of May, the annual bowling challenge was held at the Britannia Bowling Green in Kirkham.

1869

George Bolton's drapery and silk mercers opened on Church Street/Market Street, on the site of Rose Cottage. They also sold carpets.

The Blackpool Bakery: Daniel Prince opened a baker's shop and confectionery at 33 Abingdon Street, on the corner of Birley Street. He also ran a large Bakery in Caunce Street and was the local agent for Carr's Biscuits of Carlisle. The building also contained a grocer's shop, Kay's Dining Rooms, and a tobacconist. The grocer's shop became Hutton's fudge and chocolate shop from the late 1930s until 2009, when it was briefly a sandwich bar named Fuel in 2009, then the Karma Caffe Bar. It is currently the 4hitas takeaway and sandwich shop. RB Smyth, stocktakers, have offices on the first floor. Mr Prince's son later moved to number 47 Abingdon Street, opening what he called The Blackpool Bakery. The building was replaced in the 1950s and is currently a Brighthouse outlet.

The Norbreck Hydro Hotel: Norbreck Villa was built now. Behind the house, on the east side, stood a ward tower or gazebo, built partly of beach cobbles, with a castellated top. This is what the castellated roof design was based upon.
In 1902, it became the Norbreck Hall private hotel, which was renamed the Norbreck Hall Hydro in 1905.

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It was bought by James Shorrocks, a Salford brushmaker, in 1912 and, after adding an extension another storey (build by R Leach and Son of Anchorsholme), he began to host lavish parties. He reopened it in 1915 as the Norbreck Hydro Hotel. The hotel soon gained an impressive set of "in" and "out" wrought iron gates, showing its name. They spanned the South-western entrance.
In 1921, the annual Norbreck Hydro Tennis Tournament began – the hotel had 13 tennis courts, all sited between itself and the beach. It also had a clock-golf green.

By 1928, Shorrocks was offering Norbreck Hydro's own cinema, a ballroom with sprung floor, a 130-foot-long café, spacious lounges and corridors, own farm – 200 acres, poultry farm, electric lifts, hot and cold water in all 350 bedrooms, rest rooms, 260 bedrooms facing the sea, 23 tennis courts, bowling green, croquet lawns, putting, billiard room with 3 tables, and a garage for 200 cars.

The Norbreck Hydro Golf Club opened in 1928, with 18 holes and a par of 66. In 1932 Norbreck House, which had been used by the Hydro's golf club, was demolished by the club. It was supposed to have hidden a smugglers tunnel leading to the cliffs. The site later housed the Golf Club's new clubhouse, then the Travellers Rest social club, and currently the Norbreck's laundry. The golf club closed in 1964.

Norbreck Hydro opened its swimming baths on the 1st of January 1931. The pool was 60 feet long and 27 feet wide, with a glass roof and "Sun Ray Baths", being able to open all year round. It was advertised as the *"New Vita Glass Covered Swimming Pool with warm sea water""*.

A ballroom and a solarium were also added later in the 1930s. The massive northern block was added in 1933/4, almost mirroring the original, and in 1938, the Norbreck Castle Theatre was built next door. Both these extensions were constructed by R Leach and Son of Anchorsholme.
The Norbreck was released by the War Department in 1951, and was immediately re-furbished, to be opened again in 1952. It then had open-air car parking for 250 cars, five tennis courts, an 18-hole golf course, a bowling green, a 600-seat restaurant, a ballroom which seated 850, a second smaller ballroom for private parties, two cocktail bars, and 400 bedrooms, 97 of which had private bathrooms. The intertwined initials "RS" on one of the buildings frontages appears to stand for Messrs Riley and Shorrock, previous partners in ownership.
The hotel was soon bought by a Mrs Rose, and then by a Mr Farley, who changed the name to the Norbreck Castle.

The Norbreck later re-opened its old cinema, along with the Norcalympia conference centre which can hold 3,000 people. The Norcalympia also hosted occasional concerts by big groups of the day, such as Slade, who played there twice, on the 26th of April and the 27th of May 1978.
In 1970, the Norbreck Nite Spot nightclub opened next door to the long-standing Norbreck Castle Inn, being a popular local attraction due to its twice-weekly over-13s junior Teenscene Disco. The Nite Spot also had an a-la-carte restaurant and the Nosh Bar snack outlet.
In 1973 Norbreck Hydro was taken over, briefly being renamed "Le Fylde Motel". The Castle Inn disco continued.

The Norbreck Nite Spot began to host shows by some of the country's biggest rock bands, when it welcomed Adam and the Ants on the 25th of January 1979. They were followed by the Pretenders (15th of March), Simple Minds (July the 20th), Def Leppard (6th of September 1979 and the 28th of February 1980), Iron Maiden (2nd of November), Slade (27th of May 1978, June the 18th and the 9th of October 1980, and the 16th of December 1984), and Ozzy Osborne (the 3rd of September 1980). Others to play at the Norbreck

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included Screaming Lord Sutch, Sad Café, Gary Glitter (twice), Adam and the Ants, Magnum, Stray, Samson, Saxon, and the Edgar Broughton Band.

The Boston Stake Out Restaurant was opened on November the 29th 1997, in the Castle Theatre building.

The Norbreck Castle petrol station closed in 2002.

In July 2003, the Norbreck Castle was sold to Britannia Hotels for £6 million. It now has 480 bedrooms, 22 conference venues, and 35-seater cinema.

"John Cragg, a beer-house keeper of the Sailor's Home in Chapel Street, was charged with keeping his house open for the sale of beer on a Sunday".
The Railway Company had to invoke a byelaw to stop lodging-house keepers from accosting newly arrived tourists as they got off trains.
John Fare, the owner of the Whitegate Lane Estate, around Whitegate Farm, was obliged to sell off the lands for development.

Sefton Villa, Blackpool: was built on Whitegate Lane East by Richard Kirkham, who also built a row of houses adjoining it. Joseph Fish was the householder in 1881.

On the 4th of February 1920, Blackpool Corporation opened the building as the Blackpool Corporation Maternity Home. The original accommodation was for 8 patients, but as this was found to be insufficient, lodgings for the nurses were obtained in adjacent houses, so up to 12 cases could be accommodated. Up to the end of the year 108 patients were admitted to the Home. By February 1924 the home had become so overcrowded that mothers had to be transferred to the Sanatorium on Talbot Road. It had dealt with 802 cases during its lifetime.
1941 saw Sefton Villa opened as both a Post-Natal Hostel and as a Sick Bay. In the mid-1950s, it became the residential accommodation for the maternity nurses.
In 1960, it was vacated by the children's Committee of the borough, and became the Corporation Creche, which was transferred from the Municipal Health Centre. Also moving into the building that year were sheltered Workshops for some older, mentally handicapped children under the control of the Blackpool Society for Mentally Handicapped Children. Eight girls started to receive training there, having moved there after the closure of their old premises in Queen Street. Eight older boys were cared for in rooms over the Marton Tramways Depot.

In 1966, Sefton Villa was opened as Ashcroft House, a home for unmarried mothers. The address was by then 214 Whitegate Drive.

In 1976, the Ashcroft House Day Nursery opened at the rear of the main building. It is currently owned by the director of Quality Childcare Limited. The nursery is in a single-storey building, and has two playrooms, one of which, has a divided area for babies, and a separate sleep room. There is an outdoor play area to the side of the building. It can take 44 children.

On the 16th of November 1993, part of this building was turned into a boarding school for up to 8 mentally handicapped boys, called the Nook School. The Nook closed on the 11th of April 2014, having been run by Northerncare Limited.
The building has now been renamed Miranda House.

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The Blackpool Billposting Company was formed. It became the New Fylde and Blackpool Billposting Company Ltd on the 1st of January 1900 and was based at 167 Church Street.
Blackpool Union Printers Limited was established, operating from Charnley Road. They were the sole publishers of the Daisy Series of private Christmas cards. The company was wound up on the 6th of September 1948.

Charles Dickens: visited Blackpool with his manager, George Dolby, on April the 21st. It was thought originally that he stayed at the Beach Hotel, which stood where the Tower Vaults and Café now stand, but he stayed at the Imperial Hotel on the nights of the 21st and 22nd. From there, he strolled along North Pier and the beach; a letter from him to the hotel was recently found in America.

Fairground amusements began to migrate towards Blackpool for the season, as the Wakes festivities moved to the seaside, taking the customers with them.

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Poulton Freemasons were meeting in the Bull Hotel in the Marketplace, Poulton. They opened their own Poulton Masonic Hall at 14 the Market Place on the 20th of July 1900. The Bull is now at 2 Blackpool Old Road and is currently owned by the Stonegate Pub Company. It re-opened on the 16th of August 2013, after a full re-furbishment.
The first sod was cut for Fleetwood's new docks on the 2nd of June by Mr Styan, steward of the Fleetwood estate. A grand sports and athletics event was held to celebrate the occasion and the new Velox Velocipedes took part in a cycle race – reaching speeds of up to 20 mph.
Fleetwood quays had coal chutes installed, to allow railway wagons to load straight onto waiting boats.

The School in the Sun, Lytham was at 18 West Beach. A later newspaper described it as "*(The pioneer sun school of the North for normal, healthy children between the ages of 8 and 12 years: vitaglass windows and sun lamps ensure school days spent in perpetual summer)*". Its Principal was Mrs T Wray Milnes. The south side was glazed with *"special glass, permeable to Ultra-Violet Rays"* and in winter, the school rooms were fitted with *"incandescent tungsten filament lamps for providing a constant supply of Ultra-Violet light of low intensity"*. Shortly before its closure, it was housed in the Victory Hall.

The Bluebell Inn on Church Street in Kirkham was demolished. Jackson's Garage, coach station, and VIP petrol station, later filled the site, which is now covered by a back street behind the Market Square shops.
Kirkham Freemasons first met in the Britannia Hotel, moving to the Black Horse on Preston Street in 1871.
The Fylde Industrial Co-operative Society opened at 53 Poulton Street in Kirkham, and by 1887, they had opened their own Co-operative Hall nearby. The Co-op then opened a shop on Poulton Street on the 6th of November 1897. They had demolished Heatley's grocers to build their new central store.

1870s

The Little Vic, Blackpool: The Victoria Inn was built during this decade besides the Victoria Terrace, on what would soon be called Victoria Street, for William Henry Cocker.

The Victoria Inn closed in 1931 and was then demolished. A new pub was then built on its site, between 1931 and 1933, by owners C&S brewery.
This was opened as the Little Vic Spanish Tavern on the 16th of December 1933. Its façade was a blend of Spanish Colonial and Art Deco styles, designed by JC Derham. The interior had Spanish theme, designed by Andrew Mazzei. The new building was constructed by Sir Lindsay Parkinson and Company Ltd to a design by JC Derham.
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The ground floor bar had booths on either side for drinkers, and an imitation tree in the centre. The bar itself was at the northern end.
Its famous bell tower was removed in the 1970s, by which time it had been renamed the Little Vic.
The pub was demolished in 1989, and was replaced by a Top Shop store in 2000. It is currently the UIKO men's clothes shop.

The New Road Inn, Blackpool: was built on the corner of New Road and Elizabeth Street. The original inn was three storeys high, and in 1885, it is listed as being owned by William Flitcroft.
C&S brewery took over its running in 1893, and in 1934, the pub, now addressed as at 244 Talbot Road, was rebuilt by them. The new licensee for the opening was James Garratt.
Jennings brewery later took it over, and in the mid-1970s, they removed all the interior panel walls to create today's three rooms – a lounge, a pool room, and the "Oval Room" at the back.

The Princess Hotel, Blackpool: at 62 Foxhall Road, was owned by James Eccles. He later sold it to the Seed family. Later in its life, it stopped taking in guests and became a simple pub. In 2010, by then known as the Princess Tavern, it was transformed into the first Ma Kelly's fun bar in town.

The Bridge House, Blackpool: this public house was at 124-128 Lytham Road, owned by John Ball and run for him by Grace Cartmell. It is thought that it was named after a long-disappeared bridge over the nearby Spen Dyke. The players from Blackpool Football Club changed into their kits in the pub from about 1900, and walked to their new ground on Bloomfield Road, around the corner.
In November 1871, the landlord, William Cartmell, accidentally drowned whilst fishing off South Shore Jetty. He was washed away trying to retrieve his hooks, and his body found the next day.
The pub was re-built in about 1879 and re-designed in the 1930s, by brewers Matthew Brown. It is now known as the Old Bridge House.

The Albert Hotel, Blackpool: was built on the corner of Albert Road and Lytham Road. In 1925, Albert Road was renamed Haig Road, to avoid conflict with the more-prominent Albert Road in the centre of town, and the Albert Hotel was re-addressed as being at 215 Lytham Road.
In 1930, the brewers re-modelled the interior by merging the living quarters, parlour lounge, and snug into one single lounge bar.
By then called the New Albert Hotel, it closed at the end of the summer season of 2014, to be turned into a Ma Kelly's outlet in March 2015.

1870

Between now and 1914, 22 entertainment companies were registered the town of Blackpool, *"their aims including the building of a skating rink or winter garden in the 1870s, an aquarium in the 1880s, a pier, pavilion, tower, theatre and maze in the prosperous 1890s and a Picturedome, Picture Palace and Fun Shelter after the turn of the century"*.

Talbot Square Fountain, Blackpool: On the 18th of April, *"an elaborate canopied drinking fountain on Talbot Square was officially opened to coincide with the recently completed promenade between Cocker Square and Station Road"*. It was constructed to celebrate the opening of the promenade.

"The cast iron structure erected in front of the Clifton Arms Hotel" "was designed and cast by George Smith and Co, of the Sun Foundry, Glasgow. The purchase and erection costs were financed by local subscriptions, private donors, the proceeds of public readings, athletic contests, and brass-band performances".

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The drinking fountain *"was seated on a three-tiered octagonal stone plinth and consisted of eight columns supporting a ribbed, solid dome, bronze canopy. The ribs on the domed roof were outlined with stars (or suns), and flying birds (or seagulls) perched on scrollwork consoles.*

The open filigree frieze above the cornice expanded to the interior of the dome, and leaves decorated the outer edge of the cornice. The cupola, trimmed with rope design, acted as a capital for the four-sided clock. The finial was an orb and spike with combination weathervane.

A single central gas lantern illuminated the interior of the structure. The wide based font" "was located on a raised and stepped platform. The central pedestal was supported by four columns stamped with a diamond pattern. Square capitals on each side of the dog toothed basin contain a seven-pointed embellishment which may represent a star or the sun. This symbol also outlined the ribs on the domed roof. Four consoles with acanthus relief connected the central stanchion to the basin and originally supported drinking cups suspended on chains. Shell motif spouts released water flow. A multi-tiered circular column was surmounted by a studded orb terminal".
The drinking fountain was removed in 1926, and an ornate tram shelter built, but the two sets of underground conveniences were retained. Although it was later replaced by the expanded entrance to the new underground public toilets, taxi drivers even now call the rank "the fountain". The toilets had their own resident barber for many years.

Mr Gregory's Merchant College was at South Shore.
Reverend Pakes's Collegiate School was on the corner of today's Coronation Street and Adelaide Street (later becoming the Twisted Wheel café). Robert Bamber had started this school at Bonny's-i-the-fields, on the site of the King Edward VII Hotel in the 1840s, before moving here in the early 1860s.
Joseph Crompton's Collegiate House School was in Queen Street.
In Church Street, there was *"a prominent erection, near the Church"* which was *"the Preparatory School for boys, conducted by the Misses Middleton".*

Cocker Street Baths, Blackpool: Cocker Street Baths began to be built, and were opened in 1871, by Christopher Johnson, and in 1873, they were refitted and renamed by Jonathan Read, reopening in July.

Doctor WH Cocker started rebuilding them as the Sea Water Company and Baths in 1876. He spent so much of his own money in improving Blackpool that he eventually died in poverty. The new baths had marble floors and glazed wall tiling throughout, and hot sea water bathing was available.
The Blackpool Amateur Swimming Club was founded at the baths in 1880, holding an annual swimming gala there.

They were bought by the Corporation on the 19th of April 1909, and known as the Blackpool Corporation Baths, although briefly in 1910, they were known locally as Nicholson's Public Baths. In an unfortunate accident on the 6th of April 1911, the Baths Superintendent John Parkinson was scalded to death when trying to rescue his assistant from the Hot Sea Water Tank.
School swimming galas were held there until the larger Derby Baths opened.

The Cocker Street Foam Baths were opened on the 6th of June 1932, by footballer Jimmy Hampson. At their height in the 1930s, the brick and cement faced building had private, hot, sea foam, pine and vapour baths, a main pool (27 yards by 8 yards), and a small plunge bath/learner pool for private tuition. There was an upper gallery around the pool and a large skylight in the roof.

©

The baths were closed on the 3rd of October 1964.
By then known as Reed's Cocker Street Baths, they were closed in late 1973, and demolished in March 1974. Its machinery was recycled at the South Shore Swimming Coliseum, an engineering plaque was remounted at Derby Baths, and another was bequeathed to the Central Library Local History Collection. The site is now a simple car park.

All Saints Church, Blackpool: All Saints Church opened on Palatine Road on the 15th of February 1898. The foundation stone of the replacement All Saints was laid at 15a Palatine Road on the 21st of July 1904, to replace the original iron structure, and the new church was dedicated in August 1905. It was consecrated on the 8th of August 1907 and can seat 650 worshippers.
Christ Church with All Saints Sunday school and Parochial Hall was opened at 98 and 98a Park Road on the 19th of June 1928.
In 1979, Christ Church from Queen Street merged with All Saints in the building on Palatine Road. The old Christ Church building on Queen Street was then demolished.
The parochial hall later became the home of the Babs Dawson school of dance, and then the Langley Dance and Theatre School, before housing various crèches and kindergartens. It was put up for sale in 2015.

S Stanton and Son "High Class Provision Dealers" opened at 13 Market Street.
Dick's Boot and Shoe shop opened on Church Street. By 1883, they had moved to 17 Clifton Street, and had opened another shop at 53 Clifton Street in Lytham. In 1904, they took over a shop at 43 St Anne's Square from Messrs Smith and Richardson. When Dicks (Footwear) closed in 1995, it only had the two shops in St Anne's and Lytham.
James Hall began to run the town's first horse bus along the new Promenade, from Bailey's Hotel to Dean Street. Other horse buses soon started running from Talbot Square to the Gynn, Layton, Marton, and South Shore.

The Waterloo Tavern, Blackpool: was on Cow Gap Lane. Its likely location was where the children's play area now stands, to the Northeast of Waterloo Road bridge. William Shaw owned it at this time, and a field to its rear was used by South Shore FC as a practice ground.
By 1889 it had been purchased by the Manchester, Sheffield, and Lincoln Railway Company, who we think soon had the pub demolished to enable railway siding to be built on the site.
It is likely that Cow Gap Lane was renamed as Waterloo Road after the tavern, which was rumoured to have been named in honour of the British victory at the battle of Waterloo in 1815.

S Beverley opened a photographer's studio on Church Street.
Thomas Carter, Sons and Company, auctioneers, opened for business at Post Office Chambers, later moving to 12 Birley Street.
EJ Reed opened his auctioneer and valuer's business at 29 Birley Street.

The Territorial Army in Blackpool:
The Blackpool Gun Battery was formed, from local volunteer soldiers.

Yorkshire Street Drill Hall: Next, in 1875, Benjamin Sykes and John Hardman sold land for the building of the Blackpool Drill Hall in Yorkshire Street, Caroline Street, West Caroline Street on the 4th of January. The Drill Hall of the 5th Lancashire Royal Garrison Artillery Volunteers (9th Heavy Battery) was then erected at a cost of £2,600, made from iron and wood. Yorkshire Street Drill Hall opened, under Captain Stead, in 1876.

©

It was 103 feet long and 66 wide, in two spans, and contained an instructor's house, armoury, officers' quarters, and mess rooms.
The battery was originally a garrison battery, until 1891, when it was formed into a position battery. The garrison had four 4.7-inch quick-firing guns, and its strength by 1891 was 116 men, including officers, non-commissioned officers, and gunners.

In 1934, by now called the Territorial Army centre, it was reopened to house the 88th (2nd West Lancashire) Field Regiment, Royal Artillery (TA) 351st (11th West Lancashire) Battery, and the 137th Field Regiment, RA (TA). Major ER Read was the Commanding Officer. The Lancastrian Volunteers, 2nd Battalion, D Company, set up a detachment at Blackpool on the 4th of January 1971, and in 1975, the 14th (Volunteer) Battalion of the Queen's Lancashire Regiment, B Company, set up at the drill hall on the 4th of January 1975.
The Yorkshire Street Drill Hall closed in 2002, with the opening of the new centre off Waterloo Road.

The Blackpool Troop of the Duke of Lancaster's Own: was formed in 1887, and according their official history, they *"have been resident in Blackpool and the Fylde, at that time attached to the Blackburn Troop, and depending for their drills and instruction upon the Officers and Instructor of that Troop. When it became necessary to enlarge the Regiment to eight Troops (1899), it was decided to locate one of the new Troops at Blackpool, the men resident there to form the nucleus, as it was felt there was plenty of good material to be recruited from; Accordingly, Capt. T. A. Shepherd-Cross undertook to raise a Troop, and between January, 1899, and the Annual Training in the following June, he had succeeded in securing nearly 50 excellent recruits.*
For the first four and a half years the Troop laboured under the disadvantage of having no permanent Head-quarters. The office work had to be done in a small store, at the top of the Empress Buildings, rented from the Winter Gardens Co., and the dismounted drills took place in the old Ballroom, at the Raikes Hall Gardens, while the Sgt Major Instructor had to be supplied with a house in another part of the town. The men had very little opportunity of meeting together except at drills, and the various manoeuvres had to be carried out under conditions that were neither comfortable nor suitable.

It was decided to endeavour to obtain within the town, a permanent Head-quarters, in which the Sergt-Major Instructor could live, where the valuable stores and equipment could be safely stored and the men drilled under the best conditions, and in which they could meet for recreation, etc., in the winter months.

The Corporation of Blackpool allowed the Officers to have a site on the north side of New Road, on which to erect the building, on very generous terms, and Mr. R. B. Mather gave them, free of all costs, the plans and specifications, and supervised the work from the laying of the foundation-stone to its completion in every detail".

Talbot Road Drill Hall: In 1903, the Duke of Lancaster's Own Imperial Yeomanry, Blackpool Troop opened their headquarters and drill hall at 221 Talbot Road, with Field Marshall Earl Roberts performing the ceremony on the 17th of July. It was a training centre for the 3rd Troop and Hotchkiss Gun Section Squadron, and in 1921, the Yeomanry was reformed into 3 Squadrons of cavalry, with D Squadron now being based in Blackpool and Preston.

In 1904, the Drill hall was described as follows: *"The Headquarters have a frontage to New Road of fifty feet and are substantially built of red brick throughout. The front elevation is treated with Accrington bricks and stone dressing. It has a Battlement Coping with a gable in the centre surmounted by a flagstaff.*

©

The buildings contain a complete residence for the Sergt. Major Instructor, an Armoury, an Officers House, a Non-Commissioned Officer's Room, a Recreation and Lecture Room, and ample Lavatory accommodation. The Drill Hall is about ninety feet long by forty-eight feet wide and is a lofty and well-lighted building; the floor is laid with asphalt, and the roof is of corrugated iron. The Hall contains a miniature rage for rifle practice, the apparatus being the gift of Col. P. Hargreaves

The Officers Room has been furnished and decorated by Capt. L.G. Molloy.
The Non-Commissioned Officers Room, Recreation and Lecture Room, andc have been furnished by members of the Troop.
The floors of the rooms have been covered with oilcloth, generously given by Thomas Bannister, Esq.
The Recreation Room was decorated by Trooper Beaumont at his own expense".

In 1908, the Council agreed to provide *"land between Rigby Road and the Gas works to be used for Riding and Driving Drill"*.
For many years, the building was also used by Blackpool Borough Police as a Training Centre and Uniform Issue Store – as was the old police station next door.

The drill hall was closed with the disbanding of the troop in 1991.
In 1998, it was sold for development - a new roof was constructed on the territorial army part at the rear. The armoury safe is still inside, built into the fabric of the building. The western half was turned into a 3-storey, 4-bedroomed house. The eastern half (which was the officers' mess, bar, dartboard etc.) is now used for storage. The green doors on the front were retained, and the lines painted on the floor for parking the TA Landrovers are still in situ. The rifle range also remains, with railway sleepers bolted to the back wall, and the ceiling is *"still the old original tongue and groove on the underside of roof"*.

During the 1980s, the premises to the east of the hall were used, temporarily, as a refuge for young mothers. That building was originally the Talbot Road police station. That building was demolished in the late-1990s and replaced by apartments.

'B' Battery, 78 (The Duke of Lancaster's Own Yeomanry) Medium Artillery Regiment (TA), became the new name of the Blackpool squadron, and in 1943, they were posted to the middle east to guard German prisoners. Then, in 1944, they were placed under US command and sent to Italy, where they took part in the famous raid on Monte Casino, amongst other operations.

In 1946, the men of 78 Regiment formed their Association of Old Comrades. They opened a Blackpool branch, and soon, the Blackpool Sabre Squadron of 78 Regiment was incorporated into the Divisional Armoured Regiment of 42nd (East Lancs) Division.

1947 saw them become part of the Royal Armoured Corps (TA), then the Royal Tank Regiment (TA) in 1967, 202 (The Duke of Lancaster's Own Yeomanry) Field Squadron Royal Engineers in 1969, in 1971, the Duke of Lancaster's Own Yeomanry (TAVR) (Infantry Home Defence Regiment). In 1981, the Blackpool Troop became merely a detachment of 'D' Squadron based in Preston, and in 1983, the designation changed again, to The Duke of Lancaster's Own Yeomanry (RAC TA) (Home Defence Reconnaissance Regiment).

Finally, in 1991, The Duke of Lancaster's Own Yeomanry ceased to exist, and became part of The Royal Mercian and Lancastrian Yeomanry. Everything from Blackpool was moved to Wigan.

©

Territorial Army Centre: moved to this new purpose-built building off Waterloo Road. It is called Sir Matthew Fell House, and was officially opened on Parkinsons Way on the 26th of October February 2002, although having been used since the previous February.
D Detachment, Waterloo (Queen's Lancashire Regiment) Company of the Lancastrian and Cumbrian Volunteers became the 4th Battalion, Duke of Lancaster's Regiment's B (Somme) Company. 1 Troop, C Squadron, 208 (Liverpool) Field Hospital also moved to the new complex. Those troops had been using temporary accommodation since 1992 when the Talbot Road Drill Hall had closed.
The Blackpool Detachment of the Army Cadets is also based there, and there are other cadet detachments at Blackpool Palatine (same centre), Fleetwood (Preston Street), Kirkham and Weeton (Weeton Camp), Lytham (Worsley Road college), and Thornton (Butts Road).
In March 2014, the Territorial Army was rebranded as the Army Reserve, and Sir Matthew Fell House was named The Blackpool Army Reserve Centre. The Duke of Lancaster's local troop was slightly retitled and is now the Mortar Platoon of the 4th Battalion.

The Preston Banking Company was in operation in Blackpool.
Blackpool Trade Council was formed on the 1st of June, to publicise the town, and Blackpool paid the Lancashire and Yorkshire and London and North-western Railways £1,000 to rent their advertising hoardings for five years.
Robert Bickerstaffe told of seeing submerged tree trunks off the Jetty.
The second Blackpool Races took place on the 28th and 29th of September, this time on the Raikes Hall estate. A grandstand was erected by Swain's Builders of Fleetwood.
North Shore sub-post office was in a cottage in front of the Derby Hotel.
Augustus Kenderdine (Gus) was born. He moved to Blackpool in 1891 where he joined Blackpool Sketching Club (now, the Art Society). He only lived in the town for 4 years, but he set up in a studio on the top floor of the Royal Hotel. Sadly, on the 4th of August 1894, the studio was wrecked by a large gas explosion, which had been caused by a rat gnawing through a gas pipe in the cellar.
The Population of Blackpool was 7,902.

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Carleton Post Office: opened in Parkinson's shop on the corner of 1 Poulton Road and what is now Wyvern Way. The post office re-opened there on the 18th of June 1900. It closed in 1926 and reverted to shop use until it was demolished in 1970, when owned by GF Ashwell, who sold groceries, provisions, and ice cream.

Singleton Railway Halt and signal box opened. In 1882, a bigger railway station was opened near to Todderstaffe Hall Farm. The Miller family arranged for parts of Station Road to be built so they had easy access to the station. The station was closed on the 2nd of May 1932, and was later demolished.
Robert Newton and Sons, boatbuilders, was established at Fleetwood.
Wilson's funeral directors were established on Lune Street in Fleetwood.
Silcock's Bone Mill was built at Skippool creek. It later became so busy that its owners had to transfer to Liverpool. The Blackpool and Fleetwood Yacht Club has occupied the site of the mill's boiler house since the mill was demolished in 1947.

Hambleton Congregational Church: Some land on the corner of Paul's Lane and Sandy Lane was purchased for nine pounds this year, and the founder members of the church began building at once, carting the materials themselves. The church opened on the 20th of April. Ministers were supplied at first from the Fylde Itinerancy. The attached Manse was also built and is now a private residence.
Hambleton Congregational Church Sunday school followed next door in 1875. The Sunday school was replaced by today's building in 1954.
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The Garstang and Knott End Railway: This small railway was built to provide an outlet to market for the produce of Over Wyre farmers. The Garstang Rolling Stock Company was formed on the 12th of October 1870, and the seven-mile section to Pilling opened for use on the 5th of December. Its official opening was on the 14th of December, when the directors and shareholders travelled on the first train, accompanied by the Scorton Brass Band, and had lunch at the Gardner's Arms Inn at Stakepool (now called the Elletson Arms Hotel).
The company then ran out of funds, ceased operations in April 1872, and went into receivership in 1874. It re-opened for goods traffic on the 23rd of February 1875, and for passengers on the 17th of April. The Garstang and Knott End Railway Engine Company was then formed on the 9th of December that year.

It was not until the 12th of August 1898, that a separate company, the Knott End Railway Company, was incorporated to build the remaining four-and-a-half miles of line to Knott End – completed on the 29th of July 1908. The engine "Farmer's Friend" was christened "the Pilling Pig" after its whistle, and the engine and coaches were a dark brown colour. That original engine was scrapped, but in July 2001 a similar Hudswell-Clarke 0-6-0 saddle tank locomotive was set up at Fold House Caravan Park as a display attraction.

The railway had stations at Garstang, Pilling, Preesall, and Knott End, as well as smaller halts at Nateby, Cogie Hill, Cockerham Cross, Garstang Road Pilling, and Carr Lane (opened in 1911), along with several level crossings - the crossing keepers' cottages are now private houses.
Pilling Railway Station closed in 1872, to reopen in 1875 as the terminus for the above railway. On the 11th of February 1890, Robert Bradshaw of Pilling lost both legs when he fell whilst trying to board a potato truck. He died in hospital.

Some of the original backers *"wanted a major commercial development and extended transport route - with docks at Knott End, and the construction of track beyond Garstang leading ultimately to ports on the east coast of England"*.

The Knott End Railway Company was incorporated on the 12th of August 1898, and in 1898, the Stakepool and Pilling to Knott End line was approved.

The company absorbed the Garstang and Knott End Railway on the 1st of July 1908, and the Pilling to Knott End section opened on the 29th of July in the same year. Its official opening was then held on the 30th of August. Knott End station and Preesall station (replacing the original level crossing) were opened at the same time. The older part of the line was modernised, with new locomotives and American-style carriages being purchased.

A short branch line from the Wyre Jetty at the Preesall Salt Works to the Garstang and Knott End Railway was laid in 1912.

The railway was absorbed by the London Midland and Scottish Railway on the 14th of July 1923.

The Knott End Railway stopped all passenger services on the 29th of March 1930, when the last passenger train ran. The last goods train travelled on the railway on the 11th of November 1950, and the rest of the line – from Pilling to Garstang - finally shut down altogether on the 31st of July 1963. The last official "Pilling Pig" set off from Garstang and Catterall Station to Garstang Town Yard on the 13th of August 1965, and the line closed on the 16th.

©

From 1946, the station building became Greenwood's café, before briefly becoming the Station Café. It was then bought by Ramsey Taylor and re-named the Knott End Café and restaurant. Since the closure of the line, it has been operated full-time by the Taylor family. Many of the old crossing keepers' cottages survive as private houses.

In January 2017, a number of volunteers formed the Garstang and Knott End Light Railway Group, stating that "*The proposed rail route would initially link Park Lane bridge, near Preesall Bowling Club, to the Hackensall Crossing area, a distance of just under a mile. A longer-term aim would see track continuing to Knott End at a point near the old railway station (now the Knott End café) and ferry slipway. The group has decided on a 2ft gauge for the railway so the countryside corridor can be used by both trains and walkers*".

JW Wilson established his funeral directors at the corner of Lune Street and Kemp Street in Fleetwood.

St Mark's Church, Eagland Hill: The Reverend JD Bannister was responsible for the erection of the original St Mark's Mission Church.
The Foundation stone was laid by James Jenkinson, its co-founder, on the 13th of August 1869, and the church was opened on St Mark's day, the 20th of April, 1870.
In 1814, James Jenkinson (Owd Jemmy) had built the first cottage on Eagland Hill, and where the altar of St Mark's stands, the fire place of his cottage stood.

Great Eccleston Windmill: was erected, off Meagles Lane, having been moved bodily from nearby Copp. It stood in what is now the front garden of a house next to Mill Filling Station.

By then known as Little Eccleston Windmill, the windmill was burned down on the 7th of November 1874, by revellers from Rawcliffe Hall, led by the owner Robert Wilson-ffrance. Known as "Mad Jack", Mr Ffrance had ordered his miller, Mr Crook, to leave, and when he delayed, Ffrance set light to it. The mill was also known by locals as "the Wheel Mill".

St Anne's Cricket Club: The cricket club that evolved into St Anne's Cricket Club may have been formed this year, playing at Headroomgate Road. The exact date is unclear, although a cricket bat exists, which shows it existed in 1872. The club itself uses 1879 as its accepted formation date.
It next played at a pitch off St Davids Road North before the war stopped everything.
The club was revived in 1924, playing on the Highbury Road site. The new grounds had their own wooden cricket and tea pavilions, and at the time also contained three grass and two hard tennis courts. Soccer and hockey were also played at the Highbury Road ground until the land was sold to developers who built the Frobisher Drive housing estate in the 1970s/80s.
Highbury Road East was originally called Twiggy Lane, and Twiggy Hill farm was at the end.
In 1991, the club opened their new clubhouse on Vernon Road.

St Anne's Railway Station: The Preston and Wyre Joint Railway Company's station, between Lytham St Anne's and Blackpool, opened as Cross Slack in November. Having its own level crossing by the station door, it was renamed St Anne's-On-The-Sea in 1876. The first station master was Mr Cookson.
This spelling (with apostrophe) of the name of the town is the one I have used throughout this history

Now called simply St Anne's a new station was opened on the 31st of March 1925. Attached to the station was a Co-operative Fuel Department.

©

It was rebuilt again in 1985, when the old station buildings were demolished to make way for a Safeway supermarket and car park. Inside the old WH Smith's platform shop from 1970 until 1983, had been Neptune Aquatics fish and aquarium shop. The line reduced to a single track in 1986, and Frank Jones formally opened the new booking office building on St Anne's Railway Station on the 30th of September that year.

The Lytham Times newspaper: was first published in 1821, and the Preston Pilot was first published by Lawrence Clarke in 1825. By the 1860s, the Pilot had almost changed into a Lytham paper, and on the 16th of May 1888, after both were bought and merged by John Mills, the Pilot was closed and just the Lytham Times was printed. The Lytham Times was then published briefly by Andrew Parker of Preston in 1897, before becoming settled in the hands of The Lytham Printing Company Ltd at 43 Clifton Street by 1905. It later absorbed the St Anne's-on-sea Gazette, and the Kirkham Chronicle, but the paper was closed in 1957.

J Myerscough started his building company in Lytham.

Nateby School: was founded, opening in 1872. It was enlarged in 1874, but in 1883 was replaced by the larger Public Elementary School on Longmoor Lane. This was renamed Nateby Primary School after WW2. Winmarleigh School was built on Church Lane, later being extended. It was funded by John Wilson Patten, Lord Winmarleigh, and serves the parish of St Luke.
It was described by a local newspaper thus *"The school building is largely Victorian in character with the addition of a modern infant classroom and toilet block. The site incorporates a large playground with extensive grassed and wooded area"*.
The school currently has 61 pupils and just 4 staff.

1871
The Preston and Wyre Railway was sold to the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway, whose tracks ran further afield and provided greater access to prospective travellers. The two had been amalgamated in 1879.

The Welcome, Marton: The Welcome Inn was in operation on the corner of what is now Vicarage Lane and Midgeland Road. That original inn had been built on the site of one of the Welcome Cottages, which incorporated a simple beerhouse.
When it was sold in June 1889 it was still called the Welcome Inn, it was very briefly called the Railway Inn, but by 1891 it was called the Railway Hotel (in anticipation of the opening of the Marton Line) and had a frontage of 441 yards. By 1928 it had changed again into the Welcome and Railway Hotel.

In about 1938, the Welcome was bought by the Burtonwood brewery of Warrington, and it was their only Fylde Coast outlet for many years. The building was completely re-shaped, both inside and out, by Burtonwood, and a large veranda and dormer-shaped ground floor windows were added.
In 1994, it was in the possession of the Victoria Wine Company Limited, and they opened a Victoria Wine Store off licence in a building to the South of the original.
During the 1970s, the Welcome also hosted a late-night club called the Melting Pot Disco (for 350 customers), then Hooray Henry's, and the Peacock Room. Also, in 1973, Alan Walton started the pub's own Country and Western Club there, meeting on Thursday evenings. During the 1980s, the brewery - Burtonwood - encouraged nightime entertainment with top stars. For example, 1980 saw the Tyrolean Show, the 22nd of June saw Mungo Jerry, the 13th of July Billy J Kramer, and the 10th of August the Tremeloes.

©

In 2013, it was bought by Greene King, as part of their Hungry Horse pub chain, and was soon, strangely, renamed the Cherry Tree, which opened on the 8th of August. The name change remains a great source of contention amongst local folk, although even that is preferable to the plan proposed in 2008 by Marston's Brewery. That would have seen the pub demolished and replaced by 15 residential units and 7 shops.

Elias Fletcher and Monsieur D'Arc started their Waxworks in wooden buildings by South Jetty, called the French Pavilion. They specialised in figures of current murderers.
Southwell's Stationers opened on South Jetty, before moving to Clifton Buildings on Lytham Street. Mr Southwell also practised electrotherapy from his shop on the Jetty.

Seagull Coaches: William Strickland started his Livery Stables at the Victoria Hotel, Brunswick Street, with up to 60 horses, and wagonettes, running to Marton and Lytham.

In March 1920, the company was bought by S and J Wood (Blackpool) Limited. S and J Wood traded as Seagull Motors, from 117-121 Lytham Road (later Walter Hartley's Ford Garage, Tasker's, Fylde Aquatics Ltd, and Fylde Electrical Wholesalers). Seagull also had depots at Commercial Street, a booking depot at the end of Wellington Road, Victoria Garage on Brunswick Street, a depot in the Seagull Garage on Bond Street, and the main Seagull Garage on Bloomfield Road, on the corner of Henry Street.

S Wood had originally collected oyster shells, after realising they would be a valuable source of calcium for laying hens. He then had the shells pulverised and sold them to local chicken farmers. From these humble beginnings, Mr Wood went on to buy horse drawn carriages, and finally, motor char-à-bancs. The company's vehicles were made by HV Burlingham for many years.

In April 1988, Fylde Transport took over Seagull Coaches who were working 12 coaches from Rigby Road. Their Bond Street garage had already been taken over by National Tyre Services (NTS), who also had outlets at Marsham Corner, Mowbray Drive, and at 12 London Street in Fleetwood.
In 1999, Blackpool Transport, who had taken over Fylde Transport, wound down Seagull Coaches (which had been registered as its own company in 1993) as the excursion arm of the business.

Talbot Road School, Blackpool: was built next to Sacred Heart Church. The school was rebuilt in 1898 but was not renamed to Sacred Heart Primary School until 1951. By then renamed Sacred Heart Catholic Junior School, it closed in 1977.
On the 25th of August 2017, the building re-opened as The Little Black Pug, a new bar.

TH Smith's steam sawmill was on Police Street: part of its cobbled wall remains.
The first Blackpool Catholic Assembly was held in January.

The Brunswick Hotel, Blackpool: at 13 Bonny Street was owned by John Cragg and run by Joseph Wilkinson. It had its own small beer garden at the rear. The pub was re-built from 1931 and opened on the 13th of March 1932 in its current shape. The Brunswick had its own football team "the Brunswick Dynamos". It closed in 1993, being remodelled and renamed the "Pump and Truncheon" in order to reflect and attract the police officers from the new headquarters across the road.

Nearby was the Railway Inn at number 5 Bonny Street. By 1929, it had been downgraded to a simple beerhouse once more, being run by Harold Nickson, and by 1967, it had become a William Younger's pub.

©

The Railway Inn was demolished in 1970, so that the new Police headquarters could be built. The site is now occupied by the Star Attraction amusement arcade.

Arnold Villa was by this time listed as a Boarding School.
Michael Parker ran a coach business in from near the Raikes Smithy in Church Street.
James Cardwell's Brickworks were by a large brick croft at the junction of what would be Cumberland Avenue and Park Road. This was closed in about 1907 and became a "free" tract of land which attracted piggeries, stables, and ramshackle huts. *"Billy Fish kept donkeys and caravans, Jack Fisher had hen pens, and Sep Smith had a shed"*. This gathering began to decrease when Park Road began to be built in 1924, but even in 1932, the playing fields of Palatine School bisected Park Road between Pelham Mount and Ashton Road.
Dearden and Baron's Wakefield House was at 40 and 42 Bank Hey Street, selling drapery, including millinery, straw bonnets and *"fine shirts".*
The Blackpool, Lytham, and Southport Steam Packet Company Ltd were running regular steamer strips down the Ribble.
A local miller built the first buildings on Yorkshire Street to house paying guests.
The population of Bispham was 536.
The government passed an Act obliging local authorities to begin building "Board Schools" wherever there were no church schools.

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C&S Breweries – Catterall and Swarbrick: William Catterall of Poulton and John Swarbrick opened their first Queen's Brewery in Queen's Square, Poulton. It had been built on the site of Bushby's farm, and the flats of Stocks Court were constructed on the site in the 1970s. They formally changed their name to Catterall and Swarbrick (C&S) in 1880.
Queen's Square was known as Workhouse Square until Victoria's accession in 1837.

In 1890, C&S opened their second Queen's Brewery on Staining Road near the Normoss side of Newton Hall, taking over Richardson's Newton Springs Brewery.
On the 6th of July 1894, the Blackpool Gazette newspaper said a limited liability company was "to be formed of Messrs Catterall and Swarbrick Brewery". Its directors would be William Catterall of Breck Road Poulton, John Swarbrick of Tower Lodge, Poulton, and Tom Lockwood of The Golden Ball Hotel, Poulton.
C&S became a Limited Company on the 17th of July 1894.

In 1898, they built a bottling store in Revoe, on what was to become Kent Road. In 1906, the C&S Board met in that building – their meeting room eventually becoming the Central Working Men's Club boardroom. The whole building became the Central Working Men's Club in 1928.
C&S also had a suite of offices in Princess Street.

C&S opened their third Queen's Brewery in Talbot Road on the 19th of November 1926. It had been designed by George Adlam and Sons Limited of Bristol. Until then, Blackpool's only major brewery was that behind the Boars Head public house at Marton.
In 1927, the brewery installed the latest glass-lined fermenting tanks in the brewery, and in the 1950s, an extension was added to the eastern side of the main building.

C&S were taken over by Northern Breweries in 1961, and by 1965, the brewery was under the control of Charrington Lancashire Breweries Ltd. The brewery was bought by Bass Charrington in 1967, and was closed in 1974. The site was then used by Bass Breweries as a distribution centre.
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A fire in 1990 prompted its demolition, and in 1993, houses began to be built on parts of the site. The site was fully cleared in 2000, and the residential homes on roads named Catterall Close, Swarbrick Close, and Coopers Way were built.
In 2019, 5 houses on Warbreck Gardens, off Coopers Way, were demolished after 10 years of construction problems. Once owned by footballer Emile Heskey, the houses were replaced by 68 apartments and homes, built by Belmont Homes. Warbreck Gardens was renamed as Devonshire Gardens.

Poulton Cattle Market/Poulton Auction Market: The sheer number of stalls and pens being used for the sale of livestock throughout the streets of Poulton caused the auction market to be built on Ball Street. Adjacent was an infamous lodging house known as the 20 Steps because it had two flights up to the front door to allow more "clients" access.

The town's new auction market was opened behind the Golden Ball inn in 1896, by the landlord Thomas Lockwood, on what had originally been the gardens for the inn. The market included a weighbridge, a show ring, an auctioneer's rostrum, and accommodation for sixty to seventy cattle and five hundred sheep. There were also calf rings, loose boxes for horses, and covered pens, together with a specially-constructed building which had a set of double doors, designed to allow large bull to enter in safety. It also had its own slaughterhouse to add to the town's three abattoirs, and this lasted until 1939/40. From 1911 until 1944, the auctioneer was Bob Haywood. He was succeeded by Wilf Hothersall.

The market itself lasted for almost 100 years, but after trade went to Preston after 1945, it was closed in 1969. The Poulton-le-Fylde Auction Market Company Ltd itself had already been dissolved in 1964; for a time, the company also ran the market at Kirkham from 40 Poulton Street. The last remaining auction market buildings, including the market office (which once housed Gleeson's Joiners) were demolished in 2006. The site is now taken by EH Booth's car park.
In later days, one of the town's abattoirs was to be run by one George Eyre, who advertised himself as a "meat manufacturer", also specialising in cooked chickens. His premises were at the end of Burlington Avenue (now the site of the Teanlowe Centre).

Poulton first received piped water.
The Fleetwood gun battery and magazines were built on the sand dunes to the west of the Mount, being moved to Blackpool South Shore in 1891.
The Fylde Cart-Horse Breeding Improvement Company was formed.
Clifton Drive was begun in Lytham, eventually to run through to Blackpool.

Lytham Hospital: In the aftermath of a bad epidemic of the "Low Fever" in 1870, the new Lytham Cottage Hospital was funded by John Talbot Clifton, being constructed by local builder Richard Butler on Warton Street from beach cobbles, with brick corners. After a grand procession through town, led by the bad of the 29th Lytham Rifle Volunteers, it was presented by Mrs Clifton, and then declared open by Reverend HB Hawkins, on the 3rd of August. The new matron was Mrs Sinclair of London. There were two four-bed wards on the ground floor - one for men and one for women. Upstairs was the same again. The hospital also had an operating room and a mortuary.

A separate house was later constructed for the caretaker, standing to the west of the main entrance. This was demolished in 1983.

©

The hospital was enlarged in 1883, the "(Dr Luke) Fisher Memorial Ward" opened in September 1901, and a proper operating theatre was built in 1905. An X-Ray department was then added in 1925.

A time capsule was placed inside the walls of the new hospital when it was being rebuilt in 1928. It contained a newspaper from October the 18th, coins, a stamp, a letter, and the hospital's annual report. It also contained coins found in a glass jar dating back to the first Lytham Hospital – possibly remnants of an even earlier time capsule. The foundation stone of the new Lytham Hospital was laid on the 19th of October 1929, and the new hospital was opened in October 1930. A children's ward opened in December 1933, and a nurses' home was added in 1939.

Lytham Cottage Hospital was closed in February 2007, and demolished, to be replaced by a new Primary Care Centre.

Ashton's of Lytham: James Ashton founded Mythop Nurseries in Lytham. The site is now occupied by St Bede's High School, and the shop moved to its present site at 12 Station Road in 1902. Ashton's of Lytham Ltd (based at Mythop House) was wound up in 1952, but the flower shop continued – by 1979, it was called Ashton's Mythop Ltd and was till supplied from its own Mythop Road Nursery.
There had been a Mythorpe Farm on the site since at least 1840, and that had then been turned into a nursery by Richard Marie, from whom James Ashton had bought it.
The former Ashton's Shop is now Heima – a shop selling re-conditioned furniture.

St Joseph's Industrial School for Roman Catholic Girls Auxiliary Home was at Agnew House in Lytham.

The Catholic Church of St Robert of Newminster, Catforth: was built on Benson Lane, and was almost completely re-built four years later to the designs of James O'Byrne of Liverpool. St Robert's was opened on the 29th of July 1877, by the Bishop of Salford. The church is in a simple lancet gothic style, in red brick with stone dressings, buttresses, slate roof, and west porch. It is a shrine to many local Catholic martyrs.

It contains a collection of relics from penal times, including vestments, missals, and a skull. The skull is traditionally said to belong to a martyred priest named Philip Holden but is more likely that of B Miles Gerard (Bamber). We know that *"Thomas Holden entrusted to St Robert's church at Catforth the relics of persecution that turned the church into a shrine"*.
A school was built nearby in 1872; it is now a private house.

1872

Doctor Cocker's Aquarium, Blackpool: Doctor WH Cocker bought the Prince of Wales arcade on Hygiene Terrace, in July, and turned it into a private aquarium, menagerie, and aviary. The Aquarium opened in West Hey on the 17th of May 1875. It also ran along Bank Hey Street. The space in front was an amusement park with a large seal pond. This building was the real start of the Blackpool Tower complex. Cocker had bought the building to sell to the Council as municipal offices, but they turned him down, so he carried on regardless, and built the complex for his own amusement.

"The open space in front of the building was fenced in, and furnished with three tanks for seals, and other novel features to render it attractive and pleasing. The walls of the interior were adorned with landscapes in the spacious saloon, where the main tank, divided into numerous compartments, each being supplied with a variety of fish differing from its neighbours, occupies a central position. Subsidiary tanks, filled with curious specimens of animated nature from the "vasty deep", stand in the entrance hall and recesses".

©

In 1875, John Dennison's acquired a concession for his coin operated automata in the aquarium, and his machines later came to be prominently displayed in the Blackpool Tower building. All his subsequent machines were built for Blackpool. His daughters continued running his machines and making new ones until 1945, when they finally sold the machines to Blackpool Tower. They remained on display until the late 1960s.

In 1879, an Orchestrion, built in Vöhrenbach, was installed in his Aquarium by Dr Cocker to attract customers off the Promenade. It was later installed in the Tower doorway. The organ was originally weight-driven and worked on barrels, but in 1910, was rebuilt to play paper rolls using an electrical motor. In 1956, it was moved to the Birmingham Museum of Science and Industry.

West Hey was then opened to the public by Doctor Cocker, who moved to a bungalow on Church Street (now Bond Street), then in 1888, to another, wooden, bungalow with stables, called Bloomfield, next to Spen Dyke (Lidl now have a store on the site). Bloomfield Road was renamed after the house in 1928 – it had originally been called Spen Gap Lane, and then Main Road.

In 1880, the aquarium became a Company under the title of Blackpool Central Property Company. In 1889, the Standard Debenture Corporation Limited acquired it, forming the Blackpool Tower Company in 1891. Doctor Cocker finally moved to 125 Whitegate Drive, into a house which later became the funeral showroom of Lawrence Dewhurst – who also had a works and showroom at 4 and 10 Newton Drive. 125 Whitegate Drive later became the Motospares shop.

Blackpool Tower Aquarium: The Cocker Aquarium (complete with its cave-like interior of Matlock stone – mimicking Poole's cavern at Buxton, and a grand orchestrion) was incorporated into the ground floor of the tower's South Wing when it was built in 1894. It had been retained from Doctor Cocker's own Aquarium building, and had both heated tropical tanks and others containing more locally-caught fish. The aquarium's hatchery was on the roof.

The Tower Aquarium suffered a severe frost in February 1895, which killed all the fish. New stocks were imported from Germany.

In later years, the aquarium was re-titled Undersea World.
The Blackpool Tower Aquarium closed in November 2010, to be replaced by a new attraction called "The Dungeon", which opened on the 1st of September 2011. Almost the entire stock of creatures was moved to the Sealife Centre.

Christ Church School was opened on Queen Street. It was enlarged in 1890, for 840 children, and closed in 1912, having begun as a girl's school, but later accepting boys.

Moss Side Wesleyan Chapel: opened on June the 13th, in Runnell Road at Walker's Hill. It first held just 20 worshippers. Runnell Road was later renamed Chapel Road.
A War Memorial tablet was unveiled in 1923, and an organ bought in 1946. The chapel closed in 1975

Marton Methodist Church Hall and Sunday school were opened and dedicated on the 10th of May 1958, at Walker's Hill on Midgeland Road. It comprised a hall, lecture room and three classrooms. Marton Methodist Church was opened next door to the church hall in September 1975. Walker's Hill Farm, an 18th century grade 2 Listed Building, is behind it.

©

The old chapel on Chapel Road was demolished in 1979, soon after the full transfer of responsibilities. The chapel building and the adjacent sweet shop (Cumberland Cottage/Café/Car Sales – fondly known as Cumberland Gap) were then replaced by Peter Marsh Car Sales, whose address was 9 to 11 Midgeland Road. Peter Marsh had earlier started a haulage business further down Midgeland Road. That company became BVT - Blackpool Van Transport. Peter Marsh Car Sales was put up for sale in 2016, and the business was taken over by Churchbarn Autos in June 2017. Churchbarn was based originally at 150 Highfield Road, trading as Autosave, but being bought by a new company called Churchbarn Autos (run by Brian and Natalie Middlemas) in September 2004. Autosave had been started on Common Edge Road in 1989, by Paul Kearney and Patrick Skiba.

Marton Moss Tomatoes: Cropper Nurseries on Cropper Road/Old House Lane was established by John Hall - this was the first place on the Moss to grow tomatoes – or *"love apples"* as they were then known. By 1929, large glass houses had spread all over the moss, and by 1931, Marton tomatoes were being shipped from North Station.

The Blackpool Passenger Steamboat Company: was formed by John Bickerstaffe. In 1895, the company began to operate the steamer "Queen of the North" from Central Pier. The steamer proved to be a great acquisition for the family, and by 1905, the company operated all the steamers from the piers. In 1906, for example, *"fine weather saw the Queen of the North, make 99 trips to the Isle of Man, steam some 16,000 miles without mishap or technical problems, and contribute to a dividend of seven per cent"*. She was lost in 1917 whilst acting as a minesweeper. It took over the rival North Pier Steamship Company on the 3rd of July 1905, ending years of competition and even illegal racing! The fleet was maintained in Fleetwood and kept in the docks there over the winter.
1915 saw the Admiralty declare everywhere except inshore waters to be off limits, and no steamers ran. The Steamboat Company was dissolved in 1922, after the public's appetite for tours had begun to be satisfied by horse-drawn charabancs and then motor coaches. The PS Bickerstaffe continued to be operated by Tom Bickerstaffe until 1928, when she was sold for scrap. That was the end of the heyday of steamers from the piers, and although a new venture, the Blackpool Steam Shipping Company did run several for the next few years, steamer trips soon petered out.

The Veevers Hotel, Blackpool: The newly-built hotel received its first spirit licence on the 5th of September. In 1874, Alice Grimshaw, a servant at the Veevers Hotel was arrested for touting on Talbot Road.
Later changed to the Veevers Arms Hotel, it was on North King Street and Cookson Street, behind a railed grass garden, and had been named after Richard Veevers of Fulwood, the Clerk of the Gorton Estate. The hotel was granted a music licence in 1895 and was owned by John Noblett until 1899. Mr Noblett was killed in June 1985, when the pony trap he was driving back from the Cherry Tree gardens Hotel hit a lamp standard and he was thrown out. The pub was sold to Threlfall's Brewery on the 9th of January 1900.
In the 1950s, the regular house band was The Rehearsal Band, led by Tommy Jones.

The Veevers, now addressed as 2 to 4 King Street, was renamed the Hop Inn in the 1990s, by owners Whitbread. The venue was closed by then owners Greene King on the 25th of November 2017, and bought by Blackpool Council in December 2017, as part of the Talbot gateway expansion plans.
However, in February 2018, the pub was taken over by the Blackpool Entertainment Company, and will soon re-open as a community pub.

Belle Vue Terrace was built on Whitegate Drive by Sarah Hawkes, owner of the Number 3.

©

Whitegate Villa: William Birch demolished the old farm buildings opposite Lightbown Avenue and built Whitegate Villa on at Whitegate Drive. His daughter was married from there on the 8th of October. Occupied by Councillor J Ward in 1911, it later became the Garville private girls' school, and then a home for unmarried mothers.

Lightbown Avenue had been named after John Lightbown of Accrington, who lived in a large house to the south of Sefton Villa, and whose family built the street's terrace of first cottages - complete with indoor bathrooms. The Lightbowns also built the row of larger terraced houses immediately to the south of Lightbown Avenue.
Richard Kirkham built some terraced houses on Whitegate Drive, south of Beechfield Avenue.

The Blackpool Sea Water Company: began to sell bottled seawater. Remnants of its water tower can still be seen at the back of Claremont Park. The Sea Water Company built Cocker Street Baths in 1876, and the company proper was formed in 1877, with a capital of £13,000, for the purpose of supplying sea water direct to the houses by means of mains laid through the streets. The company was acquired by the Corporation in April 1902, and the sea water was then also used for watering the streets.

Also, in 1876, the company built the Sea Water Works at 149 Dickson Road, to distribute cleaned seawater to nearby hotels. The original water intake point was situated at the base of the earth cliffs, but in 1896, a tender from Robert Finnegan was accepted to construct a new intake for the water works. This took the form of a masonry dome with a large central 'eye' to let in the water. In later years, the dome was replaced by a cast iron inlet 'rose' with small holes, which was set in a concrete pit near the base of the sloping granite apron in front of the sea wall opposite the Carlton Hotel.
A cast iron suction pipe delivered the sea water to the ground floor level of the Sea Water Works. From here it passed into a 331,860-litre concrete tank under the yard, where it was partially purified by sedimentation between tides. The clarified water was then pumped to a 304,580-litre cast iron storage tank that was on the roof of the building, and from there, the water was distributed through a network of sea water mains that ran along The Promenade to local hydropathic hotels, public baths, and the Tower Aquarium. Hydropathic hotels, such as the nearby Imperial Hotel, were offering special baths and health-related water treatments.
The tower housing the water extraction unit was demolished in July 2007.

Worth and Company, bakers was established at 19 Church Street. Their warehouse was at the rear of St Anne's Street, and they were known for supplying the local militia at their regular town camps, which were held on Watson's field on Lytham Road.

The Farmer's Arms, Blackpool: An inn called The Gipsy Tent was in operation on Lytham Road, its beer and cider licence being held by Ellen Benson of the Queen's Hotel on New Road. Later moving to the corner of Highfield Road, the inn was known as The Farmer's Arms Inn, and owned by Richard Seed. It had been built on the site of Benson's farm, and next-door had been a cobbler's shop and general store, selling John Fish's Tea. John Fish was the brother of the 1887 Mayor, James Fish.
In 1936, the rebuilt Farmer's Arms opened on the 16th of May, on the corner of what is now 570 Lytham Road and Highfield Road. It was designed by FM Wilding, and the old inn was closed immediately. The owners for many years were the Whitbread brewery, but it is now owned by Greene King.

©

In October, James Bagot, the landlord of the Mason's Arms in Revoe was fined 40 shillings plus costs for "*allowing the selling of beer on his premises on the restricted hours of a Sunday*". By August 1873, the licence for the pub had transferred to his wife Ann.
The Abeford Hotel and the hotel now known as Cheers were built on Yorkshire Street.
The Willows was built near the junction of St Anne's Road and Highfield Road.
South Shore Skating Rink was on the site later taken by the drill hall on Yorkshire Street.
Blackpool footballer James Atherton was born in town. He began his senior football career, when he was 16, with Blackpool Olympic, and his brother, Walter, also played for the club.
The first annual Blackpool Bowling Tournament was held in October.
John Marius Wilson, in the Imperial Gazetteer of England and Wales, described Blackpool as follows:

> *"BLACKPOOL, a town and a par. chapelry in Bispham parish, Lancashire. The town is in Layton-with Warbreck township, and stands on the coast, at the termini of two branch railways, from Poulton and from Lytham, 18 miles WNW of Preston. It was not long ago an obscure place, but is now a fashionable watering resort. It stands on a ridge of low clay cliffs; overlook a fine bathing beach, provided with machines; command charming views, along the coast and across the sea, t Wales and the Lake district; and consists of well-built houses, ranged in an irregular terrace about two miles long It has a post office under Preston, a telegraph, a police station, a number of hotels, a newsroom, a library, an athenæum, a theatre, three churches, five dissenting chapels, and a R. Catholic chapel. The church of the chapelry was built in 1821, and has been twice enlarged. The other two churches are recent ones, for the South Shore and Claremont-Park parts of the town, beyond the chapelry. The R. Catholic chapel is a handsome Gothic edifice. The ruin of a mansion, the seat of Sir Thomas Tyldesley and the retreat of the Pretender in 1715 while the measures were in progress for the rebellion, stood at the west end of the town. A handsome pier, upwards of 500 yards long, was built in 1863. Pop. Of the town in 1851, 1,664; in 1861, 3,506. Houses, 684. The chapelry was constituted in 1860. Pop. 1,957. Houses, 387. The living is a vicarage in the diocese of Manchester - Value, £340. Patrons, Five Trustees. Southshore and Claremont-Park or Christ Church are p. curacies. Value of the former, £200. Patron, Col. Clifton".*

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The 47th Regiment of Foot (The Lancashire) was based at Fleetwood.

The beginnings of St Anne's: A chapel of ease dedicated to St Anne was erected close to Heyhouses to serve the west end of Lytham, and two years later, with the linking of the Blackpool and Preston branch lines through Lytham, the St Anne's on the Sea Land and Building Company was formed. That company of eight Rossendale men, led by the chairman Joseph Wood Whitehead, negotiated 999-year leases with Thomas Fair, the Clifton's agent, and went on to develop what became known as the *"Square Mile"*. The architects were Maxwell and Tuke of Bury, and the first lease was signed on the 14th of December 1874.

It is clear now that the town of St Anne's was named after the church. There is another school of thought that it was named after the stanner banks – not likely. *"The daughter church of St Anne was given that part of the St Cuthbert's parish north and west of Smithy Lane and North Houses Lane"*.

The man who was most active in raising the funds to build the actual town was one Elijah Hargreaves, who worked with Thomas Fair to get things started. Hargreaves's compatriot mill owners from the Rossendale Valley, and particularly around the town of Haslingden, were persuaded to donate large amounts towards the project – they all subsequently built their own seaside retreat houses in the town. *"The others in his scheme were Joseph Whitehead, of Alder Grange, Rawtenstall, who was a magistrate, landowner and cotton manufacturer; James Taylor, of Warth House, Waterfoot, a woollen manufacturer; Henry Ashworth, of Lea Bank, Rawtenstall, son of magistrate and cotton manufacturer, Richard Ashworth and John*
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©

Warburton, junior, of Greenfield, Haslingden, another cotton manufacturer. There was also Thomas Barrowclough, of Clover Hill, Bacup, a cotton spinner and manufacturer; William Greaves, of Spring Field House, Bacup, a cotton warp sizer and cotton spinner James Crabtree, of Bacup".

Straight away, the building of the drive from Fairhaven to Squires Gate was begun. Unnamed at first, it was later named Clifton Drive. St Anne's Road East was completed also begun, being finished in 1873, running from the Square to the parish church.

In 1872, houses for the workers to be employed in the construction of St Anne's were built on Common Lane – previously called Common Side Lane, and soon to be renamed Church Road. These replaced the original 17th century cottages. Many cottages on the street and in nearby Nelson Street were unfinished when the tenants first moved in in late 1875, but by 1877 there were 86 cottages there.

The Land and Building Company was bought by the Amalgamated Investment and Property Company Limited in 1962

Thomas Langton Birley purchased the demesne lands and manorial rights of Kirkham from Christ Church Oxford. He was able to call himself Lord of the Manor. The Birleys were by then the town's largest property owners and employed over 800 people.

Catforth School and Church: Catforth National School was opened on the site of Swillbrook House, which was said to have been haunted by the ghost of a child who died in a trap set by her father for her unfaithful mother. It was a private school in the early 19th century, before the National School was built. Its first headmaster was James Newsham.

In 1876, the Catholic Church of St Robert of Newminster was built onto the school. The church is a kind of shrine to the Catholic martyrs of England and was dedicated in 1877. Each lancet window has stained glass depicting English martyrs. On the north side St Alban, St Thomas Becket, St John Fisher, St Thomas More. On the south side, Lancashire martyrs are commemorated – Blessed George Haydock, Blessed George Beesley of Goosnargh, Blessed Richard Hirst of Broughton, Blessed Edward Bamber of Poulton, and Blessed William Harcourt of Kirkham. There are also texts on the west wall listing the Lancashire martyrs.

1873

Blackpool Cemetery: The first wooden isolation hospital was built on the land bought for the making of Blackpool Cemetery, but it was soon demolished, because of the depressing view. The hospital briefly opened onto today's Annesley Avenue.

The cemetery originally occupied about 5 acres. It was laid out at a cost of £4,000, and the town's New Road Cemetery opened with a service of dedication on the 7th of February, on New Road (Talbot Road). Until then, a Christian burial was only available for most local people at Bispham Parish Church.
The first person to be buried in the new cemetery was John Slater, who was a gardener/handyman at Bailey's Hotel. That first burial took place in the Nonconformist section.

The Council rapidly realised that by selling off the plots at either side of the main drive, they could make easy money from the cemetery, and these gradually filled up with the remains of local "worthies".

The Cemetery chapel was designed by Garlick, Park, and Sykes, and is now a Grade 2 Listed Building.

©

The Church of England sections were licensed in May – being consecrated by the Bishop of Manchester on August the 2nd.
The Roman Catholic ceremony did not take place until June 1874, interments taking place under license until then.
The cemetery's Jewish section opened on the 18th of May 1890, but the first Jewish burial was not until 1901. On the 17th of September 1926, the ceremony of laying the foundation stone of the Mortuary Hall at the Jewish cemetery was held. The stone was laid by Mark Shaffer to whom a silver trowel was presented. The Jewish chapel – known as an "Ohel" – stands next door.

Each of the three religions had its own Mortuary Chapel, but the Dissenters (Nonconformist) and Roman Catholic buildings have been demolished. Only the Anglican chapel remains and is no longer used for services. There was a Lodge at the entrance, providing a residence and office for the Keeper, and the site was surrounded by a stone wall topped with iron railings and a double iron gate, still in situ.
A bus stop was sited outside the gates, and this became known locally as the "dead stop".

St John's churchyard was closed for burials from the 31st of May, as was that of Holy Trinity Church, South Shore.

By the start of the 19th century, the original 5 acres were almost full, so further land was bought up piecemeal. By 1902, it had been enlarged by the addition of 2.4 acres, which had been purchased for £9,000. This extension was opened in 1906, through to Mansfield Road, giving a further 36 designated sections for graves. Other extensions were made in 1914 and 1919.

Today, it is known as Layton Cemetery no longer has vacant burial plots, and 22,300 graves are on site – including 400 war graves. In its lifetime, just over 50,000 people have been interred there.

The Mortuary building was renovated in 2017, and is now a rest room for cemetery staff and volunteers.

The international deflation of prices had a great effect upon the spending power of the working classes and allowed more to come to Blackpool en masse than ever before.
Blackpool Corporation banned urban pigs.
Swallow's Grand Circus came to town on the 12th of September.
Hornby Road was formed.
A Photographic booth was erected on the cliff path by Mr S Wolstenholme, who by 1899 also ran the studios at Wellington and Talbot Chambers.

St Nicholas' School, Marton Moss: Squire Clifton owned land on School Road, on which a "dame" school, known as *"Clog College"* stood. This schoolhouse still stands off Division Lane, now named the "Old School House".

This year, Marton Moss School was opened in St Nicholas's Church buildings on School Lane (later renamed School Road) on the 16th of April, originally taking 172 children.

By 1928, the now-renamed St Nicholas' School had taken over all the church buildings. Although it had just 300 books, the school provided library facilities for the Moss. In 1973, infants' classrooms were added to the main building. In March 2009, it was doubled in size, by two-form entry, to take the expanding number of local children – now up to 390. 80% of the school was rebuilt and extended.

©

St Nicholas Church: Work began on the new church, on Common Edge Road on the 19th of October 1936. St Nicholas Church was opened on the 27th of January 1937, by the Lord Bishop of Lancaster, Benjamin Pollard. St Nicholas's Vicarage was opened nearby on the 14th of June 1952.

In 1965, the church was built anew, and was opened on the 26th of June, by the Bishop of Lancaster, and the old church became the church hall. That 1965 church was demolished and joined with the nearby St Christopher's on Hawes Side Lane, and in 2007, the site was filled by houses built by Kensington Homes. A new, smaller, and more modern St Nicholas' Church is now once more attached to the school, this time by a glass faced corridor.

Bolton Street Baptist Church, Blackpool: was founded on the corner with Station Road on the 30th of March. It had been taken over by the Baptists after being used as a Temperance Hall for several years after being vacated by the Wesleyan Methodists. It has now been demolished.

Banks Street Unitarian Free Church, Blackpool: The North Shore Unitarian congregation was established, meeting in the houses of worshippers, they then used a former Anglican School, then the pavilion on North Pier, and finally a large room in the Winter Gardens, until a temporary Unitarian chapel was opened by them on the corner of Banks Street and Dickson Road in August 1875.
The new, permanent, Unitarian Church on the corner of Bank Street and Dickson Road was opened on the 1st of August 1883 and was consecrated on the 3rd. It was *"a neat Gothic building, which cost £2,924"* and seated 290 worshippers.
During World War 2, its Sunday school was used as the RAF Medical Centre.
It ceased operating as a church in 1975, to be replaced by the Church Apartments at 53 Dickson Road.

Thomas Mycock, the owner of the Royal Hotel on the promenade, owned the land between the Number 3 and the Belle Vue, and this "Mycock's Field" held athletics meetings and the Blackpool Horse Races. For example, on the 9th of October, he organised the "Blackpool Handicap" the Clifton Hurdles" and the "Layton Trotting Stake".
Strawberry Bank was built on Whitegate Drive.
The terrace of shops now numbered 7 to 19 Cookson Street was constructed.

Burton's Bakers: George Burton, from Leek in Staffordshire, came to town by train, to try and sell cakes made at his father's shop in Leek. It was so successful that he quickly bought some land on the edge of town and built his first biscuit bakery, opening his first shop on Coronation Street in 1874. He later moved his manufacturing to Princess Street, moved the shop to Albert Road, and began to expand. Mr Burton wrote many renowned cake-making books.

The company opened a bakery in Rishton Street in 1952, calling it the Read's Road Bakery, and in 1971, they amalgamated with Darbyshire's Prize Bread Company Ltd, another Blackpool family firm. By 1985, they had 16 shops on the Fylde coast. On the 30th of April 1984, it became part of the Warburton Group, and Lyndale Foods, the parent company of Hampsons, took over the company in May 1996, and in 2002, all the Fylde coast outlets were re-branded as Hampsons.

Burton's Biscuits: The company called Burtons Biscuits Limited was formed by his grandson Joseph in 1935 and set up a factory on the site of Eaves' Brickworks on Vicarage Lane in 1939, to make the family's Gold Medal biscuits. The factory was originally built for manufacturing tiles, but was never used.

©

In 1948, Burton's made the first "Wagon Wheel", and in 1967, they built a dedicated liquorice unit in the factory.
In 1995, they were taken over by Lindale Foods, and stopped making biscuits, to begin making sweets.
In August 2006, the Vicarage Lane business was taken over by Toms Confectionery, who already owned the former Daintee factory on Clifton Road. On the 31st of March 2015, Toms closed the Clifton Road site, with the loss of 110 jobs, and production was switched to the Vicarage Lane site.
The Vicarage Lane complex now produces Liquorice Allsorts and various gums and jellies, including Wine Gums, Fruit Pastilles, Refreshers, Black Jacks, Mojos, and Fizzy Cola Bottles. They also make sugar for various brands, and Butterkist popcorn.

The company was taken over in 2005, by Tangerine Confectionery, who were taken over themselves in 2018, by Valeo Foods.

The Welcome Inn, Blackpool: was on the corner of Sefton Street and Bank Hey Street. It was bought by the Council on the 4th of May 1897, to be replaced by the Imperial Café.

Bispham School was so dilapidated that it had to move into the Temperance Hall.

The Gazette: The first weekly Blackpool Gazette newspaper was published on Friday the 3rd of April by John Grime at the Steam Printing Works at 31/33 Church Street. After a brief spell as the Blackpool Gazette and Fylde News in 1876 the newly-titled Blackpool and Fleetwood Gazette and Fylde News was first published on the 26th of October 1877. It became the Blackpool Herald and Fylde Advertiser in 1893 and was then relaunched, as the Gazette and News that New Year. This was quickly combined into the Blackpool Gazette and Herald, Fylde News and Advertiser.
In 1894, its new offices at 41-49 Corporation Street were almost complete.
In 1895, The Blackpool Gazette began to be published twice weekly.

The paper moved to Temple Street in 1911, retitling itself as the Gazette-News. n Cheapside. It bought out the Blackpool Herald on the 3rd of January 1920 and launched the Blackpool Gazette and Herald three times a week, from the 8th of May 1926. The newspaper then bought the Lytham St Anne's Express.

The first West Lancashire Evening Gazette was published as a daily on May the 13th 1929, and in August, the "Green" sports paper was brought out.
In 1934, the Evening Gazette opened new offices in Victoria Street, between the Commercial House guest house and the Trevelyan Hotel. In 1947, the Trevelyan was taken over by the Gazette and opened as their Gazette Stationers shop – later renamed Wedding Chimes. This shop moved to Queen Street in the 1970s and closed in 2001. Another branch of the stationers was at 136 Victoria Road in Cleveleys.
On the 31st of August 1939, the Gazette first published The Football Final – which would rapidly evolve into The Green – a weekly supplement.

The Evening Gazette began to be published as an evening tabloid in 1941, because of print rationing, and in 1945, the Gazette Printers opened on Stanley Road, just off Hornby Road. Later occupants included United Printers and BPCC Northern Printers, and the building, now known as Stanley House, became a young-people's training centre in 2004.

A fun club for local youngsters was set up by the paper after the war. Called the "League of the Silver Star", children were enrolled for good deeds.

©

The Evening Gazette became a broadsheet newspaper in August 1967, and in 1972 the Blackpool Herald was spun off as a weekly title (discontinued in 1983), but the daily publication continued. It became simply the Evening Gazette in 1990, and finally just The Gazette – again as a broadsheet - in 1999.

The Gazette offices and printing works on Victoria Street were demolished in August 1987, after the newspaper's offices moved to New House on Preston New Road – the old Telefusion House buildings. The printing was done on the bakery site across the road. The first issue written at the new site was published on the 5th of May, and the last Gazette to be printed on Victoria Street was on the 20th of July. Home Secretary, Douglas Hurd, opened the new premises on the 9th of October. The new works closed in 1989, with the last edition being printed there on the 11th of March. It began to be printed at Broughton on the 13th of March, and the Cherry Tree Road North Bakery site was sold to Fairclough Homes for the building of apartments. A McDonald's restaurant has occupied the site of the print works since 1993.

In April 1998, the Gazette moved its offices from Preston New Road to Avroe Crescent on the Blackpool Business Park at Squires Gate. Prime Minister, Tony Blair opened Avroe House on the 1st of October. Pizza Hut, KFC, and Morrison's outlets now stand on the site of the old offices.

The first Times and Fylde Observer was published, by the Blackpool Printing Company of Church Street.

Bowls - The Talbot Handicap, Blackpool: The Talbot Bowling Handicap (later the Talbot Cup) was started by Robert Nickson's, the hotel's landlord. It had 50 competitors and a first prize of £5, won by Joseph Fielding.
The biggest Talbot name in the early years was Jack Cox, the former Blackpool, Liverpool, and England soccer star, and in 1925, he achieved the double of winning both the Talbot and the Waterloo titles. Between 1942 and 1951, the Talbot event moved to the Raikes, but in 1952, it was back at the Talbot. The 1962 event saw the collapse of the south west corner stand, when over 100 spectators plunged to the ground and ten needed hospital treatment.

In 1966, the green was dug up before the hotel was demolished, and the competition moved to the Raikes Hall Hotel. 1989 saw great improvements made to the Raikes venue, as a new bowls pavilion was built and car parks laid out. By this time, the championship was known as the Talbot Trophy, and was televised several times by Granada TV until 1996.
The tournament folded in 1999, with the withdrawal of sponsorship from Bass Breweries. It restarted in 2002, after the Marsden Building Society stepped in. After a few years of confusion, it restarted again in 2011.

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The Great Grimsby Coal, Salt, and Tanning Company opened in Fleetwood.

St Anne's Parish Church: St Anne's Church was dedicated on the corner of Headroomgate Road and St Anne's Road on the 6th of August by the Lord Bishop of Manchester. It had been designed by architects Austin and Paley and had been commissioned by Lady Clifton in the early 1870s. She named the church in memory of her aunt who was called Anne.
The church was built as a chapel of ease to the parish church of St Cuthbert in Lytham, to benefit the farm labourers and fishermen of the hamlet of Heyhouses, who had difficulty in getting to church on a Sunday morning, and would perform their worship at the Trawl Boat Inn. The new church could seat 300 people.
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St Anne's became a parish in its own right in 1877, and between 1885 and 1886, the church was enlarged by Richard Freeman, who added a transept, a vestry and, to the north, an aisle. After the removal of the original small spire, a tower was built in 1890, with its clock following in 1897, and a Baptistry in 1919.

The nearby vicarage was constructed on Headroomgate road in 1880, to a design by R Knill Freeman. It was first occupied by the Reverend WG Terry - the first vicar of St Anne's.

There is a lamp by the Lych Gate, commemorating Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee in 1897.

St Anne's Church Parish Rooms were opened on the 20th of February 1911, and had billiard rooms, a concert hall, and two reading rooms. In 1916, local soldiers began to use the rooms for meetings and recreation and came to call it *"Hotel Cecil".* The parish rooms had been built on the site of the old Ladies' nine-hole golf course of the Lytham and St Anne's Golf Club. A Memorial chapel was built in 1929/30, to commemorate the local men who had perished in the Great War.

The church now consists of a nave and chancel under one roof, a west tower, north and south aisles, the south transept, a baptistry west of the tower, and a memorial lady chapel to the north of the chancel. The tower is square and has two stages, buttresses on the west side, and a stair turret. It has a stepped parapet with corner pinnacles. There is an organ chamber with an arch that has overlapping brick and basketwork, and a Lady chapel with reredos. As well as the church itself, the Tudor-style lych gate and boundary wall also have Listed Building status.

St Anne's Parish Opera Society was formed in 1971, rehearsing in the Parish Rooms.

In 1996, the church unveiled the "Heritage Mural". It was embroidered by the St Anne's Broiderers, is 18 feet long and 6 feet 5 inches high and contains 2,166,528 stitches. It comprises seven individual panels, depicting various aspects of the life and times of St Anne's. Embroidering began in April 1989 and took almost 7 years to complete.

Ranxborough House School for girls was founded by Miss Jane Stokes in Lytham. By 1881 it was at 25 Park Street, and by the 1930s, the building housed the Preston Convalescent Home for Poor Children.
The Freckleton branch of the Independent Order of Rechabites was formed. They were a temperance society.
The farm house at Birks Farm in Eagland Hill was completely rebuilt.

1874
On the 6th of November, a ratepayers' meeting, Reverend Jeffrey of St John's Church first proposed the drawing up of a Charter of Incorporation for the town.

The Raikes Hotel/Grosvenor Hotel, Blackpool: The grand Raikes Hotel and its stables were built on the corner of Church Street and Cookson Street by George Ormerod. A small street called Raikes Hill was behind it. Ormerod also built a small brewery beside the hotel, which he later moved to Newton Hall.

The Raikes Hotel was renamed the Grosvenor Hotel in 1895, to avoid confusion with the Raikes Hall Hotel nearby. In 1912, a municipal bowling green was opened next to the hotel.

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The Grosvenor Hotel finally closed on the 5th of July 2003. It had been called the Raikes, Frank's Place (owned by comedian Frank Carson in 1979), ConnXions, Bodgers Bar - strictly gay (since spring 1995), the Cow Bar, Hello Dollies, the Blue Oyster Bar, the Continental, and other names.
The building was demolished in 2007 and turned into a car park. Nearby shops were also knocked down.

The Blackpool Tramways, Omnibus, and Carriage Company was formed on the 1st of May, and opened a depot on the site of the Bailey's Hotel stables in August (this was later the site of the Princess Cinema). The company closed after two years.
The Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway's line from Kirkham to Blackpool was increased to a double track line and was extended from Lytham on the 1st of July.
The Water Company's Steam Pumping Works opened in Upper Braithwaite Street, and piped water was finally provided to Marton from August. Plans for a reservoir at Bunker's Hill (The Knowle) and a water tower at Fleetwood were abandoned in favour of a new 9-inch main.
Carter and Brook, auctioneers and valuers started business on the Promenade.
J B Twigg set up his ironmonger's business at 1 Birley Street, selling and repairing tools, toys, buckets and spades, and Pain's fireworks.
W Bamber established his coach and motor painters, sign writers, grainers, and decorators at the works on Moon Street, off Lytham road.
E Henry opened a music shop above a butcher's shop on the northwest corner of Market Street and Church Street. After being a brief home to JD Sports, this now houses Leonard Dew's Jewellers, who moved from next door.

Little Marton School/Marton Community Centre: Little Marton School was built on land given by Squire Clifton on Clifton Road (now called Bowness Avenue) at a site known as Primrose Hill. It was opened for use on the 6th of January, was extended and altered in 1900, and first received piped water in 1906, to replace the well and hand bucket in the school yard.

Soon after the school opened, the part of Clifton Road that at the time turned northwards at Sandham's Green, to reach the Clifton Arms Inn was renamed School Lane. When the Mereside estate was built, School Lane was once more renamed to Ambleside Road and Bowness Road (split by Langdale Road).

The school was compulsorily purchased by Blackpool Council in 1946, with the freehold being conveyed on the 14th of November 1952. The school finally closed in 1956 and was mainly demolished, along with Rose Cottage and Primrose Cottage nearby.

The school building was then adapted for use as a clinic and community centre/library – the Mereside Library and Clinic - which were opened in 1958, on the site of the school and the two cottages. The library later moved to Langdale Road, and then to 4b Crummock Place. The community centre building was altered several times and was finally demolished in December 1988.

Blackpool Council built the new Mereside Community Centre on the site in November 1999, and a Corporation "Sure Start" centre opened there in January 2001, for children under four years of age. The centre was destroyed by arsonists on the 2nd of May 2004, but the Sure Start Centre reopened next to Marton Primary School in June 2008. The main facility opened after rebuilding in 2011, as the Marton Youth and Community Centre, with a BMX "pump" track being opened next door on the 26th of March.

The Victoria Street Church of England School opened.

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The Union School Room was in Abingdon Street.
Swimmer, Marquis Bibbero, unveiled a revolutionary "lifesaving collar" in Blackpool on the 10th of July.

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Poulton-le-Fylde Band was founded on the 25th of September. During WW2, it became known as the Home Guard Band, which disbanded in about 1945. Since being reformed in February 1951, they have played regularly in St Chad's church hall.

Leach Lodge, Heyhouses: stood at the junction of the as-yet-unnamed road from St Anne's Parish Church and the "Blackpool and Lytham Highway", which led to Lytham via Heyhouses School and Ansdell.
Leach Lane was later named after the 3-bedroomed, detached lodge, which became simply Leach Lodge Farm, worked by the Whiteside family and then the Jamesons.
Leach Lodge Farm held regular *"hops"* or dances in its barn, for up to 60 locals; Leach Farm was 2 hundred yards to the north, at the junction with Division Lane in Blackpool.

Both of Lytham's railway bridges were opened this year.
The 6th Lancashire Rifle Volunteers held their first camp in 1874, camping at Lytham.
The Catholic Collegiate School opened on West Beach in Lytham.
The Lytham Sanitary Inspector found that in view of its still-primitive sewerage system, the beach was contaminated by animal and vegetable waste, and human and animal excrement accumulated in the back streets.
A railway branch line was opened from Wrea Green to Bradkirk. It served Bradkirk Brickworks until the early 1900s and was torn up in 1958. The current railway bridge was erected to replace the level crossing, and the station changed its name from "Wray Green" to "Wrea Green". The Bradkirk signal box was built on the line in 1903 and closed on the 21st of September 1969.
A Peg Mill at Kirkham was dismantled, and then erected near Birkdale across the River Ribble.
Mr Danson's smithy was in operation on Whin Lane in Out Rawcliffe. Later run by the men of the Danson family, it closed in the late 1970s, and was later incorporated into the house which now stands on the spot.

Crookhey Hall, near Cockerham: The current hall was built between now and 1878, to the south of Cockerham, next to the site of the original hall, which had been in the Gardiner family since at least 1661. Set in 17 acres of land, the house has a porte-cochere, two storeys, two wings, and a tower, and is now a Listed Building. It was designed by Alfred Waterhouse for Colonel Charles Bird and his wife, who held half of the "manor" of Cockerham. Bird was *"the richest man in Lancashire",* and sold his textile company to what became a part of ICI.
The Bird family lived in Crookhey until the Colonel's death in l909, when it was let to the Henrique family, then the family of Irish textile magnate Harold Carrington (until 1927), and eventually, in 1940, to Liverpool Corporation as an evacuation centre *"for 29 M.D. pupils"* - M.D. meaning "Mentally Deficient". It is now a residential school for up to 74 children with special needs.
Harold Carrington's daughter, Leonora was born there in 1917. The family had ten servants, a French governess, an Irish Nanny, and a chauffeur. She became an infamous surrealist painter, who ran off and married Max Ernst, hung out with Picasso and Dali, fled the Nazis, and escaped from a psychiatric hospital. At her death in May 2011, she was lauded as the *"last of the surrealists"*.

1875
The Government announced on the 16th of July, that a Charter of Incorporation had been granted to Blackpool.
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The Winter Gardens Company: was registered on the 7th of August to provide facilities for visitors in wet weather, on the site of St John's Vicarage and Bank Hey House. On the 1st of October, it bought the 1800-squareyard Bank Hey Estate from William H Cocker, who stipulated that his former house, Bank Hey, should remain. Parts of the house can be seen inside the current building.

The Winter Gardens: The first parts of the Winter Gardens, the gardens, and an open-air roller-skating rink (135 feet long by 88 feet wide), were opened on the 27th of July 1876, with the entrance from Leopold Grove. By the 26th of May 1877, the rink had been roofed over.
The complex was intended to draw the holidaymakers away from the promenade, and to spread the wealth around the growing town. By the end of the year, many of the foundations and basements of the main buildings had been built, the porch of Bank Hey House had been removed and in front was *"a grand vestibule"*. This was the imposing Victoria Street entrance, which totally obscured Bank Hey House.
There was also an outdoor skating rink, which later became "Noah's Ark" for performing animals, and then, in 1896, the site of the Empress Ballroom.

The Winter Gardens officially opened for business on the 11th of July 1878, housing a library, reading room, an art gallery, a Palm House, and a concert hall. Its dance floor was the largest in the world. The Lord Mayor of London and the ceremonial procession travelled from the Imperial Hotel to the Winter Gardens for the official opening. Sixty-Three English towns were represented.

The Floral Hall had been opened at Easter, and the Rotunda, the area under the glass dome, was completed on the 18th of March, together with the statuary and the bronze fountain. The dome was the architect's device for luring tourists from North Station. The fountain was removed in March 1966.
On the 15th of September 1878, the Winter Gardens held the first ever Sunday concert in the town, when it held a fund-raiser for survivors of a Thames steamer, the Princess Alice, on its own small stage.

By 1887, as the Winter Gardens were not as successful as the company had hoped, they hired London Theatre Manager Bill Holland to run the complex. He immediately laid a 100-guinea carpet on the floor and when it was suggested to him that the lower classes might spit on it, ever the showman, he advertised, *"Come to the Winter Gardens for 6d. (Sixpence) and spit on Bill Holland's 100 guinea carpet"*. Known as *"the British Barnum"*, he gave customers what they wanted: inexpensive all-day entertainment. He even offered a 1-shilling dinner and a 1-shilling tea. He died at 46 Park Road in 1895.
Also, in 1887, the Winter Gardens formally opened their new bowling green in June.

Her Majesty's Opera House: The magnificent theatre that was the first Opera House opened at the Winter Gardens on June the 10th 1889, with Gilbert and Sullivan's "The Yeomen of the Guard". At the time, it was the world's largest theatre, seating 2,650 people. It was designed by Frank Matcham and the main contractor was TH Smith of Blackpool.
The Opera House was the first Blackpool theatre to be lit by electricity, when, on the 23rd of February 1894, its ad in the Gazette stated: *"The whole of the Winter Gardens, including Her Majesty's Opera House, is now brilliantly illuminated by the Electric Light, and the buildings throughout are heated with the most perfect system of Hot Water Apparatus, rendering the whole establishment exceedingly comfortable in any state of the weather".*
The first Opera House was mostly demolished in 1910.

A much-enlarged second Opera House theatre was opened in 1911, complete with a rebuilt Church Street frontage. It was then called "Her Majesty's Opera House and Grand Pavilion", its stage being the largest in Britain.

The second Opera House was demolished after its last show on the 16th of October 1938.

It was completely replaced by the present 2,925-seat third version. It now had 20 dressing rooms and a 45-foot proscenium. Jessie Mathews and Sonnie Hale officially reopened it on the 14th of July 1939, followed by the revue "Turned out Nice Again" starring George Formby which was performed on England's largest stage. Reginald Dixon played the new Wurlitzer organ, which is now the last remaining Wurlitzer to be in its original setting. *"The last new Wurlitzer Theatre Organ destined for the UK was exported in 1939, and was installed in the Blackpool Opera House. The organ, with 3 manuals and 13 ranks, was designed by Horace Finch (1906-1980) who was soloist and orchestral pianist at the Blackpool Tower Orchestra and was also the first English pianist to perform Rhapsody in Blue by George Gershwin without the aid of sheet music"*.
The circle of the theatre was supported by "Blackpool's Biggest ever girder". At 114 feet long and 8 1/2 feet high, it weighed 98 tons.
The re-built venue was renamed The New Opera House and was advertised as "Britain's Wonder Theatre".

The Empress Ballroom: built to the southeast of the Winter Gardens' site, this venue was substantially complete during the summer of 1896, and opened on the 4th of August for a short period. The Winter Gardens officially opened this massive ballroom in 1897, on the site of the Skating Rink, Newsome's Circus and the "Noah's Ark" performing animal show. The ballroom was one of the largest ballrooms in the world, with a revolutionary dance floor on 2,000 springs, and the electroliers suspended from the ceiling of the ballroom each weighed two tons - the largest of their kind ever produced.

In April 1935, the Tower Ballroom's Wurlitzer Theatre Organ was moved to the Empress Ballroom. The Wurlitzer Organ Company had built a new 3-manual console for it and had enlarged it from 10 to 13 ranks to match it with the Tower Ballroom's new Theatre Organ.
Horace Finch unveiled the organ to the public, and he remained in his position until 1962, when he resigned his position and retired following an injury to his left hand. Finch was succeeded by Watson Holmes (previously at the Palace Ballroom). Holmes stayed at the Empress until 1966, when his position was taken over by Ernest Broadbent, who remained until the Ballroom was turned into a nightclub in 1969, and the organ was removed to the BBC Playhouse Theatre in Manchester.
In 2012, The Cannock Chase Organ Club was allowed to install another theatre organ in the Empress Ballroom. This duly opened to the public in December 2014, being played by Cameron John Lloyd and David Lobban. *"The Console of the new Express Ballroom Theatre Organ is not on a lift, as the earlier one was, since the Ballroom no longer has a permanent stage. The former stage was removed in the 1970s when the original Wurlitzer Theatre Organ was removed and sold to the BBC. During the removal of the stage, the lift shaft used to raise and lower the Organ was filled with concrete"*.

Also built in 1896, were the 1,933-seater Pavilion Theatre (turned into a cinema in 1929), the Italian Gardens on the site of the recently demolished St John's Vicarage, the adjacent Indian Lounge, and a large glass and steel arched structure over a new Victoria Street entrance.
Before it was opened to the public in the August, the Indian Lounge had been advertised as the Grand Turkish Lounge. However, in the Ottoman Empire, Armenians were massacring Turks by the thousand. It was thus decided to rename the venue the Indian Lounge.
In 1964, the Indian Lounge was replaced by the Planet Room, a large lounge bar with a cabaret stage. During April 1986, the Planet Room was itself revamped in a Roman style to become the Arena, and the Caesar's Palace cabaret bar at night. The Empress Buildings themselves are now the administration office of the organisation.

©

In April 1901, a canopy of iron and glass was installed above the Church Street entrances of the Winter Gardens and Opera House.

The Blackpool Tower Company bought the Winter Gardens Company on the 9th of January 1928 and took over on the 12th of May. Solicitor Charles Hardman, the chairman of the Blackpool Winter Gardens Company, said, as he and his fellow directors were soon to be sacked *"One of the most dirty, sneaking and underhand transactions that have ever taken place in this town"*.

In 1929, the Winter Gardens theatre became a cinema, and construction of the Olympia began.

The Olympia: This opened at the Winter Gardens in June 1930. Andrew Mazzei themed its interior stalls, sideshows, and other attractions in the form of a Moorish village. Its sideshows included a *"Cow with Five Legs", the "Headless Woman", Fire Eating Arabs, and a replica of the Crown Jewels. There were palmists, slot machines, games of chance, and children's rides".* Another innovation there was the New Photographic Ball Game, where players tried to hit a red, white, and blue spot in order to automatically take their own photograph.
On the outside, it had its own lighthouse and, later, a searchlight. It was built on the site of the failed Great Wheel.
The Olympia featured "Talkies" in later years, as it tried hosting films to increase its intake.

By the 1950s and 60s, the Olympia had been turned into an indoor funfair, with the Moorish panels having been removed. The main hall had dodgems, a Panoramic Wheel (this was removed in the 1970s), and an Ark Speedway, and the first floor had the Crazy Mirrors and a Ghost Train, with its balcony boasting the Illuminated Tram Ride of Messrs Silcock and Catlow. This had been converted from their previous car ride to attract more children. Later operated by the Cubbins family (complete with their famous Waltzer, which had replaced the Ark Speedway) and then Hart's Amusements, the funfair last operated in the 1978 summer season.

One user described the Ghost Train thus: *"The cars were olive green with a small skull & crossbones (with an eye patch) on the side and a metal bat on the low-rise front. They were later painted purple in the mid-70s. There were illuminated 'castle-style bricks' on a black background and just one full size painting of the Frankenstein monster for theming in the station. Very 'pop art' really. An illuminated skull was also between 'ghost' and 'train' in the signage above. A great little ride and location, facing the Dodgems on the back wall"*.

Professor Peabody's Play Place opened for use at the Olympia on the 28th of May 1983. As well as dozens of indoor rides and play areas, including at VERY tall slide, it offered a Kids' Disco, Peabody's Diner, and Peabody's Family Bar. An official opening by magician Paul Daniels was held on the 20th of June. *"The £250,000 centre was opened to offer an alternative to fun-fair style amusements and was the first of its kind in the country – created by the First Leisure Corporation"*.

In recent years, the Olympia has been used for car boots sales and *"temporary exhibitions. For the past three years when the Showzam festival has been held in Blackpool sideshows have returned to the building so you can once more wonder at Mademoiselle Yvette the Headless Lady and Cleo the Girl in the Goldfish Bowl, supplied by preservationist Jon Marshall, and in 2009 you could even take a trip on Carnesky's Ghost Train"*. The Ghost Train left in 2011.

©

The Winter Gardens Grand Café was opened on the Northwest corner with Coronation Street in 1875. In later years, this became the Olympia Bar and has had many names over the years – The Saloon Bar, The Continental Bar, The Corner Bar, The Ram Jam Inn, Apple Annie's Drinking Emporium (opened on the 26th of July 1989), and Champ's Sports Bar amongst them.

New areas of the Winter Gardens opened on the 28th of May 1931, including the bar "Ye Galleon", the Renaissance Restaurant, the Spanish Hall (to become known briefly in the 1990s, as the Victoria Cabaret Bar), the Baronial Hall, the Windsor Bar, and a revamped Floral Hall with an adjoining lounge bar. By 1940, the new, combined, venues were publishing their own, monthly events guide called the Blackpool Programme Tatler.
The Spanish Bar is of particular note, as all the "wooden" panelling on walls and ceiling is made of plaster, having been designed by Andrew Mazzei.
The "Sir Harold Room" was opened in the Winter Gardens on the 1st of October 1959, in honour of Sir Harold Grime of the Gazette.
In 1980, the Winter Gardens was sold by EMI to Trusthouse Forte, along with the Tower and much of the Golden Mile. The Winter Gardens Pavilion was immediately closed. Then, in 1983, First Leisure Corporation (later Leisure Parcs) bought the Winter Gardens and all three Piers. The Pavilion Theatre's stage was briefly converted into use as the Palm Court Restaurant in 1986.

A Commemorative Roll of Honour was unveiled at the Winter Gardens on the 26th of July 1989, by Lord Bernard Delfont, the then owner.

Blackpool Council bought control of the Winter Gardens and the Tower for the first time in their history in March 2010. In May 2011, Heathcotes opened its first Blackpool restaurant as part of the £1.5 million restoration of the Winter Gardens. The former Backstage Bistro was transformed into the Empress Grill. It follows the launch of Mazzei's Coffee Shop which Heathcotes opened in the Winter Gardens in February. Also, in March 2010, the adjacent property at 77-81 Church St was renamed "81 Central" and converted to form creative office spaces behind a new glazed facade.

Dr Cocker bought a paddle steamer "Dhu Heartach", which sailed briefly from North Pier.

Mount Pleasant Trinity Wesleyan Chapel, Blackpool: A small chapel was built on the corner of Dickson Road and Cocker Street, and on the 3rd of July 1888, Mount Pleasant Trinity Wesleyan chapel opened there. A small Wesleyan School was built alongside, on Dickson Road, but was last used on January the 28th 1906.
In 1879, the Wesley chapel Committee asked the church to build a school chapel.
In December 1899, the original Wesleyan School and Church were taken down and the "Tin Tabernacle" was erected, where the Claremont First Step Community Centre now stands.

North Shore Methodist Church was opened on the site on the 24th of April 1907. The Wesleyan School had been demolished in 1906 to create room for the new church. It is built in red brick with ashlar dressings and has an octagonal tower and a 4-bay nave. On August, the 27th 1998 the Church became a Statutory Grade 2 Listed Building.
In 2006, "Forward in Faith Ministries International" launched a new branch in Blackpool on the 15th of January. The church started in Zimbabwe in the Assembly of God Church and opened at North Shore Methodist Church on Dickson Road.

©

Devonshire Road Hospital, Blackpool: A small hospital for infectious diseases was opened on New Road (Talbot Road). In 1942, its capacity was increased by 38, by the erection of two hutments. The total number of beds was then 120.

Blackpool Isolation Hospital was opened on Devonshire Road on the 7th of July 1891. It consisted of six wards, with 20 beds, offices, a house, and outbuildings, and was erected at a cost of £5,900.
1903 saw the erection of a new mortuary, containing *"a mortuary room, post-mortem room, and doctor's room, as well as a passage for friends or a jury to view the bodies. Accommodation for seven bodies is provided"*.
In 1904, the hospital was enlarged, at an estimated cost of £23,500, so as to afford 64 additional beds. The work was done by Eaves and Son, builders, and consisted of alterations to the administrative block, new boiler-house, new laundry and disinfecting block, one large ward pavilion, and the isolation block. In 1905, it was further expanded, with the addition of a new administrative block and yet more bedding space. The disinfecting room and laundry was replaced.
That original sanatorium, behind the cemetery, was demolished in early 1906, after being kept briefly for smallpox isolation.
A new hospital was formally opened on the 26th of March 1906, on the opposite corner of Devonshire Road and Talbot Road. Still called Blackpool Sanatorium, at the end of 1935, there were 43 residents, but it had capacity for 82. It became known as Devonshire Road Infectious Diseases Hospital and locals knew it as "The Fever Hospital". Any overflow of patients from Devonshire Road were sent to the Meathop Sanitorium at Grange-over-Sands or to the Elswick Sanitorium.

By 1947, the facilities were showing strain, with just wards 6 and 7 remaining open, despite the severe staff shortages. Its official capacity by now was 120 beds.
In 1954, it was changed into a general hospital, mainly dealing with geriatric cases – isolation cases were sent to Moss Side Hospital. By then known as Devonshire Road Hospital, it was finally demolished in 2007, and the site was used as a car park until 2016. The site was bought for development in January 2019, by Maple grove developments, who will seek to build homes there.

The Washington Hotel, Blackpool: was built in Topping Street, finally receiving a licence to sell wine (only) on the 18th of September 1876, when in the hands of Robert Whiteside. Whiteside narrowly escaped losing that privilege in May 1879, when he was found guilty of allowing card games. The hotel was listed then as the Washington Arms, and soon boasted of having the *"finest concert room in Blackpool"*, which could seat 130 patrons.
Now called the Washington Hotel, it is now owned by the Greene King pub chain.

The Duke of York Hotel, Blackpool: was built on the corner of Banks Street and Dickson Road, and first applied for a licence to serve alcohol in October – it was refused. It originally had 9 parlours, billiard rooms, and 22 bedrooms. It had been constructed as a hotel but had a long struggle to acquire a licence. By 1889, John Irish was running it for owner Henry Hall.

It was rebuilt in 1939 and opened (now designated as at 28 Banks Street) on the 27th of May that year, after being designed by local architect Halstead Best. A three-storey building, it is clad in cream faience, and has several round ceramic plaques showing the Duke of York. Faience is a fine tin-glazed pottery on a delicate pale buff earthenware body. For a few years after opening, it had a small take-away off-licence with an entrance on Banks Street.

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The Station Hotel, Blackpool: on the corner of Talbot Road and Station Road (later Dickson Road), was owned by the Nickson family and featured the famous "Nickson's Vaults". By 1937, the Station was renowned for its team of chefs, Thomas Parker and his son, also called Thomas Parker.
The enterprise was completely re-built in the 1960s, at what was by then 77 Talbot Road, using nondescript, flat concrete faces. Number 75 was demolished at the same time, removing the newsagent's shop that had been
On the 10th of December 2010, Ma Kelly's second Blackpool venue opened in the former Station Hotel at 77 Talbot Road. The venue then held its official VIP Night on the 15th, and the Downtown Bar became known as Frankie's Bar. The original Ma Kelly's is at 62 Foxhall Road in the old Princess Hotel, and a third Ma Kelly's opened at the Stanley Arms on Chapel Street on the 1st of August 2011.

In front of the Washington Hotel on the Promenade (9 Foxhall Road and 123 South Promenade) was Fletcher's Monstre Waxworks with D'Arc's Monstre Pavilion holding wrestling matches.
Miss Ashworth's Day and Boarding School opened on Crystal Terrace on the 13th of August.
John Ferguson bought a farm in Marton, to add to Boardman's Farm (opposite the Saddle) that he already ran as a small nursery. By 1938 he had turned his new farms into Ferguson's Whitegate Drive Nurseries (Blackpool) Limited.
John Stirzaker "Haircutter and Perfumer" was on Bank Hey Street, and nearby at number 38 was Holt's Ladies and Children's Outfitters, next to McNamee's Butchers.
The Blackpool Coal Company was formed.
Thomas Sharp was a surgeon, living and operating from West House, South Shore.
Mythorp Tollgate was still in operation.
Clifton Drive was constructed from the unmade tracks across the sand dunes to Lytham.

Sigmund Freud: The world-famous psychoanalyst visited Blackpool. His memories of the bliss of paddling in Blackpool were so vivid that he included them in his landmark 1900 book "The Interpretation of Dreams". His first visit to England, when he stayed with relations in Manchester and then went beachcombing and rock pool hunting at Blackpool, was also his first sight of the sea.

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A small free school was opened in Staining.
The Poulton-le-Fylde Brass Band formed.

The Strawberry Gardens Hotel, Fleetwood: opened on Poulton Road. As early as 1851, William Kelsall had been running a beerhouse at the Strawberry Gardens. Constructed in red brick, the building is characterised by prominent sandstone corner quoins, label moulds over the windows, a blue-grey slate roof, and tall chimneystacks. The gardens developed from a garden laid out by Thomas Blackburn, one of the first Fleetwood Commissioners. In 1869, it was described as *"a Tea Garden about a mile from Fleetwood, on the Blackpool Road, at which, as its title indicates, visitors may be served with the beverage which cheers, but not inebriates, and also, during their season, with strawberries. Attached to the gardens is, what we suppose, we must term an exhibition of Zoological specimens, consisting principally of monkeys; and also a. bowling-green".*
Between 1913 and 1969 it was run by the Crewdson family.

B Whitworth and Brothers of Fleetwood opened a second warehouse, in Adelaide Street, for the storage of imported cotton. This allowed the company to store up to 10,000 bales of cotton.
John Jackson and Sons opened in Fleetwood.
Dickinson's Jewellers opened at 27 Lord Street in Fleetwood.
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St Anne's On the Sea: Workers for Elijah Hargreaves of Rossendale began building St Anne's-On-The-Sea at Cross Slack by cutting the first sod on the 2nd of February. It was to be advertised as *"the Opal of The West"*. The far-sighted Clifton family had been planning the venture since the 1840s and had let some 80 acres of land for this purpose on the 4th of September 1874. Hargreaves had his own home built on what would become Andrew's Road South, calling it the Elms. The first brick in the new town was laid by John Ogden.
The new town received its name on the 31st of March, when its foundation stone was laid in the foundations of the St Anne's Hotel by 6-year-old John Talbot Clifton, the Squire's son. But for some judicious and fortunate juggling of bookings by Clifton Estate Manager Thomas Fair, the town would have been founded on April Fool's Day.

Before the building of the town, there was one road, Common Lane, which is now called Church Road. On this road were a few fishermen's cottages and the lighthouse in the dunes. After the new town began to be built, most of the first houses were built here and Common Lane was the market street for the new community, with several of the old cottages changing into shops.

Two pairs of semi-detached houses were built on St Andrew's Road South, and twelve workmen's cottages on Common Lane. Other labourers found lodgings in Lytham.

The diary of David Greaves, written in 1925, about the 1870s, diary describes the area as follows: *"Before church road was built upon, it should be told now that this road was one side a sluice, one such as we find upon the moss today, and a similar wide dyke joined the Church road dyke and ran through a series of fields. St. Albans road stands upon this once wide sluice, and the same empitied itself somewhere in St. David's Road South direction"*.

That same diary states that *"The first chemist in St. Annes was a Mr. SUGDEN at Willow bank, St. Davids rd South and at one end the first private school for girls was conducted by Miss CROSSLEY which school was later transferred to Stanley terrace. To both these schools as well as collegiate school South drive"*.

The **correct** name of this new town is St Anne's-on-the-sea – **WITH** an apostrophe.

The first "rated" house was "Pine Cottage" a wooden bungalow occupied in January by Mr and Mrs John Heap (It had been built his brother, Wilson, a builder) – it stood next to the railway lines, between today's Hove and Springfield Roads. Pine Cottage was soon being used for non-conformist worship.
The first permanent building was the brick-built Alpha House on what soon became St Andrew's Road South. St Anne's and Singleton both received mains water at the same time this year.

The Kilgrimol School for Boys opened on South Drive in September, with John Allen as headmaster. It closed in the 1920s, becoming the St Anne's District Club in 1931 (South Drive had been renamed Clifton Drive South by this time). For their games lessons, the pupils used an area of common land that is nowadays enclosed by St Patrick's Road South, St Thomas's Road, and Church Road.

Montauban School for Boys was also opened on South Drive. It was founded by the Misses Surr and closed sometime between 1912 and 1924. Now called Montauban Chambers, it now has a Subway restaurant, Seafarer's Restaurant, and Harwood's newsagents on the ground floor, and St Anne's dental Laboratories upstairs.

©

St George's Gardens were opened after being designed by Mr E Thomas, an Aughton landscape gardener. The new gardens were laid out to look like the nearby sand dunes, but supposedly, without the wind and sea. There was a small, wooden, refreshment room at the entrance.
After being run first by Mr Wild, for the Land Company, then by John Ferguson of Whitegate Drive in Blackpool, and finally by William Cartmell (as Cartmell's Nurseries). After being offered to the town for £12,000 in 1896, they were finally bought by Lord Ashton on the 26th of January 1914 – he generously then gave them to the town. They were renamed Ashton Gardens in 1915 after they had been extended using more funds supplied by Lord Ashton.

The St Anne's-on- the-Sea Gas, Light and Coke Company Limited was formed in August, with their works on what later became St Davids Road North (note, no apostrophe). It had two gasometers and was originally reached via a path which led from St Andrew's Road North, past the St Anne's and Fylde Steam Laundry (the laundry proprietor, Janet Osbaldeston, also ran the nearby Imperial Dry Cleaning Works and Steam Laundry).
The Pioneer Sawmills of J Heap was opened on what is now St Andrew's Road South.
Nonconformists first began to worship in a wooden hut on the sands - Baptists who had come from Cloughfold near Rawtenstall.

In the 1880s and 1890s, St Anne's was struggling financially, and only the building of the pier and the continued investment by the likes of William Porritt and other men from Rossendale, saved it. Between 1874 and 1971, over 2,500 individual properties were built in the town.

Two temperance meetings were held at the Fish Stones in Kirkham on the 19th of September.
A pipe and drum band was formed in Pilling, which became Pilling Brass Band. In 1935, the junior section of the band split off and formed Pilling Jubilee Silver Band, the name taken from their first engagement on May 6th 1935. In 1985, a purpose-built band room opened. A list of local brass bands is at Appendix AA.

1876

The Municipal Borough of Blackpool: Blackpool received its Charter of Incorporation and became a Municipal Borough on January the 21st and "*Progress*" was chosen as the town motto. The first Municipal Election was held on the 11th of April, and the town council consisted of a Mayor, six Aldermen (could sit on the council without being elected), and eighteen Councillors, and the town was split into the following six Wards: Claremont; Talbot; Bank Hey; Brunswick; Foxhall; and Waterloo. Bispham was added as an extra ward in 1917, and since 2002, the town has had 21 wards.

The local Conservatives took the majority of the seats, and Blackpool has remained Conservative ever since.

Doctor WH Cocker became first Mayor, living in Hygiene Terrace, next to the Lane Ends Hotel, being voted Mayor a total of 3 times. I have listed all subsequent Mayors in Appendix K. William Henry Cocker became known as the "Father of Blackpool" for his generosity and pioneering nature. Sadly, his grave in St John's Graveyard was ignored and unmarked for over 5 years after his death on the 14th of April 1911. He had been born on the 9th of December 1836, in a house built by his father at Hygiene Terrace. The Gazette's tribute to him at his funeral on the 18th of April said *"Vigorously healthy, bluff and breezy as the winds that come from over the sea, free and independent, and with his full beard and somewhat long hair, one could well liken him unto Neptune himself".*

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The Mayor's Chain of Office was made in September, but was not worn to a meeting of the Council until the 4th of December 1897. The first Mayor donated it to the Council. The Mayoress's Chain of Office was presented to the town by Alderman James Cardwell on the 2nd of August 1897, to mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Year. It was presented to the then Mayoress, Mrs Ward, and to succeeding Mayoresses, in commemoration of the Mayoralty of James Ward.

The original Town Badge was donated by the Cocker family this year. The badge, which depicted a lifeboat, a sailing ship, a bathing hut, and a pier, could not be described correctly in heraldic terms, and was never formally adopted as the town's coat of arms. It was replaced by today's crest in June 1899.

The town's official mace was presented by James Ward in 1897, to commemorate the Queen's Jubilee. It is 4' 9" tall and set with amethyst, carbuncles, and corals.

South Shore Market opened on the 17th of November on the site of Adelphi House.

Oxford Square, Blackpool: There was a watchtower at the Promenade end of Cow Gap Road, and this year saw the erection of the brand-new Oxford Hotel at the western end. The increasingly busy road junction there was soon being called Oxford Square – a name now recognisable to locals.

In 1898, Cow Gap Lane became Waterloo Road (in honour of the battle), which now stretched from the Promenade to the Oxford Square. Then, on the 5th of December 1935, Park Road was extended from Cunliffe Road to the Oxford, and a new "traffic regulator" (roundabout) was built, to replace the busy police-controlled junction.

1963 saw Preston New Road (the A583) being converted to a dual carriageway between Oxford Square and the Clifton Arms Pub. Then in 1967, the roundabout at Oxford Square, having been found to be unable to handle the increased traffic from the dual carriageway, was removed. Its underground WW2 Air Raid Shelter was sealed forever. It was replaced by traffic lights, which were installed by the in October.
The 100-foot-tall round streetlight in the centre of Oxford Square was removed on the 16th of February 2014.

Nobody knows why the hotel and junction were named Oxford. Possibly, it was after a ford where oxen used to cross Spen Dyke.

The Clarence, Blackpool: The Clarence and Railway Hotel opened on Central Drive (then called Clarence Street) and Bank Hey Street on the 4th of August. It had been built to take advantage of the increased traffic at Hounds Hill Railway Station, caused by the transfer of the Manchester Express service from Talbot Road. The hotel had its own Music Hall of Varieties at the back.
The hotel was demolished in 1938, to make way for Marks and Spencer's store at the corner of Central Drive and Albert Road. There is a story that during demolition, the site was surrounded by hoardings and a barrel of beer was kept on the site, in order to keep the license active until the Clarence Hotel on Preston New Road was built. As this was a gap of 16 years, I doubt that the Council would have allowed it.
A clothing shop currently named Moda Italia currently stands on the site of the hotel.

In 1954, the Clarence Hotel was finally opened on Preston New Road, the licence being transferred from the old Clarence. The initial plans, in 1940, were approved for a 2-storey Georgian building, but local

©

protests prevented this. An extension was built in 1980, to provide a rear games room, and in 2004, the pub began to serve food in a semi-restaurant atmosphere.
Canopies were fitted above the front windows in 1986.
The Clarence is currently owned by Thwaites brewery.

Albert Road, Adelaide Street, Vance Road, and Hull Road soon began to take shape by Central Station, with mainly 3-storeyed houses being constructed, to give their unique feel.

The Boars Head Public House / Marton Brewery: The Boars Head Inn was an unlicensed brewhouse run by Cornelius Bagot.
In 1871, the Census records Edward Boardman as a beer seller of Marton. By 1876, Boardman was listed as living at number 38 Preston Old Road, and in that same year, number 38 became licensed as the Boars Head Public House. It was by then owned by William Bickerstaffe.
By 1882, Hall and Co were also running their Springwell Brewery from the site – this was probably the original site of maltster Thomas Crookhall's Marton Brewery of 1814.

Albert Ashworth appears to be the next brewer in 1886, and then Moses Kay bought the pub in the 1890s and soon had his new Marton Brewery built behind it on Green Lane. It was a 4-storey red brick building and was taken over by the Marton Brewery Company Ltd in July 1905.

Brewing at Marton stopped on the 7th of December 1910, and in February 1913, both the brewery and the pub were taken over by the Burtonwood Brewery. They sold the building and business in 1921 for development, and the brewery was demolished in 1922, to make room for the construction of Royal Bank Road by Lindsay Parkinson Ltd. The Marton Brewery Company Ltd was wound up in April 1920.

In 1935, the original inn, with its walls of sea cobbles covered in whitewash, was demolished, and the Burtonwood Brewery built the current pub. Two adjoining cottages were also demolished, and their position is now filled by the vaults - there was an off-licence window there when the new pub was opened.

In the reconstruction, the "Guildhall" room, where Marton's unofficial Mayors had presided, was lost forever. Constructed by local builder JB Singleton, the rebuilt Boars Head was opened on the 20th of June 1936. The new building had a large main lounge - with waiter service, the Vaults, and the Fylde Room to the rear. These were merged into one open-plan space in the 1980s, when an extension was built to the rear. There is now one single, central bar, but the vaults are known as the Locals Bar.
Burtonwood Brewery sold it to Tetley's, who ran it until recently. It is now a Free house.
Despite being grammatically incorrect, the pub's name has **NO** apostrophe.

West Cliff School, Bispham: West Cliff Infants School was built and opened. By the early 1900s, Miss Ralfs was advertising it as West Cliff House School, and by the 1920s, it was renamed as The High School. It by then had an Upper School and a Lower Division. It was mainly for girls but took a small number of boys under 12.

In 1960, the current Westcliff County Infants School was opened in what was by then Crawford Avenue, by Mr Ernest Machin. Westcliff began to take junior pupils from 2001, and in September 2013, its name changed to Blackpool Gateway Academy.

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R Bickerstaffe and Company, furnishers and ironmongers opened at 20 Foxhall Road and York Street. They were also cabinet and carpet makers. They soon opened a store in St Anne's Square.
The Blackpool and Fylde Permanent Benefit Building Society was operating. It closed in March 1980.
William Bibby's ironmongers opened on Lytham Road. Bibby's moved to 22/24 Church Street in 1878, sharing the premises with the Lancaster Banking Company.
The Blackpool Herald newspaper was first published from Porter's Printing Works on Central Beach. The Herald office was next door to Sedgwick's Chemists. The paper had first appeared in 1874 – its name changed from the Blackpool edition of the Chronicle.
Osborne Terrace was built on what is now South King Street.
The lack of reasonably priced accommodation for the "poorer classes" was highlighted in a local report. The same Health Board report described serious overcrowding in Marton, Poulton and Staining during summer and autumn, caused by the large numbers of Irishmen who came over for the harvest. Since the 1820s, Irish labourers had come across the Irish Sea in their hundreds. They took advantage of the dire need for cheap labour for gathering the harvests, working for 8 shillings per week – a price that English men would not entertain. They also worked in most of the local cotton mills.
Cecilia Loftus was born in Glasgow. She was given a convent education at St Mary's School, Raikes Parade, and went on to become a famous actress, singer, mimic, vaudevillian, and music hall performer in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

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By now, the local parochial council at Poulton had been formalised to include the Poulton-le-Fylde Poor Law guardians, the overseers of the Poor, and the supervisors of the highways. The town of Poulton sadly continued to suffer from arguments as to responsibility for civil matters, and this, coupled with the decline in trade and industry, hastened the town's decline into relative unimportance.

Sandyforth, Thornton: Sandyforth Bank was built on Trunnah Road in Thornton by Ernest Thornton. On the 11th of November 1899, the house was auctioned. It was advertised coming with 3 acres of land, stables, and piggeries.
In 1949, it was bought by the Sisters of the Religious Order of Mercy in Burnley and used as a holiday home. In 1977, it became the Linden Tree restaurant, then the Victorian House restaurant, then Didier's Victorian House wine bar and bistro and the Last Orders Pub, and from the 31st of July 2009, the Sandyforth Arms.

The North Lancashire Sweets Manufactory was started at 24 Church Street in Fleetwood by John Blezard.
E Swarbrick set up his plumbing business at 46 Kemp Street in Fleetwood.

The St Anne's Hotel: The first major building in the new town opened in April, complete with its own bowling green and stables, under its first owner Richard Cookson of Lytham. It soon became the club house of the Lytham and St Anne's Golf Club, as the hotel's next proprietor AJ Holloway, had allowed them the exclusive use of one room. They stayed there until 1897.

It was demolished in December 1985, to be replaced by the St Anne's Tavern, later called the Crescent pub. The original basement bar, once known as Burlington Bertie's, was preserved and it became a nightclub by the name of Tiles.
Burlington Bertie's bar is now a Grade 2 Listed Building, whose Listing entry reads: *"and extended in 1898 by the addition of an east wing, whose basement housed a bar called Burlington Bertie. The bar faced onto and was directly related to the railway station, the latter being pivotal to the development of the town as a genteel coastal resort. The tiled interior of the new public house was entirely fitted out by the ceramic*
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manufacturer, Craven Dunnill, including a ceramic bar in one of the firm's two standard styles" … "Crown Liquor Saloon, Belfast have the same design. Craven Dunnill has confirmed that the bar interior was manufactured at their Jackfield site. In 1985 St Annes Hotel was demolished but the bar was retained as the basement for the newly built Crescent Pub, later renamed the Town House. After a period of time as a night club, the bar has recently re-opened for private functions as Burlingtons". The bar was "respectfully" known by locals as the Rat Pit.
A Superdrug shop stands on the site of one of the original bars, and the Burlington Centre covers the site of the bowling green. The Langcliffe Hotel on South Promenade changed its name to the St Anne's Hotel in 1995, as a mark of respect to the original.

In the 1960s, the hotel became the training centre of owners Whitbread Breweries Ltd. A training bar and a training dining room were constructed inside to run courses for trainees in lifelike scenes.
The hotel is now called The Town House. In the basement of the Town House is the town's original foundation stone.

St Anne's Post Office: the town's first post office was opened at Alpha House (built in 1875) this year by Clement Rawstron but ceased operation in 1882. In 1907, the building was converted into shop premises. It later became known as the Tender Trap coffee bar (now the Bilash Balti) and is now Claire Hindmarch's Opticians. The building is at 15 to 17 St Andrew's Road South and is opposite the western end of Wood Street. Mr Rawstron had started in the new town by building a small eatery for building workers in a log cabin by the beach. He soon had to increase capacity by adding a dining tent at the side.

By 1896, the second post office had opened in the next block on St Andrew's, and by 1900, it had moved again, this third incarnation being in a new building on Wood Street. This post office also included a dentist's surgery. That building became the Electricity Board Showrooms in the 1920s and is currently a Celebrations card shop.

The fourth post office, designed by Charles Wilkinson, opened was opened officially on the 12th of February 1923 at 270 Clifton Drive South. It was a purpose-built main office and sorting office, incorporating a telephone exchange. It is currently closed to the public.

On the closure of the main post office, the public counter services were moved to a converted shop at 52 Wood Street. The old building is now the St Anne's Sorting Office.

The buildings on the northern side of St Anne's Square were begun. From about 1890, they became the private residences of Hydro Terrace. The name changed after the gables Hydro had been built in 1894, on the corner of Orchard Road and Richmond Road, and in 1907, it became Miss Tuke's Gables Hydro. By 1924, the Gables Hydro had become the property of Mrs Crawshaw, and the other buildings were soon all converted into shops – Booth's grocers, Menzies (Lavell's, Smith, etc.) newsagents, and Winston's café.

St Anne's Gas and Electricity Works: The Gas Works were built on St Davids Road North.
When the Lytham and the St Anne's councils amalgamated, the opportunity arose for St Anne's UDC to purchase the St Anne's Gas Company, and in 1922, plans were put forward for a new gasworks to serve both towns. Edward Hargreaves was works manager in 1923, when the works were closed, after the opening of the joint works at Eastham in Lytham.

©

St Anne's Electricity Works: the first separate electricity works opened next to the Gas Works in 1890. They were rebuilt from 1901, re-opening in 1903.

The electricity works cost £18,161 to re-build, and the 1924 town guide says that "*Since that time additions and alterations have been made to supply the increased demand. The plant is of the steam reciprocating type, with a capacity of 1,850 K.W., supplying a pressure of 240-280 D.C., 240-420 A.C., 50 period, and 6,600 volt, 3 phase, 50 period E.H.T. There are 40 miles of mains supplying electricity to 4,734 consumers, and 684 public lamps. Jas. H. Clothier, borough electrical engineer".* A new chimney was erected in 1911 and joined the two massive cooling towers alongside.

The adjacent St Anne's Abattoir was also opened on the corner of St David's Road North and Heeley Road in 1899. The abattoir had replaced the original slaughterhouse in the sand dunes near the lighthouse – ALL animals slaughtered in the Borough were now killed in the abattoir, under the control of the Ministry of Food. They were all now stunned *"by a mechanical instrument prior to slaughter"*.
The animals would arrive by lorry and by rail. If delivered by rail, they were driven down St Andrews Road North and over the bridge into the back of the abattoir. Slaughtering was carried out at the front of the building.
In later years, the abattoir was rented from the Council by Robert Garlick.

The remains of all three complexes on St Davids Road North were finally cleared in 2014, and replaced, along with the adjoining Council depot (the Fylde Borough Council Central Maintenance Unit), by a development of 32 houses. The Council's depot on Heeley Road had closed in 2008, moving to a new Streetscene depot on Snowdon Road, which opened in August that year.

St Anne's Promenade: was completed. It was an unfurnished asphalt walkway through sands and grass and measured 3,000 feet long by 180 feet wide.
In 1882, Beach huts first appeared on the promenade, to the North of the pier. They were demolished in the 1980s, to reappear to the North of the pier, in 2013, with the new generation of huts having water and electricity laid on. October 2018 saw the number of huts increased to a record high of 136.

In 1896, the first St Anne's Improvement Act led to the laying out of a length of pleasure gardens to the south east of the pier. They became known as North Promenade Gardens, being linked by walls and a promenade, designed by Mr E Thomas - further features were added in the following years.
A cast iron fountain – now known as the Victoria Fountain – was also erected at this time. It is now a Grade 2 Listed Building, described by Historic England as *"a good example of the work of Walter MacFarlane and Company, one of the best-known suppliers of cast-iron structures in the world"*.

The Bandstands: In order to try and attract some more visitors, but without compromising on the council's wish to be selective, the first, and cast iron, bandstand was erected near to the pier in 1897. It was built inside a mini amphitheatre, which consisted of 3 concrete "listening terraces" onto which were secured wooden seating for 1,200 people. Concerts would frequently attract up to 2,000.

A second bandstand was opened nearby on the 6th of June 1908, with Sunday performances being added gradually from the August. The original 1897 bandstand had been moved to accommodate the new one, and was converted into a shelter, which still stands today. That original is surrounded by the 1912 paddling pool, which had been built inside the three terraces of the original amphitheatre. There are two matching cast iron shelters beside it, which were built in 1913, when the paddling pool was turned into a boating pool.

©

The second bandstand was demolished in 1936.

Rockery Bridge and the stepping stones were opened on the 9th of June 1909.
In 1913-14 the promenade was extended, at a cost of £2,600. The new South Promenade Gardens were laid out by Pulham and Sons on former sand dunes, using nearly 1,000 tonnes of rock from Derbyshire and Clitheroe, and tonnes of blue clay from Marton Moss to make the paths. The principal feature of the area was an ornamental lake with more stepping stones, and a footbridge. An Alpine and Herbaceous Garden was created adjacent to this. The main attraction though was the Waterfall over a grotto, which moved up to 400 gallons of water per minute over its edge, propelled by an electric pump. It was lit up during the hours of darkness.

In 1916, a miniature golf course was laid out nearby, in what was by then called Parade Gardens.
In 1920, a fountain was built in the centre of the lake.
In the mid-1930s, the promenade was developed further. A proper children's boating pool was built, a larger mini-golf course was laid out, and the new promenade walk was laid. At the south-eastern edge of the boating pool for many years was a rotating roundabout, called The Whirlygig.

On the 4th of April2019, the old paddling pool was re-opened to the public after being re-vamped as the Splash! Water fun park. It has several water-squirting attractions for children to play in.

The Ebenezer chapel opened on the 19th of November in Church Road in St Anne's.

St Anne's Non-Conformist Mission: this two-storey red brick mission was opened in February (its 997-year lease began on the 1st of September) at what is now numbers 1 and 2 Back St Anne's Road West. It has been wrongly described as a hayloft by past historians. The building later became Whiteside's Garage, and is now retail premises known as Sterling House.

The Collegiate School for Boys, St Anne's: was opened at 7 South Promenade by Robert Irving, who later became headmaster of St Anne's Technical School. The building became the St Ives Guest House in the early 1920s and is now the St Ives Hotel.

Miss Davidson's Ladies' Academy moved into a much larger, newly-built school on the promenade in St Anne's. The academy had started out at Mythop in the early 1870s, possibly at Mythop House. Miss Davidson's name was Elizabeth, and she was a widow from Scotland. She was assisted in the teaching of the young ladies by her two daughters, Mary and Agnes.

Towler's Taxis, Lytham: Thomas Towler set up in business as a haulier and taxi owner at 9 Bath Street, and Towler's Taxis became renowned around the Fylde for many years. He had begun in 1872, as a saddle, harness, and portmanteau maker based at 40 Clifton Street. By 1907, his son Henry was running the firm from his home at 22 St Peter's Place, with William Towler at 40 Clifton Street, but in 1924, William was advertising as saddlers and sports outfitters, operating from 24 South Clifton Street.

By 1934, the now-combined business was described as "*TOWLER THOMAS, motor coach and garage proprietor, taxi hire service furniture removers, haulage contractor (weddings and funerals catered for), 9 Bath Street and South Clifton Street, Lytham. Tel. 35".*
T Towler (Lytham) Limited was registered on the 3rd of July 1935, working from 9 Bath Street. The company was liquidated in 1986.

©

Towler's Taxis Limited was registered as a company on the 3rd of February 1988 and is now dissolved. The taxi business was purchased by Donald Lunan, before being sold on to Whiteside's of St Anne's.
A new removals company, Towler's of Lytham Limited, was set up in November 1984, and is now based in Brook Mill at Wrea Green, after starting at Treales.

The Grapes Inn at St Michael's: The Black Bull Inn was closed by its owner, William Hornby, and became the home of John Fisher, the village tailor. Mr Fisher renamed it Wyre House, but in 1892, it was given the licence of the Brown Cow – the other pub in the village - and was renamed the Grapes Inn. On the death of Hugh Hornby in 1944, the inn was sold and taken over by the brewery.

The Brown Cow was also owned by the Hornby family, and became a temperance inn when its licence was transferred. It was located on the southern side of the river bridge, close to the junction of Hall Lane, and next door to John Horn's Refreshment Rooms. The pub and café buildings and the adjoining cottages were demolished by 1961.
During the 19th century, the Grapes was the meeting point for the combined otter packs of the West Cumberland Otter Hounds from Cockermouth, and Yates's Otter Hounds from Chester. The hounds would visit the Wyre twice annually.
The cottages of Gables Row in St Michael's were demolished in 1956 to make room for the new car park for the Grapes.

Kirkland and Catterall St Helen's C of E School: was re-built on the Green at Churchtown.
The Public Elementary (Endowed) School had been founded and endowed with £100 in about 1602, by John Sallome. It was further endowed in 1778, with £400 by the Butler family of Kirkland Hall, and yet again, in 1823 by a legacy of £200 from Mrs Crombleholme of Churchtown.
In 1865, new trustees were appointed by the Charity Commissioners, and the new school house was built at the sole expense of Edward Moon Liverpool.
Alexander Butler had erected a Market Cross nearby in about 1810.
The school currently has 147 pupils and 6 teaching staff.

Church of St Luke, Winmarleigh: was built and funded by Lord Winmarleigh. It was designed by Lancaster architects, Paley and Austin, and unusually, it has a wooden spire. It was consecrated on the 19th of February.

1877

Landaus: were seen on Blackpool Promenade for the first time, and Richard Walsh from Marton was the first person to receive a licence to drive a Landau in Blackpool this year.
A landau is a four-wheeled carriage, named after the German town in which it first appeared.

To mark the town's progress, the Blackpool Fetes were held from the 20th to the 23rd of June, including massive celebrations on the promenade and at Raikes Hall. There was also a Firework Display at Uncle Tom's Cabin. Talbot Square was surrounded by several large Venetian-style masts, each with a gold crown on top. The celebrations concluded with a grand feast in the new North Pier Pavilion.

The Golden Mile and Rum Row: Groups of "Nigger Minstrels" (sic) were banned from the town – most, but not all, of these were actually white men with blacked-up faces. These were part of a large group of banned acts, which simply moved to the gardens of the beachfront houses - the start of the Golden Mile.

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Then, when the Corporation banned all unlicensed traders from the beach from the 2nd of March 1897, they simply moved their stalls to the forecourts and private gardens of the villas across the Promenade and continued from there. The properties along what was then referred to as the *"Golden Acre"* became much sought-after. Local legend has it that the very first stall/shop on the Golden Mile sold bric-a-brac.

Open-fronted shops selling souvenirs, buckets and spades, beach balls, postcards and seafood replaced the early makeshift stalls. There were also solid booths, with cafés, song booths, and amusement arcades. This was the beginning of the famous **"Golden Mile"** – never a mile long, but worth its weight in gold.

Benjamin Sansome opened a steam roundabout on Central Promenade in 1887. This was probably the first **ride** on the "Golden Mile".

Until the Watch Committee gained control of it in 1925, land below the Low Water Mark was not covered by ANY legislation. The one-mile stretch between the breakwaters off the Tower and the New Inn, was thronged with hawkers, and was known as "Rum Row". They would be buskers, acrobats, singers, fortune-tellers, and sellers of all sorts of cure-all creams and potions. When the tide came in, many would meet in the Wellington Inn to exchange tales.

By 1929, the Golden Mile stretched from "Coney Island" at the southern end to "Toyland" at the northern, and its many attractions included;

- Charlie Dunlop, the "India Rubber Man"
- Happy the Arab - toured pubs and cafés, selling original scarves, ties, and rugs (made in Revoe!)
- Hilda Flack the "Giant Schoolgirl" and
- Ida Campbell "Half Woman"
- Jolly Alice - the World's Fattest Woman (Alice Spicer from Camberwell)
- Kap Dwa "the two-headed giant"
- Lena the "Living Doll"
- Lenny Mason "the Leicester Fat Boy" (at 83 Central Beach)
- Ramon Bay - a "genuine" Indian Prince who lay on a bed of nails (he did not appear in the rain, as his fake tan ran!)
- The Bearded Lady
- The Living Hands of Patma – a woman with half a body
- The only Yeti in Captivity
- The Starving Brides
- The Ubangi Savages

There was even a real skeleton on display when that of executed murder Mary Bateman was mounted in one booth!

In the 1960s, the Golden Mile could also boast fairground rides which included *"a children's Muffin the Mule ride and the Rotor. This stood close to where Louis Tussaud's Waxworks is today. The Rotor was called Astronaut to tie in with that period of history's fascination with space travel. The front boards of the ride were not painted but adorned with a large poster in bright orange and yellow with a large image of an astronaut in a spacesuit"*.

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The Washington Hotel, Blackpool: was opened on the 5th of January on the corner of the Promenade and York Street. In 1982, the Washington was renamed Peter Webster's after the now-retired showman – who had no connection with the venue.
The pub closed in 2014, but was bought in February 2019, by Richard Cahill and Emma Smith, and re-opened in June 2019.

The Lane Ends Market was opened next the hotel of the same name. It had cost almost £70,000 to build.
D'Arc's Pavilion became the DeCastro's Royal Pavilion.
Donnelly's Booksellers, Stationers, and Music Sellers and Company opened for business in the Market.
J Whittaker and Sons opened their bakers and confectioners at 29 Coronation Street.
John Lawrenson built East Bank on Whitegate Lane. In 1880, one of the two houses was turned into the road's first shop. By 1897, this had become the Woodland Grove Post Office.
A group of seven pairs of semi-detached houses called Agnew Villas was built on Whitegate Lane, and these are now numbers 120 to 142.

The Prince of Wales complex, Blackpool: The Prince of Wales Theatre, Aquatic Entertainment Baths, and Market opened on the corner of Victoria Street and the Promenade on the 27th of August. It was on the site of a row of houses called Hygiene Terrace, which had first been knocked down to build the Prince of Wales Arcade. The Market ran through onto Bank Hey Street, as did the baths.

The Prince of Wales Baths opened next door in 1881, and by 1889, WH Broadhead was hosting daily, popular water shows there, featuring such attractions as *"Baby Tom – the most wonderful swimmer in the world"*. The baths attracted the fastest and most talented swimmers in the world at the time. It advertised itself as *"the single most important aquatic theatre in the world"* and offered the *"Greatest Swimming Show in the Universe"*, together with three *"water pantomimes"* daily.
The buildings were all demolished in 1897, for the building of the Alhambra.

C Whitehead and Company's Oyster Saloon, selling fish, game and poultry opened at the corner of West Street and 21/23 Market Street, and at 2 Fish Market – they were the town's biggest oyster rooms.
Hargreaves and Wilson, printers began working from a 3-storey print works in Euston Street.
The auctioneer, James Butcher, was in business in Leopold Grove.
James Hayes started his butcher's shop at 40 Lytham Street.

Leonard Dews: started as a jeweller at 10 Euston Street. The company then moved to a new shop at 32 Market Street in the 1920s, when Euston Street was demolished. It then operated as a family business on Church Street (shop built in 1874) and moved to 43-47 Market Street. During World War 1, they made all the badges worn by Blackpool's Special Constable.
In 1959, another jeweller, Michael Hyman, bought the business. Finally, in 2001, the company rebuilt the old Hyman's Jewellers store on the corner of Church Street and Market Street (which had briefly housed JB Sports), they knocked through into their former premises next door. The new, larger store opened in n November.
Then, on the 25th of May 2006, Leonard Dews' Lytham shop was opened by singing star Aled Jones, in the old Talbot Hotel building on Clifton Street in Lytham.

In 2019, the flagship store on Church Street will be doubled in size, and will also have its own gin and champagne bar, as well as a bridal boutique.

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Parkinson's Builders, Blackpool: Jacob Parkinson and Company, forerunner of Sir Lindsay Parkinson and Company Limited, was founded, working from a small shed on Central Drive. As the business expanded into the building trade, the Parkinsons built a sawmill-cum-joinery to supply timber for their projects and moved into the new premises in Kent Road in 1896.
Lindsay Parkinson later worked from the Talbot Saw Mills on Talbot Road. On the 13th of July 1937, it was incorporated as a public company, known as Sir Lindsay Parkinson Holdings Limited, now working from purpose-built premises on Mowbray Drive.

Benjamin Sykes surveyed for an 18-mile long steam tramway from Lytham to Fleetwood, but nothing came of it, although Sykes did become a founder of the final tramway.

Blackpool Football Club: Victoria Football Club, Blackpool's first true football club began in October, after an idea from Bank Hey Street china merchant, James Pearson. It was linked to the Victoria Street chapel and first played near the present corner of Lytham Road and Watson Road, with a Congregationalist minister, Reverend James Wayman as president. Victoria Football Club played its first match on the 16th of February 1878. They were challenged by Fleetwood's YMCA team and played the match at Rossall Rifle Range. In October, the club officially changed its name to "The Blackpool Football and Cricket Club", but the cricket side of the club lasted just a year.
The club moved to a new ground in Raikes Hall Gardens in December 1884, playing their first match on the 20th against Fleetwood Rangers. Just 200 people saw Blackpool lose 2 – 1.

Blackpool Football Club was formed officially after a meeting in the Stanley Arms on Church Street on the 26th of July 1887. The new team grew out of players from St John's Football Club, which soon folded, when all the others left too! The first home match was on the 10th of September (a friendly, with the first team playing the reserves) – all home matches being played on a rented ground at Raikes Hall. Their first proper match was on the 17th of September against Chorley, away, and they won 2-1. At the time, South Shore Football Club was a stronger side, and played at a ground just to the east of the railway on Cow Gap Lane (Waterloo Road at the time only stretched from the Promenade to Lytham Road). On the 10th of December, Blackpool beat Lytham 5-1 in the first ever Fylde Cup final, and on the 23rd of March 1888, they won their first ever Lancashire Junior Cup, beating Preston St Joseph's 2-1. In that same first year, they also won the Fylde Cup.
Blackpool Football Club was a founder of the Lancashire Football League, formed in Preston in 1888.

The club became a Limited Company on the 18th of June 1896, having been elected to the Second Division of the Football League on the 19th of May. Its first match was against Lincoln City on September the 5th, and the club's first League goal was scored by Charles Mount, but Blackpool lost 3-1.

Team Colours: Blackpool originally played in blue and white stripes and white shorts (the nickname was "The Merry Stripes"), then light blue shirts and navy shorts. Next came white shirts and navy shorts, which earned them the nickname "the Lillywhites", and then red shirts and white shorts. Next came red shirts with a white horizontal stripe and white shorts, and for a short period at the start of the First World War, red, yellow, and blue striped shirts, and white shorts (in support of the town's Belgian refugees), and finally in white shirts and black shorts.

The team first wore tangerine coloured shirts in 1923, although with black shorts, in the opening game if this season, a 2-2 draw with Oldham Athletic. The colour had been suggested by then director Albert Hargreaves (later club chairman) who was also an international referee. He had

©

been refereeing an international game between Holland and Belgium when he recommended that the Dutch colours would suit Blackpool as being uniquely distinctive among English club colours.

At the start of the 1933/34 season, Sir Lindsay Parkinson as chairman, changed the strip to his own horse racing colours of light and dark blue shirts (plus pink, which is incorporated into Blackpool Cricket Club's colours), with white shorts. These colours remained until the 1938/39 season, when it was mentioned at a directors' meeting that "*it would be advantageous to change the club colours*". So, on the 20th of July 1938, the Football League approved a change to the current shade of tangerine shirts, with white shorts, and tangerine and black socks. In 1983, the current blue side stripe was introduced.

In 1897, BFC moved from the Raikes Hall to the Athletic Ground off Whitegate Drive in August, and in their first match at the ground, they drew 1-1 with Burnley in September.

South Shore Football Club opened their Bloomfield Road Football Ground on the 24th of October 1899, followed by an FA Cup tie against Newton Heath on the 28th. BFC and South Shore FC amalgamated on the 12th of December, playing Blackpool's fixtures. Carrying their new nickname "The Stripes", the club bought Gamble's Field off Mr Fisher, and on the 23rd of December, the newly-structured Blackpool Football Club first played a game at Bloomfield Road – winning 8-0 against Horwich. After this, Blackpool returned to play at their Raikes Gardens ground for the rest of the season. The first league game at the new ground was when they drew 1-1 with Gainsborough on the 8th of September 1900. The club eventually bought the Bloomfield Road land in 1920.

BFC returned to Bloomfield Road for a practice match on the 25th of August 1900. Players changed at the Bridge House Hotel and walked to the ground in their football kit, but despite the Raikes Hall still functioning as Pleasure Gardens, the club remained based there. There was still some football at Bloomfield Road though, for example, Blackpool Electric versus St Anne's Amateurs.

Blackpool suffered their Record defeat of 1-10 versus Small Heath in the First Division on the 2nd of March 1901. The club moved to Bloomfield Road in August, because the Raikes Gardens was being sold off for housing development. William Norman was quickly appointed the club's first full-time manager. He was called the "Sergeant Major" because of his well-waxed moustache. Appendix N lists all the club's managers to date. The club lost their first match at Bloomfield Road 2 nil to Bristol City on the 7th of September. A temporary stand was built.

The "Motor Stand" was erected on a gravel mound at the football ground between October and November 1906, having been borrowed from the Council, who had used it on the Promenade for the 1904, 1905, and 1906 Motor Races. The club finally bought the stand in 1908, when it also built a 5,000-spectator stand on the western side and widened the ground. The stand gained a roof in 1911, and for many years, that roof sported the famous Duttons slogan "Oh Be Joyful!".

The Spion Kop was formally erected at the South end of Bloomfield Road in 1909, made of cinders sandwiched between railway sleepers. Visiting spectators would park their bicycles in the gardens of nearby houses for a small fee. A new Spion Kop was built at the North end, first being used for the game against Arsenal on the 30th of August 1930. It was concreted and terraced during the close season in 1950, increasing capacity to over 30,000. In 1961, the Kop was partly roofed over with corrugated asbestos sheeting (removed in the mid-1980s) and was demolished in 2001 along with the West Stand – complete with its gigantic roof sign reading *"WHITBREAD TANKARD cool refreshing flavour"*. Sadly, on the 7th of

October 1968, ammonia was thrown on the Spion Kop at the end of the evening's game against Blackburn Rovers - the Football League's first chemical attack.
The name "Spion Kop" was used in several football stadia in honour of the sacrifices by the Royal Lancashire Fusiliers at the Battle of Spion Kop in the Boer War.

The club bought the ground outright in June 1920, ending years of renting it.

The BFC Supporters Club was formed on the 28th of January 1925.
The ground's cinder-built South Stand was rebuilt in the winter of 1925 – complete with its famous "BFC" logo - replacing the original wood covered structure which was started in 1920. The new stand opened at the start of the 1926 season, along with new offices, baths, and dressing rooms underneath. In May 1928, the Supporters' Club's East Stand was completed – fondly known as the *"Scratching Shed"*. It was opened by the Deputy Mayor on the 30th of August.

BFC was promoted to Division 1 for the first time, when they beat Oldham Athletic on the 21st of April 1930, to win the Second Division Championship.
On the 9th of December 1935, BFC played their first European match, hosting FC Wien at Bloomfield Road, and winning 4 – 3.
In 1939, Bloomfield Road became the first host of a live radio broadcast from the Northwest coast, when the BBC commentated on the second half of Blackpool's defeat of Manchester United on the 14th of October. They won 6 – 4.
In 1942, Blackpool won the Northern League Championship and the Lancashire Cup, where they beat Blackburn Rovers 7-1 in the final.
In 1943, Blackpool beat Sheffield Wednesday 2-1, to win the War Cup North. The club also beat Arsenal 4-2 at Stamford Bridge to win the unofficial "Championship of England". In the same year, BFC's Jock Dodds scored the fastest hat-trick in history when he got three goals in just two and a half minutes during a league match against Tranmere. Blackpool lost 4 - 2 to Manchester United in the FA Cup Final of 1948.

FA Cup Winners: BFC famously won the FA Cup on the 2nd of May 1953, beating Bolton 4-3. Stan Mortensen scored Wembley's first hat trick, Bill Perry the last-gasp winner, and Stanley Matthews gave a star performance. 15,000 fans packed Talbot Square to welcome the team after their victory tour of the Fylde in an open-topped Seagull coach. The final was the first to be televised and was also the first match to be attended by Queen Elizabeth.
Blackpool had signed a contract with King's outfitters on Church Street, whereby the players were obliged to wear their "Aqua Peers" raincoats at all public appearances.

Blackpool unveiled their first floodlights on the 13th of October 1958 – a light pylon at each corner.
On the 1st of September 1960, TV again had a "first" at BFC, when the first of an ITV series called "The Big Match" was broadcast live. Then, on the 10th, the first game to be broadcast live was at Bloomfield Road against Bolton Wanderers.

Blackpool secured promotion to the First Division 13th of April 1970 and won the Anglo-Italian Cup when they beat Bologna 2-1 after extra-time in the final on the 12th of June 1971. They reached the Final again in 1972 but lost.

In 1982-83 BFC had the worst season in their history, finishing four places from the bottom of the entire Football League. In 1987, serious consideration was given to sharing Preston's ground, as Bloomfield Road needed so much re-furbishment and no cash was available.

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The club's "Goldbond" weekly fund-raising draw was introduced on the 17th of September 1990.

The club received their record transfer fee of £1,750,000 from Southampton for striker, Brett Ormerod in December 2001. Ormerod later returned to Blackpool.

Blackpool demolished its Tangerine Club in December 2002, following a blaze. Also, at Bloomfield Road, the new north and west stands were opened on February the 23rd, on the site of the old Kop terracing, resulting in a new all-seater stadium for 16,000 spectators.

The Blackpool Football Club Hall of Fame was established on the 22nd of August 2006. The event was marked by a plaque, which was unveiled by Jimmy Armfield.

Also, in 2006, Latvian millionaire Valery Belokon purchased a 20 per cent shareholding in the club, from its owners, the Oyston-controlled Blackpool Football Club (Properties) Ltd, formerly known as Segesta Ltd. the club's promotion to the Premier League in 2010 saw it receive a large monetary bonus. Then, when it was relegated to the Championship the next year, it also received a large monetary "parachute payment". A lengthy legal battle began when Mr Belokon accused the Oyston family of abusing those payments and using the majority of it for their own means.
The new South Stand at Bloomfield Road football ground was opened in March 2010. Soon, the NHS Gateway Centre opened inside – a new home for the Mental Health team.

Also, in 2010, Blackpool Councillors presented the prestigious Blackpool Medal to the club's players, and to manager Ian Holloway, who secured the team's promotion to the Premier League.
Blackpool were relegated to the Championship in May 2011 after failing to hang on to their place in the Premier League.

Also, in 2011, Blackpool footballer Charlie Adam smashed the club's transfer record when he moved to Liverpool Football Club for £7.5 million in July. Returned forward Brett Ormerod became the first Blackpool player in history to score in all 4 divisions of the Football League, when he scored against Tottenham in February.

On the 26th of July 2012, BFC opened a 70-room hotel and conference centre in the South Stand, along with a new restaurant on the 2nd floor, called Rowley's. The occasion was marked by a 125th anniversary game between Blackpool and Chorley, as the team were the first ever opponents of the then newly founded Blackpool Football Club in 1887, with the Seasiders winning 2-1 on that occasion. This time, Chorley won 2-1.

They opened a club shop in the Hounds Hill Centre on the 7th of November 2013.

BFC was relegated to Division 1 of the Football League after a 1-nil defeat to Rotherham on the 6th of April 2015, and in May 2016, a second-successive relegation put Blackpool in Division 2 - the bottom tier of English professional football for the first time in 15 years. The club won promotion back to Division 1 on the 28th of May 2017, due to a 2 – 1 victory over Exeter City at Wembley stadium.

Blackpool have been nicknamed "The Seasiders" since 1906, and the club has had several mascots, since. These have included the duck displayed by the "Atomic Boys", Cable Cat (retired in 2000), and the current Bloomfield Bear.
A souvenir doll called Miss Tangerine was introduced in 1973.

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After the 2015 relegation, many annoyed Blackpool supporters protested bitterly against the Oystons' running of the club, with thousands heeding the Blackpool Supporters' Trust's call to boycott matches.

On the 5th of November 2017, the Oyston family lost a High Court case brought by minor shareholder Valeri Belokon, a Latvian businessman. Belokon's company, VB Football Assets, had alleged that the Oystons had shown unfair prejudice against shareholders during a civil trial. Mr Justice Marcus Smith ruled a "financial buyout" was to be initiated within 28 days. The Oyston family was ordered to purchase the interests of VB Football Assets for £31.27 million. Mr Belokon also accused the Oystons of improperly extracting tens of millions of pounds from club funds after it enjoyed a "jackpot" when winning promotion to the Premier League in 2010. On the 10th of November 2017, the Club and ground were put up for sale by the Oyston family.
The 13th of February 2019 saw both parties at the High Court to decide matters. The Gazette reported that: *"A High Court bid to appoint a receiver to force Blackpool FC owner Owen Oyston to pay the £25m he still owes Valeri Belokon has been approved. The receiver will be asked discharge the assets of Blackpool Football Club (Properties) Ltd, formerly Segesta Ltd, which owns Blackpool FC, the stadium, the training ground and the Travelodge"*.

In June 2019, the club announced that *"Blackpool Football Club is delighted to announce that Mr. Simon Sadler has acquired 96.2% of the Club. In addition, Mr. Sadler has purchased the Stadium, the training ground and Blackpool Football Club Hotel Limited. The transaction was completed on 13 June 2019, following the English Football League's approval of the purchase"*.

The Blackpool Times: newspaper was first published on the 27th of June by Reverend James Wayman and Reverend Samuel Pilling, a Baptist minister from the Union Baptist Chapel. It was sponsored by the Liberal Party to provide an opposing editorial view to the Gazette.
It soon changed its name to the Blackpool Times, St Anne's Times and Fylde Observer, and changed again, to the Blackpool Times, Fleetwood Express and Visitor on the 9th of October 1920.
Having located permanently at 43 And 45 Church Street, the paper began to be published every Wednesday, as well as Saturday, from the 26th of March 1931.

A case of Typhoid was found in Little Marton in September.

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Thornton with Fleetwood School Board was formed on the 20th of June. It was dissolved on the 28th of March 1895, to be replaced by the School Board for the Township of Fleetwood.
Ashton's Printers was established on London Street, Fleetwood.
Thomas Dunderdale was running his Central Pork Stores at 20 East Street in Fleetwood.
The first shops were built in St Anne's Square – which was then known as Middle Lane. Other buildings were being erected in the Square – for example, the one which now houses the Edinburgh Woollen Mill, was originally the provisions and greengrocery of Messrs Godden, Draper, and Nutter. By the 1890s, B Nutter owned the whole store.
By this time, 17 trains per day were passing through St Anne's station.
G Rhodes opened his butcher's shop on St Andrew's Road South in St Anne's. By 1904, he had moved to St Anne's Road West, but the original shop continued in business under that name but run by the Tate family until 1964. Then, half of the shop was converted into the Schooner coffee lounge in 1965, before the whole premises became The Schooner in 1966.
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Drive Methodist Church, St Anne's: The Drive Wesleyan chapel and its school were formally opened on East Bank Road on the 16th of August. It was first known as *"The Chapel in the Dunes"* and was single brick-built room measuring 43 feet by 27 feet. It could accommodate 200 people.

It was reopened in today's form on the 13th of October 1892, and this was described in 1924 as *"a handsome Gothic structure with a graceful spire, erected at a cost of £4,000. The chancel and west windows are of stained glass, and an organ was erected at a cost of £650. In 1911, the church was enlarged to accommodate 750 worshippers. In 1921, a stained-glass window was placed in the chancel in memory of officers and men of the congregation who fell in the Great War. In 1923, the church was re-decorated. Adjoining the church is a Lecture Hall erected to the memory of the late Mr. H. Barber. The original church, at the back of the Lecture Hall, is now used as a Sunday school, and is the place of meeting of the Drive Literary and Social Union*". The new church was opened by Reverend Charles Kelly.

In 1894, a new manse for the church was opened at 20 St George's Road.
In 1969, the congregation merged with that of the Primitive Methodist Church on the corner of King's Drive, to become the Drive Methodist Church.

The St Anne's on Sea Miscellany and Advertiser was first published by John Allen, the headmaster of Kilgrimol School.
The Caledonian Dining and Refreshment Rooms were on St Anne's Road West, which had previously been known as Station Road.
Howarth's Temperance and Commercial was on The Drive in St Anne's.

Pembroke House School, Lytham: was founded by Edward R Lightwood in Lowther Terrace, shortly moving into premises on Ansdell Promenade. The school playing fields were in the grounds of Lytham Hall, and have now been replaced by Eden Avenue, Elms Avenue, Willows Avenue, Riversleigh Avenue, and West Bank Avenue. Pembroke House School is recognised as having the first Association Football Club on the Fylde Coast.

The school closed in 1934, and the building, by now at the corner of Willows Avenue and 16 Clifton Drive, became the Stella Matutina Convent and Guest House. This shortly changed again, into the Stella Matutina Convent and Care Home – in the Convent of the Sisters of Charity of Jesus. It is still a care home for the elderly, and still run by the Sisters of Charity of Jesus and Mary.

Lawson's china shop was established on Clifton Street in Lytham.

Thistleton Hall: Thistleton Cottage was built this year, and Thistleton Lodge was then built by the Miller family, later being called Thistleton Hall. The houses around it were designed by the Millers as a planned "model" village.
The name Thistleton meaning "Thistly farm or settlement" comes from *"þistel"* (Old English) for a thistle, and *"tūn"* (Old English) for an enclosure, a farmstead, a village, or an estate.

The Preston Banking Company opened a branch on Poulton Street, Kirkham. In 1896, the Preston Bank was amalgamated with the London and Midland Bank – later to become the Midland Bank, which is now the HSBC Bank.
Henry Alty opened his brick works at Becconsall near Hesketh Bank and began to ferry his bricks across to Lytham in his own boat, to his own dedicated wharf and depot at "the old dock pool" at Lytham Docks.

©

Thousands of those bricks were used to build the town up into the shape we can see today. His brickworks closed in 1965.

1878
The Lord Mayor of London made a State Visit to Blackpool in July.
Colonel Stanley, the Minister of War, officially opened the Conservative Club on the 9th of October. The building had been set up in the Prince of Wales Theatre.

Adelaide Street School, Blackpool: The Wesleyans opened a school for 24 pupils at the corner of Adelaide Street and Bank Hey Street. It had four classrooms and by 1879, had grown to house 101 children. The school was enlarged in 1891.
By 1907 it had been condemned by the Education Committee, and rebuilt, opening as Adelaide Street Council School, with 350 pupils. This school closed in March 1913, and the Wesleyan School opened on Adelaide Street on the 14th of November that year.

Kent Road School / Revoe School, Blackpool: The Congregationalists opened a school, belonging to Victoria Street Chapel, in Kent Road. It was known as Bethesda School - or White Chapel School.

In June 1899, the Education Committee erected a temporary school building in the playground of what were then known as the Kent Road Schools. This would house the children *"who would be turned out 'on to the streets' since that school had been condemned by the Education Department, and would have to close"*.

Revoe Central Road Temporary Board School known as the "Tin School" was then built on Montrose Avenue, off Central Drive, to house pupils until Revoe Council School was fully built. This temporary school was *"divided into infants and mixed departments. The infants' department headmistress would have a salary of £90, assistant mistress £60; and ex-pupil teacher £45. In the mixed department the headmaster would have a salary of £150, assistant mistress £60, and ex-pupil teacher £45. In November of 1899, Mr J Rigby was appointed headmaster"*. The separate boys' and girls' schools duly opened on the 8th of January 1900.

The School Board then bought 7,240 square yards of land on the west side of Central Road. This would be the site of the new school for Revoe. On the 8th of September 1900, the foundation stone of Revoe School was laid by Mr W C Thompson, the chairman of the Blackpool School Board.

Revoe School: Revoe Council Board School opened on Central Road (now called Grasmere Road) in April 1902, having been built by Jacob Parkinson and Sons. It had cost £17,424 and had an intake of 1,047 children and a staff of 31. At the time of opening though, it admitted 810 boys and girls under 17 staff. The temporary school finally closed in early 1903, but by March that year, they had to be re-opened, as Revoe School was overpopulated.

Revoe Infant School opened next door in 1909, for 270 children.
By the 1930s, the boys and girls were still separate in what later became Revoe Community Primary School.

In 1998, Revoe was the largest primary school in Lancashire.
A Sure Start children's centre was opened in the school in September 2007.

©

From 2014, the school has been known as the Revoe Learning Academy and has an approved capacity of 420 pupils. It currently has 471 children.

Barnfield House at Norbreck became a school for young ladies. It had been built c1845 and became a row of shops in 1927.
A house called Rock Mount was built on All Hallow's Road in Bispham, being demolished in the mid-1980s.
Foxton's Dispensary for the Poor was set up with a £6,000 bequest from Catherine Dauntesy Foxton. It opened on Clifton Street, and later moved to 10 Cedar Square. Dauntesy Avenue off Newton Drive is named after Miss Foxton.
The Corporation appointed its first Medical Officer of Health.
R Berry opened his photographer's shop at 92 Church Street.
Mr Samuel Moore's Corset and Fancy Goods Establishment opened at 12 Church Street.
P Jacobsen's Hat and Cap Depot opened on Church Street, opposite the General Post Office.
Crown Villas were built on Lytham Road, near Squires Gate Lane. A plaque on today's frontage shows the word "Stonyhill".
Grove Cottage was built on Bloomfield Road. In later years, it was turned into shops, one of which sold antiques in later years.
John Taylor's auctioneers opened at 78 Talbot Road, later moving to 67 Church Street.
Church View cottages on Preston Old Road were built, opposite St Paul's Church. By 1892, the only other buildings on the road were numbers 219 to 223 – now opposite the Mere Park Hotel.
Craven Terrace was erected on Cookson Street.

Clarke and Heape, Blackpool: William Clarke opened his South Beach Dining Rooms on Central Promenade on the 11th of October.

By 1880, it had been extended to include the Station Temperance Hotel, managed by Henry Heap, and offered 500 places at table. It also advertised *"well-aired beds"*.
In 1881, the South Beach Dining Rooms and the Station Coffee Palace were taken over by the Blackpool Workman Company, who supplied their own produce from a farm at Bispham. They also ran a Fish shop and a Pork shop-cum-butcher's in Palatine Buildings.
It was then renamed The British Workmen's Station Coffee Palace and Dining Rooms. Otherwise known as the South Beach Coffee Palace, it was run on the *"strictest Temperance principles"*. The venue had the words "British Workman Dining Rooms" painted on its roof, and later became the Montmartre Theatre.

Mr Clarke soon opened the Coffee Palace Ballroom (adjoining the Palatine buildings), and together with a friend and now called Clarke and Heap, he later opened the Station Restaurant opposite Central Station (now a McDonald's restaurant). They also opened the Central Restaurant beside the station and renamed his original venture on the Promenade The British Restaurant.

Clarke and Heap's British Restaurant, complete with its renowned "Blackpool Room", carried on until the 1920s.

William Royle opened his butcher's shop at 40 Church Street, South Shore.
WJ Hall opened his Cabinet Makers at 77 Church Street, South Shore. By 1894, he had moved to 10 Church Street. The premises are now occupied by Taylor's Western Wear, now addressed as 10 Bond Street.
Miss Lizzy Johnson swam between the two piers.
Uncle Tom's Cabin held a Flower and Horticultural Show.

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The Blackpool and Fylde Licensed Victuallers' Association was formed by John Bickerstaffe and others.
Abel Heywood printed the first Penny Guide to Blackpool.

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Kay's Noted Sweet Shop was opened at the church gates in Poulton Market Place.
Livingston Terrace was built on Blakiston Street in Fleetwood. This was followed by Sagar Terrace in 1883, Elm Cottages in 1884, and Gordon Terrace in 1899.

St Anne's Town Hall: St Anne's Local Board of Health was established on the 25th of July, operating from just one room in what was in effect the first town hall at Matlock House at 300 South Drive.

Matlock House became the Links School from 1894 to 1902. *"The former schoolroom has a frieze of tiles featuring scenes from Shakespeare designed by John Moyr Smith (1839 -1912) for Mintons. There are also Aesops Fables tiles by Mintons. All the original fireplaces and vestibule tiles"* remain today. After its closure, the building had several uses, ending with Doctor Blair's surgery, which became today's Clifton Drive Surgery in 2009.

In 1894, St Annes-on-the-sea Urban District Council – St Anne's UDC – replaced the first board. It had twelve elected members, and the first chairman was Robert Knowles. The UDC worked from new Council offices on the junction of Park Road and St Anne's Road West. The council offices and the Council Chamber occupied the complete second floor.
The St Anne's District Club was on the first floor of the building from its formation in 1897, and the building later housed the Abbey bank - now Santander. The District Club became a Limited Company in 1931 and moved into the old Kilgrimol Boys School on Clifton Drive.

The first purpose- built civic buildings at St Anne's - the offices of the St Anne's UDC – were opened by Councillor Louise Stott on the 22nd of January 1902. The buildings were constructed by William Woodcock of St Anne's to the designs of architect Thomas Muirhead of St Anne's and Manchester. The new town hall had a variety of offices, as well as the Council and Committee rooms. It also had several glasshouses at the rear, where plants for the Promenade were raised.

The current Town Hall was opened on the 31st of March 1926, in the old Southdown Hydro. When the council moved there, the buildings on Clifton Drive South remained in use as public offices. In 1983, the town hall was doubled in size, when the original Porritt building was extended to include the adjacent Chaseley building. Many of the original internal features are still in place. These include the central staircase, stained glass, fine Minton tiling, and marble fireplaces.

Park Road had Orchard Road in St Anne's had just been laid down and were designed to lead to a new public park. That park was never built, and All Saints Road was built in its stead.

Sandy Knoll School for Boys: was opened at 6 and 8 North Promenade, St Anne's. It was run by the Thompson family; father, son, and daughters, and had its own gymnasium, in a purpose-built wooden building.
The school moved into the original Old Links Clubhouse premises in Mayfield Road in 1910, which has been the British Legion Club since 1947. Sandy Knoll was demolished in 1960 - it had been the first Porritt House in St Anne's.

Heyhouses Local Board was established.
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The Lytham Land and Building Company was formed. They quickly purchased the block of land which is nowadays bounded by Ansdell Road, Cambridge Road, and Clifton Drive South, most of the houses being built there in the 1890s.

Lytham Library/Lytham Institute: Lytham Mechanics Institute was built on the corner of Clifton Street and Bannister Street, after several old cottages had been demolished. The designer and builder was John Collinson of Central Beach. The new institute included a committee room - soon re-named the Hewitt Lecture Room - large lecture room, a billiard room, committee rooms, tea bar, and a reading room with a small library of books. It was formally opened on the 30th of August, after several ancient cottages had been demolished. The first steward was James Hea, a former Customs officer.

In August 1878, the library was thrown open to non-members of the institute. Their subscriptions paid for more books.

In 1897, several more Clifton Estate cottages were demolished to the east of the Institute, and the building was extended in 1898, to celebrate Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee. The extension included a new reading room, a gymnasium, and classrooms, and was opened by the Duke of Norfolk on the 17th of September.
In April 1917, the building was given up to the Council by the Institute committee. From the 1st of October 1917, it became Lytham Library, with a lending library, a reading room, 2 lecture rooms, and 2 billiard rooms (with 5 tables). In 1930, the library took over the whole of the eastern extension.
The row of cottages opposite had been built in 1829.

September 1937 saw the upstairs billiard room taken over as the new Lytham Institute.

The library sadly closed on the 30th of September 2016, due to council budget cuts, but parts of the building were soon re-opened to allow access to the local heritage collection. On the closure of the library, the Registrar's Office was moved into St Anne's Library, however, when that library had to be closed for repairs, the Registrar's Office move again. Its new home in Hastings place in Lytham is in the Lancashire County Council offices.

On the 15th of August 2019, Lytham Library re-opened, but in the Assembly Rooms on Dicconson Terrace – co-incidentally, where Lytham's first public reading room was located.

The West Lancashire Railway purchased a paddle steamer, "Virginia" which first sailed on the 1st of August on an excursion to Naze Point near Freckleton. From the 10th of August, it operated a service from the river Douglas to Lytham. The service made heavy losses, as a steamship service operated by the Southport Steamboat Company, using a boat called "Water Lily", operated direct from Southport to Lytham and took most of the trade. The service stopped by the end of the 1879 season.

1879

Electric Street Lights in Blackpool: After losing visitors during the recent national depression, Blackpool became **the first place in Britain** with an electric street lighting system.
On the 18th and 19th of September, Blackpool held to celebrate *"The Inauguration of the Lighting of the Town by Electric Light"*. 8 Siemens' arc lamps were erected on the Promenade, and one on each of the two piers, to be used as a massive arena for the carnival night.

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On the night of the 19th, there was the *"Grand carnival at Sea"*, when a grand torchlit procession set off from the Drill Hall on Yorkshire Street, and after partaking of a roasted bullock and other sumptuous foods, a grand mock naval battle was staged on the beach. It was watched by 100,000 people, who had come from miles around, just to see the *"artificial sunshine"* provided by the Siemens lamps, and a *"Large Ship at Fire on the Sea"*.
On the 22nd, a Calico Ball was held, and there was racing at the Raikes, together with many other special attractions at the Winter Gardens, the piers, and the theatres.

The Municipal Power Station was a specially-built wooden shed in Shannon Street Yard, which contained 2 coupled Robey traction engines. Its tall chimney was demolished in the mid-1960s. Shannon Street was originally called West Caroline Street.
In March 1880, the Corporation were so pleased with those lights that they ordered 3 more, to be sited on the Promenade opposite Church Street, Adelaide Place, and Brunswick Street.

The third Blackpool Improvement Act caused, amongst other things, Whitegate Lane to be widened and improved, so that it began to look like the Whitegate Drive of today. Old Meadow Lane became Condor Grove and the path known as Church Lane, leading from St Paul's Church to Marton Green and Stodham, was absorbed into Whitegate Lane. Revoe village was annexed by Blackpool.
"Fine gentleman's residences" sprang up on Whitegate Drive, including Houldsworth Lodge, Blenheim Lodge (built by the Frith family and later owned by Wilfrid Ashley), and Airedale Villa – which is now a hairdresser's and other shops.
The Pleasure Steamer "The SS Bickerstaffe" commenced pleasure trips from the North Pier, after being built in the Birkenhead dockyard of Laird Brothers. First launched on the 26th of May, it initially went to such exotic places as Lytham Pier.
Andrew Henderson opened his dispensing chemist's shop at 66 Church Street.
Kemp's washer and mangle suppliers opened at 56 Cookson Street.
Mount Tabor cottage was on Church Street, being finally demolished in 1898 when it finally ceased to protrude onto the footpath.

Blackpool Liberal Club: The town's first Liberal Club was opened at 56 Church Street, at the front of the Clifton Livery Stables building. The site later housed the Clifton Palace Theatre, and today this is a Poundland shop.

On the 17th of October 1899, the new Liberal Club was opened formally at 40 Victoria Street, having been opened for use in March. *"The premises are situated in a very central position in the town (Victoria-street), and have frontages to two streets. The ground floor is utilised for shop purposes. The facing of front is of solid ashlar from the Nelson quarries. The rear elevation is of Accrington pressed brick, with Nelson stone dressings. The accommodation on the first floor includes the reading-room, smoke-room, assembly-room, and secretary's office. On the second floor is placed the card- room, billiard-room (with accommodation for four tables), and the steward's room. A lift runs from top to bottom. A feature of the building is the stained-glass staircase window executed by Messrs Swain, Bourne, and Son, of Birmingham, in which are introduced excellent representations of the late Mr. Gladstone, Lord Rosebery, Sir Wm. Harcourt, and Mr. John Morley. The usual conveniences are placed on each floor"*. The club opened its new first floor clubroom in February 1956. In 1967, the Liberal Club was given to the Wainwright Club (then at 153 Hornby Road), but the council refused them planning permission. It later became that Conservative Club.

In 1976, the Liberal Club, by then having moved to 17 Victoria Street, became Scoey's 008 Club, soon to be changed to the 008 Club, owned by boxer Brian London, it later became JR's Club, Zanatas (very briefly in

©

1983), the Vinyl Drip, Barons Club for a time (moved from Palatine Buildings), and then Baskervilles. These all had cabaret and a disco on the first floor, with a stage with live bands on the second floor.
Parts of the club became the Management Centre for Hounds Hill when that opened in 1980, and when the centre was complete, the whole club had gone.

J Singleton was making ginger beer at 2 Edward Street South for sale to local beerhouses.
Problems came when legal vagaries allowed eating-house keepers to tout for business, but not lodging-house keepers. There was much changing of names to suit the confusing law.

South Shore Football Club: Was formed this year, playing on a ground just north of the old Waterloo Tavern and east of the railway line. The lease of that ground, expired in May 1898.
South Shore first found another ground on Cow Gap Lane, changing for matches in the Dog and Partridge public house on Lytham Road. In May 1899, they next acquired "Gambles Field" from Edward Fisher of Whitegate Drive, which was soon renamed the Bloomfield Road ground. The first game was played there on the 21st of October, when South Shore met the 1st South Lancashire Regiment and won 6-3. The ground was officially opened on the 28th, when South Shore played Newton Heath (later Manchester United) in an FA Cup tie, South Shore winning 3-1, by which time; a small grandstand had been erected.
South Shore Football Club had become a limited company on the 31st of August 1897, but finally ceased to exist when they joined with Blackpool on the 12th of December 1899.

South Shore Youth Football Club – no relationship whatever - was founded in 1977, from British Rail Football Club, based at Hampton Road.

On the 26th of February, there was a meeting about the formation of Blackpool Cricket and Football Club.
Rugby football was first played in town, at the Raikes' football ground, when the first annual "Athletic Festival of Blackpool Football and Cricket Club" was held on the 27th of September.
St John's School received a grant to fund evening classes for those who could not attend during the day. Baines Endowed School funded its own classes.

Charles Noden, the second Mr Blackpool: This former Manchester railway worker came to Blackpool this year, for the sake of his wife's health. He became a council carriage inspector, a rates collector, and a Mayoral Attendant before becoming Advertising Manager in 1900. *"His most famous publicity stroke was to secure an advertisement for Blackpool on the gable end of the historic farmhouse on the battlefield of Waterloo, in Belgium"*.
He was the first person to publicise the town as a holiday resort. He died in 1928, aged 82, being buried in Layton Cemetery.

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Thornton Board School: was opened on Church Road, having been constructed by Richard Jones of Fleetwood and Thomas Singleton of Kirkham. It was enlarged in 1896 and was later known as Church Road County Primary School.
By now known as Millfield Primary School, the school closed in 1992, when Royle's Brook Primary School opened on Marsh Road. The old school on was demolished in August 1994.

Thornton Cleveleys Senior Council School: was opened by the Earl of Derby on the 23rd of January 1933, next door to the original school buildings. In 1944, it became Thornton Cleveleys Secondary Modern School. It amalgamated into a co-educational school in January 1962, and in September 1967, became a two-site school, with new premises on Belvedere Road, which were originally intended to be for girls only.
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Millfield County Secondary High School came into being in September 1969, and from September 1993, the school has been based at only Belvedere Road. Since 2005, it has been called Millfield Science and Performing Arts College.

C and G Neve, Fleetwood: The Neve family moved from Grimsby to Fleetwood, where Mr Neve soon became one of the top skippers. His J Marr trawler "Clotilde – FD232" was the first to be requisitioned as a World War 1 minesweeper, in November 1914.
Chris and Gerrard Neve started buying and selling fish from barrows on Fleetwood docks in 1868, and in 1971, C and G Neve was established on Siding Road, as fish wholesalers. The company soon ran 4 trawlers, several processing plants, and 16 vans, which delivered to over 500 trade customers in the UK, Holland, and Spain. At one time, they employed over 100 people on shore and at sea and had 40 vans.

In the 1950s, the Smiths Food Group Limited built a factory at 19 Copse Road to produce and distribute Smiths Potato Crisps. The factory closed on the 16th of April 1993. The Smiths Crisps factory was taken over by H Openshaw Limited until they ceased trading (they were finally dissolved in 2011), and then, in 2002, C and G Neve Limited bought the building, transformed it into a fish processing plant, and moved from Siding Road.
The company is now called Neve Fleetwood – part of Direct Seafoods. In 2010, they branched out and formed the Seafood Pub Company, now running 7 pub/restaurants.

Rossall Post Office was established, transferring work to Fleetwood in November 1903.
Gibson's Shipyard in Fleetwood repaired many storm-damaged vessels.
Fleetwood farm still stood on the corner of Rossall Lane and what is now Broadway. This made way for the building of the estate around Formby Avenue.

St Anne's Lifeboat: St Anne's Lifeboat society was founded, buying a plot of land on Eastbank Road, next to the Wesleyan Chapel, for the erection of a lifeboat house by Moore Brothers. It cost £368, and the original plan was to build it on the promenade and beach, but this was thought too costly. After much argument, the wooden access slipway was eventually built 150 yards to the west, and the lifeboat needed to be dragged there by horses owned by James Whiteside. It was not until October 1881 – again after much argument - that a usable road was built in order to link the new station to its slipway – at a cost of just £10. The new lifeboat house was finally opened on the 24th of September 1881.

Note: the date stone says 1880!

The new 34-foot-long lifeboat, Laura Janet, was launched at the same time. Whilst the lighthouse stood, the lifeboat was called to duty by a gun located by its light. The easier waters off St Anne's meant that their boat could reach vessels in the estuary far faster than the Lytham boat could. This would later seal the fate of the Lytham station.

In 1888, St Anne's received a number 2 boat "The Brothers" which was moored afloat off the pier and was reached by a boarding boat.
In 1895, Eastbank Road, outside the Lifeboat house, was made up by the council at a cost of £60, and the wooden gangway was removed, in-filled, and stone setts were laid at a cost of £71.6.8d. At the same time, a macadam road was constructed between the promenade, the pier, and the lifeboat slipway.
A swing gangway, to facilitate boarding the boarding boat was also attached to the pier jetty for boarding the number two boat, built at a cost of £125. All this work was completed by July 1895. The swing

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gangway was removed in July 1898, and, after many years of problems, St Anne's Lifeboat Station number 2 was closed on the 10th of February 1910.

In 1908, a second lifeboat slip was constructed on the slade next the Thursby Home – 1 ½ miles to the north. In August 1922, the costly practice of hiring horses to drag the lifeboat to her slip was ended, with the arrival of a Clayton caterpillar tractor.

After the opening of the St Anne's Outdoor Swimming Baths in 1916, the behaviour of the tides changed dramatically, and the lifeboat had to be launched almost constantly from the northern slip by the Thursby Home. This spelled the beginning of the end for the St Anne's Lifeboat station, and on the 30th of September 1925, the station was closed and amalgamated with the Lytham station – which had plenty of water, due to the dredging of the Ribble.

The station building housed the James Scarlett as an exhibition boat until the 3rd of October 1928. The building was bought by the Drive Methodist Church in July 1929, and they used it for storage until the 1st of April 1949, when it was rented by Lancashire County Council for use as an ambulance station. This continued until September 1974, and from March 1975, it was used for storage by JR Taylor's Limited. Since 1995, it has house Roland Whitehead's funeral directors.

After yet more wrangling and argument, the Lytham St Anne's branch of the RNLI was formed on the 12th of March 1931. Throughout the life of the St Anne's lifeboat, Sir Charles Macara had kept things "afloat" with ceaseless support of the venture.

The Lytham St Anne's all-weather lifeboat compound was built on Fairhaven Road Car Park in 1999. It was dismantled in September 2003, after a new boathouse was opened on the 16th of August 2003, moving from Eastbank Road. The new Mersey boathouse cost £1,639,013 and had been operational since the 24th of April. The Inshore Lifeboat remained at the Lytham Lifeboat House.
A complete list of boats, launches, and lives saved is provided at Appendix BB.

St George's Assembly Rooms were opened in St Anne's, at the St George's Road entrance to St George's Gardens. The rooms became the St Anne's Institute on the 13th of March 1890.
St Anne's played host to its first militia camp.
The Smiths Arms hotel was well established on Darkinson Lane in Lea. Its local nickname is the "Slip Inn".
There is an ancient stone cross nearby, whose origins are unknown.

1880

Blackpool Free Library: Lord Derby opened the Free Public Library and Reading Room in the Octagon Rooms, Talbot Road on June the 18th, above what became Yates Wine Lodge. Afterwards, luncheon was served in the Indian Pavilion, North Pier, followed by a procession to the Winter Gardens, where Lord Derby delivered an address to a distinguished audience.

Miss Hannah Eteson was chosen as the first librarian, with one assistant. She was Britain's first female Chief Librarian – **not** Kate Lewtas, as stated elsewhere. The initial stock was 1,600 volumes, including a full set of the International Science series, presented by Alderman Cocker. The library did not get drinking water until 1881, and it soon became clear that the conditions were too poor to continue.

The library moved to the municipal buildings by the Town Hall and was opened by the Mayor on the 25th of March 1895. The Blackpool Public Free Library and Reading Rooms, in St John's buildings, Market Street,

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was built of Ruabon brick with dressings of Yorkshire stone in a Free Renaissance style and was supported by the Corporation. In 1901, it was extended so that it had a Lending Library, a Magazine Room, a Newsroom, and a Reference Library. By 1904, the library held over 16,000 volumes, with an ample supply of all kinds of newspapers, English and Foreign. An art gallery, containing a large number of valuable pictures, was added in 1903. The library closed in 1911.

The House of Doidge at 9 West Street – an auction house and saleroom - opened for business. Its owner, Jabez Sweet Doidge, later moved it to 47 Victoria Street. From 1905, he published Mrs Beeton's famous cookbook.
J Turver's chemists opened at 40 Market Street. It later became number 27 Corporation Street.
A Shepherd was running his bookmaker's shop at 28 Birley Street. By 1968, the Refuge Lending Co (Northern) Ltd was at 28 Birley Street, and for many years from the late 1970s, the building was occupied by a shop called Bargain Buys.
Marsh's Taylors opened at 25 Abingdon Street. Their headquarters were in Todmorden.
John Todd, a draper and dressmaker, opened his shop at the corner of Market Street and Talbot Square, selling greatcoats. James Wright's confectioners were next door.

St Cuthbert's church, South Shore: First a school chapel, and then a school room for 196 children were built off Lytham Road by Father Lupton. This first location was a small rectangular brick building doubling as a church and school. This acted as a church on Sundays, and during the week two Miss Murphys took lessons for 17 pupils. When the collections on a Sunday reached 12/6, it was decided to initiate a fund to erect a new church.

"In 1899 a new infants' schools was built at right angles to the church. In 1907 land and buildings were bought in Bagot Street for almost £400 and converted to a young men's club. This served as a social centre for the parish until 1960 when two boarding houses next to the church were purchased and adapted to form a parish centre".

St Cuthbert's Catholic School was then built on Lightwood Avenue, off St Anne's Road in 1881.
The St Cuthbert's School of today opened to pupils in September 1977, and was officially opened and blessed in July 1978, by Reverend BCE Foley, Bishop of Lancaster.

The St Cuthbert's and Palatine Children's Centre was opened for use on Lightwood Avenue in February 2007. The official opening was on the 28th of March, by local MP Gordon Marsden. Nursery practitioner at the centre Erica Smith, of Harlech Avenue, and Sarah Brown, a member of the Parent Forum, were given the honour of cutting the ribbon and celebratory cake.

The school is now called St Cuthbert's Catholic Academy.

St Cuthbert's Catholic Church: was opened on Lytham Road on the 22nd of June 1890, by the Bishop of Liverpool. It was built by Brown and Son of Salford and could accommodate 500 people at the time of opening. A new brick presbytery had been built at 53 Crystal Road before the new church was opened. The church was not consecrated until June 1923. Its church hall was built next door and closed in 2005, becoming the Excelsior public house in 2007.
In 1899, a new infants' school was built at right angles to the church.
In 1960 two boarding houses next to the church were bought and adapted to form the parish centre.

©

Alexander Doleman founded the High School in Moore Street, South Shore.

Fielding's Builders, Blackpool: Joseph Fielding and Sons, builders, had yards in Edward Street and brick works at Greenhill (the site of Savoy timbers in Talbot Road) and at Hoo Hill, together with a works on Ashburton Road. The Hoo Hill brickworks had a bridge over the railway to transport bricks.
Another member of the family, R Fielding and Son, later set up a builder's yard on Stanhope Road, with works at 31 Springfield Road (which later housed the Imperial Tea Company), and brickworks on Warbreck Hill Road. The chimney at the brickworks was demolished in April 1959. Fielding Road was later named after Joseph Fielding.

Tyldesley Terrace was built on the Central Promenade.
A ship, the "Bessie Jones", was wrecked. Four men were rescued from the rigging, but one youth was swept away and lost.
The Corporation Music Hall on Bank Hey Street had "Variety Entertainment".

Punch and Judy: Punch and Judy had first come to England at Bartholemew Fair in 1703, and this year "Professor" Jack Green (later known as Grandfather Green) began giving Blackpool's first Punch and Judy shows on the beach. His use of a real dog as "Toby" was unique at the time. Next door to Green's stand was Hodgson's Novelty Cart.
He had walked to town from Manchester to set up the show and ended up staying until his death, living at 1 Brown Street and then, by 1893, at 82 Ibbison Street.
Professor Joe Green (Jack's grandson) retired in 1987 - the last of the famous Green family - ending over 100 years of Punch and Judy shows on the beach. Professor Green's son also had a Punch and Judy stall when he came of age, calling himself Professor E Green. He lived at 21 Ashton Road.
Other proponents of the art included Barry Pimlott from the 1950s.
Punch and Judy returned to Blackpool beach in August 2005, when local entertainer Martin Scott-Price reintroduced the act, which had been almost banned from the UK by 1990s' "political correctness". Martin also ran a mini train in Stanley Park and a mini bus on St Anne's promenade.
At the time of writing (August 2018), there is yet another farcical attempt to get Punch and Judy banned for depicting violence!

The first mention of the Blackpool "Bellman" (town crier) was made in September when he was ordered to go around town warning people of poisonous shrimps on sale – a visitor from Bradford had been poisoned.

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Breck Collegiate School, Poulton: opened in Breck Villas on Breck Road by the Cryer family of Bolton, in what they advertised as a *"Very Healthy and Bracing Situation"*. It had been formerly Breck farm, but now it was known locally as Miss Cryer's Ladies' School. It survived until the 1940s, adjacent to the Woodlands. These buildings became the Joseph Cross Memorial Convalescent Home from 1927.

The Longfield Tennis Club was active in Poulton. They are believed to have played near Tithebarn Street.

The Fleetwood Co-operative Society: Fleetwood Co-op was formed at a meeting in the Whitworth Institute in November, and their first small shop opened in a nearby wooden shed on the 2nd of December. In October 1881, they moved to a shop at 11 East Street in October, and moved again, to a larger shop at 21 West Street in May 1885. 21 West Street became 76 Lord Street, and the Co-op there became Fleetwood's first self-service store, sitting next to marks and Spencer's for many years.
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In 1887, they built a new main shop on the corner of Kemp Street and East Street (Lord Street) – complete with its own Co-operative Hall. By 1912, Morris's A1 Pictures was showing films there, at the Co-operative Hall Cinema. These central premises were greatly enlarged and remodelled in 1928, with the food department moving to the ground floor. By the late 1960s, this had become the drapery department. The store was demolished in 1973, to be replaced by a new building, which closed in May 1989, to be replaced by an A1 discount store. It currently houses a Peacock's outlet. Another Co-op store was on the opposite corner of Kemp Street, becoming a self-service superstore, which opened on the 26th of August 1960. This is now a Superdrug outlet.

There were soon five Co-operative stores in Fleetwood – Milton Street, Ash Street (later Video House), Lord Street (see above), Lindel Road, and North Albert Street. Most had butchery departments. The town also had its own Co-operative Dairy on Blakiston Street.
The society later changed its title to the Fleetwood Industrial Co-operative Society.

By 1928, they also had stores on Beach Road in Cleveleys, Fleetwood Road North in Thornton (closed on the 29th of August 2018), the Esplanade in Knott End, and a travelling van.
In 1938, the society opened a new large branch on the corner of Beach Road and Beach Avenue in Cleveleys. It had a Co-operative Hall above it and closed in 1970, to be later refurbished as apartments, although the original first floor remains. In June 1939, they opened another shop on the corner of Fleetwood Road and West Drive.
The shop at the junction of 286 Poulton Road and Manor Road was opened many years later. It then became auction rooms, then a gymnasium-cum-health studio. In 1989, it was changed into a tanning salon. Between 2006 and 2013, it was a Blockbuster video store, and it was converted into a Domino's Pizza outlet in February 2016.
By 1964, the society had merged with Blackpool's to become the Blackpool and Fleetwood Co-operative Society.

James Armour, Fleetwood: James Armour, a blacksmith, had established his "Practical Wood and Iron Shipwright" business and a chandlery in a wooden workshop on Dock Street shortly after arriving in 1847. His son James began building boats there, as J Armour and Sons. They soon manufactured their boats at a new shed on Wyre Dock - mainly prawners and fishing smacks.
The Dock Street premises (originally with the name Joseph Armour above the door) were re-built in the 1920s. The left-hand building was signed *"Workshop of Joseph Armour" Yacht and Boat Builder, Hammermester and Skibshandler"* (they also sold bottled ale and stout). The sign on the right-hand building said *"James Armour, established 1880, Practical Wood and Iron Shipwright"*. The two buildings later housed the Cosalt premises.

The 4th (or King's Own Royal) Regiment of Foot had a depot in Fleetwood in February.
Hambleton Board School opened on the 8th of March

St Anne's Congregational Church: was founded on the 9th of September, with worship taking place in Park Road. They then began to meet in St George's Assembly Rooms on Park Road in 1885, where they held their first service on the 5th of September, and they moved to St George's Hall in 1887.
The foundation stone for the new church on the corner of Clifton Drive North and St George's Road was laid on the 14th of May 1894.

©

St George's Congregational Church opened on the 19th of March 1896, and the adjacent St George's Hall was purchased and linked in 1913. Today's church is built of stone, and the tower is a replica of the central tower of York Minster. The church has been known as the St Anne's United Reformed Church since 1972.

Whiteside's of St Anne's: Thomas Whiteside began his haulage business when he won a horse harness at a raffle. He had leased some land behind the police station on Park Street in February 1876, borrowed a horse and cart, and started a haulage company. His horses were those used to pull both the lifeboat and the fire engine. He had a second office at 9 South Clifton Street in Lytham by 1895.

He registered the business Thomas Whiteside and Sons Ltd, operating as Whiteside's Taxis, on the 11th of October 1907, and became the biggest taxi firm in the Fylde, operating from a hut at the "Old Station Yard" by St Anne's Railway Station since the 1970s. The company garage was at 1 and 2 Back St Anne's Road West (later an auctioneer's).

Jacob Miller was the town's first cab driver and went on to run a parcels collection and delivery service from the station – he worked privately.
Unique to the Northwest, all company drivers must still wear a collared shirt and company tie, and the company claims to be the oldest taxi company in England. It is certainly the oldest extant company in St Anne's.

Whiteside's Travel: By 1935, Whiteside's Travel Bureau, *"tourist and shipping agents, agents for motor coach services and tours to all parts"*, was trading at 10 Park Road in St Anne's, set up by the local taxi company owned by the same family. A second company, Whiteside's Tours Ltd was set up on the 17th of May 1967, at 43 Clifton Street in Lytham. A subsidiary company, Whiteside's Travel Bureau Ltd, was formed in St Anne's on the 6th of May 1976 by Barbara Whiteside. The company traded at 28 Wood Street and later opened a second shop (Whiteside's Travel Agency) on Park Road; in the old Thos Whiteside and Sons Ltd Ford car dealership's premises. The main company was dissolved in January 2000.

John Whiteside (Car Sales) Ltd was set up in October 1976, and John Whiteside Properties Ltd was established by the family in March 1978.

The "Battle" of Lytham: In May, Mythop Road hosted a mock training battle between the 1st Manchester Volunteers and the Bolton Volunteers. The event took place on spare ground which nowadays houses St Bede's School, the new YMCA complex, and the houses of Park Road. Mythop House was a key strongpoint in the battle, and the Bolton men were camped by the Watchwood, with the Manchesters by the railway.

Lytham Football Club: The town team was formed, playing from Pembroke House playing fields. They soon entered the Lancashire Combination League, and in 1925, the club won the West Lancashire League Challenge Cup. In 1958, they amalgamated with St Anne's Athletic and began playing from their Highbury Road ground, after the offices of Guardian Royal Exchange began to be built on their Lytham home ground. In 1971, they returned to Lytham, this time playing on a ground off Ballam Road, where a new clubhouse-cum-canteen was soon built, being opened in January 1975. After many years on Ballam Road, the club moved to Church Road. In 1984, the club was relegated from the 2nd Division of the Lancashire Combination League and was dissolved in 1985.

©

The team colours were *"red and white quarters shirts, and black knickers"*. The club re-formed in 2006 as Lytham Town football club, out of the remains of Lytham St Anne's FC, who merged with Blackpool Mechanics in 2003.

Lytham Juniors Football Club was formed in 1983, by Club President Ian Mitchell, as a club for the children of Lytham to play in, and as a "feeder" club for Lytham Town. The club first won the Hogan Cup in 1998, at under 17 level.

There are currently plans to construct a new clubhouse and changing facilities for the two clubs, combined with a scout hut to replace the current one on Haven Road.

Medlar with Wesham Church of England Primary School: opened on Garstang Road North. The building was used as a place of worship for several years. It originally had 2 classrooms, but 2 more were added in 1882, and it was further extended in 1991, 1995, 2003, and 2010.

A brick retort house from about this year survives in the area of Pool Foot Farm, Singleton. Along with some outbuildings, this produced gas for Singleton Hall.

Isaac Ball and Sons: Isaac Ball moved from Banks near Southport to Ballam and started his threshing business on Roseacre Road in Wharles. He soon became Lancashire's main distributor for Burrell steam engines. During the Great War, he diversified and started selling binder twine to local farmers. The local name for such twine is still *"Owd Isaac"* today.
Ball's Yard had a disastrous fire in 1958 but managed to survive. Isaac Ball and Sons closed in 1988, and the site of the yard is now the home of small housing estate.

The Gardner Arms inn, Stake Pool: (or Stakepool) in Pilling was renamed the Elletson's Arms, after it became part of the Elletson family's estates. The site had housed a stud farm in the 16th century. The pub was so popular for trippers, that the owners were obliged to open their own restaurant and tea rooms in the gardens to cope with the overflow.
The pub was later renamed the Elletson Arms (no apostrophe), and the annual Pilling Show sports were held on the Elletson Arms Field, followed by a dance at the Comrade's Hall.
The pub closed on the 29th of June 2015.

1881
The Corporation began to put out advertisements for tourists, not only in the northwest, but also in the Midlands. There was a furore, because this was funded by public money.
Miss Bazelia Lancaster opened her confectioners and restaurant at 4 Market Street. She also delivered bread and cakes around the town and suburbs.
The Manchester and County Bank built a branch on the corner of Corporation Street and Birley Street. Designed by architects Cooper and Tullis, it soon became known as "*architecturally the best building in town*". By the mid-1930s, they also had branches at Central Drive, 15 Whitegate Drive, Egerton Road, 20-22 Bond Street (moved from 12 Bond Street), 562 Lytham Road, and 211 Waterloo Road.
The Blackpool, Lytham, and Southport Steam Packet Company Limited published their final annual report, and papers relating to the liquidation of the company on the 21st of December.
William Dugdale, a fighter for Marton's rights, was born in Dig Street by the Clifton Arms Inn in Marton.

©

The Lane Ends, Marton: A small beerhouse was in business on Hawes Side Lane, run by P Caton. By 1885 though, it had been bought by the Matthew Brown brewery, who re-built the inn in red brick at some unknown date thereafter - now addressed at 57 Hawes Side Lane. Their advertisement for "Stout" can still be seen, painted on the North wall of the pub.
The present public house was known as the *"Rag"* by locals, due to the number of Rag and Bone men who frequented it.
It is currently owned by the Heineken brewery company, and is run as one of their "Star" pubs.

Blackpool Tradesmen's Mutual Plate Glass Insurance Society was established.
Thomas Sowerby was operating butcher's shop in Layton.
J Duckworth opened his clothing shop and shirt makers in Bank Hey Street.
Banks Carrington and Company, solicitors, started business in Edward Street. Edward Street being named after Edward Topping – as was Topping Street.
The first show of the newly-amalgamated Lytham, Kirkham, and Blackpool Agricultural Society was at the Raikes Hall Park on the 26th of August.
A "Graunde Fantesie Fayre" was held in Talbot Square, in September, in aid of funds towards the restoration of Bispham Church.
Charles Hengler's Grand Cirque again appeared at the Raikes Hall on the 22nd of July. It is clear from this poster that the size of these shows was magnificent.
Problem citizens were being sent out of town, and the records of inmates of the Preston Union Workhouse show an *"Edward Hull, Corn Miller, Lunatic, Blackpool"*. The workhouse was later known as Fulwood Workhouse, before being euphemistically renamed Preston Hostel.
On the 27th of July, there were Corporation discussions on the subject of tramps and a proposed "Tramp Ward" in Blackpool.
The South Shore Branch of the Church of England Temperance Society held a meeting in the Indian Pavilion on the 25th of July.
Sefton Villa on Whitegate Drive was sold to WA Birch for £1,000 in July and was sold again to WA Bamber in 1892.

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Castle Villas were built opposite the Weld's Arms in Carleton.
Rington Farm, on Fleetwood Road in Carleton was owned by Richard Banks. By 1951, the farm and its 7 acres of land was in the hands of the Walsh family.
There were 46 sailing vessels registered as being at Thornton-le-Fylde with crew living aboard, in the Census this year, showing the popularity of the local ports – Fleetwood, Skippool, and Wardleys.

Blakiston Street School, Fleetwood: was built by Thomas Riley. It cost £4,000 and had separate boys' and girls' departments, with its own cookery kitchen, scullery, and playsheds. It was enlarged in 1892, and a caretaker's house was built next door in 1895. Male pupils transferred to the Testimonial School at the age of 11.
In 1903, all Blakiston's pupils were transferred to the new Chaucer School, and when a temporary junior girls' school in London Street was closed, its children then transferred to Blakiston Street School, which had room for 323 junior girls, and 434 infants. By 1933, it had become just an infants' school. It closed in the early 1990s. Early pupils were made to scrape the mud off their clogs before entry, and two of the foot scrapers – one for boys and one for girls – were preserved by the Fleetwood Civic Society.
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The Queen's pub, Fleetwood: The Queen's Hall opened in Adelaide Street on the 13th of December, in a converted cotton warehouse. Private, rude shows were put on after the doors were closed, featuring "adult" comedians and nude dancing girls, but they were stopped by the Superintendent of Police.

In 1900, the hall was fitted with electric light, changed its name to the Queen's Theatre, and was showing films. Known by its 60-foot-high tower, it could seat 700. It briefly reopened as the Palace Picture Theatre in 1918. Locals knew it as the *"Old Gaff".*

By 1933, its name was The Palace, and run by JI Smith, it showed a full programme of live entertainment each week. Then, by 1938 it was known as the Queen's Palace Theatre.
The late 1950s saw it changed into a garage owned by George and GL Brown. The Esso garage was a BMC dealership.

Addie's solicitors were founded at 58 Adelaide Street in Fleetwood.
Windsor Terrace was constructed in Fleetwood.

Fleetwood Football: The town's first football club started. Called Fleetwood Rangers, it was made of mainly ex-military men, and played at the club's own Copse ground, which stood where Station Road and Siding Road are now. The club held an annual athletics and sports festival every August Bank Holiday, which regularly included bicycle and "flat" races admission was 6d. They folded in 1899, to be succeeded by Fleetwood Football Club, who were formed in 1908, playing at the Highbury Stadium.
"The club colours were originally amber and black, but changed to red and white around 1919, as part of an arrangement with a trawler fleet whose company colours were red and white".

They moved to Park Avenue in 1934. They won the Combination Cup 3 times in a row from 1932 and began playing at Highbury Avenue in 1934; the corporation building a small stadium there in 1938. The club folded in 1976, after it was wound up by the Inland Revenue.

Fleetwood Amateurs Football Club was formed in 1909, playing on the new North Euston ground (the site of today's police station). The team played on either side of War and was reformed in 1920, playing at the Queens Ground on Beach Road. In 1927, the ground, which could hold 30,000 people, was sold; Romney and Leighton Avenues now stand on the site. Windsor Villa Football Club took their place and played at the North Euston ground, in 1931, Windsor joined the Lancashire Combination and changed their name to Fleetwood Football Club.
In 1920, the Queens Ground was opened on Fleetwood Road, opposite the Queens Hotel. Fleetwood Amateurs won the Lancashire Combination League there in 1924, but the ground was closed in February 1929, when the club folded. The ground was then rented by Fleetwood Rugby Union Club.

During this period of hiatus, there were various incarnations of a town team. Indeed, in 1932, Fleetwood Football Team won the Lancashire Combination Cup.

Fleetwood Ladies' team was formed in 1921, and began playing matches with other Lancashire-based ladies' teams. One of their first matches was against Preston-based team Horrockses Crewdson at Skelmersdale the 5th of February. Also referred to as the Wyreporters, Fleetwood wore the traditional red and white stripes of the town, together with *"chic little caps which covered their flowing locks"*. In front of a crowd of 4500 they finally lost 5 - 2.

©

In 1977, Fleetwood Town Football Club was born from the ashes of Fleetwood Football Club and comprised players from two local league sides. They initially joined the Cheshire County League but folded soon after.

Fleetwood Town Football Club came into existence again in 1995. The club was re-formed by Jim Betmead in 1997, and changed its name to Fleetwood Wanderers, then soon, to Fleetwood Freeport Football Club, winning the Northwest Counties League and Cup double in 1999. Fleetwood Freeport Football Club changed its name back to Fleetwood Town Football Club in 2002, and was taken over by local businessman Andy Pilley in 2004 – at the time an average gate for a game was 80 people. Before Pilley made his fortune selling energy, one of his first jobs was selling football shirts on Fleetwood market.

The club then won the Northwest Counties Division One title in 2005.
The Percy Ronson Terrace was opened in 2007, the Highbury Stand in 2008, and the Parkside Stand was first opened to spectators in March 2011.
Fleetwood Town Football Club was promoted to the Football League for the first time in their history on the 14th of April 2012. The "Cod Army" celebrated when they reached the Football League - without even kicking a ball; a draw between Wrexham and Grimsby meant promotion for the runaway league leaders.

In April 2016, the club's new purpose-built training centre was opened at Poolfoot Farm in Thornton. Famous football manager Sir Alex Ferguson performed the ceremony on the 20th of April. The complex comprises: 12 grass pitches, 2 full-size 4G FIFA 2-star standard artificial pitches, a fully-fitted gym, fitness studio, physiotherapy suite, dedicated classrooms, meeting rooms, a bar and restaurant, 7 changing rooms, and offices.
In March 2017, manager Uwe Rosler was voted the English Football League's Manager of the Year.

A beerhouse known as Throstle Nest was in business at Skippool, run by Edward Blackburn. By 1920, it had become a simple tea room operated by Mrs T Cotterill.
St Anne's slaughterhouse was between Hove Road and Warwick Road.
Belgrave House school, at what is now 10a West Beach in Lytham, started its first term on the 6th of May. Its headmaster, Mr EW Potter, had moved the establishment from Field House, Belgrave in Leicester. The school advertised itself as specialising in English, French, and German at "moderate terms".
Wrea Green Post Office opened in Edward Jolly's grocer's shop, which was on the opposite side of the road to the dub at the time. By 1910, it had been taken over by the Roberts family, who expanded its range of stock to include more groceries, local produce, and even ice cream. The ice cream was made onsite and sold from a wooden shack erected to the north of the shop.
A proposal to close the level crossing at Wesham was heavily overturned by the council.

The Boot and Shoe Inn, Elswick: was in business on Beech Road, holding a ratepayers' meeting in March. It had been built as a farmhouse, but soon began serving ale to the locals. It was fully re-furbished in 1967, by the Thwaites Brewery.

1882
The barque "Arethusa" from Liverpool was wrecked on the 21st of August, and ten people were saved.
Charles Welldon's Circus was built at the bottom of Albert Road by R Birkett, on the site of the Clarence Hotel's bowling green, first performing on the 28th of July. A programme seller at the circus for a time was Albert Lindsay Parkinson! The site was later Walker Taylor's Garage at numbers 12-16.
Cooke's Circus appeared at the Raikes Hall on the 28th of July.

©

The Manchester and County Bank opened on the corner of Lytham Street and Birley Street. It was demolished and rebuilt as the NatWest Bank in 1979. Renowned architectural historian Nicholaus Pevsner considered the building to be the finest in the town.
O'Hanlon's confectioners opened at 13a Talbot road, before moving to number 11 in 1888.
William Brandwood, tea grocer and provisioner built a shop at 34 Church Street, South Shore.
Fred Haresnape was a wine and spirit merchant in Buchanan Street.
John Holt opened his butcher's shop at 15 Market Street. He also ran a stall in St John's Market.

Ibbison Street Mission, Blackpool: was opened on the 16th of September. Ibbison Street had been named after Thomas Ibbison a local farmer who had recently died.
In 1892, the mission was rebuilt, and was renamed the Revoe Mission Church. An infants' school was built next door and the buildings were both opened on the 15th of September.
It was known locally as the *"Tin Tabernacle"*.

St Andrew's Tin Mission Church and its Parochial Hall and Sunday school were opened in Ibbison Street by the Bishop of Burnley on the 14th of November 1892. The street's Post Office stood adjacent to the site at the time. St Andrew's Mission closed on the 1st of February 1970, and was demolished in 1976, to be quickly replaced by a Corporation Community Centre and the sheltered housing called Ibbison Court.

Great Marton Road was joined with Chapel Street at Revoe and terminated at Revoe Villa. It became Central Drive in the mid-1890s. In a Council meeting in 1878, the road was described as being *"a fifty yards' stretch, running from the Clarence Hotel to the Station"*.
Whitegate Lane was widened, a pavement was laid on both sides, and trees were planted. A main sewer was also laid from the Belle Vue Hotel to the Saddle, and on through Great Marton village.

The St John Ambulance Brigade, Blackpool: The St John first began work in Blackpool on the 31st of January, and on the 19th of May, they set up a South Shore branch. The main branch worked from the police station on Abingdon Street, where they also kept their horse ambulance. In 1895, Blackpool's first St John sub-division was a ladies' "Nursing Division" headed by Annie Orme, followed in 1898, by a men's "Ambulance Division" headed by George Gosling, some of who went to the wars in South Africa.

In 1929, the St John opened their Blackpool headquarters on the corner of Park Road and Hornby Road. The premises were previously used by the Christian Scientist Church. The brigade also had a centre at Empress Chambers on Church Street. The Hornby Road buildings were later modernised.

Permission was granted for omnibuses to run through the exclusive Claremont Park. It was not a real park – the builders had simply used the title to attract the well-off.
Blackpool cabmen, seeking to expand their businesses, were prosecuted at Kirkham Police Court on the 1st of November, for plying their cabs for hire in Lytham without licenses.

Dame Sarah Bernhardt: appeared at the Winter Gardens Pavilion on the 28th of August, in "*La dame aux Camelias*". The audience of 15,000 people saw her perform the first act, before returning to her hotel complaining that she could not be hear in such a large hall "*open to all winds*". She later claimed to have been struck down by a throat complaint. Legal proceedings by the Winter Gardens failed to obtain recompense.
She eventually appeared in Blackpool again, when she was booked at the Grand Theatre on the 19th of July 1905.

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Famous trotting horse “Strawberry Girl” won the Borough Stakes at Blackpool on the 17th of July.
John Worthington’s almost-completed coffee house at South Shore was demolished by a storm in February.

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Singleton Fire Station was built by Thomas Miller of Singleton, being designed to house the estate’s fire engine. In August 1932, the property passed to Blackpool Corporation on a 21-year lease and began a new life as an electricity substation.

The North American Grain Elevator at Fleetwood: was erected on Herring Arm Road at Fleetwood Docks. The internal machinery was built by Hick, Hargreaves and Company of Bolton, the building was constructed by Cooper and Tullis of Preston. The “1882” was inlaid in marble-coloured stone at an extra cost of £60. The elevator had a storage capacity of 150,000 quarters, in silos each of 1,000 quarters capacity. The grain was taken from the vessels by means of a ship’s leg elevator, 40 feet in length. This had buckets 18 inches long, running at 600 feet per minute, and discharging on to a conveying band 23 inches wide, running at 700 feet per minute, in a tunnel from the tower to the warehouse. In the basement of the warehouse were two conveying bands running the whole length of the building, which carried the grain to any of the four elevators. The elevator was badly damaged by the February storms.

In February 1885, joiner George Rogerson was killed while working in the grain bin. He was working on some bolts inside, but standing on the grain. The grain was being drained off into the room below, through a 14-inch-diameter pipe. George was sucked into the pipe and suffocated.

The building was visible from many miles away, but was rarely used, being demolished at the start of World War 2. The Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway crest from its base was later placed on display in Euston Park, being unveiled on the 1st of May 1976.

On the opposite side of the dock were extensive grain sheds, capable of holding 80,000 quarters, in which grain not suitable for storage in the elevator silos could be stored on well-seasoned and well drained floors, in layers of 5 feet or upwards as required. Grain was conveyed from the ships into these sheds by means of steam cranes.

Fleetwood Hospital: Fleetwood Cottage Hospital was opened at 2 Upper Queens Street, with 6 beds.
It was moved and reopened on the 8th of October 1891, in a house on Queens Terrace which was kindly donated by H Smith.

The hospital proper was finally opened in new premises on Pharos Street in 1895, again donated by H Smith. The hospital was opened by Colonel Foster of Hornby on the 11th of May and had a two-storey main block and a single storey wing on each side – each wind contained one 6-bedded ward, one for men, and the other for women. It was extended in 1927.
The hospital expanded onto Bold Street in 1940, building a geriatric ward.

The new Fleetwood Hospital was built on the site in 1985, opening as the EMI (Elderly and Mentally Infirm) Unit, and a new Outpatients and Primary Care Centre was officially opened on the 12th of January 1999 by Doreen Lofthouse.
The Pharos Ward was closed in 2009, and the Manx Ward closed in 2011. They had provided inpatient care for older Fylde coast adults with mental health problems such as depression and anxiety.
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A second public hospital was built to the south of the timber pond in 1894. Later maps show this as the "Fever Hospital", so it was possibly to be used as an isolation hospital for sick passengers off the increasing number of boats.

In December 2018, the hospital was acquired for £575,000 by *"the Fleetwood Trust whose plans for the site include maintaining and increasing the NHS care provision, while also creating new community spaces for the benefit of residents"*. A full roof repair was soon done, and by November 2019, all 162 windows had been replaced. The first projects to work from the new hub will be the hot meals kitchen project Mustard Seed and the Fleetwood Foodbank, currently run by the St Vincent de Paul Society at the Fleetwood United Reformed Church. After starting in St Edmund's Church, the foodbank moved on the 24th of February 2014 from Milton Street Community Centre to the former McKee Centre on Poulton Road (the old Welbeck library).

The King's Own Royal Lancaster Regiment was stationed in Fleetwood in July.
A Fleetwood man called "Daddy Glass" led a local Morris Dance team. His steps and styles are copied by dancers in the North West to this day.
Woodville House was built on Lord Street in Fleetwood.

St Anne's College for Girls: was opened by May Frances and Eliza (known as Lilly) Oldfield in Middlewich, Cheshire, moving to Newton Hall in 1886.
In 1888, it moved again, to Claremont on South Promenade, St Anne's, although it is listed as being in St Anne's Road West in 1895.
A purpose-built school was erected on Clifton Drive in 1898, and eventually opened in 1902, being re-named St Anne's College for Girls. It is now the only private school left in St Annes.

Clifton Tutorial College is affiliated to the school, sharing many of its facilities.
The 5-16 school is now known as St Anne's College Grammar School, and its motto is "*Vel Primus Vel cum Primis*" meaning "either the first or with the first".

A bazaar was held in Lytham in July, to raise funds for the building of a spire for Wrea Green Church.
A coursing meeting was held by W Dodgson of Plumpton Hall. The Clifton Cup was run for, and a dinner was held later at the Westby Mills Inn.
The schooner "Perseverance" was built in Freckleton by P Rawstrone.
Freckleton was first connected by telephone to Preston.
Kirkham was hit by a disturbance caused by over 100 militiamen from Lytham and St Anne's.

1883
The Plymouth Brethren worshipped from a room at 1 Upper Talbot Street.
Bispham Hawes became part of Layton.
Blackpool had two sub-post offices, which were at the corner of Cocker Street and Carleton Terrace, and on Foxhall Road.

Queenstown, Blackpool: this self-contained "village" was described in a guide as a "*modern, pleasant suburb*". It was much smaller than today's area, and comprised Boon Ley Street, William Street, Gavan Street, and Wildman Street, with Ward and Thomas Streets running between them.

©

By 1932, Queenstown recreation ground had been laid and developed. Robert Mather JP had left the playing field - part of Queenstown Park - in his will in 1898, for the pleasure and enjoyment of the people of Layton stating that it should *"never to be built on"*. Mather Street is named after him.

St Joseph's Mission, Queenstown: had opened several years earlier on Boon Ley Street, off New Road. In 1918, the mission was described as *"Undenominational"*, and its Missioner was Mr Wolstencroft of 17 Beech Avenue. Services were only held on Sundays, at 6.30pm. The street was renamed to St Joseph's Road in 1893, after the old mission hall, which had been sold on the 9th of May.
The mission closed down soon after 1960, and then became the home of Georgie Blackburn's first shop. The actual site has not been built on, despite the construction of Queen's Park flats from 1962, and services were soon recommenced in the new Community Centre, at the behest of erstwhile worshippers.

During 1961, the programme for the second five-year Clearance Scheme was commenced, when two areas were approved by the Local Authority: the Queenstown Clearance Area, comprising 99 dwelling-houses and eight other buildings, and the Oddfellow Street Clearance Area, comprising 38 dwelling-houses and six other buildings.

In 1962, the building of the Queen's Park Estate flats began. Blackpool Council had just approved three of the tower blocks for construction, and the scheme was named *"Queenstown and Laycock Gate [Healey Street, Stirling Road]"*. It comprised 192 flats spread across three 17-storey blocks. In 1964, the council approved another block that had the same number of flats and floors as the previous three. Ashworth Court and Elizabeth Court flats were duly completed in 1964. Bricklayer Bill Moore laid the foundation stone to Ashworth Court and was presented with it before the demolition in August 2013. Charles Court and Churchill Court were completed in 1965.
The final tower to be built in Queen's Park was part of the Queenspark Estate Extension. Called Walter Robinson Court, it opened in 1972. It was Blackpool's tallest residential building, having 23-storeys and 131 flats. It also had its own Day Centre.

The flats replaced many terraced houses and shops - Queenstown – a true village within a town. Its streets included St Joseph's Road (which was originally called Boon Ley Street), with Talbot Road Post Office on its corner with Talbot Road, and Heyes Brothers shop in its centre.
All the old "slum" houses had been demolished by the end of 1964. The Talbot Saw Mills had also been demolished to make way for the new flats.
Heyes Brothers moved to the corner of 378 Talbot Road and Empress Grove when Queenstown flats were started in 1962, and then opened a second shop on the corner of number 2 Topping Street and Talbot Road in 1968. That store became the In Style fancy goods and greeting card shop, before becoming a Cool Trader freezer food store. HSL later took over the Empress Grove shop.

A detached Victorian Villa was replaced by the new shops on Talbot Road. Later occupants of these shops included Georgie Blackburn's clothing store – renowned for closing on Saturdays as the proprietor was Jewish. Blackburn had moved to Buchanan Street in town from the St Joseph's Mission Hall (and another next door but one) on St Joseph's Road in Queenstown, before occupying the Talbot Road building until 1985, when the company was struck off. The company also had outlets at 165 Lytham Road (briefly), Bank Hey Street, 36-44 George Street, and behind Victoria Road in Cleveleys at various times.

Layton Community Centre opened on the 19th of February 2004, on Laycock Gate, holding "surgeries" for Queen's Park flats residents.

©

Demolition of the 504 individual flats began in November 2013. Because of asbestos used in the construction, they had to be taken down a floor at a time. The flats were to be replaced, by Lovell Homes, with almost 180 two, three and four-bedroom houses and 90 apartments, and the first residents moved into their homes in February 2015. The last residents to move out – in November 2015 - were Ann and Clive Elmer, who had lived on the 20th floor of Walter Robinson Court since 1983.
The 3 remaining towers were demolished by Forshaw Demolition on the 31st of July 2016.

The new homes were completed by February 2019, and the Layton Rec began to be re-constructed in September 2018.

Mrs J Crabtree opened a confectionery shop at 64 Church Street.
Groynes were built across the beaches from west to east, in a vain attempt to halt erosion. Some are still in existence from Norbreck to the Wyre.

The Mount, Marton: Originally known as Hill's House and Hill Mount, this large house was built at what is now 81 Patterdale Avenue, off Preston Old Road. It had a croquet lawn and extensive rose gardens. In 1892, John Picken-Dixon bought the premises from the Hampson brothers. His rose gardens became the best in the Fylde. Dixon soon bought Marton Green Farm, various fields, and Stodham Farm on Bank Road (renamed Newhouse Road on the 1st of February 1929, after the farm to which it led) from William Kirkham. Stodham Farm later became an evangelical mission and is currently a children's nursery at number 144, known as Kapers. In its time as a mission, the inscription *"Christ Died for the Ungodly"* was written in the space between the first-floor windows.
Loved locally as a great philanthropist, in 1913, John Dixon paid for Christmas dinner for about 250 poor Blackpool families – this included 750 pounds of beef and 1200 pounds of potatoes.

On the 30th of April 1923, its 41-acre estate was bought, for building development, by Samuel Kerfoot and the five Atherton Brothers. They proceeded to build Lomond Avenue and adjacent housing, including many grand semi-detached houses on the northern side of Preston New Road. The Mount itself remains.

Two cottages were built in Hull's Yard to house the firemen.
Beeston Villa was built on Leopold Grove (now Numbers 11 and 13). It is a large double-fronted house and is now the Beeston Villas holiday apartments.
The 1st (Hallamshire) Volunteer Battalion, the York and Lancaster Regiment held its Annual Camp in Blackpool in June.

Ohmy Smith: A travelling show called Ohmy's Grand New Circus gave several shows at Raikes Hall. Then, in April 1884, the show appeared in a building near Central Station, after moving from Preston Pleasure Gardens.
Joseph "Ohmy" Smith was a Londoner who had run a circus in Blackburn. He was a gymnast and clown, billed as "The Invisible Winged Angel" and "The Star of the Air" - one of the first bungee jumpers.
It was because of the audiences shrieking "Oh My!" as he made his sensational dives that he adopted "Ohmy" as his stage name. In those dives, he would pretend to fall down the rope before catching himself just above the floor.
After launching the Grand Circus for Frank Matcham in 1889, "King Ohmy" went back to running his touring circus (Bolton in 1904 etc.), and also supervised the building of a static circus building in Preston in 1901, when he lived at 5 Fox Street in the town.
He then moved to 111 Raikes Road, where he retired. He died there on the 3rd of August 1931.

©

Charles Allen's Circus was engaged at the Raikes for the season.
James Boswell's Circus appeared in town.
Blackpool Women's Temperance Association first met.
Before the FA Cup Final, Blackburn Olympic introduced an important new development in football – training - the team came to Blackpool and trained *"scientifically"* on the beach.

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James Robertson and Sons, Fleetwood: the ship repairers and winch builders, opened their Dock Street Engineering Works in Fleetwood. 1897 saw them build their own brass foundry, and by 1898, the company was known as James Robertson and Sons (Fleetwood) Limited.
BUT Engineers (Fleetwood) Limited was incorporated on the 25th of April 1908, on the 19th of October 1983, their name changed to James Robertson and Sons (Fleetwood) Limited. By then called Lonaven Limited, the company dissolved in 1992.
The original depot closed in January 1981, but by 1985, the company base stretched from 134 to 150, and they also ran Fleet Marine Ltd at 194 Dock Street and Marine Electronics at 190 Dock Street.

The Queens Restaurant and Private Hotel were opened on Queens Terrace in Fleetwood.

Walmsley's, St Anne's: Walmsley and Son's drapers, dressmakers, and milliners opened on the corner of West Crescent and Park Road. The shop was known as "Quality House". The company had a branch store in Regent House in Lytham.
In 1907, the Lancashire and Yorkshire Bank purchased the corner in the centre of Walmsley's large main shop. This split the shop into two parts, at 56 The Square and at 1 Park Road, and after many years of trying to make that arrangement function successfully, Walmsley's moved.

The company had another store, on the corner of Wood Street and Clifton Drive, and moved to it in 1970, closing in 1994.

St Anne's Baptist Church: The Baptists of St Anne's moved into the Assembly Rooms above a shop on the Crescent on the 10th of December. Previously they had met in one of the first buildings in the town: *"A wooden hut, standing by the single-track railway line, in a wilderness of sand, May 1875, was known as 'the first house where the nonconformists held their first religious meeting'. At the time, these Baptists from Cloughfold settled in St Anne's there were few other residences except farm houses and fishermen's cottages".* The church was formally constituted on the 31st of March 1884, with fourteen members.

They moved to a new, purpose-built, St Anne's Baptist Chapel, which was opened on the 25th of December 1886 at 46 St Andrew's Road South – it had been built in 13 weeks. This original building ceased to be used for worship in 1910, when the congregation moved along the road and was then used as the local Liberal club in the 1920s. It housed Sanders Auction Rooms from the 1950s, and various antique shops thereafter. It was converted into the Fylde Christian Service Church in early 2013.

Today's St Anne's Baptist Church – a fine Gothic building - was opened on the corner of 112 St Andrew's Road South and St Thomas's Road on the 23rd of April 1910, and the 1886 chapel closed for worship. The new building had cost £5,580, and with extras, such as ground rent, road making, furnishings, leaded lights, heating, lighting, and partitions etc. a total of around £8,700. *"The building with gallery provided accommodation for 550. The Baptistry was lined with marble terrazzo and has a curb of Cicilian marble. The pulpit is beautifully carved with a design of vine leaves, grapes, and passion flowers, 'the work able and*
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©

generously done by a woman, Miss E. Crook'. The Peace Memorial Organ, consisting of three manuals, (total cost around £4000) was installed and at the special Service on 12 November 1921".
The church was designed by Smith and Motley of Manchester and built by J Fielding and sons of Blackpool.

The Refuge Home, Lytham: The Manchester and Salford Girls' and Boys' Refuges opened their Seaside Home for City Children at 2 to 4 Warton Street at Lytham in June. The home had 20 beds but was always over-subscribed. By 1896, the society was in need of larger premises and in 1915, the home was closed, when it moved to Old Colwyn in North Wales. The home soon became the Lytham Seaside home and is now residential premises again.

The Clifton Memorial Fountain, Lytham: was unveiled on the 16th of April, in the Square. Donated by Lady Clifton for use as a drinking fountain, it is dedicated to her husband John to commemorate his death in Algiers in 1882 and shows the Clifton coat of arms and their motto "*Mortem aut triumphum*" meaning "Death or Victory".
The fountain was moved in July 1909, to Sparrow Park (aka Sparrow Walk Wood), at the side of the Ballam Road railway bridge (Robin Park is on the east side of the road) - allegedly to stop the watering horses from eating the newly planted flower beds in the square.

1884
On the 2nd of June, a 2-mile-long electric Narrow-Gauge Railway was opened in the grounds of the Winter Gardens. When it was finally made to work properly and re-fitted by Michael Holroyd-Smith, it proved to be the inspiration for the electric tramway and the Corporation visited it on the 5th of September.
The shore was filled with wheeled Beach Huts from traders such as R Penswick, J Singleton, and J Smith, some of which also supplied dresses and drawers to the bathers. The Penswick huts were by far the most numerous, and this was largely funded by the placement of full-side adverts from Jones Sewing Machines.
Carlton Terrace and Regent Terrace opened at the front of Claremont Park. Some of the houses on Carlton Terrace had been occupied since they were first built in 1863.
Farington Ladies College, under Miss Power, opened on the corner of the Promenade and Derby Road in Claremont Park in August, having moved from South Shore. It was demolished in 1948.
Behind the Claremont Hotel, on Warbrick Road, was a skating rink.
Blackpool's first branch library - South Shore - was opened on Lytham Road.
Stanton's provisions opened a second branch at 56 Church Street, South Shore. Church Street had earlier been named after its own Holy Trinity Church.
Newsome's Hippodrome on the site of the Winter Gardens skating rink featured a Circus. It was situated on the corner of Leopold Grove and Adelaide Street. This Circus appeared for the season until 1891, when it was forced out of business by the more successful Grand Circus nearby, although the structure itself survived until 1896.
The Crystal Palace on Bank Hey Street reopened on the 11th of July.
Henry Maxwell and Company, designers, lithograph, and letterpress printers started at 68 Church Street, opposite the Post Office. Most theatres in town used their large, clear, colour posters.
Burdekin's Repository opened at 6 Lane End Street, selling *"fancy"* clothing.
Thomas Kay began work from Euston Street as a plumber, glazier, and glass fitter, where he later began to sell paints etc. to the public.
J Laurie's Chemist's shop was at 2 Lytham Road, specialising in "Laurie's compound blackcurrant Cough Syrup" and "Lily Balm". The premises have remained as a chemist's shop, currently under the name of Photex Drug Store.
Clarkson's Laundry Engineers opened at 9 South King Street.

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Number 30 Corporation Street was built, as the town's main branch of the Lancashire and Yorkshire Bank. On the 3rd of January 1928, it was taken over by Martins Bank, and between 1928 and 1929, the branch was given a refit and then relaunched in 1929, as a Main Branch of Martins with three sub-Branches to look after. In 1937, Martins merged with the Bank of Liverpool, and their larger premises at 22 Clifton Street was chosen as Blackpool only outlet. This bank was closed, rapidly to be occupied by Lloyds TSB. It closed in 2015.
The Norwood Hotel was built on Hull Road, along with other guest houses.
A building was erected on Church Street (now Bond Street), which now houses the Blackpool Indian Taj Restaurant.
The business of Herbert Crabtree was liquidated in May. He had run grocery shops at 22, Bank Street, before moving to 105 Church Street (later Argenta Meats), and finally at Revoe Villa, Revoe.
Gas street lamps were installed on Whitegate Lane, and the main sewer was built, between the Belle Vue manhole and the Saddle. All this work took place during a short period from 1879, when the road was straightened and widened, and the trees we see today were planted on either side. Also, the narrow path, called Church lane since 1800, between the Saddle and Stodham, via Marton Green, was widened to become an extension to Whitegate Lane.

The Salvation Army in Blackpool: On the 1st of June, the Salvation Army Band from Preston first played in the Leopold Hall in Blackpool, and this inspired Captain Sarah Ellis to become the founding officer of the Blackpool 544 Corps. They held regular open-air meetings in Talbot Square, and they had their own Army Barracks on Bank Hey Street. More formal meetings were held in temporary halls set up in local theatres. The army is known fondly as the "Sally Ann".

The first Blackpool Salvation Army Band was formed in 1886, with 11 members under the supervision of Mr J Dubbin. The Junior cadets began in 1896, and in February 1899, the name was changed to Corps Cadets. The Singing Company started in 1912, led by Margaret Morris, and the Citadel Songster Brigade started in 1919. The Blackpool Citadel Young People's Band was set up in 1919, by Bandsman Richard Nuttall, and the Blackpool Timbrell Band first played on the 30th of November 1954 – a timbrell being a biblical name for a tambourine.

The new, purpose-built Citadel at 36 Coronation Street was built in 1885, but functioned under the name of Christian Mission. The building was not formally opened until the 1st of October 1901, by Commissioner Coombes. Their barracks had opened next door on the 29th of September 1901. The Citadel was licensed for marriages in January 1904, and the first couple to avail themselves of this was Deputy Bandmaster Arnold Lawton and Sister Ada Hall. In 1962, the frontage of the citadel was completely re-built, as it is today. The 1st Floor windows are the same, but the entrance hall was re-designed and made larger, complete with a curved canopy outside. The old Coronation Street premises are now known as the "Citadel Market".

The army opened its Bispham section on the 18th of August 1911, and on the 14th of August 1928, the Salvation Army Hall opened in Rothwell Street (which was renamed Aintree Road in 1930). It had been converted to house the 2nd Blackpool Corps, and the corps later moved to purpose-built premises in Dorset Street.

During World War 2, the army ran several Red Shield canteens around town, to provide for the needs of servicemen.
In 1981, the army moved to their new Citadel on Raikes Parade. They had converted parts of the old Blackpool Grammar School. The New Citadel and Community Centre was opened by Commissioner John

©

Needham. On the 17th of September 2002, Princess Anne, the Princess Royal, opened the army's Bridge Centre in the citadel building.

Blackpool and Fylde Art Society: Blackpool Sketching Club was founded in the living room of George Dearden at 15 Buchanan Street. The club's first exhibition was presented at the YMCA Rooms in Church Street, and in 1886, an exhibition of 226 exhibits was held in the Victoria Street schoolrooms. A monthly magazine was published consisting of articles and illustrations by the members.

In the summer of 1905, the title of the club was changed, to enlarge the scope and influence of the club - the name was changed to The Blackpool Sketching Club and Arts and Craft Society.
In 1948, the name was changed again, to the Blackpool and Fylde Art Society, with two rooms at the Grundy Art Gallery being used for the annual exhibition.

On the 25th of March 1972, the newly-constructed studio was officially opened on Wilkinson Avenue by Sir Harold Grime.

The Blackpool Lifeboat Band was formed. The only one of its type in the World, it raised large sums for charity and the needy. The band was wound up in 1958, after 74 years of playing at local events.
Gregson's fruit and vegetable sellers were established in Blackpool, later trading from Mowbray Drive.
Lord Randolph Churchill gave a famous speech at Blackpool on the 24th of January, challenging the Government's decision to send troops to the Suez Canal.
A Riley, a local phrenologist, published "A manual of phrenology and physiognomy", which is now a standard, reference work on the subject.
George Samuel Claude Lockhart, known as the *"King of the Ring"* was born. He worked for 30 years at the Tower Circus and died in town in 1979.

Victoria Monks: Anne Monks was (probably) born in Blackpool on the 1st of November, at 12 Duke Street. She first appeared on stage at the Empire Theatre in 1895, as Little Victoria, and in 1898, as Little Victoria Monks, she is listed as a *"Serio-comic"* at the Empire in Wigan. When she played at the Empire Music Hall in Burnley in 1902, the papers said she *"She had perfected a coon song and dance"* and had earned *"an irresistible cheer"* for it. She finally changed her name to Victoria Monks, and became a famous music hall singer, appearing in London billed as "John Bull's Girl".
By 1912, *"her status as a 'feminine coon' singer is renowned and the audience at the Palace theatre in Hull 'would be hard pressed not to believe that she wasn't one herself'. She had just returned from a sell-out tour of America"*.
The song "Won't you come home Bill Bailey" was her signature tune. She died from pneumonia on the 21st of January 1927, aged 43, and her memorial stone is in Layton Cemetery.

St Joseph's football ground was opposite the Belle Vue hotel.
Great Marton Football Club lost 4 - 0 to Fishwick Ramblers of Preston in September.

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In July, "*a fatal accident occurred on Thursday night between Poulton and Cleveleys on the Fleetwood line. Thomas Etherington, a foreman platelayer, was at work on the line when a goods train from Fleetwood came along. He stepped on the downline just as a passenger train came around the curve and he was knocked down and instantly killed*".
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Cleveleys Post Office: opened on the corner of Victoria Road and Nutter Road (named after Major Nutter who lived there – he was a descendant of Pendle witch Alice Nutter) on the 7th of October.
After the post office moved to the Crescent West in the 1920s, the building took on various guises, such as Card Corner, Occasions Card Shop and, latterly, a clothes shop.
A purpose-built post office opened at 19 Crescent West in the 1960s, fronting the sorting and delivery office.
On the 30th of November 2000, by then at 2 Runnymede Avenue, the post office closed, and the former gas showrooms on Victoria Road West became the new location on the 17th of May 2001.

A bank was opened at 9 to 13 Lord Street, Fleetwood. It had been constructed as a post office, in red brick with sandstone dressings. It is now a Lloyd's TSB branch.
Latham Cottage was built on Pharos Street in Fleetwood, with Westby Terrace being erected on the same road in 1861.
J Preston established his tank cleaning, machine scaling and marine paint supply business by the slipway at Fleetwood Docks.
St Anne's Local Board engaged a contractor to empty the town's privies and ashpits. The sanitary arrangements were so poor that he quit the job after just 6 months.
The cottages of Spire Row were built on Ribby Road in Wrea Green.
Four cottages were built near Oakes farm at Great Plumpton in memory of TH Clifton. Oakes Farm was run by the Hall family for the Cliftons, then by Messrs Taylor, Thomason, and Ronson sequentially. In 1953, a group of 8 houses was built on its fields, christened The Croft. The farm house is now a private house.
A Methodist worship room was opened in Warton.

1885

World's FIRST Electric Tramway: These were unveiled when the Blackpool Electric Tramway Company was established in January, with its depot in Blundell Street (which was called Corporation Street until 1881). Alderman McNaughtan laid the first rail of the Corporation Tramway on the 13th of March, in front of Bailey's Hotel. It had been designed by Michael Holroyd-Smith.

The line was officially opened on the 29th of September, by the Mayor of Manchester, Alderman Harwood. The country's first electric, fare paying street tram (Blackpool Number 5) started running on a short line between Cocker Street and Dean Street.
The tram system first used a conduit power system, which involved getting the power from a groove in the track, but this soon filled with sand and water, causing many problems. In 1899, after noting the efficiency of the overhead cables used by the new Fleetwood trams, all the conduit was removed after being replaced by an overhead electric wire.
The council had been unable to run the tramway due to the 1870 Tramways Act. They could lay the tracks but not run the cars. They eventually took over on the 10th of September 1892, becoming the first municipal operator of electric trams in the UK. The cost of the sale of all assets was £15,750.

The system was extended along Lytham Road in 1895, and then along Station Road in 1897.

The Blackpool and Fleetwood Tramroad Act was passed in May 1896. It opened the way for the building of a double track from Fleetwood to join with tracks laid by Blackpool Corporation along Dickson Road. Its construction began in Fleetwood on the 19th of July 1897.

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The Blackpool and Fleetwood Tramroad Company: On the 1st of July 1898, trams first ran from Blackpool to Fleetwood, with regular services starting on the 14th. It was a private company that was a direct rival to the Corporation Tramway.
The new company was officially opened on the 30th of July, running trams from their Bispham Depot. Their route started at Blackpool Station, before running via Gynn Square to Fleetwood Ferry.
Between the 13th of July 1898, and the 30th of June 1899, one and a half million passengers were carried in 10 tramcars.

The new line led to small clusters of houses being built near each tram stop. These expanded over the years until joining up completely by the 1960s. There were even shelters at Cleveleys, Bispham, and Uncle Tom's Cabin which were especially for passengers going straight to North Station.

On the 21st of June 1899, the first tram to use the new overhead power lines ran, and on the 13th of July, the first test run was made to Fleetwood. Various brick-built tram shelters had been erected along the track, including Rossall School and Norbreck – both demolished in March 2012.
In the end, the new company had a total of 42 trams, and they all drew their electricity from the brand-new pantograph system. This became the standard equipment world-wide.

Bispham Tram Depot: was opened, having been built of what was known locally as Slack Meadow – Gradwell Slack (otherwise known as Cradley Slack) had been demolished to make way for the new depot. Sainsbury's store stands on the site of Graddle Slack Farm itself.
The house called Red Bank was at the location of number 12 Hesketh Avenue at the time.
The depot had its own power station, offices, tram storage, the main offices of the company, and the manager's house "Pooldhooie". It had 4 steam boilers which powered 5 marine engines to produce the electricity. These were vented by a 50-foot-high cooling tower.
The depot was doubled in size in 1914, being extended over the reservoir of the power station, which was behind. This reservoir, fed by a natural stream, was revealed when the depot was finally demolished in 1925. After the extensions, the sheds were able to house 36 trams on 6 tracks.

The company was bought in 1919, by Sir Lindsay Parkinson, who immediately sold the 8-mile tramway on to the Blackpool Corporation, making no profit. The corporation built a new electricity sub-station there, and the original Bispham Power Station was dismantled in 1925. The chimney for the electricity generating works was 180 feet tall and was a prominent local landmark for many years.

The last tram left North Station, and the Bispham tram sheds duly closed for trams on the 27th of October 1963. From 1964, the sheds became the temporary home for the Bispham Fire Brigade.
The Bispham tramway itself closed on the 5th of January 1966, and the last tram (Coronation car 313) was towed from the depot on the 7th.

Alpic Supermarket: In 1964, the site of the part of the tram sheds was soon turned into the Alpic supermarket, owned by Mr Cowap of Alpic Drive. Geoffrey Cowap had started in a small grocer's shop on the corner of Fleetwood Road and Russell Avenue, and also had a smaller store on the corner of Highfield Road and Albany Road, and one at 56 Holmfield Road (which became Memories restaurant). Mr Cowap opened a brand new Alpic supermarket on the site in 1969, with Josef Locke performing the grand opening.
Alpic went bankrupt in 1983, and the Alpic site is now the car park for the Sainsbury's store.

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The last vestiges of the tram sheds disappeared in 1983, when the remaining buildings at the depot were demolished to make way for a Sainsbury's store.

The tramway was further extended in 1900, when the Promenade route was taken to the Gynn. Then, in 1901, the Marton and Central Drive routes were launched, with the Layton route following in 1902, when the Marton route was also extended down Waterloo Road.

Between 1962 and 1992, Blackpool had the only urban tramway in the UK. Other towns have since reintroduced tram systems.

The Atlantic Hotel, Blackpool: this pub was at the northern corner of Yorkshire Street and Foxhall Road, owned by Robert Bickerstaffe, and was run on his behalf by Josias Dagger.
C&S Brewery had bought the venue by 1894, by which time it had also become licensed for dancing and singing during the summer season. The pub closed in March 1922.

The Shakespeare Hotel, Blackpool: Thomas Gornall's Carter's Arms pub was in operation at 33 Topping Street. The Threlfall Brewery Co was in charge by 1894, and had changed its name to the Shakespeare Hotel, now addressed as being at 87-89 Topping Street. Proprietor WH Speight also then took paying guests and the hotel had a billiards room.
The hotel was modernised in the 1930s, being re-clad in the popular cream faience. In the 1960s, the licensee was ex-Blackpool footballer George Mee, and the pub became known as Georgie Mee's.
It changed its name to Gillespie's in about 1995, owned by Montgomery Inns Ltd. On the 12th of May 2018, the venue was re-launched yet again, as Champs Sports Bar, the latest in the Ma Kelly's line of local bars. Brian London and the Mayoress performed the opening, and footballer Charlie Adam and boxer Brian Rose also attended. The new bar has 32 TVs, 2 snooker tables, and dart boards.

Revoe Inn / George Hotel, Blackpool: Thomas Ball is Listed as the owner of the Revoe Inn, but by 1887, it was being optimistically called the Revoe Hotel. The "inn" had been built on the site of James Bagot's cottage beerhouse at the corner of Ibbison Street and Great Marton Road (Central Drive), several years previously. It was called the Revoe Inn because the locals knew the original beerhouse as the Revoe Inn. In August 1883, licensee Thomas Lingard had an application for a billiard license refused, and in 1887, he was described thus *"Thomas Lingard as tenant. A joiner in Preston Old Road, he lost his arm in a machine, so his wife Elizabeth acted as landlady, taking the beer round in quart mugs".*

The Revoe Inn was demolished in 1893 and rebuilt as the George Hotel (by then addressed as at 174 Central Drive) in 1894. Elizabeth Lingard was then the true landlady - Thomas had clearly had enough of one-armed pint pulling.
The George was finally bought by Threlfall's Brewery in 1897 but was described in 1901 as *"a mean inn".*

The George closed in November 2012, but although it re-opened shortly afterwards, trade had declined. In June 2019, planning permission was granted to turn its upper floors into apartments.

Blackpool became a Parliamentary Division. New legal powers were oddly interpreted when a Salvation Army Band was prosecuted for playing near the Town Hall. As they refused to pay their fine, they were sent to prison, causing much shame to members of the new Corporation.

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Blackpool's Rubbish and Waste: Blackpool Refuse Destructor opened in Rigby Road, complete with its 210-foot-tall chimney which could be seen for miles around. Nearby was the Corporation Foundry, which manufactured the town's own manhole covers, railings, tram tracks etc. A new, working, destructor was finally installed at Rigby Road in 1891. By then turned into a waste transfer depot, that facility was closed in 1996.

The Bispham Refuse Disposal Plant was opened on the 4th of June 1929, in Bristol Avenue. A Trade Waste Incinerator was built onsite in 1962, and many buildings were re-constructed. All the buildings were demolished in October 2004, when the site was landscaped and redesigned.

The Corporation Tip was on East Park Drive, where a Weighbridge was opened on the 14th of September 1963.
In 1972, that tip was closed, and a new Corporation tip was opened on the site of Midgeland Farm on School Road and Midgeland Road. This began to be used from 1973, and in 1974, the rest of the land around Marton Mere ceased to be used as a tip.
The Midgeland Road Tip was closed in 1984, when it became full, and was superseded by the Waste Transfer Centre on Chapel Road. The old tip has since been grassed-over.

In 2004, the Waste Transfer Station on Ashworth Road in Marton was re-designed to comply with new regulations on recycling. It is operated by SITA (GB) Ltd and is where all Blackpool dustbin wagons are emptied.

A new Waste Transfer Station building at the Council's Layton Depot was opened for use on the 3rd of March 2008; the facility being used to bulk up the combined green and cardboard waste for transfer to a recycling facility in Runcorn, Cheshire. The building was closed and removed in 2014.

Holly Villa was built at the corner of Waterloo Road and Hawes Side Lane. Thomas Edwin Box bought it in 1915, establishing a funeral director's service that continues today as Box Brothers – the two brothers lived at numbers 13 and 15 Hawes Side Lane. In 1984, the company opened a second outlet in Poulton.

Alexandra Road Congregational Church, Blackpool: James Wayman was largely responsible for securing the site for the erection of this church. The Victoria Congregational Church had paid for the erection of a *"tin tabernacle"*, which was formally opened in 1891.
The current 3-storey, brick-built church on the corner with 48 Bolton Street began to be built in 1898. By then called the Alexandra United Reformed Church, it was opened on the 19th of January 1900 (when the tin tabernacle was demolished) and was rebuilt in 1908.
A Sunday school, the Wayman Memorial School, was built next door in 1912.
The Alexandra URC Church closed in 2016, to be sold for development.

Great Marton Post Office: The first post office opened on Preston Old Road, run by Robert Singleton from his grocer's shop. It was located where the telephone exchange stands now, and Marton Poultry farm was nearby.

In 1890, it relocated to Cow Gap Lane (now 374 Waterloo Road), and the second post office was run by Alfred Lord. That second post office building is currently occupied by Blackpool Sunbeds.

©

Great Marton Post Office moved from there, to Wade's Confectioners at the corner of Cow Gap lane and Vicarage Lane in 1890. Miss Margaret Wade remained postmistress at this third post office until 1933, when it was taken over by Mr Ingram. Now numbered 489 Waterloo Road, that shop is now occupied by Nursery Needs.
Opposite for many years, in the centre of the block of small terraced houses, was a grocer's shop – now a house.

In 1938, the white Co-op building was built at the corner of Newhouse Road and Preston New Road, and in 1946, a block of brick-built shops was constructed next door at the Oxford Square end of Preston New Road. This originally housed a cobbler's, the fourth post office and its toy shop, a sweet shop, and a hairdresser's. The address of Great Marton Post Office was then 6 Preston New Road.

In 2003, Appliance Spares Direct moved to numbers 2 to 4, after being established at Codon House on Clifton Road, Marton in 1986.
Great Marton Post Office was closed on the 29th of September 2015, and on the 19th of September 2016, a small fifth post office was opened in the Premier store - Smiley's One Stop Shop at 443 to 449 Waterloo Road. Appliance Spares direct moved into the old post office buildings in May 2017.
The fifth Post Office was closed in September 2019.

Blackpool Co-operative Society: After an impromptu meeting in the porter's room at Central Station, the society was formed by railway workers, led by John Leach, at a meeting in the Clarke's Coffee Palace at South Beach on the 16th of April. The Blackpool Industrial Co-operative Society Limited was then established on the 1st of July. Mr James Horne was number 1 on the register of members. The society gave out metal tokens in various denomination, for use in their outlets.

The first Co-op shop opened on the 23rd of July on Lytham Street. This building was completely re-built and was opened – as the Central Co-op Premises - on the 22nd of June 1927. The massive new store had its own Co-operative Hall and Café.
Another store was soon opened on the northern corner of Station Road and Lytham Road.

The Blackpool Co-operative Choir was formed in October 1890.

The Blackpool Co-operative "Model Bakery" opened on the 21st of September 1894 on Charnley Road. In 1936, this closed, and was replaced by the new Blackpool Co-operative Society Bakery at the corner of Cherry Tree Road and Preston New Road. This closed in 1965 and the site was cleared in 1989, later to become a McDonald's restaurant – which is now Blackpool's busiest take-away restaurant.

The Blackpool Co-operative Mineral Water Supply Limited started business in 1897.

The Blackpool Co-operative Union Printers Limited began in 1901.

The Blackpool Co-operative Society opened a store at 28-30 St Andrew's Road South in St Anne's in 1909. This is currently Bogart's Pizza shop.

By the late 1930s, the Blackpool society had outlets at Albert Road, 21 Church Street (the former Critchley's Linen House), 1 Topping Street, 32 Chapel Street, 204 Lytham Road, 302 Lytham Road, 4 Caunce Street, Banks Street, Ribble Road, Devonshire Road, Egerton Road, Waterloo Road, Charnley Road, Newhouse Road, Whitegate drive, 5 Layton Road, 91 Highfield Road, Warbreck Drive, 68 Road, 38 St

©

Helier's Road, Wellington Road, Ansdell Road, Warley Road, Abbey Road, Preston Old Road, Grasmere Road, Rectory Road, Watson's Road, Sutherland Road, Bispham, Victoria Road in Cleveleys (re-built in 1972, and now Argos – from 1986), Poulton-le-Fylde, Woodlands Road in Ansdell (later Fortunes Television shop), 31/33 Clifton Street in Lytham, and St Albans Road and St Andrew's Road South, St Anne's.
There were also coal departments at the Railway siding, Talbot Road, South Shore, St Anne's, and Lytham.
There was a total of just over 90 shops and depots in town, including a Co-operative Insurance office at 16 Queen Street. The society soon began to publish its own magazine "The Wheatsheaf".

The Co-operative Dairy opened in George Street on the 3rd of May 1930. It operated until the late 1980s, and the building later housed the Blackpool Brewery Company, being demolished in June 2012. There were other depots on Boome Street and Milbourne Street (now Scrooge's Wine Bar).

The Blackpool Co-operative Society Funeral chapel opened at 19 Charnley Road on the 9th of September 1931. Work also began on the Blackpool Co-operative Emporium in Albert Road. In 1939, they also opened another funerals outlet at 58 Bispham Road. By 1994, they had outlets at 85 Manor Road and 35 Kemp Street in Fleetwood, 97 Whitegate Drive, and 32 St Andrew's Road South in St Anne's.
A Co-operative "Porkery Products" depot opened on Devonshire Road on the 24th of December 1932.

The Co-op Emporium: This massive store, containing a newsreel theatre - the Jubilee Theatre - on the 4th floor - was opened on the block between Coronation Street, Albert Road, and Sheppard Street (now renamed Shepherd Street) on the 26th of July 1938, although the official opening was performed by W Shackleton on the 5th of October. Several large, garden-fronted houses were demolished to make way. The new store was built next to the original 1929 Central Premises building, to which it was soon linked.

The Emporium had a pharmacy, an opticians, giftware, and men's footwear and hats on the ground floor, ladies' clothing, and footwear, and a beauty and hair salon on the first floor, furniture on the second floor, domestic and baby goods on the lower ground, and the Jubilee Theatre and café on the third. The café advertised itself as *"Blackpool's Smartest Café Restaurant"*, and the toy department advertised itself with a giant teddy bear in the shop's foyer.
The staff had their own living quarters on the flat roof.

The Jubilee Theatre had a seating capacity of 900 and was reached from the main store by two express lifts. It offered a continuous programme from 2 pm to 10.30 pm, with admission at sixpence — without dividend cheque.
The Jubilee secured first release rights for Paramount News, with important films being received by air, via Squires Gate. Technical adviser in fitting up the theatre, was by the Co-op's cinema expert, Horace Masterman of Dewsbury. The newsreel showings ended before the war.
"Converted to theatrical use, it came into the spotlight again in the late 1940s when the BBC began to broadcast shows from the Jubilee featuring artistes engaged at Blackpool for the summer season. Broadcasts included Charlie Chester's Stand Easy, Jewel and Warriss in Up the Pole, and Henry Hall and his Dance Orchestra with Blackpool Nights.
The theatre also accommodated wartime broadcasts, school speech days, and stars from home and abroad. The pupils of St Joseph's School performed their plays in the theatre each year.
It closed in 1969, to become branch of the Co-op Bank.

By 1943, the Co-op had its own pharmacies at the Emporium, 91 Highfield Road, 302 Lytham Road, 5 Layton Road, and at 33 Clifton Street in Lytham.

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Blackpool Co-operative Society merged with other local societies in 1962 and changed its name to the Blackpool and Fleetwood Co-operative Society. The Charnley Road building was later occupied by the NDF furniture store, which closed in 2007.

In 1968, the Blackpool and Fleetwood Co-operative Society changed its name to the Lancastria. This then became the Greater Lancastria Co-operative Society in 1976 and operated from its headquarters in Shepherd Street. This HQ controlled over 300 outlets, and during this latter period the store was called Lancastria House (incorporating the Co-op Travel by its Albert Road entrance), and the local offices for the pharmacy were in Victory Road.

The Emporium closed in March 1988 and was demolished in early 1989. After many years as an open-air NCP Car Park, the site is now occupied by Debenhams.

A small book distributing station (branch library) was opened in Church Street, South Shore.
John Cookson set up a corn, hay, straw, and provender store and shop in Albert Street, South Shore. It supplied local farms and donkeymen.
Whitegate Poultry Farm was behind number 90 Whitegate Drive, delivering chickens and eggs around the district.
Furness's Wellington Café and Commercial House was established at 4 Foxhall Road (with *"Large and Commodious Dining Rooms"*) and 1a Chapel Street, also selling confectionery and groceries.
J Sands opened a clothing and hosiery shop at 31 Lytham Street.
Blackpool took delivery of a new lifeboat, the "Samuel Fletcher of Manchester" on the 29th of September. The naming ceremony was performed by the Mayor of Liverpool.
A burial ground opened in Marton, at the corner of what are now Preston Old Road and Preston New Road – Preston Old Road was known as Straits Road at the time; there is still a sign for Straits Road outside the electricity station on Preston Old Road. Around 10,000 burials have since taken place at the cemetery site.
A free library was opened in Bispham Temperance Hall, having previously been a subscription library.
The similarity of Blackpool's inner streets to east Lancashire mill towns led Doctor Hardman referred to Blackpool as "*Bacup by the beach*".

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The Poulton-le-Fylde Gas Coal Lime and Coke Company was incorporated.
Alpha House, on the Promenade at Cleveleys was the home of Benjamin Bowman, a butcher. The building later became Clancy's Sea View Hotel.
Campsie House was built on the Esplanade at Knott End.

St Anne's Pier: Local worthies had realised that St Anne's offered almost a mile of calm waters over which a pier could be built and then allow steamers to tie up. Blackpool's were over choppy seas. After 6 years of work to fulfil the design of Westminster architect A Dowson, the very costly venture was finally opened on the 15th of June, by Lord Derby (Colonel Frederick Stanley). The dignitaries embarked on a sea cruise aboard the "Wellington", during which, the lifeboat "Laura Janet" was launched. The pier was 912 feet long, and had a single shelter at the sea end, and a small sweet shop and a very basic wooden, octagonal, entrance kiosk at the pier head. The steamer jetty stuck out another 30 yards into the channel.

Preston engineers Garlic and Sykes were the engineers for the pier, and the pier body was built by Alsup and Sons of Preston.

The pier had actually been open to the public since 1883 and attracted a far wider audience than the more "selective" Lytham pier. There were coconut shies, boot blacks, Punch and Judy shows, Aunt Sallies, and a
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multitude of sweet sellers. The increased number of customers also attracted many unwanted street hawkers.

The pier's takings were conveyed to the company's offices in Church Road by a donkey cart in the first few years.

The Piermaster's office and the original pier entrance were demolished in winter 1889, and by spring 1890, a new brick-built entrance pavilion had been built, complete with a half-timbered Tudor-style frontage. It had been designed by JD Harker and incorporated tollbooths and offices, together with the boardroom of the St Anne's Land and Building Company.
On the pier approach for many years was a wooden Pierrots pavilion, which later became a pedestrian shelter. It stood on what is now the car park.

A 120-foot landing jetty extension was added in 1891, and, standing 30 feet above the water, was soon used by pleasure boats and steamers to Fleetwood, Lytham, Southport, Blackpool, and Morecambe; the last steamer leaving in 1910 – after the new channel to Preston had been dug. Also, in 1891, the pier installed electric lighting along its full length – the first to be installed in Lytham.

On the 24th of October 1894, a 6-ton fishing smack was driven through the middle of the pier during a severe storm. It made a 50-foot hole. After the pier was repaired, the pier gained two kiosks halfway down its length in 1898.

The whole pier was then doubled in width in 1903, and the Moorish Pavilion, for 920 people, was opened on the 2nd of April 1904, with the pier being enlarged to include a bank kiosk, shops, and a new pier head building, complete with an open-air concert enclosure. June 1909 saw the pier install a roller-skating rink. In June 1910, the concert enclosure was reopened as a Floral Hall, housing 850. The first resident orchestra in the Floral Hall was Miss Kate Erl and her Ladies Orchestra, followed from 1921 to 1933, by Clarice Dunington, from 1934 to 1942, by William Rees, from 1943 to 1964, by Lionel Johns, and finally, until 1956, by Norman George. In the doorway of the Floral Hall stood a large stuffed brown bear – one of several on the pier from Cuthbert Clifton's collection.

For several years from the 1910s, a wooden hut was erected on the beach to the South of the pier. It was at the junction of the shingle and the sand and advertised "mixed bathing" – a novel concept in the day.

In 1917, the pier opened its own cinema, using redundant equipment from the Assembly Rooms nearby.

The 1932 season advertised such summer attractions as Frank Monkton's company in the Carnival of Follies in the Pavilion and the Orchestra of Ladies giving recitals in the Floral Hall. The yearly pier admission tariff then was 12/6 for adults, 7/6 for children, and 7/6 for bath chairs and baby carriages. The Pier Café and Tea Rooms were *"open every week day and from 12 noon on Sundays"*.

The Amusement Arcade was built at the entrance to the pier in 1953, being opened in 1954. The Children's Theatre was damaged by fire in 1959. The whole pier was re-decked in 1960, and a new restaurant was constructed, and in 1962, the Amalgamated Investment and Property Company bought the pier for £240,000, and shops, an aviary, and a reptile house were added at the entrance.
On the pier itself, was Clark's Refreshment Bar.

©

In 1967, the Floral Hall became the popular Tyrolean Bar and beer garden, and the pier-front café was renamed the Boar's Head.

In 1970, the Moorish Pavilion Theatre was turned into the Sultan's Palace, and on the 7th of July 1974, a gala concert was held there, to celebrate the centenary of the St Anne's Land and Building Company. It was attended by Princess Anne and Yehudi Menuhin. On the 20th of July, the pavilion was totally destroyed by fire.

A skateboard park was built to the sea side of the Floral Hall in the late 1970s.

The Floral Hall was destroyed by fire on the 23rd of July 1982, and in 1984, the damaged pier head was demolished, reducing the length by 300 feet. Soon afterwards, the St Anne's Pier Café and Chip Shop was built and opened by Ian-Mellor Clark. The new café replaced the restaurant of 1960.

In 1985, the seaward end of the pier was demolished with explosives for safety's sake.

In November 2010, new lights were installed on the front of the pavilion, as part of a scheme to illuminate St Anne's. The Deckhouse Café opened in April 2012, the first café to occupy the site at the end of the pier since the fire in 1984. This was the first new business to open on the pier for 38 years.

St Anne's Crescent railway bridge was erected, with the surrounding shops being built between 1888 and 1901.

The Collegiate School for Boys, Lytham and St Anne's: was probably founded about now by William Entwistle Thornley at 10, Central Beach, Lytham.
It was taken over in 1888, by Reverend WH Johnson, who moved it to St Anne's in 1901, where it moved into new premises at 49, South Promenade (near Hornby Road). It was then renamed the St Anne's College School for Boys.
A contemporary newspaper *states "The school is reached by a slope, and stands about five feet above the level of the road, so that there is no obstruction to the sea view. The rooms to the left constitute the schoolrooms (one large and two small) and a class room, the one to the front being a large and spacious room, 33 feet long by 18 feet wide, with a height of 12 feet. It contains two fire places and two large windows, the ventilation being most satisfactory. The principal's drawing-room and dining-room are to the right on the main floor, and at the rear a laboratory has been fitted up"*. It had 13 dormitories.
By 1907, the building was in use as the Clifton Private Hotel, which was demolished in about 1972, to build flats.

The new wet dock at Preston was constructed, and when complete, Preston Dock was the biggest in the world. During the digging out of the dock, workmen found 30 human skulls, 60 pairs of red deer antlers, 43 ox skulls, two whale skulls, two dugout canoes and a bronze spearhead, all dating from the Bronze Age. Preston Docks officially closed to shipping on the 31st of October 1981. Preston council had decided that they could no longer afford to pay the £200,000 per year needed to dredge the River Ribble.

1886
Fern Villa stood on Whitegate Drive at the southern end of the Strawberry Gardens, and a garden nursery stood to the north of Cromwell Terrace.
The barn was built, which still stands behind number 4 Newton Drive.

©

William Jones, a Victoria Cross holder from the defence of the British army garrison of Rorke's Drift against Zulus, appeared at the Raikes to reconstruct the battle.

South Shore School: South Shore National School opened on the corner of Lytham Road and Dean Street, having been known as Miss Watson's School.

On the 27th of April 1904, South Shore Board School opened on Severn Road to replace the temporary school that had been there since 1903. It had 1,129 pupils, from 4 to 14 years of age, who were split between Infants, Juniors, and Seniors. The headmaster was Samuel Lomax. The school football team used a piece of ground between Severn Road and Watson Road, and swimming was held at Arbury's Seawater Baths on Central Promenade.

The name was briefly amended to South Shore Board School, but by 1909, its name had been officially changed to Thames Road Seminal School, and it soon gained its own small swimming pool – 11 metres long, by 5 metres wide. It was 0.8 metres in depth.
The school grew so much that in 1928 Roseacre School had to be built nearby, to ease the cramped conditions.
From the late 1920s, the school housed its own, dedicated, and separate secondary school – Thames Road Senior School, but by then called Thames Road Secondary School, it closed in 1956. It was almost instantly used as a temporarily Roman Catholic Secondary Modern School, until St Catherine's School opened in 1963.

Thames Road School is now just a junior school and is currently known as Thames Primary Academy. It was extended by the addition of a Children's Centre and Nursery in 2005, and this nursery was awarded an "Outstanding" mark by schools' inspectors Ofsted in July 2013.

On the 11th of September, Blackpool St John's Football Club opened a new ground at Manchester's Field, off Caunce Street.
Blackpool (Victoria) Football Club "*discontinued its existence as a club*" on the 13th of September, after being unable to raise a full team for the season's opening games.

Raikes Parade Wesleyan Methodist Church, Blackpool: The original iron church was built this year, and the red brick building we see today replaced it, opening for use on the 29th of November 1907. Its official opening was on the 7th of June 1909. A Sunday school is attached.
Its last service was held on the 12th of October 2002, and it closed in January 2003.

The church was previously held at Grosvenor Street Wesleyan Church, which held 250 people, and that old Church became the Grosvenor Street Wesleyan Methodist School Chapel, which was licenced for marriages on the 29th of May 1897. Grosvenor Street was originally called Chancellor Street.
Fylde Coast Church Alive opened in Raikes Parade Methodist Church on the 10th of January 2004.

The Fylde District Band of Hope and Temperance Union's Grand Inaugural Festival was held at Blackpool on the 24th of March.
Newsome's Aerated Water Manufacturers (John and Ernest Newsome) and Coal Merchants (Vincent Newsome) began in East Warbrick Street.
Sidney Beckett and Company, bootmakers started business from 19 Market Street.

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Addisons and Company, wine and spirit merchants opened at 88 Church Street. By 1908 they had become Limited.
Holden's Dining Rooms were on the Promenade north of South Jetty, next door to Wolstenholme's photography studio, and were one of the few places to offer Public Lavatories. In 1935, Holden's Restaurant was built at 6 Bank Hey Street. The building was later to become River Island Clothing at numbers 6 to 10.
Mee's Botanic Stores opened at 15 Wellington Terrace.
Miss Alice Lowe of Blackpool bequeathed £1000 for the building of an infirmary in the town.
By now, there were four branch Post Offices and 14 wall post boxes in Blackpool.
A tragedy occurred when one Edward Mann lost his life while swimming to the aid of people in difficulties in the sea. He was buried in Layton Cemetery and a magnificent gravestone -cum-monument was erected to him by public subscription. It is made of white stone and is carved to be rich in symbolism. The eulogy reads as follows: *"This monument was erected by Public Subscription in Loving Memory and Admiring Appreciation of EDWARD RIFLE MANN who at Blackpool on the 1st of August 1886 heroically swam out to the rescue of two men, drowning in the sea one of whom he saved but at the sacrifice of his own life at the early age of 26 years"*.

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Charles Saunby opened his fish merchant's shop and sailmaker's in Dock Street, Fleetwood.

The "MEXICO" Lifeboat disaster: Both the Southport Lifeboat "Eliza Fernley" and the St Anne's Lifeboat "Laura Janet" were tragically wrecked on the 10th of December, while trying to rescue the crew of the "Mexico" off Blackpool. Twenty-seven crewmen were lost, but the Lytham lifeboat survived.
The funerals of the crew were held on the same day, the 14th of December.

As a result of this disaster, a charity street collection was held in Manchester – the first in the country.
The wreck of the "Mexico" was finally towed onto the beach at Lytham, opposite the Queen's Hotel, on the 11th of March 1887, and on the 9th of April, the steamer "Alexandra" offered a trip from Preston to the wreck off Lytham, where passengers could alight and inspect the "Mexico's cargo. By summer, people were being charged 6d each to board the ship from a wooden gangway that had been built from the promenade.
Finally, on the 17th of March 1889, she was towed to Allsup's boatyard on Strand Road in Preston where she was completely refitted to become the Danish ship "Valhalla".
The Lifeboat Monument had been unveiled on St Anne's Promenade, by John Talbot Clifton, on the 2nd of May 1887. It was sculpted, as a likeness of Thomas Harrison, by William Birnie Rhind of Edinburgh. In 1896, the present gardens were laid out around it. The monument was restored in 2008, and re-dedicated on the 9th of December 2009.
A smaller monument was erected in the churchyard at St Cuthbert's in Lytham. This was also sculpted by Rhind in red sandstone, and has a gilt plaque saying *"Ready Aye Ready"*.
The tragedy resulted in the start of the Lifeboat Saturday parades, which developed into today's Lifeboat Sunday, or Flag Day, the second of which was held in St Anne's in 1891.

St George's Hall was built on St George's Road St Anne's.
George C Rushworth started his builder's business at Back North Crescent in St Anne's.

Royal Lytham and St Anne's Golf Club: The Lytham and St Anne's Golf Club was formed on the 27th of February, operating from the St Anne's Hotel until the clubhouse was built in 1898, being opened by the Marquis of Lorne on the 7th of March. The course was set out on farm land between Headroomgate Road
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and the railway, only being used in winter, as it was needed for cattle and sheep grazing between May and September. Here, Alexander Doleman, known as the "*Father of Fylde Golf*", introduced the game into Fylde, by founding the club, and becoming its first captain in 1888. George Lowe was the first club professional, and his caddy house and locker room was in a small wooden hut, which stood where Oxford Avenue now stands.
In that same year, the club opened a 9-hole ladies' course to the east of the main course. The first major competition played over the course was the inaugural 1893 British Ladies Amateur Championship, won by Lady Margaret Scott, who also won in 1894 and 1895.

The club closed at that original site in 1897, although the original links continued to be used until 1898, when the lease ended. From 1901 to 1910, the course was the home of fledgling Old Links Golf course. Then, in 1910, the original clubhouse became the new home of the Sandy Knoll School for boys (since 1947, the St Anne's British Legion Club). From 1912 to 1925, it was the St Anne's Private Links and was then developed for the new housing off Headroomgate Road.
The current course was designed and laid out in 1897, by George Lowe, 2 miles to the South, on Links Gate, off St Thomas's Road. In 1899, new tees and greens were added on several holes, and other earth moving work was undertaken. The length was increased from 4,292 yards to 5,633 yards, and par was then 80. The design today remains faithful to original layout, but it was only after renowned golf course architect Harry Colt made improvements between 1919 and 1922, that the course was chosen to host The Open. It now has 206 bunkers.

The new clubhouse was opened on the 5th of March 1898, by the Marquis of Lorne. It cost £6,499 to build and was designed by the firm of Woolfall and Eccles of Liverpool.
The Dormy House, providing overnight accommodation for visiting golfers, was designed by GH Willoughby of Manchester, and built in 1913, by Messrs Dryland and Preston. In April 1918, *"At about seven on Sunday evening, Dr Muggleston from Lytham found the body of Oscar Baron from Rochdale, in the lavatory at the Dormy House, the residential part of Lytham and St Annes Golf Club. He had come for the weekend for a bit of golf but he ended up slitting his throat with a razor in the lavatory area. He was involved in a cotton waste business and he lived in Crimble Hall, Summercastle, near Rochdale, but for the past few days, he had been in a strange mood"*.

In 1926, the club was granted the "Royal" prefix by King George, in time for the start of the Fylde's first Open Golf Championship, which was won by Bobby Jones of the USA. Other winners of the Open at Lytham have been:

1952	-	Bobby Locke
1958	-	Peter Thompson
1963	-	Bob Charles
1969	-	Tony Jacklin
1974	-	Gary Player
1979	-	Seve Ballesteros
1988	-	Seve Ballesteros
1996	-	Tom Lehman and
2001	-	David Duval
2012	-	Ernie Els

Royal Lytham has also hosted the Ryder Cup transatlantic competition twice, in 1961 and 1977. The Lytham Trophy, an amateur golf tournament, was founded by the club in May 1966, being held annually

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ever since. The club also hosted the Women's British Open Golf Championship in July 2010 and August 2018.

Weeton Smithy was still operational 100 yards to the east of the Eagle and Child. This is now known as Smithy Cottage.

St Joseph's Roman Catholic Church, Wesham: The site of the church was consecrated on the 18th of March and was opened on the 21st of March by Bishop Walsh. The ground was formerly occupied by Wesham Cross. St Joseph (known as the Worker) was not an uncommon patron saint of new churches in industrial towns. The church was built to accommodate between 400 and 500.

At the dedication service, Reverend John Bilsborrow, declared that *"Lancashire was the backbone of Catholicity in England ... and the Fylde was the backbone - the cream of Catholicity in Lancashire"*.

Early in the 18th century, the few Catholics around Wesham had been attended by the Holy Angels priest from Mowbreck Hall.
The school, for 192 children, was opened next door on the 10th of February 1890, and a Catholic cemetery was consecrated by the Bishop of Liverpool on the 22nd of September 1895. The high altar was finally finished in 1899.

Freckleton Brass Band was formed, meeting in a cottage on Kirkham Road. They practiced above the Freemason's Arms Inn in Bunker Street. An off shoot of the band, the Freckleton Youth Band was established in 2010.
St Michael's Bowling Club was founded, playing at their ground on Hall Lane. A new clubhouse was opened in 2008.

1887

Blackpool Rock: After his visit to the town this year, the first batch of Blackpool Rock was made by Benjamin Bullock, who sent it from his Excelsior Toffee Works in Dewsbury. His first lettered rock spelled *"Whoa Emma"*. Rock had been made as a sweet since the 1700s, but Bullock's creation started its association with the seaside.
Blackpool Rock was first made in the town itself in 1902 - in the factory of George Senior, who used to work as a sugar boiler for Ben Bullock. He formed the Star Confectionery Company and tourists could watch as his employees made rock from his shop on Bank Hey Street.

Note: There is also a tale that in 1877 Eliza Ramsden, the mother of a Blackpool tobacconist, discovered how to make rock which, wherever you broke it, had Blackpool stamped through it. This tale is as yet unsubstantiated, although Eliza and her husband Joseph (a sweet manufacturer) are proven to have run a confectioner's shop at 1 Assembly Arcade as early as 1864.

Blackpool Synagogue: The first Jewish service in town was said by Reverend Simon this year. The new United Hebrew Congregation formed in 1898, when their opening service was held on the 21st of May, at the house of the Honorary Secretary, Mr Samuels, 6 Polam Road, (near Talbot Road Station). From the 3rd of June, owing to the considerable influx of Jewish visitors, a large room at the Liberal Club at 56 Church Street was used as a temporary synagogue.

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The first Blackpool Synagogue was consecrated and formally opened by the Chief Rabbi on the 17th of May 1900, in the Metropole Arcade building on Springfield Road, and the Jewish annexe to Layton Cemetery opened on the 18th. There were just 14 people at the time.

The Blackpool United Hebrew Congregation was formed in 1907, by the amalgamation of the Blackpool Hebrew Congregation and the Blackpool New Orthodox Hebrew Congregation (formed in 1905 as rivals).

Blackpool United Hebrew Synagogue and School in Leamington Road was opened on the 25th of January 1916, by Lord Rothschild. It was completed in 1926, and was altered in 1955 and 1976, at which time it could house 575 congregants. The synagogue is constructed of smooth red brick, with ashlar dressings and pantile and lead roofs. The front elevation is a gable end and has a round-arched, coped, low parapet behind which rises a small octagonal dome. Built in Byzantine style, the building has stained glass throughout, depicting scenes from the Torah and commemorative dedications. The extensions allowed it to accommodate a growing congregation and to provide ancillary facilities such as a kitchen and classrooms. The main worship space has pews and a gallery/decorative balustrade for female worshippers, together with other features associated with Jewish worship. There is a stained-glass lantern in the vaulted ceiling, which has been covered over externally.

The synagogue (or Shul) closed on the 6th of May 2012, as the congregation had fallen below a viable number. The last service, conducted by Cantor Steven Robins LRCM, was held on the 13th of May 2012. The Blackpool congregation then merged with the St Anne's congregation.
The synagogue building was finally sold for development in February 2019.

Professor Vidoco's Flea Circus appeared on Church Street.

The UK's, and Blackpool's, first fixed switchback: was a straight 560-feet-long ride alongside St Chad's Road, which was opened by a London company on the 22nd of July.
It was moved from St Chad's Road in 1891, and was rebuilt, to the side of the Starr Inn (the old Star or Seven Stars Inn), in 1902. La Marcus A Thompson had patented the "Gravity double track switchback railway" in the USA on the 22nd of December 1885. This switchback had evolved from the increasingly frequent visits to the new resort of travelling fairs from East Lancashire. These had started after the arrival of the town's first gypsies in 1810. The entrepreneurs had spotted an opportunity.
The switchback was later bought by the Blackpool New Fairground Company and was replaced by a "Figure of Eight" model in 1908.

Blackpool Conservative Club: The Conservative Club opened at 40 Victoria Street, next door to the Electric Baths, on the 9th of July. The Conservative Club moved from there and opened on Church Street on the 3rd of June 1892.
In 1898, the foundation stone was laid for the new Wainwright Conservative Club (named after Mr H Wainwright) at 40 Victoria Street on the 12th of January. The Party was then able to move fully from Church Street, where the building became Willie Holt's Billiard Saloon.
The Conservative Club duly opened in 1899, and the building in Victoria Street still stands, as Birthday's Card shop.

The first Victoria Hospital – and Health Centre, Blackpool: The foundation stone of the proposed Victoria Hospital was laid on Adelaide Street this year, by the Lord Mayor of London, but the hospital was never built. Serious injuries and illnesses previously needed to be taken to Preston Royal Infirmary by train.

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However, in 1894, the Blackpool Infirmary was built in Norwood on Whitegate Lane. It received its press viewing and was officially opened on the 22nd of August, receiving its first casualty on the 25th - 4-year-old Alice Bellew from Oldham, who had fallen off a hobby horse at Uncle Tom's Cabin and had broken her leg.

A wooden building had been specially-built in 1893 and was situated opposite St John's Church – on the site of the Winter Gardens. A fund-raising fair was held there and £5,400 was collected towards the cost of the new hospital.

The building had one male and one female ward, for 9 patients, a matron's room, dispensary, an operating theatre, a board room, and a laundry.
In the first four months, eight operations were performed, 34 minor injuries were treated, and 69 cases were nursed on the wards. The Hospital cost £500, had just twelve beds and three cots for the 23,000 residents of Blackpool. It was staffed by a Matron (Miss Peel) and five nurses. The hospital was maintained by voluntary subscription, through a scheme started by the Trades Council. Members of the different branches in the town paid a voluntary contribution of tuppence per week. Until then, patients had been carried to Preston Royal Infirmary.

By then known as Blackpool Hospital, it gained two new wards in 1897 when wings were added to the Infirmary, which was renamed Victoria Hospital on the 9th of August, in honour of Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee. Two more wards were added in September 1898. During the excavation for the annexes, a Roman "quern" stone was discovered.

In 1904, the foundation stone of the new Victoria Hospital was laid on Whitegate Drive by Herbert Storey, the High Sheriff of Lancashire. The stone is now preserved inside Whitegate Health Centre's central garden. Blackpool's first X-Ray machine was installed at the hospital in 1922, thanks to funds raised by the Operatic Society. Also, in 1922, The "Princess Mary Bed" was unveiled at the hospital on the 16th of March. By 1924, the hospital had its own Outpatient's Centre. The X-Ray system was replaced in 1936.

Blackpool Corporation bought that first Victoria Hospital in 1937 and converted it into a Municipal Health Centre. It was officially opened on the 10th of July, and the Municipal Midwifery service started there on the 1st of August, but the centre did not open to patients until the 9th of October.
A fully-equipped Pathology Laboratory was installed at the Health Centre in 1938, adding to the existing laboratory facilities there.

Soon, the building was slightly retitled as the Blackpool Municipal Health Centre, and this then was officially opened on the 4th of May 1939. Amongst other parts, it held the town Dispensary, and clinics for venereal disease, pre-natal checks, post-natal checks, and contraception. There was a Council Day Nursery adjoining, which catered for up to 50 children. Also based at the centre, was a "Flying Squad" of an ambulance man and a doctor.
"In July 1939, a complete new Light Treatment Centre was opened. It consists of a Solarium containing 16 Mercury Vapour Lamps, Two Duo Therapy Light Units established in Cubicles, and one Kromayer Mercury Vapour Lamp".
At the end of 1956, a Mental Health Day Clinic was also opened.
The Day Nursery was demolished in 1968.

The Health Centre was demolished in 2001 to make way for – a health centre. Whitegate Health Centre was opened on the 19th of November 2009, by Health Secretary Andy Burnham. A time capsule was buried underneath one of the original building's cornerstones in the new courtyard.

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The 100th GP-led centre in the UK, contained a wide range of services including a GP-led Walk-in Centre, X-ray, MRI, a pharmacy, outpatient appointments, minor surgery, physiotherapy, podiatry, and Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service, together with a new home for the Marton Medical Practice (moved from Glastonbury Avenue). It was the first of three primary care centres to open in Blackpool, and it features three hand-made glass sculptures by Blackpool's own John Ditchfield.

Norwood's site is now taken by Park School. Another house, also called Norwood, was built on the opposite side of the Drive soon after – it was demolished in 2004 for flats to be built.

Rosary Terrace was built on Vicarage Lane – now number 36.
Norris Bank was built on the corner of Manchester Road and Newton Drive.

Revill's Boarding Establishment, Blackpool: opened at 1 Brighton Parade, North Shore, by Ernest Joseph Revill. By 1950, just called Revill's, it had 60 centrally-heated rooms, and was run by L and W Ham.
By then called the Revill's Hotel, it closed in December 2004, having recently suffered two devastating fires. It was demolished in April 2012, to be replaced by a small car park.

J Stansfield displayed the world's first cable car ride with his *"sensational aerial flight"* at the Royal Palace Gardens. It later moved to the beach at South Shore. A Monkey House and the town's first Circular Switchback Railway opened in the Gardens later in the year. The Royal Palace Gardens also housed a Cycle Track and a large lake - the lake site is now covered by Leamington Road and Lincoln Road.
On the 27th of August, also at the Royal Palace gardens, Mr John Fish hosted the Fylde Coast's first organised match of Rugby Union. Top clubs Oldham and Rochdale Hornets played in an exhibition match.
Henry Wilcock from Barnsley was the first to be killed by a tram, on the 22nd of August.
D Mitchell, Photographer started business on South Jetty, later naming his facility the South Pier Studio.
The Liberal Association of Blackpool established a Central Association on the 11th of May.
James Singleton ran a horse bus called "Olympic" (named after Blackpool Olympic Football Club) between Talbot Square and the Manchester.
Architect, Samuel Wright of Blackpool won the competition to design All Saints Church in Ipswich. He won £50 for the effort.
These words were printed in the Morning Post newspaper *"Blackpool has discovered the lost art of entertaining and offers more fun for less money than anywhere else".*
Blackpool Licensed Victualler's Association first met.
The Lancashire Rifle Volunteers' annual camp was in a field off Whitegate Lane, and a grand Military Tournament was held in the Raikes grounds. A certain Captain Baden-Powell of the 13th Hussars took part – he of the Scouts.

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Poulton Library: reopened in the Savings Bank on the corner of Vicarage Road. The town had operated a library since the 1690s, when Thomas Bray had set it up. It later moved into the Town Hall, and then, in 1935, to the old court house on Queen's Square, on the corner of Hardhorn Road, opposite the Stocks restaurant.
In May 1965, the new library was opened on Blackpool Old Road. A very old, thatched cottage, known as Dudley Hall was demolished to make way. It is said that in 1505, the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster visited Poulton with a Mr Dudley, and *"operated from this cottage"* while they were there. They were very cruel men.

On the 23rd of October 2018, the library was closed due to structural problems in the roof.
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JP Dobson of Hambleton moved to Poulton and opened a joinery workshop, wheelwright's, and undertakers at what would later become number 8 Tithebarn Street. The shop later became a William Hill's betting office, which was extended into the adjoining passageway in August 1979, to enlarge the shop.

Fleetwood Promenade: The brand-new promenade was opened on the 10th of September, after rebuilding and was called the Fielden Esplanade. It was a grand ceremony, called the "Opening of the New Promenade and inauguration of the Fielden Free Library", and was marked by *"A Grand Fete, part of the celebrations, included athletic sports, fiat racing, bicycle handicaps, egg gathering and football matches played under the auspices of Fleetwood Rangers Football Club. There was a reception at the town hall at 11 a.m., after the Board of Commissioners had met important guests at the station, dedication of the library at 11.30, opening of the New Promenade at 12.30, luncheon at the Queen's Hall at 1 p.m. and at 3 p.m. a trip to sea"*.

The Fleetwood Building Society was formed.
JW Fish opened his ironmongery shop on East Street in Fleetwood. It is now 58-62 Lord Street.
Barclay Clemesha was running his tea warehouse on Adelaide Street in Fleetwood.
Fleetwood's first rugby union match was played at the Copse Ground, when an exhibition encounter between St Helens and Kendal Hornets took place. There soon followed a match between teams from Fleetwood and Thornton. The Thornton team was based at Cockle Hall, calling themselves the Cockle hall Rangers, and they played a Fleetwood team called The Bourne Hall Turnip Loupers at Bourne hall.
The Preston and Wyre Railway ceased to exist on the 1st of July, and from 1888, was jointly run by the Lancashire and Yorkshire, and the London and North-western Railways.

St Anne's Fire Brigade: was formed immediately after a fire totally destroyed a new house on the South Promenade in August.
In 1900, St Anne's Fire Station began to be built at 90 St Andrew's Road North and operated by St Anne's Urban District Council with stabling facility for horse drawn appliances. The town had previously been covered from Blackpool, and the new station site was formerly a saw mill. Ready for the opening in November 1902, St Anne's UDC bought a brand new "Metropolitan" steam fire engine.
In 1985, the station was rebuilt next to the original, and was opened on the 18th of November.

The Rochdale Children's Convalescent Home was founded on St. Andrew's Road South, St Anne's by the Poor Children's Aid Society for sending convalescent children from Rochdale and surrounding districts to the seaside. It was enlarged in 1931, and was used by a recovering young Gracie Fields, who was suffering from St Vitus Dance.
George Benner opened his grocery at number 38 St Anne's Square.
Jubilee Cottage was constructed on St Andrew's Road South in St Anne's. In 1931, the house was joined with three neighbouring properties, to make a nursing home. The building was renovated in 1977, and the Jubilee Cottage trust was created. The property was converted into 17 self-contained flats with communal areas including a garden with greenhouse, a large lounge, and a laundry.
The Fylde Lawn Tennis Club held its annual championships in September.
Lytham Amateur Swimming Club held its 1st annual gala on the 3rd of September in the public baths.
The Lytham, St Anne's, and Kirkham Sun newspaper was published briefly during the summer.
The local Temperance movement founded their Rechabites at Lytham as a sick club, meeting in the Hewitt Lecture Room.

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Kirkham Methodist Church: was probably founded in 1811, by Moses Holden in his own house.

It moved to the old windmill by the Wrangway in 1814, then to a house in Freckleton Street, and finally to what was fondly known as *"Tea Kettle Hall"* on the 5th of September 1844 as the Wesleyan Methodist Chapel. This stood on the corner of Kettlewell (now called Chapel Walks) on Freckleton Street.

It moved again, and the new Wesleyan Methodist School and Chapel opened on Station Road on the 17th of November, 1887. That first permanent church was built on the corner of Nelson Street and replaced the temporary chapel.
The second church was replaced by today's red brick building on the 5th of December 1959, and this opened in front of the original, which became the church hall.

The Kirkham Coffee Tavern Company was in operation.
A memorial was erected, in the centre of the road junction at Town End in Kirkham, to commemorate the Golden Jubilee of Queen Victoria, later being moved to a site adjacent to the United Reformed Church.
Woods Terrace was built on Station Road in Wesham.
Moorfield Farm was built on Treales Road in Treales, farmed by Mr Clayton. In the 1960s, the farm began the Fylde's first herd of pedigree Frisian cows.
The first annual Pilling Colt Show was held in August, in a field next to the Gardner's Arms.
The sailing ship Ryelands was built at Nicholson's shipyard at Glasson Dock. She was eventually acquired by the film industry, and in 1950 appeared in Treasure Island. In 1954, she was purchased by Elstree Pictures Ltd for her part as the Pequod in the film Moby Dick. She returned to Glasson Dock in 1960, and was soon moored in Morecambe, opposite Brucciani's, until destroyed in minutes by a fire in 1972.

1888

Blackpool Corporation Abattoir: The first public abattoir was erected and opened on Talbot Road and the newly-constructed Abattoir Road. The abattoir was finally opened officially on the 1st of May 1895, and comprised public and private slaughterhouses, a gut-scraping house, tripe boilers, offal disposal, suet making premises, and many shippons and pens. Its opening precipitated the closure of 27 private slaughterhouses around town. The sight of sheep and cattle grazing unawares in the field adjoining Devonshire Road railway bridge was a familiar one for many years.

By 1904, *"the Public Slaughter-house was regularly used by the Argenta Meat Co., and Messrs. Barlow, Butterworth, Carver, Harrison, Hartley, Knight, Eaycock, Mews, Mitchell, Noble, Stansfield, Waring, and Whetman. The pig slaughter-house was used regularly by Messrs. Cotton, Robinson, and Walker, and by the Argenta Company and the Co-operative Society"*.
The business was taken over by the War Department during both World Wars and began to be run by the Council again in 1942, when 80,332 animals were slaughtered there. By 1964, the number had risen to 105,079.

In 1935, the abattoir was described as consisting of *"one Public Slaughter-house used by Butchers in a small way of business, several Private Slaughter-houses, and special premises for the purposes of Triperies, Hide and Skin Depots, Gut Scraping, Offal Disposal, Minced Suet Manufacturing, etc. Special premises have been erected and are used by the Jewish Community for their slaughtering requirements"*.
The abattoir was used for many years as the location of UCP's Blackpool tripe works.

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In 1954, J Cocker Limited and Laycock's butchers combined to form Cocker and Laycock Limited and run the abattoir. The Blackpool Abattoir Company Ltd was then established in June 1966, dissolving in 1999. Cocker and Laycock's Blackpool Abattoir opened on the 23rd of March 1967, with the Winder family soon becoming the major shareholders. Billy Smith's Scrapyard was next door. Cocker and Winder bought out all competition at the abattoir in 1993 and began to trade as the Cocker Blackpool Meat Company.

1955 saw the construction of a new Casualty Slaughterhouse and a Gut-scraping Unit. A new Pig Lairage came into use in early 1957, providing an extra 18 brick pens for up to 150 pigs. The old lairage was re-furbished in 1958, to become an extra Cattle Lairage.
The Slaughterhouses Act 1958 made requirements which meant that a new Blackpool facility had to be constructed.
The abattoir was placed into receivership in August 2001. It saw the beginning of the end for five different companies, employing almost 70 people. The recent BSE crisis and the foot and mouth disease epidemic had contributed to the closure. Cumbrian auctioneers, Penrith Farmers and Kidds, immediately bought the premises and set up a new company, North West Food Products Ltd, which slaughtered its first stock at the site on the 5th of November. The NWF business was placed into liquidation in 2003, and the site closed for good on the 27th of June. The workforce was laid off, and the site was cleared for housing development.

Tyldesley School, Blackpool: The Victoria Church of England Schools were built by All Saints Church and opened in Tyldesley Road on the 14th of December. The playground was placed on the flat roof because of the shortage of space. The headmaster was Mr Brodie, an England Footballer.
The schools were given a second storey in 1915 but were bought by the Government in 1923 for use as an Employment Exchange. The Tyldesley Road Employment Exchange was opened on the 7th of August 1929, and was demolished in 1994, and a new Unemployment Benefit Office erected.

Tyldesley Senior School opened on Tyldesley Road in 1925 and was Blackpool's first purpose-built senior school. It took seniors from Revoe School and from a temporary school next to the Primitive Methodist chapel in Chapel Street. The Senior School soon moved, opening on Condor Grove on the 1st of June 1929. It was fondly known by pupils as *"Condor College".*
In 1972, some of the seniors moved to the old Collegiate Girls' Grammar premises on Beech Avenue, which was briefly rename Tyldesley Senior School.
The whole school closed in July 1982, to be demolished in 1986 and replaced by the small housing estate of Brecon and Snowdon Closes. The remaining pupils mostly went to Palatine High School.
The frontage onto Somerset Avenue was retained for a while as a youth and community centre.

The Derby Hotel was at number 1 Cocker Street. During the 2nd World War, the Derby was used to hold auditions and rehearsals for the local RAF show "Contact". Locally-stationed servicemen such as Max Wall and Sidney Torch were amongst its participants. The Derby is now known as Liberty's on the Square.
The Manchester and Yorkshire Dining Rooms were opened at 30 Market Street by Charles Leach.
Blackpool had a total of 14 postmen.
Benjamin Sansome formed the Lodging House Keepers Association.
John Todd bought number 6 Market Street, as a milliner's shop to add to his drapery.
Thomas Hogarth was running a butcher's shop in Bispham.
Robert Lewtas ran brickworks off Exchange Street, which with others, supplied bricks for many cottages by the railway. The area became known as the *"Canary Islands"*. Fielding Brothers' Greenhill estate was on the other side of the tracks.

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South Shore Church St Peter's Church: The South Shore Church was rebuilt at 190 Lytham Road with much help from the local Freemasons. It was consecrated on the 23rd of September 1889, but its foundation stone also shows the Masonic date of "AL 5888".
A temporary wooden building, now called St Peter's Church was opened on the 28th of June 1909.
The St Peter's Church of today was consecrated by Bishop Knox on the 4th of July 1910, replacing the old mission-room, which had been pulled down in August.
The Iron part of the old mission became the Sunday school.

Edward Niblett, a coach maker, of Norbreck invented the "Buoyant" - an unsinkable boat.

Blackpool Cricket Club: was founded in October, playing in the Palace Shield and the Ribblesdale League, on the Royal Palace Gardens Athletic grounds.
In 1893, the Blackpool Cricket Club moved to the Athletic Grounds (near the present Stanley Park Oval, where their first pavilion was opened by W Thompson in May 1900. The club's first Cricket Festival Week was held in 1904 in what was by now known locally as Whitegate Park.
The club hosted its first County Championship match, when Lancashire played Leicestershire at the end of July 1906. An England Cricket XI (captained by Albert "Monkey" Hornby) then played the West Indies from the 26th to the 28th of the same month. The match was drawn, although England's Sam Hargreave took 7 wickets for just 49 runs. By then, the ground had become known as Whitegate Park, as the Athletic Grounds Company had become bankrupt.

In 1923, the Cricket Club moved to Stanley Park – then known simply as New Park - and Blackpool Cricket ground and pavilion were officially opened, on the 5th of August 1925, by Sir Edwin Stockton. The pavilion had been built on the site of the old tennis hut.
A ladies' pavilion was erected in 1933, on the site of the old wooden striped pavilion, and this allowed England's women to play Australia there, in the 2nd Test on the 26th of June 1937. During that match, England's Myrtle MacLaglan scored the first ever women's test match century. A second stand was built in 1957.
Its newly-built Squash courts were opened in 1973.
Blackpool Cricket Club became National Champions in 1990. The club also won the Lancashire Cup on eight occasions between 1973 and 1996 and were League champions fourteen times.
An all-weather pitch was opened on April the 23rd 2000, and the club won the Thwaites Creamflow Trophy.

The first Grand Battle of Flowers was held on the Promenade on the 24th of September, started by the Mayor J Fish to mimic those he had seen in Monte Carlo, in France.
Wylie Kay solicitors started in business at 3 Cookson Street.
A Switchback Railway was opened on spare land on Rigby Road, with its entrance on Tyldesley Road.
Mr Weldon's Circus building opened at Hounds Hill - Blackpool, first permanent circus.
The Blackpool Company-House Protection Association and the short-lived Blackpool Lodging-House Keeper's Association were both formed.

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Sherbrook House was built on Victoria Road West in Cleveleys, for a Bury factory owner. The Fletcher family bought the house in 1910, and in 1938, it was demolished and an amusement arcade was built on the site – this later became the Entertainment Centre and is currently known as Treasure Island.
William Hodgkinson's Wine and Beer shop was opened at 25 Lord Street in Fleetwood. They later opened a second shop at number 175 (next to Dickinson's jewellers) and became well known locally for their
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"Bevora" fruit juices, which their lorries delivered to many local premises, advertising *"Hodgkinson's Quality Beverages"*.
The Fylde Medical Society was established.

St Anne's Ladies College: moved to St Anne's from Newton Hall in Cheshire. It started at Claremont, South Promenade this year, being shown in St Anne's Road West in 1895, being run by Frances and Lilly Oldfield. A purpose-built school was erected on Clifton Drive from about 1898, by Manchester architect Charles Hindle. When the pupils moved there in 1902, it was renamed St Anne's College for Girls.
In the 1930s, the school amalgamated first with Saxonholme School, and then in the late 1930s, with Linden Hurst College.
Its address is now 293 Clifton Drive South, and after becoming independent in 1984, the school is now known as the St Anne's College Grammar School. It is also co-educational.

Church Road Wesleyan Methodist in St Anne's: The first Nonconformist services were in a small wooden bungalow, erected in 1875, which was the town's first rated house. Numbers grew, and the worshippers moved to rooms above stables in Back St Anne's Road West. A small group of Wesleyans had met occasionally James Jackson's house on Church Road, but in 1881, they rented a room over a bake house, off Church Road. In 1887, they opened a mission in rooms recently vacated by the United Free Methodists. By 1888, a new Mission Hall was needed. This was opened on St Albans Road on the 3rd of October, accommodating 200 people.

In 1904, work began on a new church building to take 750 worshippers. The Church Road Methodist Church of today opened on the 8th of June 1905. The old Mission became the Sunday School, and eventually, the restaurant and kitchen. The church was designed by prominent local architects H and W Wade, and constructed by S Butterworth and Sons of Blackpool. The new building was of Gothic design with a tower, and in 1923, the church was equipped with a new organ.

On the 29th of June 1957 a Sunday School extension was opened. It had a stage and two large classrooms. Then, on the 20th of January 1975, the Day Care Unit of the new Church Road Centre was opened. At the end of 2013, the Day Care Unit left, and in 2014, the Centre became home to the Fylde Foodbank.
March 2019 saw the centre demolished. The new centre had function rooms, offices, and Wesley's Coffee Shop.

Houses were built on the Crescent in St Anne's. These now house various shops including the Cappuccino coffee bar.

Methodist missions in Lytham: A Methodist Mission Room was opened in Victoria Street.

The Albert Street Methodist Mission: was built in 1907, for £3,000, to replace the old building in Victoria Street. The mission was originally known as "East End Mission" and the "Lytham Mission" and was under the care of a Deaconess from Park Street.
It was closed on the 10th of June 1968, and was demolished in 1969, to be replaced by housing.

The Witchwood at Lytham: Squire John Talbot Clifton's favourite horse, the Witch, was killed in the woods running by the railway line. The witch's gravestone is in the trees by the side of the path, and the inscription reads "*The Witch. Died January 5th 1888*".

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It was officially named the "Witchwood", by the Duke of Edinburgh on the 4th of May 1974, when the stone was moved to its current location. The grave is in its original place under one of the bungalows on Forest Drive.

So, contrary to popular belief, the Witchwood is NOT haunted by witches!

1889

John Bickerstaffe visited the Great Paris Exhibition. Allegedly, when he saw the Eiffel Tower and visited the Nouveau Cirque, the idea for Blackpool's own tower was born. This is a myth, and the only item he actually wanted to copy was the water circus at the Nouveau Cirque, which had opened in 1886, and which he finally saw on a visit in 1893. That had a revolutionary hydraulic ring, which could be lowered to become a water feature.

Blackpool ceased to be a Municipal Borough and became a County Borough.

The Lower Walk was washed away by high seas.

The Grand Theatre, Blackpool: From 1882, Thomas Sergenson had leased the Prince of Wales Theatre on the Promenade, and had then leased and run the Theatre Royal, Talbot Square. He completely turned around the ailing fortunes of both venues. Next, in 1887, he had bought a row of cottages, demolished them, and built 5 small shops on his prospective future theatre site on the corner of Church Street and St Anns Street (now the pedestrianized length of Corporation Street).

A circus was built behind 5 newly-constructed wooden shops, in a portable wooden building. Sergenson had demolished several shops (including Henry Taylor's tripe and heel shop and Thompson's tobacconists) and had built his circus with a corrugated iron roof. He then engaged Ohmy Smith to run it, and on July the 11th 1889, Ohmy's Circus opened. Sergenson was fined 20 shillings on the 29th of July, for not building his circus from *"incombustible materials"*.

In 1890, Bioscope projection equipment was installed in the Grand, advertised by Thomas Sergenson as Grando Bioscope. This began to be used extensively in 1909, when he negotiated a deal to show daily films of the events at the Blackpool Air Show. These were screened on the next day, having been processed overnight by filmmakers the British Bioscope Company.

In 1896 Ohmy presented the *"VITOGRAPH, The Greatest Novelty in England"*, and the people of the area were encouraged to "Come and see the Greatest Wonder of the Age". An advert in "Era" magazine for the 19th of December called it *"the first vitograph pantomime in a circus"*. Sergenson's Grand Circus ran for five years and hosted a different circus each year. The popularity of the new circus forced the closure of Newsome's rival circus at the Winter Gardens. The famous "*Shed Circus"* closed in September 1893, and the site was immediately cleared.

A competitor, The Grand Museum and Royal Waxwork was opened in 1890, by Mr Lee, in shop premises on the north side of Church Street - opposite the Grand Circus.

The Grand Theatre: The New Grand Theatre and Opera House was opened, by Sergenson, on the site of the shops and circus on July the 23rd 1894. He dubbed it "Matcham's Masterpiece" after its designer, Frank Matcham. The theatre took just seven months to build (by Cardwell Brothers) and cost £20,000.

Its impressive curved, stone, entrance on the corner was the ideal entry to the highly-decorated venue, and the inside was described as follows *"Matcham used a steel frame and the cantilever system to support the Dress and Upper Circles, and the Gallery at the Grand, so that, apart from the rear stalls, there are no columns to obstruct the view. The Grand has eight boxes, including the Royal Box, and they are partly*

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cantilevered and partly supported on iron columns. The balcony fronts are thickly encrusted with deeply-cut Baroque plasterwork. The Proscenium stage – which is raked - is just over 30 feet wide and 30 feet deep, and the proscenium opening has an imposing round arched frame with openwork plaster "frills" - the spandrels of the arch containing large paintings of the muses. The oval ceiling is opulently decorated with painted panels of composers by Messrs Binns of Halifax. When it opened, the seats were covered in blue English velvet. They were changed to red colour in the 1970s, but during refurbishment in 2007 they went back to the original colour. There are twelve dressing rooms".
The theatre opened with a performance of Hamlet, starring Wilson Barrett. After Sergenson had *"made a valued arrangement with George Edwardes, the king of musical comedy production, to have the first choice in Blackpool of those famous musicals from the Gaiety Theatre and Daly's Theatre, London",* he continued to attract shows and acts like A Gaiety Girl, Charley's Aunt, the Carl Rosa Opera Company, Ellen Terry, Madge Kendal, Sarah Bernhardt, Lily Langtry, F R Benson, and Dan Leno.
On the opening night, the programmes were printed locally on perfumed silk - the perfume being called "Tower Bouquet". The seats for the opening performance cost 4 shillings (20p), and it was 1 or 2 guineas (£1.05 or £2.10) for a box. Even the Blackpool Gazette reported that the capacity of the theatre during the opening week was 3000 – as there was also standing room on all four levels - it is widely believed that the figure of 3,000 was greatly exaggerated for effect. Today, the seating capacity is 1,153.

1906 saw additional seats installed in the stalls, to cope with increasing audiences. These took some space previously reserved for the Pit.

In 1909, the Blackpool Tower and Palace Company, on the 24th of December *"purchased the Grand Theatre with the shops adjoining and also the shops adjacent to the Opera House"*. The Grand was completely refurbished, with the stalls' capacity being increased to 300. It was re-opened on the 21st of March 1910 but was briefly closed again in October 1920. The gents' outfitters next door had been bought out, so that a new, wider staircase could be built for the dress circle. That particular work also saw the addition of marble columns in the enlarged foyer, and marble floors on both levels. At great expense, the famous dome was gilded.
The theatre soon gained a reputation for risks: In August 1914, the Grand staged a spectacular show which involved 3 racehorses running at full speed on a revolving track on the stage; and in 1926, it engaged the "*outrageous"* new star Tallulah Bankhead to star in "The Gold Diggers".

In 1931, the Blackpool Tower Company directors decided that the Grand Theatre would become a dual-purpose venue, showing live acts and films. Two giant "Talkies" signs appeared above the Church Street entrance. That year, the Grand had an equal *"number of films and stage shows, but from 1932 the theatre had only 16 weeks of live shows mainly during the summer months"*.

In May 1938, the Blackpool Tower Company bought out the whole of the Winter Gardens Company, so that all rival theatres were owned by the same entity. The Grand returned to being an all year-round playhouse. A lit cigarette dropped in the gallery almost gutted the theatre with fire, but in 1942, it was pristine again, ready for Noel Coward to premiere his two latest plays The Happy Breed and Blithe Spirit.

In 1948, Henry Hall took over the Grand, and conducted a new band to accompany some of the artists he had discovered. These included Donald Peers, Norman Wisdom, David Hughes, and Reginald Dixon. He also booked comedian Ted Ray and the show "Something in the Air", which opened on June the 12th. Unfortunately, he turned down Vera Lynn because he thought her voice was unsuitable for broadcasting!

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April and May 1950 saw the interior being fully re-furbished, but in 1956, the in-house orchestra was dispensed with, due to television taking a large number of theatre-goers away.
Between 1963 and 1972, it was closed during the winters, and in 1972, the theatre was closed altogether by owners EMI. Permission was granted for it to be demolished and replaced by a new Littlewoods store. However, between 1975 and 1978, the theatre staged EMI bingo sessions, when the box office space was rented out as a shop.

The Grand was disused between 1978 and 1981, but after being bought from EMI by the "Friends of the Grand" charity in 1980, the Grand was reopened on the 23rd of March 1981, by Timothy West and Prunella Scales in the Old Vic production of Shakespeare's "The Merchant of Venice".
The box office had been re-built, and a set of purpose-built wooden ticket racks were gifted by the ABC up the road. *"Tickets had the names of the theatre and the show, with the date and performance time, the area of the theatre and the row and seat number. The system we used had tickets perforated into three parts. The sales assistant took out the two outer pieces that made up the ticket and handed them to the customer, the main part was the actual ticket, and a smaller part was a counterfoil that would be torn off by an usher when the customer entered the auditorium. A ticket stub remained in the book for audit purposes"*. In 1984, the Grand became the first theatre in Lancashire to get a computerised box office.

The building now has two theatres - one 4-tier auditorium holding 1,200 people and a smaller "studio" for 80, which was created from the annexe in 1988. Frank Matcham's name now lives on in Matcham's Bar, at the rear of the theatre, and Matcham Court has been turned into an all-weather-patio area, roofed in glazed steel, and accessed through Coronation Street's paved area. A new exterior canopy was installed in 1994, and in 2016, the original footprint on the venue was re-gained, with the purchase of the surrounding newer shops.

In 2006, the Grand Theatre gained the subtitle of the "National Theatre of Variety".

The Fletcher's Waxworks near South Jetty were renamed Walker's Royal Waxworks.
Turkish Baths were opened at Central Beach, lasting until 1913.
Olding and Disney opened their tailor's shop at 49 Market Street.
Well's Dining Rooms were opposite central beach.
Bates's butchers were at 27 Yorkshire Street.
Stott Brothers opened their sports outfitters and locksmiths' shop at 62-64 Church Street.
John Hartley opened his jeweller's shop at 97 Central Drive.

The Wheatsheaf Hotel, Blackpool: was listed at 1 and 2 New Road and was later owned by the Mathew Brown brewery. The pub later displayed a patriotic statue figure of a man (Worzel Gummidge) and woman (Aunt Sally) who would wave Union Jack flags when fed with the appropriate coins.
By then at 192 to 194 Talbot Road, the Wheatsheaf was bought by the Corporation in 2004, closing on the 22nd of July for the last time. After a later fire, it was demolished in 2006, to extend the adjacent car park. The entrance to Sainsbury's car park now stands on its location.

Worth, Hall and Buck Limited, Bakers, opened on Buchanan Street. Their bakery was at 27a Caunce Street and in September 1908, it became the bakery of the newly-formed Darbyshires Prize Bread Company Limited.
Richard Cunliffe opened his locksmiths and ironmongers at 62 Church Street, South Shore.

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Number 17 Victoria Street was built. It was once an Electricity Board shop, then a Birthdays Card Shop, and finally the Republic fashion store. Italian restaurant Prezzo opened on the 11th of November 2015, at 17 to 23 Victoria Street – on the façade of the Hounds Hill Shopping Centre. The restaurant seats 82 inside and a further 20 on the outside terrace. The Liberal Club was in the first floor for many years.
"Bribery Hall" was on Poulton Road at Layton, just to the north of the Mill Inn. It was so named because it had once been given as the price of a vote in a parliamentary election. Poulton Road westbound was widened and straightened in 1923.
The Steam Saw Mill was between Cecil Street and the Railway Goods yard, by Green Hill, and there was a Corn Mill on the corner of Charles Street and Buchanan Street.
Fisher's Brickworks were in Bloomfield Road. The road was previously called Spen Green Lane and was renamed after Bloomfield – Doctor Cocker's bungalow.
The Blackpool Brick Manufacturing Company Ltd was registered on the 28th of May, to be operated in Marton by Mr J Fisher.

The United Methodist Chapel, Blackpool: opened in Springfield Road.

In 1897, the original chapel was replaced, when the Methodist New Connexion Church and an attached hall was opened on the corner of Springfield Road and Maybell Avenue (now Abingdon Street). It had been constructed at a cost of £12,050, including £3,300 for the land, and could seat 900 people.

Springfield Road United Methodist Church closed in June 1956 and transferred to the New Springfield Methodist Church in Greenlands, Bispham. The New Connexion had been a product of Methodist division after Charles Wesley's death in 1797. The church building was turned into a Kindergarten in the 1990s.

Cookson Buildings opened on Church Street (now Bond Street). It now houses A1 Motor Spares.
Opposite the Boars Head pub, was John Brownsett's Nursery and seed merchant. By 1937, they had opened a florist's shop at 153 Church Street. This shop was demolished when St John's School was extended. The nursery itself was replaced by a short terrace of houses in the 1960s.
The town had over 300 licenced Landaus.
The Blackpool Canine Society's first show was held at the Raikes on the 13th of August.
The second "Battle of the Flowers" was held in July, from Lytham Road to Claremont Park.
Blackpool and District Cricket Club played an "All England" cricket eleven on the 3rd and 4th of June, winning by four wickets.
The National Home Reading Union held its inaugural meeting at Blackpool on the 16th of July.

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Fleetwood's first steam trawler entered the dock this year, changing the face of the port forever. Whilst foreign trade in timber and other goods got worse, the fishing took over.
The Fylde Rubber Company Limited was formed from the original local business on London Street and Blakiston Street West. In 1898, the Fylde India Rubber Works were demolished after storm damage, but the Neptune Rubber Works were still in operation off Lower Warren Street.
Oxford House School was at "The Holme" in St Anne's. A boys' preparatory school, it moved to South Promenade in 1895, and by 1903, had moved again to Clifton Drive South, on the corner of York Road.
Lytham held its first modern-day May Day festival on the 1st of May.
Lytham Yacht Club was founded on the 24th of October, with its headquarters in the Lytham Baths and Assembly Rooms.
A cast iron shelter was built on Lytham Promenade, opposite Lowther Gardens.
William Nottingham opened his first butcher's shop at 42 Albert Street, Lytham on the 8th of November, from where he traded for 8 years. In 1901, he moved the shop to rented premises at 6 Station Road,
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nearer to the town centre. This shop is now occupied by Lytham Nail and Beauty. In 1913, he bought a house at number 13 across the road and converted a downstairs room into the shop to which he moved in 1914. The rest of the building was used as the family home. Number 13 is now a massage parlour.
Water was first supplied from Weeton to Kirkham, Newton, Clifton, Freckleton, and Wrea Green.
The former house of Flax miller Hornby Roughsedge, on Preston Street, became Bagnall's Garage. Then called Whalley's Garage, it was demolished in the 1940s, to be replaced by a house.
A small private railway was opened between Grimsargh and Whittingham Mental Hospital, closing in 1957.
On the 8th of August, the "works" of the newly-established Fylde Peat Moss Litter Company were formally opened at Cogie Hill near Winmarleigh. The business worked to convert peat moss into "litter" for use as bedding in stables. Winmarleigh Moss is designated as an SSSI and is one of the best examples of the few remaining uncultivated peat mosslands.
The Salwick Railway Station of 1842 was rebuilt, to cope with the 14 trains per day that stopped there. It closed on the 2nd of May 1938, reopening on the 8th of April 1940, to serve the Springfield complex. The station closed to goods traffic in 1964, except for trains to the British Nuclear Fuels site. It famously had a wishing well on the platform.

1890s
Stanley Bank Farm was built on Singleton Road in Weeton. In 1934, it was being farmed by Jane Bradley, but by the 1950s, it was run by the Ward family. The farm closed in the early-21st century, and the house is now a detached five-bedroomed home.

The Plymouth Brethren in Freckleton: began to meet in the home of an adherent on Lytham Road. As the gathering increased, they leased the local Quaker Meeting House in 1903, and 1905 saw the construction of a dedicated Plymouth Brethren Meeting House on Naze Lane. Samuel Rigby built the place and continued to own it. It was a simple, brick-built place, with pine panelled walls and one central fire. When Samuel Rigby left the village, he sold it to John Worthington. In the 1960s, it was bought by T Taylor (Opticians) Limited, who are still there.

1890
Bispham Grange was demolished. It had been the monastic property of Rossall Grange and was one of the Fylde's oldest farm complexes and included Horseman's Hill in its land. A "Grange" was not necessarily a large house, but usually a farm.

Blackpool Hotel and Catering College: Courtfield was built on the corner of Park Road and Hornby Road by Brewer Robert Mather.

Catering education had begun in Blackpool in the 1920s, when baker George Burton set up a School of Confectionery. In November 1937, Burton was made the head of the fledgling School of Bakery at the new Technical College on Palatine Road. 1937 also saw the college holding classes at Thames Road School, and at Vance Road. There, they began to teach the beginnings of more formal hotel and catering courses.
Also, a Hotel, and Catering Trades Advisory Committee was established, with its first remit being to centralise such training.
At first, a large wooden building on the eastern side of Park Road was to be used, and after the war, preparatory work began there on 24th of September 1945. Formal Bakery Courses commenced in October when Major W Rees Jones was "*released from the Forces*".
In 1944, Blackpool Council had leased Courtfield as the future home for its new Catering College, and although classes had already moved from the "Wooden Hut" in 1947, this opened in 1949.

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Microwave cooking: Also, in 1947, the college's Head of Engineering, RH Garner and the Head of Catering, William Rees-Jones, using technology discovered in the war (RADAR Technicians noticed that sausages would cook if they were put next to a RADAR transmitter), worked together to develop an oven using those techniques. Subsequently, they were able to show their "Dielectric Oven" at the "Country Comes to Town" exhibition at Stanley Park that year. This was the very first microwave.

A gala luncheon was held in June 1949, to mark the school's official opening by the Duchess of Gloucester. The college's Courtfield Restaurant hosted many high-class meals, cooked by students, and the college itself has produced numerous now-famous chefs, being at one time regarded as one of the best in Europe. From 1956, work began to extend the college capacity by demolishing the old carriage house and stables, and a new Refectory building was constructed.

The catering campus of the Fylde College was erected at 97 Reads Avenue, but the Catering School moved to Bispham completely in 1966. Courtfield was vacated, but parts remained open until 1969, to accommodate several small classes. The building was used once more from mid-1985, by the Arts department, and various studios, but Courtfield closed for the last time in 1996.
It was demolished in 1998, to be replaced by 42 apartments – also named Courtfields. One of its original stained-glass windows was transported to the College's new home on Bispham Campus, where the famous Courtfield Restaurant and Suite reopened.

The wooden building on Park Road was replaced in the 1960s, by a permanent brick-built annexe to the college. This was briefly used by the catering college, and later became a dedicated Arts college annexe of the main setup. It was renamed The Gateway Campus in 2016.

The Blackpool Hotel and Catering Students Society was formed in 1959, for student chefs, and at its 50th anniversary in 1999, it was the longest-standing such society in the United Kingdom.

Holden's Coffee Tavern was on South Jetty, as were Mitchell and Nelson, photographers.
The Oxford Dining Rooms were on Abingdon Street.
The Princess Hotel was on Foxhall Road.
Back street cottages were built off Ribble Road
Planning permission was sought for Watson's Farm, South Shore.
Lytham Road Post Office was on the southern corner of today's Bloomfield Road, and the District Bank on the northern corner, but the new Lytham Road Post Office was opened on the 8th of June 1899.
The Mayor, Alderman Bickerstaffe, held a public meeting, which concluded that a hospital should be built in the town.
Grantham's Sign writers and Stationers were founded by William Grantham, later working from premises on Charnley Road. Those premises are now their retail shop. The main business, DT Grantham Signs Ltd, is based at Zell-Em House, Snowdon Road in St Anne's.
The Whitegate Laundry was established on Woodland Grove and went into liquidation in October 1915, but the business was carried on afterwards by John Coates. It later moved into a small shop at 107 Whitegate Drive.

The Swedenborgian Church, Blackpool: on Reads Avenue was founded by the Society of the New Church, a building was erected in Stanley Road for divine service. In 1910, that was superseded by the building known as the New Swedenborgian Church, which opened on the 31st of August in Reads Avenue.

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The Swedenborgian Church is *"an open-minded, forward looking Christian church drawing its faith from the Bible as illuminated by the teachings of Emanuel Swedenborg (1688-1772)"*. On the 7th of May 1787, the New Church movement was founded in England.

Egerton Road Ebenezer Church, Blackpool: was opened on the 25th of May. In 1890, it was slightly renamed to Egerton Road Primitive Methodist (Ebenezer) Church, which opened on the 23rd of May. On the 19th of April 1919, the church was solemnised for the performance of marriages. The final service was on the 25th of July 1971, and it was finally demolished in 1982, to make way the new flats of Richmond Court.

Ebenezer churches were founded on a bible quotation: *"Then Samuel took a stone and set it up between Mizpah and Shen. He named it Ebenezer"*.

Carleton Cottage stood at the corner of Bispham Road and what is now Chelsea Avenue.
Warbreck Farm stood where number 340 Devonshire Road now stands.
JW Oldham, coal merchant, began his coal delivery service from Coleridge Road and Boothley Road.
Blackpool became the first Corporation in the country to test drains for gas leakage.
Sansome's Coffee Palace, the Yorkman's Rooms, and J Collier's cycle hire were in business on Central Promenade, and horse-drawn boat-carts gave rides in the water.
Blackpool Tradesmen's Association formed in January, later evolving into the Blackpool Chamber of Trade.
Blackpool Amateur Banjo, Guitar, and Mandolin Band was founded. It was formally established in 1895.
The first annual Lancashire Shire Horse Show and Sale was held at the Royal Palace Gardens on the 17th of September. 112 horses were sold.

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The Cyclists' Rest, Poulton: This public house opened in front of St Chad's Church in Poulton Square about now. It was built as a private house, but by 1912, it had been transformed into the Lancashire County Bank. The building was demolished in October 1938.
It is thought that this was also the site of the original Moot Hall.

The Queens Hotel, Poulton: was opened at Lower Green, and when the Queens opened, the Plough Inn on Church Street closed.
The Queens was demolished in 2006, to be replaced by the 19 apartments of Berkeley Court.

A smithy opened on Station Road in Poulton, lasting until 1955.
Rossall Mount stood off the Promenade at Cleveleys. Its place has now been taken by the eastern end of the car park of the Jubilee Public House.
Elswick Terrace was erected in London Street in Fleetwood, with Carleton Terrace following in 1898.
Poulton Road in Fleetwood began to be built up, and Fylde terrace was built this year. Later terraces on Poulton Road were: Fairfield and Albion in 1891, Cleveland in 1893, Osbourne in 1894, Ivy Terrace and Ruthin House in 1898, Kimberley and Rossendale in 1900, and Strawberry in 1902. Willow House was built on the corner of Wolsley Road in 1908.
Grange Terrace and Grasmere Terrace were constructed on Victoria Street in Fleetwood.
A monumental obelisk was erected on Fleetwood Esplanade to the memory of George Greenhall and James Abram, who had died in a storm whilst trying to rescue others. For their efforts to save the crew of the "Jean Campbell", the men were awarded the Silver Medal by the RNLI. *"A fund was set up for their dependents and the drinking fountain was installed in their memory, however it was felt that that was*
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insufficient and the monument was erected as a more suitable memorial to their courage". The fountain, with its Cherub, and the memorial, are now both in Euston Park.

Burn Naze: The Burn Naze Inn was built, along with the surrounding houses. Thomas Riley's Burn Naze Farm was nearby, soon to be demolished to allow for the expansion of the new alkali works. The first landlord was Edwin Rimmer, and under his stewardship, The Burn Naze Hotel was opened in 1910, having been re-built from the original inn.

A private jetty was built at Burn Naze to serve the United Alkali Works in 1894. Burn Naze jetty was demolished in 1965, as soon as the ICI plant was closed.

In 1896, sixty new houses were built on the Burn Naze Estate to house the workers at the salt factory and Burn Naze Post Office opened on the 18th of April 1899.

The Knife and Dagger, also known as the Burn Naze Club and the West Side Social Club, was built on Heys Street, off Edward Street in Thornton in 1900. Then known as the Burn Naze New Social Club and Institute at 53 Butts Lane, it was closed in 1943. Its use as a club ceased in October 1950, and it was used by Fleets Builders from the late 1960s. The site is now occupied by a garage, BEK Motors, and part is now used as a gym. Heys Street was named after builder Henry Heys, whose workforce constructed the railway line to Thornton and who owned all the property at Burn Naze until 1922.

Burn Naze railway halt opened on the 12th of October 1908. In 1927, the station buildings were all replaced with pre-cast concrete units, and a parcels store was added. The station closed to passengers in 1964, and the station was completely closed in 1970. A freight service continued to the ICI plant at Burn Naze Halt until 1999.

Burn Naze Council School was formally opened on the 7th of September 1914, on Heys Street. 250 children turned up to claim the 210 places.
In September 2006, it was renamed Thornton Primary School, and was expanded by the opening of 4 classrooms and a computer suite.

St Anne's Grammar School for Boys: The headmaster of Heyhouses School, JR Banister, resigned his job, and opened St Anne's Grammar School for Boys at 19 South Drive, St Anne's.
When the school closed, it was turned into the Sandown Hotel, which had 100 rooms, with a Dance room and Billiards.
In 1959, the hotel became the head offices of the Football League.

The Abraham Ormerod Convalescent Home, St Anne's: This large and imposing home was opened in the dunes between South Shore and St Anne's, by Lady Eleanor Clifton on the 13th of September. The four-storey home had been paid for by the Misses Ormerod of the Elms at Lytham, the daughters of the late Abraham Ormerod – a wealthy cotton manufacturer from West Yorkshire, who died in 1888. They had donated it to the Community of the Sisters of the Church (CSC). It was to provide convalescence for children from the mill families of East Lancashire and West Yorkshire for almost 100 years. Originally meant to house up to 40 children, by the time it was closed, there were almost 100. It took in boys up to age 11 and girls up to 14.

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In the late 1960s, it was taken over by the Society for the Mentally Handicapped, but in 1974, the Society relocated. The sisters' chapel was decommissioned, and much of the contents given to the Mission Church of St Margaret of Antioch. These included the reredos and altar (from the nun's chapel), the statue of Our Lady and pricket stand, various vestments, and altar linen.

Some of the children from the home were moved temporarily to the vacant Blackburn Convalescent Home in the dunes, and the mental patients went around the corner to a house on the promenade, which had previously been the Princes Hotel.

The original home was demolished in 1984, to be replaced by the Summerfields apartments. Todmorden Road had earlier been built in front of the home, and was named in honour of Abraham Ormerod, a native of that town.

The Ormerod Trust was formed in 1971, when a group of people learned that the home was due to close. It had been leased temporarily by MENCAP as a children's mental home. The Ormerod Home was rented to these businessmen for a nominal figure. In 1972, the Trust was established as a Charity and a Limited Company, adopting the name Ormerod Home Trust. The group later ran small houses in the community and by 1997, all clients were living in their own homes supported by Ormerod employees. The organisation then bought the vicarage on Headroomgate Road as its headquarters and opened a Resource Centre base, on St Albans Road, which closed in 2008.

Our Lady Star of the Sea Roman Catholic Church in St Anne's: The first portion of the church opened on the 15th of June on St Davids Road South. The first rector was Canon James Taylor. The Duke of Norfolk, agreed to pay for the building, and Pugins of London, were instructed to prepare plans. The foundation stone was laid on the 21st of October 1888, and Dr O'Reilly, Bishop of Liverpool opened the church. The completed church could seat 280.
The original design was for a nave of eight bays, with a tower on the sixth bay. However, at first, only four bays were built and a *"dull grey temporary wall"* built at the west end. Early twentieth century growth of the Catholic population of St Anne's led to a decision to complete the church, although not to the original designs. The extension's foundation stone was laid by Dr Pearson, Bishop of Lancaster, on the 16th of October 1925, and Dr Pearson opened the completed extension on the 3rd of June 1927. It was not consecrated until the 30th of September 1947.
The Parish Rooms of Our Lady Star of the Sea opened in 1910, and the Our Lady Star of the Sea Social Centre was opened on St Albans Road on the 26th of April 1970.

John Whiteside established St Albans Road sawmills in St Anne's. He later built the police station in St George's Avenue.
The Lytham St Anne's Nursing and Nurses' Home was established at "Innisfail", now at 17 Fairhaven Road. It advertised "*medical, surgical and maternity convalescent and chronic cases received, nurses supplied to patients at their own homes or daily visiting*". The matron in 1934, was Miss F Rutherford.
The "night soil" of Lytham was at this time dumped in a hollow on the town green. This stood opposite today's Grosvenor Street.

St Mathew's Church, Ballam: Westby Ballam Church of England School and St Matthew's Vicarage were built on West Moss Lane. Snapes House was on the opposite side of the lane, facing that family's own large brick field.

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The school was converted into a Mission Church after its closure in 1977, as a benefice of St Nicholas Church at Wrea Green.
Three kneelers for the altar were worked by the Pew Runners Group of St Nicholas and were consecrated on the 9th of January 2011.

There was a cotton mill on Old Row, off Preston Street in Kirkham.

1891

The Start of Blackpool Tower: The Blackpool Tower Company was incorporated on the 23rd of February, and floated on the Manchester Stock Exchange in July, with Alderman John Bickerstaffe as chairman. The company had been founded by the Standard Contract and Debenture Corporation in 1890, when it bought Mr Cocker's Aquarium block on Central Promenade with the intention of building a replica Eiffel Tower on the site. The idea of a building a tower which people would pay to ascend, was first promulgated by William Darker Pitt.
John and Tom Bickerstaffe had put up £20,000 of their own money, when the London company ran short of funds. After the company had raised the £300,000 needed, Sir Mathew White-Ridley laid the foundation stone on September the 25th. His voice was recorded on a phonograph and placed beneath the stone in a metal "Time Capsule" along with newspapers and other items of the period.

In 1991, a search was made, in preparation for building work, but neither remote sensing equipment nor a clairvoyant could find the time capsule.

James Cardwell and Sons of Blackpool laid the brickwork for the buildings, and the architects were Manchester's James Maxwell and Charles Tuke. Unfortunately, neither Maxwell nor Tuke lived to see the tower finished. The company of Heenan and Froude constructed the tower itself, and in 1893, an electric crane, made by them, was used on the Tower construction - the first of its type in the world.
Contrary to popular belief, John Bickerstaffe did NOT visit Paris and then come up with the idea of one for Blackpool. He and his brother simply saw the business possibilities in such a venture when they were explained by Darker Pitt.
The Tower itself was completed when the flagpole was lifted into position in December 1893, but the completion of the buildings was delayed until next year. On the 13th of July 1893, builder William Campbell was killed when he fell from scaffolding on the Tower.

St Chad's Terrace (now around number 320) was built at the south end of Central Beach, between Woodfield Road and St Chad's Road.

Shaw Road Methodist Church, Blackpool: The United Free Methodist Church opened in Shaw Road, South Shore.
Shaw Road United Methodist Church opened on the 2nd of July 1909, and the London Gazette states that the *"UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, situated at Shaw-road, South Shore, Blackpool, in the civil parish of Blackpool, in the county borough of Blackpool, in Fylde registration district, was, on the 30th June, 1909, registered for solemnizing marriages therein, pursuant to 6th and 7th Wm. IV, c. 85, being substituted for the building named United Methodist Church, situated at Shaw-road, South Shore, now disused.—Dated the 1st July, 1909".*
It later became the Shaw Road Methodist Church, and in the early 1920s, the land on which it was built began to subside, and by 1928, immediate restoration was necessary. In 1955, large pieces of plaster fell

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from the ceiling, and, for several weeks, services were held in the adjoining schoolroom. The church then closed on the 3rd of March 1956.
It soon became the Independent Methodist Church, and in 1959, became the Blackpool Jubilee Temple of the Bible Pattern Pentecostal Church.

Eaves's brickworks were off Exchange Street, on which there was a smithy on the west side and a c1900 livery stables on the east (still marked by a horseshoe on the keystone to the arch).
Carleton House and its extensive gardens stood on what is now Wades Court off Poulton Old Road.
Lansdowne House was opened at 5 Lansdowne Crescent at Claremont Park by Miss Harris, late of Brighton, who "*begs to inform friends and patrons that she has opened the above mansion as a first-class Jewish boarding establishment*". It later became the Lansdowne Hotel – with Hackett's Bar and Chef's Pantry at the back and is now Tiffany's. Nearby at number 11 was the Norfolk House boarding house. In 1875, this establishment was known simply as Mrs Kemp's, but by 1922, it had been "promoted" to the Norfolk Hotel.
There was a large Fireworks Manufactory on the southern side of Hornby Road, facing the Raikes Hall park.
Central Drive was called Great Marton Road, and St Anne's Road was Middle Lane.
Large numbers of terraced housed were built around Coop Street and Tyldesley Road
Little Marton Horse Show Society's first annual fair was held behind the Clifton Arms Inn. The site became the hotel's bowling green when it was rebuilt.
The National Union of Teachers, Blackpool Teachers' Association was formed.
The Blackpool Ladies' Sick-Poor Association was founded to help local women.

Blackpool Trades Council and the Trades Club: The United Trades and Labour Council of Blackpool and District (Blackpool Trades Council) was formed and first met at the Wellington Hotel on the 5th of October, and later at Raikes Hall.

The Trades Club: The Trades and Labour Club opened in Upper Adelaide Street in 1900, being used by the local Labour party, who had no headquarters. The new Trades and Labour Club opened on the 7th of December 1920, at 64 Upper Adelaide Street. By 1934, it had moved to 71 Erdington Road.

Blackpool Working Men's Club: opened at 67 Church Street on the 6th of April 1901. Blackpool Workers Education Association was formed at the club at the same time, and the revised Blackpool Working Men's Educational Institute was opened by Keir Hardy on the 2nd of December 1902.

Blackpool Trades Club: was opened at 64 Adelaide Street in 1919, becoming the official home of Blackpool Trades Council. In 1930, the club moved from Adelaide Street to 7 Chadwick Street and the first TUC meeting was held there on February the 25th. The clubs then became known as the Blackpool Trades and Social Club, later taking over the ground floor too. It was also known for a time as the TUC Club.

The famously-white-painted club was almost destroyed by a fire on the 31st of October 2011, and the whole first floor was demolished on the 2nd of November. Various well-known items have now gone, such as the A Kirkman Memorial Notice board belonging to the Blackpool Trades Council, original BTC banners with mottos such as *"United in a Common Cause"*, and *"Pioneers of Social Justice"*. The downstairs Spen Hudson Room – complete with "Dolly's Corner" etc. survive as part of a public house.

I have listed some of the town's many Clubs at Appendix HH.

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Blackpool Tradesmen's Mutual Plate-glass Insurance Society formed at 25 Birley Street. In later years, the building was the home of Gilbert's Hair Designs, for both ladies and men.
Christopher Battersby had a small running shoe-making business at 5 Larkhill Street. He had inherited the business from his father, Thomas, and by 1911, he had moved to 104 Elizabeth Street. 1934 saw his son, Herbert with a shop at 6 Cedar Square and living at 271 Church Street. By the 1980s, the business had become Battersby (Blackpool) Limited.
Blackpool Glee and Madrigal Society formed in November.
George Washington Williams, an American writer, historian, and Ohio's first black legislator, died of tuberculosis in Blackpool at the age of 43, on his way home from Africa to America. He was a "*Buffalo Soldier*" in the US army and he was buried in Talbot Road Cemetery on the 5th of August.
Blackpool Railway Company sold land to the north of Watson's Lane to William Watson on the 28th of July.
William Walmsley was born at 23 King Edward Avenue, in a garage behind which he later built the motorcycle sidecars, which became Swallow Sidecars. One of his first developments was the "Ot-as-Ell" aerodynamic sidecar, which caused many waves in the industry. The Berwick Hotel is now on the spot.
John Walton, an Auctioneer's Assistant, was awarded the Royal Humane Society's Bronze Medal, when he rescued E Lewthwaite from drowning at Blackpool, on the 3rd of April.

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Lane Ends Villa was built at Carleton crossroads. It is currently a hairdresser's and a dry-cleaning shop.

Fleetwood Cricket Club: was founded at what would soon become Warrenhurst Park. They were a founder member of the Palace Shield Competition in 1902, and then spent two seasons in the Ribblesdale League in 1950 and 1951, before becoming founder members of the Northern League in 1952. The ground was first leased from the Corporation in 1923.

Euston Park, Fleetwood: This year ornamental gardens were laid out, with a bowling green and lawn tennis courts to the south. There had been open ground there since at least 1838.
In 1890, a monument, in the shape of a drinking fountain, had been erected in what was then known as informally Cannon Park. It was designed in memory of two fishermen who lost their lives in the attempt to save the crew and passengers of a schooner that was wrecked during a violent storm in Morecambe Bay on the 7th of November. The Water Fountain was restored in June 2015.

In 1976, a stone from the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway Company was given to Fleetwood Civic Society by the British Transport Docks Board. It was moved to Euston Park, and in a ceremony on the 1st of May, it was handed over to the townspeople of Fleetwood in the presence of Walter Clegg MP.

Fleetwood fishermen first started using steam trawlers, with the "Lark", owned by Moody's and Kelly of Grimsby. This did so well, that in 1892 the company fetched their ABC fleet across from Grimsby to be based at Fleetwood.
Between 1891 and 1897, Kelsall Brothers and Beeching created their "Gamecock fleet" at Fleetwood, with vessels such as the Amarapoora, Bovic, Burmah, Grouse, Remus, Swift, Valetta, and Wren.
Albion Terrace was built on Poulton Road in Fleetwood.

The Roman Catholic Church of St William of York, Pilling: was opened on Garstang Road on the 2nd of September, as was the adjacent Presbytery and St William's School, to which a second classroom, hall, and staff room were added in 1963.
"The whole complex was designed by architects Sinnett and Powell of Liverpool, and built by J and T Yearsley of St Helen's. The Sanctuary was re-ordered in 1976.
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The small church is towerless, and the west front is gathered up to a bellcote at the apex, and is internally a single space. It has trefoil- headed lancet windows under hood moulds. The church and the attached presbytery are built of a harsh red brick from Ruabon, Wales, with local stone for the dressings. The entrance is via a lean-to porch at the northwest corner".
The church was finally consecrated on the 8th of September 1991.

Links School, St Anne's: was on Clifton Drive South. It moved to Headroomgate Road from 1903 to 1907, when it was the first building to the north of Oxford Road.

St Anne's first Lifeboat Saturday was held on the 10th of October, followed on the 17th by Manchester's first official celebration of the same cause.
Welshman John Roberts was running his boot and shoe shop at 3 Pleasant Street in Lytham, but by 1923, S Foster, corn dealer and miller, was at the premises. By 1927, Alvan Crabtree had his cycle shop there, and 1934 saw the business owned by James Wood. For many years until 2009, the building was an electrical shop. Originally run by Darbyshire's of Blackpool, by the late 1970s, it was the home of Lytham Electrical Supplies Ltd. In July 2009, it became an outlet of the Ego Restaurant chain, with apartments above it, which are known as The Corn Exchange.
For seven days, from the 18th of May, there were several military volunteer encampments in and around Lytham. *"At Mythop the ground so often used for camping purposes will be occupied by the Bolton Battalion of Rifle Volunteers; the football field in close proximity to the railway will be occupied by the Medical Staff Corps, Manchester; and the field near St Anne's, occupied by the Militia last year, will be used by the 2nd Battalion Lancashire Fusiliers from Rochdale"*.

The Clifton Arms Inn, Warton: was on Lytham Road, with James Thompson as its victualler. In 1934, the landlord was Bruce Cooper.
The pub was renamed the Pickwick Tavern in the 1970s. It reverted to its original name in October 2012, with an address of number 135.

Moss Side Hall farm was on Kirkham Road in Wesham. There was another farm of the same name between Moss Side and Lytham.

Ryecroft Hall, Hambleton: was at the top of Sandy Lane in the centre of Hambleton village. By 1931, it was owned John Lewis, a wealthy Manchester cotton merchant, and his sister Florence died there this year.
"Mr Lewis had a yacht, with a skipper, who also served as the chauffeur. There was also a gardener, cook-housekeeper, and Margaret, the maid, all locals from Hambleton. John also had his own private bowling green located in front of the hall. He commuted by train from Poulton-le-Fylde to Manchester".
In 1996, the hall was bought by Clive Tolley and turned into Tolley's Restaurant. Tolley's closed in 2014, and since the 24th of May that year, it has been called Ryecroft Hall Restaurant again.

1892
The Grand Circus performed in town on the 3rd of July.
David Dickinson started business in Birley Street as an Insurance agent and Fire assessor.
Buildings were erected on Lytham Road, including the present number 161 and Eiffel Terrace, now around number 147.
Belle Vue Crescent was constructed on George Street.
Michael Hyman began to sell watches in Feldman's Arcade. By 1933, he had more shops at 34 Bank Hey Street, Sefton Street, and 18 Church Street. On the 5th of September 1957, Hyman Brothers (Jewellers

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Blackpool) Ltd was formed, and in 1961, the firm bought Leonard Dews next door to his shop on Market Street; the store was doubled in size in 2011. In the 1970s, the Bank Hey Street outlet became Johnson's Shoe Designers Ltd, who also took over number 32 Bank Hey Street, knocking through, and making a larger store. Hyman Brothers was dissolved on the 19th of November 1996.
Taylor's Victoria Café was opened at 71 Central Beach between Read's Baths and the Victoria Hotel. By 1932, the Victoria Café and Restaurant was in business at 51-53 South Promenade.
Blackpool Literary Club started in South Shore, meeting in members' houses to discuss science and art. The club grew into the Literary and Scientific Society, which was formed in September 1898.

Blackpool and Fylde District Law Society: was formed after a meeting at the Lane Ends Hotel on the 22nd of June. Its first General Meeting was then held on the 7th of October, the first chairman being Mr Alfred Ascroft.
Mr Ascroft was a partner in RW and A Ascroft of Preston, who opened a local office at 11 Church Street in 1911. He then went on to found the firm of Ascroft Whiteside with Henry Whiteside in 1918, soon moving to Birley Street. From 1957, the company was located on Springfield Road, and since January 2003, they have been based at 233 Whitegate Drive, in the building vacated by GH Mason's electricals who had moved to Hawes Side Lane. On the 17th of February 2015, a second office on Highfield Road was opened for use, officially being declared open on the 15th of April. Ascroft Whiteside went into administration on the 18th of September 2018.

A Blackpool and Northwest Lancashire Art, Trade and Industrial Exhibition was held in aid of the proposed Blackpool Hospital, from the 4th to the 28th of May.

The Wreck of the Sirene, Blackpool: The Norwegian Barque "Sirene" was driven against North Pier in a force 10 storm on the 9th of October, demolishing the entrance and its four shops: a furrier's, a sweet shop, a jewellery shop, and *"a room where an old man wove silk handkerchiefs using an old-fashioned hand-loom"*.
The stricken ship finally lodged against the hulking by the Clifton Arms Hotel. The crew climbed onto the Pier, but soldiers from Fleetwood Garrison, who were called in to keep looters away, stole sides of bacon themselves, and roasted them on the beach.
The ship had left Fleetwood the previous day, bound for America.
The anchor from the stricken vessel was presented by John Hulbert to Middleton Corporation in 1893. His firm had dismantled the ship. The anchor is displayed outside the Queen's Free Library in the town.

Whitegate Farm was bought by James Ward.
John Fish started his fishmonger's business, soon opening a shop at 64 Whitegate Drive. In 1908, it was the town's oldest fishmongers. The shop is now a Tote Sport Bookmaker's.
The Blackpool Athletic Grounds company was formed in order to provide a purpose-built venue for a variety of sports. On the 12th of December, 20 acres of ground was bought, situated to the east of the Belle Vue Gardens. In 1893, Mere Road was made, to lead into the facility.
The circular route around Marton was started by James Lucas of the Oxford Hotel, with horse buses running from South Shore, up Cow Gap Lane and into town. Buses such as John Smith's "Countess" were later used, until the opening of the new Marton tramway saw the end of his famous *"three-horse bus"*.
The row of three cottages on Stonycroft Place was in place.
A block of shops was built on the northwestern corner of Lytham Road and Harrowside. Number 33 Lytham Road became a butcher's shop, which was bought by Geoffrey Mitchell in the 1960s. His son Matthew took over in 2012.

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John Scofield was born in Blackburn but attended Arnold School. He won the Victoria Cross for gallantry in 1918. It was awarded posthumously.

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Poulton Institute: was opened and provided educational and vocational classes for all. The institute was re-formed in 1901, meeting in rooms on Queens Square (the site of the original library). It had been re-constituted by the efforts of Mr Parkinson, Mr Walker, Miss Cryer, and Mr Potts, and by 1922, there were more than 200 members.

James Mayor opened a pork butchers' shop in Poulton Square. Mayor and Sons sold pork pies, sausages, and cooked meats for many years. Mr Mayor lived in Holly Street (now Hayfield Avenue).
Poulton View Farm was built at Carleton, replacing the 17th century original.
Brook Farm was built on Hillylaid Road in Thornton.
The Lancashire and North Yorkshire Railway bought the small paddle steamer "Lune" to operate trips to Blackpool and Morecambe from Fleetwood.
Fleetwood's Co-operative Emporium was built on Lord Street. It was demolished from the 19th of August 1973, to be replaced by a 2-storey Co-op store, which then became A1 foods, and is currently occupied by a Peacocks clothing store.

Fleetwood Nautical College: Fleetwood opened a Navigation School for fishermen this year. Classes were held in the Congregational Sunday school buildings on London Street and in the Fielden Free Library in Dock Street.
The Fleetwood Navigation School moved into Orient Buildings on Station Road on the 16th of April 1928. Many local boys were trained to operate radio there by instructors from Marconi Marine.

The new Fleetwood Nautical College opened on Fleetwood Road and Broadwater on the 15th of March In 1965 – the Navigation School on Station Road had already been closed, and all old departments moved into the new premises. The official opening ceremony was held on the 1st of November 1967.
The Halls of Residence were finally opened in April 1978, containing common rooms, offices, 88 study bedrooms and a laundry. Recreation facilities were completed in 1978.
In 1980, the college acquired an advanced marine radar simulator, complete with automatic radar plotting aids, and in May 1983, the college provided the first of its internationally famous Offshore Survival courses.

The college amalgamated on the 1st of January 1987, with the Blackpool and Fylde College, to create today's Fleetwood Nautical Campus.

"In December 1994, the college opened a new £450,000 state-of-the-art survival training centre. The new offshore training tank was specially designed to simulate the dramatic and challenging conditions of offshore rescue situations. Among the features was a blackout facility, wave-making machine, and helicopter winch platform. Previously, the college had used Marton Mere swimming pool to practice for emergencies such as evacuations at sea – which could prove vital in a life or death situation".

The site has the nautical training sector's *"largest engine room simulator and a state-of-the-art full mission ship bridge simulator"*.

On the 30th of June 2017, a new Marine Engineering Centre was opened. It is *"designed to provide first-class training in a realistic working environment which mirrors the facilities cadets will experience when working as officers at sea"*.
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©

In June 2018, the Fleetwood Offshore Survival Centre opened a new £1 million "Enclosed Spaces" training facility.

The Royal Oak Hotel, Fleetwood: was in operation at 171 Lord Street. It became affectionately known as "*Dead 'uns*" – the reason for the nickname is uncertain.
Owned for a time by Enterprise Inns Ltd, the pub was run by the Atherton family, but was closed for a long period from 2010, before being re-opened by the Fleetwood Pub Company Ltd in July 2013.

The Scotch Bakery opened at 189 Lord Street in Fleetwood. It is still in operation.
Two foreign consulates had offices on Queens Terrace in Fleetwood. The Chilean Vice-Consul was G Schloth who also represented Denmark and Germany, and John N Ward was Vice-Consul for Norway and Sweden.
The Fleetwood ammonia-soda works were established by the United Alkali Company. The works was known to have been an important supplier of ammonium nitrate during World War 1. Ammonium nitrate was used in vast quantities to mix with TNT to form the high explosive shell filling amatol.

Porritt houses, St Anne's: St Anne's main drain was begun on the 18th of August, with William Porritt cutting the first sod – he went on to design the broad sweep of houses on Clifton Drive to the north of the Square. Many "Porritt Houses" were built north of the pier, and it is thought that he built property to the value of £100,000 in St Anne's – millions of pounds in today's money. The stone used in the construction was solely mined in his own quarries in Rossendale, and every Porritt house has a unique diamond shaped mark on the green roof slates. The Nori stone, used in the houses, was so hard that it was later used in the foundations of Blackpool Tower, and the Empire State Building in New York.
Some of the first were built on Blackpool Road – now called Clifton Drive North. For example, numbers 324, 326, 328, and 330 were numbered 11 to 19 in the 1930s and then given their more recent numbers in the 1950s, by which time they had become boarding houses (Bel-Air, Loxley Grange, Brookfield etc). The late 1960s saw the appearance of the Langdales Apartments, and in the mid-1970s, they began to be turned into the Langdale's Private Hotel by Ian and Norma Laing. By the time the Spearman family bought it in 1997, the hotel was called The Langdales. The adjacent Berkeley Lodge Nursing Home was bought and added in 2002.
In 2016, the complex was taken over and renamed the Ashton Park Hotel. Sadly, this closed in 2018, but the premises were re-opened in February 2020, as the Hy Hotel, an apartment-style hotel with 35 rooms.

The St Anne's Nurse and Sick Aid Society was formed in December.
The Lancaster Banking Company opened their St Anne's branch at 32 St Anne's Road West. It was designed by local architects Paley, Austin, and Paley, and was constructed by TH Smith of Blackpool. The bank later became the Yorkshire Bank.

Fairhaven: The Fairhaven Estate Company was established by Thomas Riley of Fleetwood, with the objective of building a new resort town on 264 acres of land around a marine lake. He leased the land from the Clifton Estate, intending to build a pier, and hired architect Arthur Carter to design his new resort, and then another architect, Thomas Crook, to "tweak" the design.
By 1894, Riley had let 19 acres for building purposes. Then, by 1896, 43 houses and shops had been erected in Fairhaven, but only one hotel. The resort didn't reach full development until the 1920s.
"Fairhaven's associations were impeccable, almost apostolic, for the parish church was St. Paul's, and thanks to Thomas Riley its streets had names like Pollux Gate, Cyprus Avenue, Melita Place, Myra Road, Derbe Road".

©

Some think that the name Fairhaven came from the local fishermen who landed their smacks and shrimpers at the *"fair haven of Granny's Dock"*, however it was actually thought up by Fleetwood man Mr Thomas Riley who leased the land in this year. He took its biblical origin from Acts 27:8 *"and, with difficulty passing by it, we came unto a place which is called The Fair Havens, nigh unto the city of Lasea".*

Granny's Bay was originally named after a member of the Clifton family who liked to picnic there with her children. A small, natural harbour, known as *"Granny's Dock"* could be accessed from the bay at high water, and was protected by one of the Stanners (a shingle and sand bar) in the estuary. As well as the fishing boats, sailing trips in what were known as *"Blackpool Beach boats"* could be bought there, going to Lytham and Blackpool. In the early 19th century, Children's Corner at the bay was popular picnic site. Granny's Dock could not be used after Fairhaven Lake was built, as the works had caused "shoaling" to occur in the Ribble's North Channel. By 1927 the last few smacks in the St Anne's fishing fleet had moved to Lytham.

For several years in the early 20th century, the slope opposite Fairhaven Road was known locally as Happy Valley, and hosted many outdoor entertainments, and from 1904, Freddie Carlton staged a Pierrots show there – he lived at Hope Cottage, St Anne's. Wilkie Warren was another regular performer. The location is sometimes spelled as Grannies Bay, or Granny's Bay.

In 1979, the Dalmeny Hotel Pension Scheme bought the Fairhaven Estate Company, bringing to an end 84 years of independence.

Fairhaven is separate from Ansdell and covers the land to the sea side of Clifton Drive only.

Fairhaven Lake: The Fairhaven Marine Lake was laid out this year, surrounded by Marine Drive. It was filled in August 1893, following the natural contours beneath, and the project was completed by 1895. In the original design, it was also planned to extend the sea wall, lake, gardens along the coast to near the Grand Hotel in St Anne's, and to construct a grand carriage drive. These plans had to be abandoned due to repeated flooding.

In order to construct the lake, the "Double Stanner" needed to be sealed off, and the site enclosed, thus trapping the sea water. The stanners were banks of shingle stretching from St Anne's to Granny's Bay, where it tailed off in a crescent shape. A tiny feeder channel had allowed the tide to fill the space between the banks and the sand dunes near Clifton Drive.

"Thomas Riley constructed a railway at Fairhaven to bring in building materials and to move 1,000s of tons of sand and shingle. This was not a passenger line. This light railway came off the main line at Ansdell Road and bifurcated at the Double Stanner. It ran along Outer and Inner Promenade (ie. around Fairhaven Lake) and continued to Cartmell Road, St Anne's". "Two engines are known to have operated on this light railway; "Preston" and Fairhaven". The lake railway had been torn up by the end of 1916, and the two engines were later used at BNFL's Springfields complex from 1939 to 1986 and are buried there.
The new lake was first filled in August 1893 and now measures 1,200 metres by 400 metres. It is 1.2 metres at its deepest part. By March 1894, the Preston Herald was reporting that *"The marine lake is at present undergoing improvement; the slopes are being pitched with stone and concreted, and it is intended to be filled with water so as to be ready and open at Easter".*

Boats began to appear on the lake in 1895, but there were no buildings at the time and a large yacht was purchased, with a boatman taking families for sails up and down the lake. In 1898, by then known as

Fairhaven Lake, the first regatta was held – organised by the Fairhaven Sailing Club. A Regatta Queen was elected each year. Later regattas featured the Lancashire Hydroplane Racing Club from Carr Mill near St Helens, and water skiing was introduced. The last regatta was held in 1972.

In 1900, the lake was flooded by the sea, causing the Fairhaven Golf Club to evacuate the clubhouse that they had built in 1895. When the seawater had subsided, the clubhouse became the Lake Side Café, a temperance café and social club for the Preston and Fylde Band of Hope Union, and by the 1950s, it had become Bunty's Lakeside Café. The café enjoyed a brief period during the 1970s, as the Lakeside Italian Restaurant, and is now in operation as Fairhaven Lake Café.

1901 saw the lake enlarged because it was thought too shallow. The first boathouse, designed by William Wade, was also built in 1901 (this is now the RSPB Centre), and this was superseded in 1921, by the current pre-fabricated building.
In about 1920, *"A landing stage and pagoda-shaped boathouse were constructed, the former as an area where boats could be built, the latter doubling as living quarters for the manager. During this period, a portion of the lake was utilised as an open-air swimming baths complete with diving boards, slide, and changing huts. After the end of World War 1 a private tennis club, a bowling green and public tennis courts were created to the north of the lake and flowerbeds were nurtured"*.

The lake's Saltwater Baths were opened in June 1906, and were used during the summers, by several of the local private schools. The baths had their own changing rooms in a series of wooden huts beside the lake, and there was a large wooden diving platform on the shore.
The owners expanded this enterprise, and in July 1908, some of the lake was specifically marked out for swimming. The Fairhaven Swimming Club was begun in the August.

By 1908, there were 60 sailing and rowing boats for hire, and the launch "Fairhaven" began service on the lake in 1925. It was replaced by "My Fair Lady" in 1959, and in 2001, the present launch "Jubilee" started service.

In 1923, the lake was bought by Lord Ashton for £34,000, and after he had generously donated it immediately to the local authority, at was renamed the Ashton Marine Park. It was opened officially on the 7th of May 1926, by Lord Derby. He commissioned TH Mawson of Lancaster to re-design the lake, and that design included a large Kursaal amusement hall, a grand promenade, sea lion enclosure, bird sanctuaries, a min i-golf course, and a pitch and putt course. Just about the only thing that made it to construction was the lake itself. The lake then had a children's playground, a Pitch and Putt course (now gone), tennis courts (hard and grass), a café, a footbridge across the centre, and its own boathouse.

"At uncertain dates after 1932" ... "a ticket kiosk in similar style was erected, and a boathouse, office and maintenance shed and domestic dwelling were all erected on the north side of the lake. Also, at an uncertain date after 1932 the former golf clubhouse, then functioning as a café, was extended. During the 1950s and 60s Fairhaven Lake proved a popular attraction hosting crowds of up to 15,000 to watch regattas, water skiing displays and hydroplane racing". For example, in 1955, the Lancashire Hydroplane Club held their first gala at Fairhaven, and according to the Evening Gazette *"first visit to the South Fylde venue and they returned the following year and pulled in 4,000, spectators, while the club's events attracted even bigger audiences elsewhere. As well as watching the breath-taking displays and competitions, people could try out some of the activities for themselves"*.

©

Part of this original build was a Japanese garden and lagoon, on the south-western side of the lake. This was buried under today's landscaping in the 1960s, as it required repair.

By the 1960s, the name had reverted to Fairhaven Lake. There was a paddling pool behind the café, to the North, which was filled in and replaced with Pirate Cove, a pirate-themed playground for very young children. It was opened on the 25th of March 2016, by the Mayor, Peter Hardy.

A replica of a Spitfire aeroplane was hoisted into place at Fairhaven Lake on the 14th of August 2012. The original plane on which it is based was bought by the people of Lytham and St Anne's for £6,500 in 1941.

In January 2017, the Heritage Lottery Fund approved funding to assist in building a case for the restoration of the lake and its gardens.

The houses (now shops) at 5-11 Orchard Road in St Anne's were constructed.
Saltcotes Roman Catholic Cemetery and chapel were opened the 15th of May on Saltcotes Road in Lytham. It was *"one and a half acres in extent, laid out with much taste"* and was *"enclosed by a substantial brick wall, and in the centre, stands a mortuary chapel. The ground was secured by the efforts of Canon James Taylor, from J. T. Clifton"*.
Edwin Richardson's beer house on the main road at Warton was sold on the 24th of August.
Wesham Post Office opened on Station Crescent.

Lancashire Cheese: Joseph Gornall of Pilling invented his Gornall Patent Cheesemaker, a machine which revolutionised the way that cheese could be mass produced. He later farmed in Cabus, and was appointed by Lancashire County Council to travel around all local farms as their cheese-making instructor. His brief *"was to standardise Lancashire Cheese production across the county and create a formal recipe and method - one that is still used to this day"*. Those 1890s, local farms were mainly smallholdings, and farmers often did not have enough surplus milk each day to make a whole cheese. As they had no means of refrigeration, they found that the best way of keeping that surplus milk was to turn it into curd and store it overnight at room temperature. This curd was then mixed with the curd from the following day and in some cases blended again with that from the day after.

Preston's Albert Edward Dock opened for business on the 25th of June, taking a great deal of Fleetwood's trade, as ships could now reach almost to the factory doors. At the time, it was the largest single dock in the country. The waters of the Ribble rose during the construction, closing the old fords across the river at Freckleton and Tarleton.

1893

South Pier, Blackpool: Blackpool's third pier was opened by the Blackpool South Pier and Pavilion Company on the 31st of March. Known as Victoria Pier, with its minaret-topped Grand Pavilion at the sea end, opened on the 20th of May. Even with its 36 shops, it is still the shortest of the three Blackpool piers, at 935 feet.
After it opened, the original South Jetty was renamed as Central Pier.
The pier began an annual Brass Band Contest, and was known as the Victoria Pier until 1930, when it was rechristened the South Pier, after a suggestion by Harry Korris.

©

The new Grand Pavilion was topped with distinctive and grand-looking minarets, and boasted the Floral Hall, holding 1,000 people. It reopened as the Victoria Cinema de Luxe on the 28th of May 1918, later being renamed the Grand Theatre and then the Rainbow Theatre.

By then used as an amusement arcade, the Grand Pavilion burned down on the night of the 17th of February 1958, destroying not only the pavilion, but the shops and bars it supported. It was quickly rebuilt, only to be destroyed by fire again on the 6th of February 1964, causing extensive damage to the pier itself. The owners, TH Lane's Amusements Limited, built a new theatre (renamed the "South Pier Theatre") within eleven weeks, at a cost of over £90,000. It opened in time for the summer season show with Joe Brown, Johnny Kidd, and the Tornados. This was followed by successful "pop" shows each year, with stars such as Gerry and the Pacemakers, Adam Faith, and Manfred Mann. The Regal Theatre at the entrance was transformed into the Beachcomber Amusement Arcade.
Various businesses plied their trades from booths on the pier – HC Saunders, photographer being one, and in 1909, an outdoor skating rink was constructed – keeping up with the hot trend of the day.

The Victoria Pavilion was built at the pier entrance in 1911, housing 900 people who could watch Pierrot shows and concerts. In 1937, the Victoria Pavilion was replaced by the Regal Theatre which opened on the 27th of June 1938, seating 1,300 people. Jack Taylor produced many of its shows and claims to have discovered Jimmy Clitheroe there.

In 1963, South Pier reopened under TH Lane, and the Regal Theatre was transformed into the Beachcomber Amusement Arcade. A white-knuckle ride "the Skyscreamer" was installed there in 1998, and the Laughing Donkey Family Bar now sits where the theatre used to stand.

South Pier Theatre was demolished in January 1998 and replaced by a steel roller coaster – the Crazy Mouse - and the "Adrenaline Ride Zone".

Note: There were plans in 1898 to build two more piers: 650-foot Palatine Pier, opposite the Palatine Hotel, and The Blackpool Sewater Pier, opposite the Carlton Hotel (this would supply hotels and baths with water). The plans came to nothing, as had a similar plan 20 years before.
Another idea was to bridge the two piers at the sea ends, so as to provide safe water for bathers.

The North Promenade was opened.
The Grand Circus on Church Street closed in September.
The Royal Circus performed for the season at the Winter Gardens.

Hunter's gents' outfitters, Blackpool: Wilde's Buildings were erected on the corner of 31 Abingdon Street and 56-60 Clifton Street. By 1906, they had become TC Weston's clothes shop, which also rented out mail carts. By 1927, the shop had become H Hunter Limited, Gent's Outfitters (established in 1879).
H Hunter had a life-sized statue of a hunter on a leaping white horse jumping a gate mounted above the corner window. *"In 1964, a new one was ordered from craftsman Ernest Stevens, of South Shore. It was modelled on Foxhunter, the trusty seed of famous show-jumper Col Harry Llewellyn. It was made using softwood, which was then given a protective plastic coating by another famous local firm – the Glasdon Group. In 1969, the Hunter family sold the business to Austin Reed and within the year, the statue had been removed and replaced with a neon sign"*. The statue was briefly moved into the front window, before being removed and sold shortly afterwards.

©

They had smaller stores on Bond Street, 174 North Promenade, and at 88 Church Street. The main shop later became the Bradford and Bingley Building Society and then a branch of the Santander Bank

Coop and Naylor, Blackpool: CJE Coop (later Coop and Naylor Ltd) opened his first shop at 23 Abingdon Street, selling books and stationery. The shop soon expanded into numbers 25 and 27 and started to run a "Circulating Library". Those premises are currently occupied by Abingdon News, as Mr Coop soon moved his shop to number 81 Abingdon Street. He had another shop on North Pier, and another, later, on Maybell Avenue. The Abingdon Street shop was taken over by Dillon's Ltd (later to become Sweeten's) in the early 1970s.

Kay's Public Circulating Library was at Central Beach.
John Cocker opened a butcher's shop in Bolton Street, South Shore. He later moved into the Corporation Abattoir on Talbot Road.
Number 176 Lytham Road was built.
David Dickinson began his auctioneer's service, later working from 62 Caunce Street.
Mrs David Morris at 8 Crystal Road, South Shore opened for board or apartments on the 28th of July. The hotel was strictly orthodox Jewish.
Stony Hill Villa was on Lytham Road, where today's number 658 stands, with Hoyles farm behind it.

Blackpool Electricity Works: Blackpool consumers first got electricity on the 31st of August. The 60-foot-high chimney had been built in 1884 – the works took many years to perfect and complete.

The Blackpool Corporation Electric Lighting Station at West Caroline Street and Princess Street was officially opened on the 13th of October, by Lord Kelvin. The works had two wooden cooling towers and a chimney that could be seen for miles, dominating the skyline for years. Its capacity was 3,100 kilowatts, including that of the traction plant, and there were two sets of 250, and one set of 500-kilowatt Parsons turbine engines. Steam was generated in five Lancashire boilers, two Fraser's marine type, and five Babcock and Wilcox boilers, fitted with chain grates and mechanical stokers. It also had its own railway branchline. The opening was called the "Electricity Fete", attracting thousands of visitors.

By 1901, it was supplying 260 arc lamps of various types, which were run on the series system with rectified current. There were also about 300 incandescent lamps of 8 candlepower fixed on arc and traction posts, supplied off the 200-volt lighting main.

Nowadays, *"Blackpool is fed by 132kV supply to three bulk supply points; Blackpool, Bispham and Thornton. These bulk supply points feed 33kV Primary Sub Stations and are inter-linked for reliability and security"*.

When electric lights were erected along the Promenade, the builders forgot to allow for the cable, so a rat was set free at one end and chased by a ferret to which a rope had been tied!

Blackpool Athletic Grounds: Were built off Whitegate Lane and held their first Athletic Festival on the 5th of August. The official opening was then held on the 26th of August, followed by a Grand Athletic and Cycling Tournament.
The Blackpool Cricket Club moved to Whitegate Park, from the Royal Palace Gardens at the same time, and then, on the 28th, 29th and 30th, Blackpool played the Australian Cricket team, who won by 79 runs.

©

The Athletic Grounds were not a lasting success. They soon became the Portland Trotting Track, and then the Whitegate Park, which was known locally as *"Tanley"*. Today's Cricket Club is still on the site.

South Shore Steam Laundry and Carpet Beating Works opened on Albert Street (now Haig Road) in April.
The terrace christened "Millers Buildings" was built on Withnell Road.
The building was later occupied by Poole Pottery and now by WH Jackson's catering supplies.
Marton churchyard was closed for burials on the 16th of May.
The large houses on Whitegate Lane, between Bryan Road and Forest Gate, were built this year, and originally had an uninterrupted overview of the Royal Palace Gardens. Numbered 34 to 50, they were all constructed by the same builder.
Whitegate Lane was so built-up, that on February the 7th, a Sunday letter delivery began.
A new footway was completed from Great Marton Road to Bonny's Lane.
Thomas Hall of Thornton built New Hall farmhouse at Bispham, south of Haddle Hall.
The bowling green of at Bispham was opened on the 20th of May.

Bispham and Norbreck Gala: was first organised by two local business men. It originally featured just the four churches of Bispham, including the United Reform Church and All Hallows Church. A gala committee was set up in 1972 to help with the event, and is now the main organiser.

Its name changed to Bispham Gala in 1895. Up until the 1960's, the parade had taken place on a Wednesday until it was moved to a Saturday in 1965. It was originally held on the Bridge End sports field but is now held on Whiteholme playing fields.
I have provided a list of Bispham Gala Queens at Appendix Y.
The 2019 gala may prove to be the last. *"The Bispham Gala Committee is made up of just six permanent members, who organise the event each year. It is funded by the committee using proceeds from the previous year's gala and donations from members of the public"*. Blackpool Council's charges rose from zero to £4,700, and appear too steep for the committee to afford.

Royal Lancashire Show: The Royal Manchester, Liverpool, and North Lancashire Show was first held locally at a 10-acre site in South Shore from the 24th to the 29th of July. It had first been held in our region in 1848, in Lytham. At the Zoological Arena on the 3rd of August, a "tame" crocodile from Madamoiselle Paula's serpent show got into the spectators, injuring one lady.

The Royal North Lancashire Agricultural Society was founded in October 1847. In 1893, it was reconstituted as the Royal Lancashire Agricultural Society. Viscount Cross was its first President, hosting the show at South Shore. The show came to Blackpool several times over the next few decades, but not until 1954 did the Royal Lancashire Show, England's oldest county agricultural show, first come to

In 1953, the Royal Agricultural Society of England's (RASE) Show was held at the Stanley Park Aerodrome site, and the eastern part of Stanley Park, including the oval – which was used for show jumping. The Royal Lancashire Show was to have been held there, but was cancelled.
The RLAS committee subsequently decided that Blackpool should be made the permanent site, as it had always held the most successful exhibitions in the past. The chosen venue was the old Stanley Park airfield, which had closed in 1947. It was not particularly attractive in its current state, so an agreement was made with Blackpool Corporation for 137 acres of land, including the old clubhouse and hangars.

The 1954 show's "town" covered 140 acres and on the first day there were 82,905 visitors. Horses and other large animals were stabled in the old aircraft hangars. The show included show jumping for the Royal Athlon Cup, held inside the athletics track. The Household Cavalry's musical ride last took place at the Royal Lancashire Show in 1964.

Despite many years of wrangling and arguments, the show remained on the Blackpool site until 1972, when it moved to Ribby Hall, Wrea Green to make way for the development of the zoo. The show stayed at Ribby Hall until 1974. *"Towards the end of 1974 the equipment at Ribby Hall was auctioned off in a series of sales over December 1974 to March 1975. Items sold included stabling, pavilions and other show yard equipment: a sad and anti-climactic end to an important chapter in our county's agricultural history"*.

Frank Atkinson was born in Blackpool on the 19th of March. He acted in such films as "Saturday Night and Sunday Morning", "The Man Who Knew Too Much", and "The Quatermass Experiment", and played Jerry Booth's uncle, Sam Leach, in Coronation Street.

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Fleetwood Fishermen's Association was formed.
Owing to the extension of the works of the Lancashire and Yorkshire and the London and North-western Railway, it was necessary to construct a new lifeboat house and slipway at Fleetwood, at a cost of £1,630.
Kelsall Brothers and Beeching of Hull established a fleet of 32 trawlers at Fleetwood but closed down the operation in 1897 and moved back to Hull.

The Mission Church of St Margaret of Antioch, Fleetwood: was built on the corner of Walmsley Street and Blakiston Street. Its Parish Room and institute was constructed next door in 1908.
St Margaret's Church closed in 1964, to be replaced by St Margaret's Court, a block of flats, in whose foundations a time capsule is buried.

Mount Terrace was built on Seabank Road in Fleetwood, followed by York Terrace in 1894.

MV Harriet, Fleetwood: Fleetwood's best-known fishing smack, the Harriet, was built at J Singleton's boatyard on Dock Street, at a cost of £1,200. She is a ketch-rigged fishing smack, constructed of pitch pine planking on oak frames. She is 64 feet long with a beam of 21 feet, and from keel to deck level, 11 feet 9 inches high. The main mast was 45 feet high, the mizzen 27 feet and her gross tonnage 80 tons. She made her maiden voyage on the 22nd of September 1893. In 1977, Harriet sailed for the last time, to Borwick Rails near Millom, where she was taken out of the water and transformed into a day centre for handicapped children, run by the Harriet Trust. Returning to Fleetwood on the 19th of August 1998, Harriet is now on display in the Fleetwood Museum. She is the last surviving Fleetwood-built fishing smack.

St Bernard's On Sea: Named after the St Bernard's sandbank by the mouth of the Wyre, Knott End tried to bring itself more upmarket by briefly renaming itself "St Bernard's-on-Sea", but the name quickly faded into disuse – as did the very briefly-used "Sunset Bay".

Pilling Sands froze over for a week in January, providing entertainment for hundreds of local ice skaters.
Plans were finalised for the setting up of a telegraph service from Pilling to Garstang in January, together with the opening of a new telegraph office in Pilling Post Office.
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©

St Thomas's Mission Hall, St Anne's: was opened on the 8th of October, on Orchard Road. In 1902, it became the St Mary's Mission, which became the headquarters of the Conservative and Unionist Association when it closed in 1928. It is now the site of the St Anne's Synagogue.

When the mission hall had become too small, the new St Thomas's Parish Church was built in its place, and opened for worship on the 22nd of June 1900, on Clifton Drive South. Although the parish formed on the 12th of August 1902, the church was not completed and fully dedicated until November 1905. The first vicar was Reverend CA Ellison, whose Vicarage was built nearby in 1923.
The Parish Centre was opened next door on the 17th of March 1985. The road on which it stands was named after the church.

St Anne's Freemasons: The St Anne's Lodge of the Freemasons began to meet in the New Mission Room in St George's Road, and also in the Masonic Rooms in Garden Street. In 1894, they moved to their new Masonic Hall in Orchard Road.

Then, in 1922, they moved into the ground floor of the Palace Cinema and Cafés on the corner of Garden Street and St George's Road. In 1959, that building was sold to Lytham St Anne's Masons, who converted the first floor into a Masonic suite, and still use it as such by Masonic Quadrant Lodge 8044.
The Melita Lodge No 6783 of the Freemasons was consecrated on the 8th of February 1949, in St Anne's, by the then Provincial Grand Master, Brother Arthur Foster.

The Gables Hydro Hotel was built on Orchard Road in St Anne's.
Westleigh was built on Park Road in St Anne's as a private house. Within a year, it offered itself for paying guests, and was run in 1933, by Mrs Woodcock.
Cecil Street was laid out in Lytham.

Lytham St Anne's Transport: The Blackpool, St Anne's, and Lytham Tramway Company was incorporated on the 24th of August. It was then permitted to construct a tramway system starting at Rigby Road in Blackpool, and going via Lytham Road and Clifton Drive, through St Anne's and terminating at Clifton Square in Lytham.
As the first step in the process, a tramway extension was built in Blackpool, from Manchester Square along Lytham Road to South Shore Station where it met the Lytham St Anne's system. A horse-drawn car operated another extension, from Station Road to Squires Gate (from the 9th of October), and the tracks were extended slightly to Victoria Pier.

The first part of the tramline was opened on the 11th of July 1896, running on gas supplied by the British Gas Traction Company, from St Anne's to Station Road in Blackpool. It used Blackpool-owned tracks to Squires Gate, not being connected to Blackpool's system until electricity came on the 4th of June 1903. Stony Hill Depot was also opened on the south side of Squires Late Lane on the 11th of July. The gas-powered system was England's first.
The trams were described on the day as follows *"The car is very handsome, and capable of carrying forty passengers inside and twenty-four outside. The seating accommodation both in and out is most comfortable, the latter being the ordinary garden seat. and the absence of vibration, noticed to so considerable an extent on the motor cars, is almost, if at entirely. absent".*

A plan to connect Lytham tramway with Southport's via a swing-bridge across the Ribble was proposed by S Speedy in October, but never came to fruition.

©

The Lytham line opened on the 21st of February 1897, and a line was run by Blackpool Corporation, from South Station, down Station Road, to join it.

Lytham Tram Depot: opened on Henry Street in Lytham to house the gas trams, the building having previously been the site of a roller-skating rink. The depot was closed on the 26th of February 1903 and was taken over by W and H Williams in 1904, as a car saleroom specialising in "Vulcan" motors cars. The building was demolished in 1986, after being an auctioneer's, and briefly, a silent cinema – the Hippodrome.

Squires Gate Tram Depot: There was another gas tram depot at Squires Gate, and until the end of 1898, the line was leased to the British Gas Traction Company. It was bought then by the Blackpool, St Anne's and Lytham Tramways Company Limited. Due to Blackpool's objections, the new company partly operated the line (the Blackpool section) by horse cars until 1901. The tram depot and gas facilities were moved to the Blackpool side of Squires Gate, on the northern corner of Lytham Road in 1901, to take advantage of Blackpool's cheaper gas. By then, the line owned 20 gas trams.
The gas tram depot on Lytham Road in Blackpool had been destroyed by a gale on the 27th of February 1903, wrecking the 13 trams inside, and although the gashouse survived, Lytham ran no more gas trams from then. The depot was however reopened on Squires Gate Lane in December. The site of that first depot is now taken by houses at 670-678 Lytham Road, Blackpool.

It was discovered that gas-powered trams were not efficient. As one expert observer of the Lytham system said *"the engines of those gas tramcars were of a heavy and slow-running type, with, cylinder dimensions nearly three times as great as those of any engine in a three-ton lorry of the present day. The gear ratio was too high, and the rpm frequently fell so low as to cause the motion of the tramcar to lie somewhere intermediate between that of a caterpillar tractor on bad ground and a buckjumping pony"*.
Having withdrawn the gas tramcars late in 1902, the Lytham line was opened as an electric tramway on the 28th of May 1903, first car running on the 4th of June. The Lytham line was extended to East Beach in Lytham from 1903 in order to service the hospital.

In 1899, a plan was published outlining a proposal to construct a line between East Beach at Lytham (by the Customs House) and Southport. There was to be a new pier at each end, joined by a Transporter Bridge and a new "Volks-type" Platform. This too, never materialised.

The Second Squires Gate Tram Depot: of the Lytham St Anne's Tramway was opened in June 1904. Its office was at 300 Lytham Road, Blackpool and it obtained its current from St Anne's Electricity Station. This depot also housed horse drawn omnibuses. In 1910, the depot was extended by the building of an eight-track workshop to the rear, and in 1911, bungalow-style offices were built, to replace those at 300 Lytham Road.

The Lytham line carried over 80,000 passengers a day for the first time on one day in July 1919, and on the 28th of October 1920, St Anne's Council bought the assets of the company, and all the trams were rebranded with "St Annes Council Tramways". When the borough of Lytham St Anne's was incorporated in 1922, the trams were rebranded with "Lytham St Annes". This was later amended to "Lytham St Annes Corporation". The fleet had grown to 56 vehicles by this time.

The Council bought its first motor bus in August 1913, for use on excursions to Southport, Morecambe, and the Lakes. This was requisitioned in September 1914, with the chassis being taken for war use.

©

Blue Buses: The first blue bus ran in Lytham St Anne's on the 6th of August 1923. *"The service began with two omnibuses supplied by the Guy Motor Company at a cost of around £1,000 each. The buses had pneumatic tyres, open windows and a roof extension and accommodation for 20 passengers on seats of brown, grained leather"*.

A 4-track extension to the tram depot was opened on the 12th of March 1924.

The Lytham tram services closed in two stages – St Anne's to Lytham in December 1936, and St Anne's to Blackpool on the 28th of April 1937.

Fylde Transport was bought out by Blackpool Transport in May 1994, by which time it was using the name Blue Buses. It was fully absorbed into that company on the 21st of July 1996, but most of its services and vehicles continued to operate from Squires Gate Depot until it closed on the 12th of April 1999. The depot was demolished in June 2001.

Catholics in Freckleton began to celebrate Mass in a small cottage belonging to the Battersby family, and the first Regular Mass was held there on the 27th of November 1898.

Kirkham's second Windmill: One of Kirkham's windmills was pulled down after a fire. It had been built in the late 1790s, and was a tower mill, standing on high ground in the rear of the Magistrates' Clerk's office on Railway Road. Little is known about it except that it had belonged to the Birley family, being briefly used as a school, and then as a residence.

Kirkham National School had two more classrooms built, which allowed the infants and girls to be taught in the lower school instead of having to climb three flights of stairs. The work was completed by February.
York House was built on Station Road in Wesham.
Fair View Villa was built beside Wrea Green Post Office. The Post Office had originally stood on the corner of Mill Lane on the opposite side of the green.
Treales annual Field Day was held on the 19th of August.
Tom Barron began commercially breeding poultry at Singleton Farm in Catforth. By 1911, he had changed its name to The Poultry Farm, Catforth. Barron went on to raise funds for the village hall as a War Memorial, the Girl Guides' Hut, the Methodist Chapel, and the village Sports Hut. He became the first chairman of the national Poultry Society, and ran probably the best-known poultry farm in Britain.

1894

Blackpool Tower was opened on Whit Monday, May the 14th.

There was no formal opening ceremony, and an estimated 70,000 customers were allowed admission after paying their 6 pence and entered to a grand concert in the Elevator Hall. Another 6 pence got them up the tower, and 500 people per hour did this on that first day. The two elevators, which run independently of each other, are each capable of holding 45 passengers, but no more than 30 are taken up at one time. The weight of the cars and passengers combined can never exceed 10 tons, and against this the seven steel cables attached to each car have been tested to carry at least 100 tons. As a further precaution, safety brakes, which would come into automatic operation if anything was to happen to the descent of the cars, are attached to each lift. Originally, the lifts were operated hydraulically by three Crossley gas engines with two cylinders, with strokes of 9.9m. The 99-metre ascent took one minute. In 1952, the machinery was changed to electrical operation by Otis Lifts Ltd, and a new lift house was built on the roof. This work

was finally finished in 1957, without ANY working time being lost. The lifts started from the Oriental Balcony, 65 feet from the ground, and finished 373 high – about 100 feet below the crow's nest.
As the Tower ascent lifts travel approximately 3,500 miles every year, a complete new set of lifts and winding gear had to be installed in 1991.

The tower stands 480 feet to the crow's nest, and 518 feet 9 inches to the top. On that first day, 500 people an hour went to the top in the lifts. Visitors could see for up to 70 miles from its crow's nest. John Bickerstaffe quipped that the tower had been built on bales of cotton – an assertion taken literally for some years afterwards. The tower complex contains over 5 million bricks and 2,200 tons of steel.
Originally 10,000 light bulbs were used to illuminate the tower. These have now been replaced by 25,000 eco-friendly LED lights. It takes 15,000 yards of carpet to cover the floor of the tower building.
The tower itself contains 2,493 tons of steel and 93 tons of cast iron, and the building at the base contains 985 tons of steel and 259 tons of cast iron.
The first General Manager of the Tower was George Harrop.

The Tower Circus also opened. It could hold ,3000 people standing and 3,500 holding on and was decorated to resemble a Moroccan Palace. The current capacity is 1,200.
When the circus re-opened for the season in June, the first "free running" cage act to appear in Britain opened with it. Julius Seeth presented a full ring cage featuring 2 German boarhounds, 2 ponies, and 7 lions. By 1901, Seeth was showing 25 lions.
The first elephants and bears appeared in 1895, trained by Julius Wagner.
By 1927 the animals of Vojtek Trubka was amazingly varied. They included 2 tigers, 10 lions, 4 polar bears, 2 Himalayan bears, 2 brown bears, a puma, and 2 dogs.
The circus was fully remodelled by Frank Matcham in 1899, reopening on the 4th of June, and called the Tower Aquatic and Variety Circus. Its most famous attraction is its hydraulically-operated ring, which can be lowered by 4 and a half feet, and flooded with 42,000 gallons of water, to allow the famous aquatic show to be performed. *"The Blackpool Gazette dubbed it a dream of 'Moorish magnificence'"*.
In 1942, Bobby Roberts, his brother Tommy, and their wives, started out as a bareback riding troupe "the Ottawas" at the Tower Circus. They went on to form Roberts Brothers Circus.

Ringmasters: The Tower Circus has used several ringmasters in its time. The first was George Lockhart, who began his career at the Tower on the 14th of July 1914. His tenure was interrupted when he did military service in World War 1, but he returned to Blackpool, and continued to work there until 1946.
Lockhart was the first ringmaster to use the now-famous "hunter" tails and a top hat.
He was followed by:

Alfred Delbosq (1948 to 1953),
Henry Litton (1954 to 1965),
Norman Barrett (1965 to the 3rd of November 1990) enhanced his job with his famous performing budgerigars – in 1973, he was assisted by Harold Holt,
Kate Endresz (1993),
Harvey Seager (1993 to 1999). In 1996 and 1997, he was assisted by Kevin Hewitt,
Laci Endresz (2000), and,
since 2000, Mooky has been both clown and ringmaster.

The circus has always been staffed by a group of scantily-clad girls called the Tower Circusettes, who were guides and occasional support acts.

©

In 1991, First Leisure Group's head, Sir Bernard Delfont, succumbed to pressure from his wife, who was a fierce campaigner for animal rights, and scrapped live animal acts from the Tower Circus.
The Tower Circus has performed its show EVERY year since 1894.

On the ground floor of the Tower's North Wing was a café restaurant, capable of accommodating 1,000 people. It had a fountain in the centre, and a balcony surrounding the entire room. This was soon renamed as the Tower Bar and stretched all the way to the North-eastern corner of the building. Above the restaurant was the Assembly Room, seating between 6,000 and 8,000 persons, which was available for promenade concerts or dancing. This opened in August 1894 and became the ballroom. The Tower was finally granted a liquor licence in August.

There was a Monkey House and Menagerie on the second floor, and an aviary on the third floor, containing the livestock from Doctor Cocker's complex – and more. This expanded collection of wildlife was considered one of the finest in the country. The monkey house contained a large variety of primates including chimpanzees and mandrills, and a reptile enclosure with crocodiles and turtles. There were also several cages with bears, cheetahs, hyenas, leopards, lions, a black panther, porcupines, sloths, and tigers.

Adjacent to the menagerie lived James Walmsley and his family. Jim had been the general manager of Dr Cocker's complex. He lived inside the Tower for many years, and was instrumental in buying and housing most of the animals and birds on display. Jim Walmsley tragically drowned in the salt water tanks under the aquarium on the 17th of June 1915.
The main menagerie hall (lions, tigers, etc.) was transformed into the Ocean Room in 1963, and then into the "Dawn of Time" ride in 1992.
In 1969, the Tower Zoo closed to the public, but the council decided that the resort should retain its own zoological collection, and the first plans were drawn up for a prospective zoo on East Park Drive. When the menagerie was removed in 1973, all stock was transferred to the new Blackpool Zoo.
In 1977, the remains of the menagerie (smaller animals) was done away with, and Jungle Jim's Adventure Playground soon opened in the space. It had slides, climbing nets, a ball pool, and dangling foam bounce posts amongst other items. The area was fully re-vamped in 2008, and given an Inca Gods theme, along with new attractions such as the Glide Slide. Jungle Jim's was closed suddenly on the 3rd of May 2019.

The reconstruction of the Tower Circus began in November 1899, with designer Frank Matcham creating a completely different type of venue – the one we see today. The building work then was carried out by J Parkinson of Blackpool.
By 1906, the Tower Circus was officially the world's greatest circus ring. Along with all the other attractions, there were 40 performing polar bears.
Elephants from the circus were walked on

In 1913, Comedian, WC Fields, spent the summer season at the Tower Circus as a juggler, long before he became a star in Hollywood.

Finally, there were sumptuous Roof Gardens on level six, which were closed in 1977.

The Tower Lounge: The original Tower Bar was renamed as the Tower Lounge in about the mid-1920s. It burned down on the 14th of December 1956, but in May 1958, the Tower Lounge re-opened in the old Tower Restaurant. It had been completely rebuilt and could then seat over 1,000 – the same as the original restaurant again at last.

©

The lounge closed on the 9th of November 2014, to be replaced by a Harry Ramsden's fish and chip restaurant. This opened on the 21st of July 2016 and now has 200 "covers", boasting a menu including rotisserie-cooked meat and fish, a cocktail bar, gin and beer bars, and juicing stations.

After the 1956 fire, the corner space that had originally been filled by the Tower Bar was re-furbished and became the Tower's Starlight Bar, and then the Continental Bar (not to be confused with the Winter Gardens' Continental Bar). In 1974, a Tennessee Pancake House outlet opened on the corner, later becoming the American Pancake House and then a Kentucky Fried Chicken restaurant.

The Tower's Grand Pavilion Ballroom also opened on the first day, along with the Vault and the Café Bar. Composer, Oliver Gaggs, had written the "Tower Waltz" especially for the occasion. His own orchestra was retained to play in the ballroom for the first few years. Two sections of the ballroom roof were made to open during hot weather, and the stage was at the southern end – the opposite of today. In 1898, the ballroom was greatly altered into today's form.
In the August, the Tower Pavilion opened. It initially featured trapeze artists, bands, comedy and musical acts, and divers plummeting into tanks of water.

The shops on the Bank Hey Street side of the Tower were built and fitted out by Curtis and Son. Finally, in 1896, they were occupied by two milliners, a ship's dealer, a cutler, two confectioners, a tobacconist, a hosier, a hairdresser, and a bootmaker. The original Tower entrances, with their carved plaques announcing the "Circus Gallery", "Circus Pit", and the "Tower" can still be seen on Bank Hey Street.

By 1901, the Tower Grand Orchestra was under the direction of Monsieur Auguste Van Biene.

Fires: There have been two fires at the Tower: The first was on the 22nd of July 1897, when *"all the wooden erections and framework on the arrival and two higher platforms were totally destroyed"*. Also, the *"cables holding the Tower lift burned through, and the strands of wire rope attached to the car and weight, with the result that the latter, weighing eleven tons, fell from the level of the arrival platforms to the basement of the tower, burying itself in the foundations close to the foot of the north-east leg. At its fall, it smashed a considerable portion of the iron framework, and plunged through two concrete floors into one of the private boxes in the circus, and so down to the ground"*.

The second fire was in 1956, when a fire, caused by a lit cigarette, destroyed the Tower Ballroom and the Tower Lounge on the 14th of December.
The rival Winter Gardens Company also proposed to build a tower, which would have been twice the height of the present one if it had gone ahead.

By 1930, the Promenade frontage of the Tower was emblazoned with the phrase "Wonderland of The World".

At the time it was built, the tower was the tallest artificial structure in Britain. It was surpassed in the 1960s by various aerial masts, and in 1968, by the BT Tower in London.
Several people have committed suicide by jumping from the viewing platform over the years.

After the British Empire Exhibition in 1951, people began calling the tower "the Skylon", after the temporary tower at the London show.

©

The Tower was given a new frontage in 1969. This was removed in 2011, when the original carvings and canopies were restored.

In 2007, the Hornpipe Gallery (built in 1992) in the Tower became Restaurant 1894. It was later converted into the Blackpool Eye 4D Cinema.
Today, up to 9,000 people visit the tower every day of the year.

The Tower Circus Clowns: Although it opened on the same day as the Tower in 1894, the Tower Circus didn't use clowns until Bob Kellino appeared in 1897. He was joined by Pim Pim in 1899, and they stayed until 1903, when the Tower Company bought the competing Palace Theatre and its Alhambra Circus.

From 1903, the clowns August and September were hired. They had been "poached" from the adjacent Alhambra Circus at the Palace Theatre. August (real name Harold Wade) and September (real name John Griffith) stayed until 1915.

Doodles the Clown (William McAllister) first appeared at the Tower Circus in 1915. He was the Blackpool Carnival King in 1923 and retired from clowning in 1944. He lived at 27 Collingwood Avenue. By 1928, Fiery Jack had joined Doodles and his long-time sidekick, Austin.

In 1934, the Tower began hiring famous continental clowns for a season at a time. The first were Theodore and Charley (also to be taken on for 1935). In 1936, it was Alex and Nico, and in 1937, Alex returned with Porto. Finally, in 1938, it was Dario Bario, and then the Cairolis came:
Charlie Cairoli (real name Humbert Jean Charles Cairoli) first appeared at the Tower Circus in 1939, but did not star there until 1944, when Doodles handed his "crown" to him. Charlie performed at the Tower Circus until ill health forced him to retire in 1979, by which time he held the world record for the most performances at a single venue.
When he first settled in Blackpool, he had to report to the police station once a year, as he was classified as an "alien". He first bought a hotel on Carshalton Road, but soon moved around the corner to 129 Warley Road, where he died on February the 17th 1980.
Charlie famously made a brand-new red nose for himself before every performance. He wore the nose deliberately, in order not to scare children – many were frightened by the more radically made-up clowns. From 1952, he always appeared with Jimmy Buchanan, his po-faced stooge, and the two were later joined by Paul Freedman, his "Auguste". Paul's 10-year-old daughter was the inspiration for "Mick the Marmalizer", one of the first of Ken Dodd's famous Diddy Men.
Violet Carson unveiled a memorial plaque to Cairoli at the Tower Circus on the 16th of May 1980, and a statue of him was unveiled in Stanley Park in April 2013. It was later moved to Blackpool Tower due to vandalism.

Coco the Clown (Nikolai Poliakoff) and his son were engaged for the Blackpool Tower circus's Easter and summer programmes in 1942, and were joined there in 1943, by his daughter Tamara. They remained in Blackpool for each summer and Easter programme until the end of the 1946 season, latterly sharing the limelight with the Cairolis, when Coco played Charlie's "Auguste". Some of his family settled in Blackpool.

In 1979, producer Dick Hurran engaged the Rastellis troupe to be the resident clowns. They lasted until 1982, as Peter Jay's Circus then took over the production, and supplied their own clowns. Jay's left in 1990, after the use of wild animals in circuses was banned.

©

Mooky the Clown was engaged in 1991. Mooky was originally played by Laci Endresz Senior, but he was soon succeeded by Laci Junior. Mooky was later joined by Mr Boo – played by Laci's brother Tom "Bubu" Endresz.

In 2018, the famous boat tram was renamed Charlie Cairoli in his honour.

Bispham cum Norbreck Parish Council was formed.

The Wreck of the Abana, Blackpool: The barque "Abana" was wrecked under the Shell Wharf off Norbreck on the 22nd of December, in a 135-mph gale. The alarm was raised by Robert Hindle the landlord of the Cleavelas Inn, and the lifeboat "Samuel Fletcher" rescued the crew, who were then sheltered at the Red Lion in Bispham.
The Red Lion had stood on All Hallow's Road, to the rear of its current site since 1814, and the hotel afterwards used the ship's mast as a flag post. This was taken down in 1933.
The figurehead of the Abana was for many years hung over the door of Mr Wright's workshop at Poulton Road, Fleetwood.
The ship's remains can still be seen in the sand at low tide, and its bell – presented to Mr Hindle by Captain Adolph Danielson - resides in St Andrew's Parish Church in Cleveleys. Captain Donaldson also gave him his pet dog!
The plaque from the ship's stern, depicting a woman's head with long-flowing hair, is still preserved in Fleetwood Museum.

The relevant extract from the Blackpool Lifeboat's own records states:
"The undermentioned ship was sighted about 4 in the afternoon of Saturday. All her sails were torn to ribbons, half of her mainmast appeared to have gone and she was evidently unmanageable and at length shortly after 5 o'clock she grounded about 400 yards from the cliffs (five miles to north of B'pool). Meanwhile the Coxswain (Cartmell) had his men in readiness. The barque came ashore bow first but was slewed broadside on by the force of the waves. Signals of distress were then fired from her and the Lifeboat started by road shortly after 5.30. The journey was seven miles through rough country lanes. The wind was blowing from the N.W. and the LifeBoat was Taken ¼ of a mile to the north of the wreck. Very little delay was experienced in launching the boat into the terrible surf. It was a stiff pull against wind and sea but the boat was admirably managed, the Coxswain steering her nicely to the lee side of the vessel. About 25 minutes after the signals announced that all were safe and in another 20 minutes the rescued men were safely landed. The LifeBoat was then taken back by road to Blackpool which was reached at about 12 o'clock. The performance of the crew was a splendid one and one to be proud of. You will notice that I have not stated how many times they have been afloat on lifeboat service. I have not been able to ascertain this, but the majority of them are young fellows who have not been out to a wreck before.

J. Walter Smith, Honorary Secretary".

The Unitarian Free Church of Lytham Road, Blackpool: was founded, with the first meeting being held in the Masonic Hall on Waterloo Road. The Unitarian Church, on the corner of Thames Road and 384 Lytham Road, opened in 1900, known as the *"Tin Tabernacle"* by locals.
The Church and Institute, in Waterloo Road, were built in 1908, and Lytham Road Independent Church was opened on the 20th of July 1913.

©

The foundation stones of South Shore Unitarian Church Hall were laid on the 15th of November 1902, and the Sir Cuthbert Grundy Church Hall opened in 1932, next to the church. Grundy had held the first South Shore Unitarian service in his sitting-room in Lytham Road in 1894.
On the 18th of May 2008, the newly-renovated hall was renamed the Rothwell Hall in honour of parishioner Frank Rothwell.

The Albert Hotel at 117 Albert Road was built, along with its neighbours.
Peter Yates took over Liston's bar, behind the Talbot Dining Rooms, as a wine bar in May. Yates had opened his first bar in Oldham in 1884 - this was his second, and the start of the Yates' Wine Bar brand.
The Crescent Private Hotel was at 250 to 268 North Promenade in Claremont Park, advertising its new lounge, billiard, and recreation rooms. Its proprietor was John Anderson and it had 50 bedrooms. By the late 1950s, it had moved to 274 to 280 North Promenade and then had 100 bedrooms. It was replaced by the Claremont Hotel in 1971.
There was just a single house on the south side of Dykes Lane (Newton Drive). Its cobble wall still survives.
Lady Drummond, JT Clifton's widow, sold 240 acres of Layton estate land to Worthington and Lumb, and the building of an estate on Fisher's Field and around Bryan Road began.
William Lumb built Layton Mount on the hill by Sandy Lane. It was later St Joseph's College.
Fenton's Brickworks moved from between Caunce Street and Fenton Road, to the site of the present Stanley Park Rose Gardens. Woodland Brick Company set up further south, and Ramsden's Piggeries started to operate nearby, on the site of the present park tennis courts. J and R Fenton's builders were situated at Caunce Street Sawmills from 1910 until 2011.
Work began on building a new main road from Blackpool to St Anne's. It started at Revoe Road and joined Middle Lane on the way to Lytham. In 1904, Middle Lane was renamed as Central Drive, and St Anne's Road continued it across Layton Hawes.
Marton and Layton-with-Warbreck were included in the Borough of Blackpool.
The Fylde Water main was extended from Hawes Side to School Lane End.
Midgeland Villa was built on Midgeland Road.
A terrace of Boarding houses was erected in Springfield Road.
Manchester House was erected on Lytham Road. It is now a Money Trader store.
South Shore Free Library opened on the 11th of July. It was equipped with a revolutionary Book Delivery Station, which allowed customers to request any book from the Central Library.
Richard Lister was running his "High Class Tailors" on Foxhall Road. All the trousers made by the company had buttons stamped "Lister and Co".
Trams 9 and 10 were fixed in Abingdon Street and on the Promenade for use as cabmen's shelters.
Blackpool and Fylde Athletic Club was founded and held their first athletics meet at Royal Palace Gardens, after the Blackpool Athletic Grounds Company was wound up on the 5th of November. They changed their name to Blackpool and Fylde Harriers in 1928.

Blackpool Golf Club: The Blackpool Golf Club opened on land at Harrowside on the 20th of February. At that original site, a proper 9-hole course was made between Burlington Road and Harrowside, with a small wooden clubhouse being erected, at the end of Bournemouth Road. The clubhouse had gone by the end of World War 1. When the Grand Hotel opened on Lytham Road, it advertised itself as *"only 5 minutes from the golf course"*.
The first match was played on the 4th of April, between teams selected by the club captain, W H Hampson, and by Mr AH Doleman, the captain's team being the runaway winners. Mr Doleman had first started the playing of golf in Blackpool in 1880, when he taught the pupils of his boys' school in Moore Street to play on the land which was soon to be the golf club.

©

In June 1895, the club moved to the future site of the holiday camp at Squires Gate. The Blackpool Golf Club extended its course to eighteen holes in 1905, and in 1913, the course was redesigned as a better 18-hole course – extending over the future site of the airport.
The club built their new club house in 1904, in the form of two large houses facing the course on Clifton Drive. That club house lasted just over a year and became the Thursby Rest Home in June 1905. The final course was a par 74, and the course record was set in 1908, by James Braid, at 65. Refreshments were available from 1905, when the first wooden clubhouse was opened, and the membership peaked at 600 in the 1930s.

In 1939, the club's course was taken over for runways etc. The golf club could be reached from either Clifton Drive or Squires Gate Lane (its postal address) at the time. The club closed in 1940, when the wooden bungalow, that had been the second club house, was transported whole, by lorry, to the Green Drive course in Lytham.

Blackpool Meteorology Observation: The taking of meteorological observations was transferred to the Health Department. *"At the Sanatorium we had a Barometer, Maximum and Minimum Thermometers, and Rain gauge, whilst on the pavilion of the North Pier we had a Wind Direction and Velocity Vane, together with a Sunshine Recorder"*.

Blackpool Meteorological Observatory: In 1903, a new observatory was constructed *"situated in an open field close by a bridge crossing the railway behind the New Road Cemetery. The site is about half-a-mile from the Sanatorium site, and is about 70 feet above mean sea level. The Observatory building is of brick relieved by stone-work, and lighted by windows on the north and south sides. The building is placed four-square to the points of the compass, the doorway looking east. It is twelve feet square, nine feet high, and the floor is about two feet higher than the adjoining ground, requiring three steps at the doorway. The roof is flat and formed of concrete, supported on iron girders, and access to the roof is obtained by a flight of steps in the interior of the building, leading up through a trap door. The roof is protected by a parapet three feet high. From the centre of the roof projects to a height of 57 feet from the ground a vertical pole of cast-iron tubing, stayed by wire guy-ropes anchored to the ground. This pole carries the "combined" Anemometer and Anemoscope head and wind vane. The wind vane has a copper mouth-piece and aluminium wings, and measures three feet from end to end. From the head, one-inch tubes pass down alongside the anemometer pole, and through holes in the concrete roof to the Dines' and Baxendell's recording instruments placed on the floor of the Observatory. On the roof of the Observatory is placed also a wooden stand bearing the Campbell-Stokes Sunshine-recorder. This is placed some 12 feet above the roof, or 25 feet above the ground level. In the Observatory room is placed the Fortin barometer. The Observatory contains also a telephonic installation, so that messages in regard to the weather may be communicated without delay. The grass enclosure is about 65 feet to the south-east of the Observatory and 67 feet above mean sea-level and is 24 feet square. It contains in the centre a 5in. rain-gauge, with M.O. pattern rim. To the west of this is fixed one of Halliwell's recording rain-gauges. The Stevenson screen with its instruments occupies the centre of the north side of the enclosure, and in the north-west corner is the one-foot earth thermometer. In the centre of the south side is fixed the 4-feet earth thermometer, and*
east of this the two solar radiation thermometers are placed four feet above the ground, one a bright bulb in vacuo and the other a black bulb in vacuo. Near the south-east corner of the enclosure a minimum recording thermometer with link bulb is supported close to the grass, and gives the lowest temperature during the 24 hours".

©

In 1904, all the instruments were transferred from the Sanatorium to the new Meteorological Observatory. Additional instruments were obtained, and the Observatory was then fully equipped and recognised by the Meteorological Office, London, as a Second Order, Government Meteorological Station.

The New Meteorological Observatory, erected by the Health Committee, in Stanley Park was opened officially on the 4th of May 1937, by Councillor DJ Bailey JP, Chairman of the Health Committee.
It closed on March the 31st 1950, and from then on, the town's weather was forecast from the Meteorological Office at Squires Gate Airport.

Miss E Clegg had her own millinery shop in London House on Abingdon Street.
The Blackpool and District Master Bakers Association was formed.
The first Pierrot shows were seen on the beach at Starr Gate - Starr Gate being named after the Starr grass growing on the sand dunes. Also, at Starr Gate, were the South Shore Minstrels a group of *"nigger minstrels"* led by Cyrus Bell. These four men and Angelina appeared near to Gipsy Daisy Boswell, Jack Pye's ice cream stall, and Old Dan's hobby horses. Around 1899, the minstrels re-formed and moved to the shore at Harrowside, as the "White Coons" – a slightly larger troupe of white-faced Pierrots.

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Tithebarn Street railway bridge was built in Poulton to replace the adjacent, original level crossing
Heyes Street was built at Thornton; Hambleton Terrace was added in 1901.
Thornton was granted parish council status, which lasted until Thornton Cleveleys became an urban district in 1900.
The Fylde Water main was extended down Mill Lane in Thornton, to supply the whole of the Trunnah area.
By now, there was only 1 common lodging remaining in the Fylde district, and 133 new houses were built during the year.
Daisy Cottage was built in Thornton. It is now number 1 Lime Grove.
Fleetwood first saw the arrival of the fishing fleet of James H Marr of Hull.
Fleetwood Sailors' Rest was built on the corner of Dock Street and London Street, with money donated by Mrs Fielden. The building was replaced in the 1960s by the YMCA. The new facility replaced the old "wreck barn"

The Fleetwood Boys Club: was established in Rhyl Street, funded by local benefactor Samuel Fielden. After a change of name to the Fleetwood Gymnasium Club for Young People, the venue was forced to close as the building was no longer fit for purpose, and it was demolished in May 2008, to make way for apartments.
Fleetwood Gym - as it was known locally - fields many teams in various sports.
The club relocated to London Street, and was rebranded to "Tommy's", which was relaunched on December the 16th 2009.

The Fleetwood Port Sanitary Hospital was built at the outlet to the Timber Pond. It was an isolation hospital for sailors with tropical and other diseases (TB etc.) and lasted until the 1930s.
The Mount View GP's Practice dates back to this year, when Dr J R Preston set up practice in Adelaide Street, Fleetwood. He moved to Mount Road in 1928 where his son Dr Ian Preston joined him.
Kingston Terrace was built in Harris Street in Fleetwood.
Latham Terrace was built in North Albert Street in Fleetwood, Clarence Terrace followed in 1895.

Fylde Rural District Council: was formed, working from Derby Road in Wesham.
The council was finally granted its own coat of arms on the 20th of July 1954:
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ARMS: Vert, the sails of a windmill saltirewise Or, on a chief intended of the last a rose gules barbed and seeded proper, between two fountains.
CREST: Out of a cornet of four cinquefoils set on a rim argent, a dexter arms in armour embowed proper, the hand gauntleted also proper and pendant therefrom a buglehorn sable, stringed and garnised Or.
MOTTO: *"Gaudeat Ager"* from Psalm 96, meaning "Let the field be joyful" – its local meaning is "Let Fylde Prosper".

In 1962, the council built new offices on the opposite side of Station Road, Wesham, opening them in October. The coat of arms plaque from that building was returned to the Borough of Fylde in 2014, after its demolition.

The Fylde coast was hit by force 10 winds on the night of the 2nd of October, in what became known as the *"Great Storm of '94"* or *"the Blackpool Gale"*. The Fylde India Rubber Works at Fleetwood were severely damaged, and several vessels were wrecked, including:

- The "Volunteer" - a Cutter driven ashore at Central Pier.
- The "Resolution" - a Smack lost near Fleetwood.
- The "Edith" - a Smack wrecked in heavy weather off Southport.
- The "Two Sisters" - a Smack wrecked off Central Beach.
- The "Sarah" - a Cutter foundered off Blackpool.
- The "Genesta" - a fishing vessel foundered off Blackpool after a collision with the paddle steamer "Greyhound".
- The "Mariner" - a Cutter lost off Blackpool.
- The "Daisy" - a Smack lost with all hands, off Blackpool.
- The "School Girl" - a Smack wrecked at Lytham.

The Lancashire and Yorkshire Bank built their St Anne's branch at 56 St Anne's Road West. It later became Martins Bank, and on the 15th of December 1969, it became the Barclays Bank branch that we see today.
On the 12th of February, the steamer "Huntcliff" was washed ashore near the Omerod homes at St Anne's. During the 11 days that she was beached, the wreck was such a draw that the beach became a *"temporary fairground"*.
The Methodist Manse was opened at 209 St George's Road in St Anne's.
Doctor Staley founded his medical practice on the Crescent in St Anne's. It was purely homeopathic. Later it moved to Wood Street, then to Park Road in 1987. Today the Park Medical Practice is inside the medical centre which opened on Durham Avenue (off St Davids Road North) in 2009. The Park Practice, together with the neighbouring Clifton Practice (began on Clifton Drive), merged in January 2019, to be called the Parcliffe Practice.
A terrace of houses, in yellow brick, was built on Church Road in St Anne's. It was named Sea View.
A large "Porritt" house, called Wimbledon House, was built this year, for Robert Boddington, the brewer.

The Bungalow, Fairhaven: was built near the corner of Cartmell Road, for Manchester solicitor HT Crofton. It stood on a sand dune (which is now the corner with the Promenade). The Fairhaven Estate Railway passed in front, and behind it was a freshwater pond known to local children as the "*Froggy Pond*". Named "The Dunes", it was later bought by Lord Ashton (being locally known as Lord Ashton's Bungalow) and was demolished in about 1960. Many of the pine and willow trees, planted by Lord Ashton, survive today, between Denford Avenue and Lancaster Avenue.

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Christ Church, Wesham: was consecrated by Bishop Moorhouse on Garstang Road, on the 27th of September. The church was designed by Lancaster architects Paley, Austin, and Paley, and provided seating for 229 people.
The church was used as a chapel-of-ease to Kirkham until 1913, when it was made a separate parish.
In 1927–28, the east end was completed, a south porch was added, and the nave was reseated, increasing the seating to 317. It is built in red brick with dressings in red terracotta, and the roof is red tile. The plan consists of a nave and chancel under one roof, with a steeple to the southwest. The tower has three stages and has a stepped sandstone parapet. Its steeple is cladded in green slate. The nave has six bays and internally there are stone piers. On the 11th of June 1986, Christ Church was designated a Grade 2 Listed Building.
The workhouse mortuary was next door, handily reached by a doorway in the wall of the graveyard.

Laburnum Terrace was built on Station Road in Wesham.
The Manchester Ship Canal was opened on the 21st of May, further damaging Fleetwood's cargo trade. The new canal meant that Fleetwood's main trade of flax, sugar, and timber could now be delivered straight to the users. Its abilities had been demonstrated at an exhibition at the Blackpool Winter Gardens in May 1884. The trade into Fleetwood dropped dramatically with Salford and Manchester becoming virtual seaports. Fleetwood turned to fish full-time.

1895

The First Major Promenade construction, Blackpool: A massive undertaking in eight distinct stages was begun by Blackpool Corporation, to strengthen the town's Promenade:

> The sea front between Carleton Terrace (Cocker Square) and the Gynn was fronted by a 7-foot-thick concrete sea wall that was dug into the boulder clay. This three-tier Promenade was opened in 1899, at a cost of £144,716.
>
> In 1902, the promenade between North Pier and Victoria Pier was widened to 100 feet, and the sea wall apron was faced with basalt pitching, whose toe was protected by sheet piling, held by king-piles at 8-foot centres. Timber walings were built, backed by wooden sheeting, and the whole job was completed in 1905.
>
> 1910 saw the stretch from the Gynn to King Edward Avenue begun. Built in a similar manner to the first stretch, this was completed in 1911. It had no piling as the boulder clay there was too dense.
>
> The part from North Pier to Cocker Street was also begun in 1910. It consisted of a 9-foot-thick concrete, bullnosed wall, dug into the boulder clay, and faced with timber waling. This stretch was opened in 1912.
>
> The stretch from King Edward Avenue to Red Bank Road was constructed between 1917 and 1919. The 100-foot-high cliffs posed a severe problem and necessitated a 12-foot-thick concrete wall being sunk 7 feet into the boulder clay. Old tram rails were used instead of wooden king-piles, and many water outlets were included.
>
> Red Bank Road to Arundel Avenue was protected by a re-enforced and stepped concrete apron, between 1919 and 1921.

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The large area from Victoria Pier to the Southern boundary was begun in 1922, to be opened in 1926 by the Earl of Derby. It included an *"embayment"* for the anticipated Open-Air Baths of 1923. A 13-foot concrete wall with wood facing was erected 400 feet from the beach, and back-filled.

Arundel Avenue to the northern boundary, was the last to be completed. It was begun in 1932 and opened by the Duke of Kent in 1937. The Southern part was built in two stepped levels, complete with concrete beach chalets and was only for pedestrians. The northern part had a 30-foot carriageway built and was protected by a 3-foot-thick concrete wall. Little Bispham Underground Car Park was also built.

Also, many groynes were built on the beach north of King Edward Avenue. The first four were concrete, and the rest timber.

The Empire – Hippodrome – ABC, Blackpool: The Empire Theatre of Varieties opened on the 4th of July and was designed in an Italian Renaissance style by Manchester architect JD Harker and built by Peters of Rochdale. It was a large ballroom/music hall, with a flat floor and gallery around three sides, and a shallow stage. It was to have been an opera house, called the Prince's, but the council refused a singing licence, and its location was chosen in anticipation of the boom in passengers from the proposed new station – which was never built. The Empire went bankrupt in November 1896, and even housed the local Synagogue underneath for a while.

In 1900, it became the Hippodrome Theatre and presented a circus (on its flat floor), with Louis Tussaud's waxworks in the basement. A key feature that year were Bio Tableaux showing pictures of the Boer War. This was another rival for the claim to be the first introduction of paying cinema to Blackpool folk. The screen was a large cotton sheet, soaked in glycerine and water, to make it translucent. The pictures were then projected onto it from the rear.

In 1901, the new lessee changed its name to the King's Theatre, but in 1902, it reverted to the Hippodrome.
A raked floor was added by Robert Fenton in 1910 (whilst it was called the Princes Theatre) and it then seated 2,500.
In 1920, it was renamed the Hippodrome once more, by Blackpool Entertainments (1920) Ltd, and had seating for 1,878 people.
In 1921, the name changed again to the Royal Hippodrome, for 6 weeks only, then changing back to the Hippodrome.

It was taken over by Associated British Cinemas (ABC) in February 1929, the seating capacity was increased to 2,820, and on the 29th of March, it unveiled Blackpool's first "talkie" when Al Jolson's "The Singing Fool" was shown. ABC had taken over both this theatre and the Princess Theatre.

In 1948, the Hippodrome was turned into the "Coconut Grove" for risqué shows (such as the Latin Quarter) featuring semi-nude girls, and in 1954, it was greatly refurbished, having a cinemascope screen fitted which was capable of showing 3D films.
The Hippodrome closed on the 28th of October 1961, with a showing of the film "Breakfast at Tiffany's". The building was mostly demolished and completely re-built as a modern theatre and cinema.

The ABC Theatre opened on the 31st of May 1963, with the summer season stage show "Holiday Carnival" starring Cliff Richard and The Shadows. Much of the old Hippodrome was demolished, except the outer

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walls and the new ABC was built in the shell. Seating 1,934 with stalls and circle it was a very modern theatre with gold seats and tabs. It was used for stage shows during the summer months, with films and concerts during the winter seasons. It was permanently wired up for TV transmissions and during the 1960s ABC Weekend Television transmitted their Blackpool Night Out shows from there. The summer shows starred the likes of Frank Ifield, Morecambe and Wise, Cilla Black, Tommy Steele, and Englebert Humperdink. The Beatles also played there in 1963. It was one of the few theatres in Britain to have a permanent revolving stage and the last live show took place in December 1980.

The ABC was closed for conversion into a triple screen cinema in January 1981, reopening on the 30th of April, with ABC 1 (in the former circle) seating 728, and ABC 2 and ABC 3 (in the former stalls area) seating 321 and 231 respectively. No more stage shows were possible after the tripling, although the old stage with revolve and safety curtain remained unused behind the conversion and was used for storage.

It was renamed the Cannon in 1986, then the MGM Festival Cinema from May 1993, and back to the ABC in June 1996. It closed for business in 1998, being finally locked up on the 13th of July 2000.
After 2 years' closure, the Syndicate "super club" opened in the ABC buildings in December 2002, by Mike and Sandra Nordwind. The cinema was transformed into a 4,500-capacity club, with the UK's biggest revolving dance floor.
The venue closed in August 2010, to be demolished from May 2014 to March 2016, to become another small car park.

Charles Blondin (Jean Francois Gravalet) performed his high wire tricks at the Royal Palace Gardens, where he injured his back and ended his career – he was nursed at the Railway Hotel by one of their maids, Katherine Atkinson, who he later married. At the same show, Captain Fowler "King of the Rifle" introduced locals to Clay Pigeon shooting.
Madame Vane started reading palms at 59 Albert Street, South Shore.
John Payne's watch and jeweller's shop was at 45 Market Street. The premises are currently taken by a clothing retailer called Bizarro.
Blackpool's Foreshore Inspector was issued with a telescope to spot and arrest nude bathers.

The Pleasure Beach – Outhwaite and Bean, Blackpool: A Yorkshire meat trader called John Outhwaite began trading in the amusement business at South Shore, opening his steam carousel – the American Merry-go-round, which he had imported from the US in 1894. He placed it near the existing St Chad's Switchback Railway and soon bought a house at 2 Balmoral Road, nearby. Locals called the roundabout the Gallopers, as it consisted of three rings of racing horses. As an added bonus, riders on the third ring that could hook a ring off a figure-board would get an extra ride!

Also, this year, William George Bean leased some land between the gypsy encampment and Outhwaite's ride, where he built the town's first amusement ride. He had originally installed the pedal-bike monorail called "Hotchkiss's Patent Bicycle Railroad" at Great Yarmouth, but as business was mediocre, he moved it to Blackpool in July. For a penny, customers furiously pedalled their bicycles with their hands to move slowly around an oval track. Mr TW Potts was the manager.
Close to the new rides, there was a new camera obscura and numerous gypsy fortune-tellers.

WG Bean founded the Pleasure Beach Company on the 23rd of April 1896. His aim was "*To found an American style amusement park where adults could feel like children again*".

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In 1901 Outhwaite and Bean joined together. In 1902, the Watson brothers bought a stretch of land between the fairgrounds and the end of the Promenade; the brothers', and the Council's, intention was to stop it from encroaching further towards the town.
Then, in 1903, Outhwaite and Bean loaned £30,000 from the Royal Liverpool Friendly Society and bought 40 acres of sand near the Star Inn known as *"Watson's Estate"* for leasing as an amusement park. This grew into the Pleasure Beach.

The Pleasure Beach name was first used in 1905. The park officially opened for business, surrounded by the 42-acre gypsy encampment. One of the first rides was the "River Caves of the World", complete with its famous "Blue Grotto"; this was probably the world's first "dark ride".
The famous Lighthouse Helter Skelter also opened – the UK's first – and welcomed its passengers via a pathway made of railway sleepers, to stop them sinking into the sand. In the late 1920, a chair lift escalator was fitted to the exterior. It was removed in 1935, and its top sold to a house owner on the Norfolk Broads.
The Big Wheel at Earl's Court had been moved to the Pleasure Beach for the opening. Built by Maudsley Sons and Field, it was of the enclosed variety and stayed until the end of the 1920s.

On opening, there were 49 stallholders, with 9 people running more than one stall as concessionaires. By 1906, the number had risen to 83, with 18 running more than one as concessionaires. In adverts in 1905, the title for the new permanent funfair was displayed: *"The permanent fairground officially designated as The Pleasure Beach"*.
The new venue also had a "Miniature Ferris Wheel" for younger children.

FJ Brandwood established a grocer's shop at 103 Church Street.
A hosiery and baby linen shop was in business on the southwest corner of Talbot Road and Abingdon Street. By the 1930s, this had become the popular Corner Shop baker's and café (the author's mother-in-law, Mary Jessop, worked there as a young waitress), later to be a Jessop's (no relation) camera shop.
A ladies' clothes shop called "The Central Corner" was on the corner of West Street and The Promenade, calling itself *"the most attractive shop in Blackpool"*.
Stephen Troughton opened a gun shop in Alfred Street, Blackpool. In 1930, his nephew, Sam Entwistle took over the business and moved a few yards around the corner to 151 Church Street, renaming the shop Entwistle's. A branch shop was opened in Preston cattle market in 1968, the Blackpool shop moved to Elizabeth Street in later years, and eventually all business transferred to Preston.
The Blackpool Rubber Co had shops in the Assembly Arcade and on Talbot Road, selling hose pipes and garden hoses, as well as waterproof outer wear.

St Paul's Church, Dickson Road, Blackpool: The *"Tin Church"* of St Paul's was opened on Dickson Road on the 13th of July, as a "daughter" of Christ Church. It could hold 500 worshippers.
Today's St Paul's Church was built on the corner of Egerton Road and Dickson Road, and was consecrated by the Bishop of Manchester on the 19th of July 1899. The Architects were Garlic and Sykes, and the builders were the local Fielding Brothers.
The church building was last used for worship at the end of March 1993.

The Church was demolished in November 1994, and Warden Builders of Preston were chosen to construct the new Medical Centre. The Foundation Stone was laid in April by Dr Ross Milne who was a well-known and respected partner in The Practice. St Paul's Medical Centre was duly opened in the re-designed building on the 27th of November 1995. The practice had moved from 26 Derby Road where it had been since at least 1898.

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Behind the original Church door, chemist Brian Rhodes set up a pharmacy, which extends backwards and upwards into the Tower. The Pharmacy was later sold to Co-op Pharmacy Ltd.
The bell removed during demolition of the church was probably taken to Africa, and the organ, one of the best in Blackpool, went to St Augustine's Church in Bolton.

The Billington Brothers' mineral water bottling plant was by now producing 1 ¾ million bottles per year, mainly for local consumption.
Builder John Hill built a row of terraced houses at Sunnybank on Flag Causeway (now Newhouse Road, next to Maltby Place). To the east of Flag Causeway Farm stood Marton Bank, a large house which stood where Senior Avenue and Elaine Avenue (on the site of Humber's farmhouse) were later built. Nearby John Hill Street was named after the man, whose wife Esther, had 15 children, and was known as the "Mother of Marton". The couple lived off Vicarage Lane.

Marton Institute: Marton Working Men's Club was opened informally on the 14th of December.
Discussions had begun in 1893, to sort out land and funding. The mason's trowel which was used by Mr James Parrott to lay the foundation stone, on the 27th of April 1895, is mounted above the member's bar. Under the foundation stone was buried a sealed bottle, which holds a document written by Edward Leech, detailing the construction process. Mr Parrott lived at 6 Rawcliffe Street and he had built Parrott Terrace on Dean Street in 1884.
At first, there were two separate buildings: a main clubroom, with, on the grounds floor, a free reading library, a lecture room, and two committee rooms, and on the first floor, a large games and billiards room, with its own coffee and tea bar. The caretaker's accommodation was also on this floor, comprising, sitting room, kitchen, scullery, and three bedrooms. The second building contained a 300-seat entertainments room, which was also used by the Marton Institute Band for practice. At the rear was a bowling green and bowls pavilion.
In 1896, Marton Reading rooms opened in the Marton Working Men's Institute building in July. The little library had its own Book Delivery Station.
The institute opened its bowling green on the 24th of August 1897, and the Marton Institute itself was formally opened by Home Secretary, Sir Mathew White-Ridley on the 8th of December that year.

A new games room was opened on the first floor on the 22nd of August 1982, and the original domed roof was replaced with slates. The Institute held its first Beer Festival from the 22nd to the 27th of August 2013.

Burlington Terrace was built by T Pedder on Pedders Lane, which was then named after him.
Shop House stood on School Road (now Ambleside Road) Little Marton. The Cardwell family supplied bread and groceries - including self-killed pigs - to locals.

Blackpool Grammar Schools: The Collegiate School for Girls was in the Masonic Hall on Waterloo Road, before moving to Alexandra Road.

By 1925, pressure to give bright children a good education led to a second school being built, so in September 1925, the Secondary School on Raikes Parade became Blackpool Grammar School for Boys, with the motto "*Meliora Sequamur*", meaning "Let us follow better things". The school playing fields were on St Walburga's Road.

During the 1920s, a room was built as a memorial to former students who were killed during, or as a result of, World War 1, and when the school moved to Blackpool Old Road in 1962, the Memorial Room was

dismantled and reassembled. When Collegiate Grammar School for Girls moved there from Alexandra Road, they brought their own memorabilia to be stored and displayed in the room. The room also holds rolls of honour from both of the original schools and the Old Boys, Old Girls, and Old Student organisations. The room also holds a memorial to the students who fell in World War 2. The stained-glass panels from the room were installed in the new school, opened in 2015.
The schools had their own joint magazine "The Blackpoolian".

Blackpool Girls' Secondary School: The new premises opened for use on Beech Avenue in 1925, and the last of the girls left Raikes Parade for new premises there on the 22nd of September 1928. The new girls' school was officially opened by Lady Stanley, on the 23rd of October 1928. It had *"been planned on the most up-to-date lines, and contains classroom accommodation for 520 pupils, and also two well-equipped laboratories, a library, gymnasium and large dining room. The playing fields adjoin the school"*. The uniform colour had to be a very precise *"Jerseylaine Faille (quality DF 3499) Shade blue No 934"*. The school was closed in July 1982.

In 1933, Blackpool's two secondary schools were officially renamed Blackpool Grammar School (Raikes Parade) and Blackpool Collegiate School for Girls (Beech Avenue). This was now possible because Mr Turral, the headmaster, had retired and his long-standing objections to the change of name were removed. The girls' school backed onto St Joseph's School.

Blackpool Grammar School for Boys moved to Highfurlong in September 1961 and was officially opened on the 29th of May 1962, by the Earl of Derby. The new school had been built on the site of the old Highfurlong House and Highfurlong Farm, on the Garstang Road. Headmaster HM Luft went with the boys. The Lancashire Life magazine in January 1962, reported that "*With pride the headmaster takes you over the school, which cost a quarter of a million pounds to build and has at least £50,000-worth of apparatus in it.*
From the fine assembly hall, with its magnificent stage and electronic organ, to the gymnasium where physical training covers everything from fencing to trampoline work: from the seven superbly equipped science laboratories to the pottery room with its two pottery wheels: from the geography room with its globe that lets down from the ceiling, to the dream kitchen where lunch is cooked for seven hundred boys and nearly fifty staff each day, everything is as nearly ideal as money and thought can make it".
The new Grammar School playing fields were fully opened in 1968. They comprised: two hockey pitches; two large rugger pitches; one medium rugger/soccer pitch; two small rugger/soccer pitches; two cricket squares, and athletics jumping pits and throwing circles. The playing fields had been opened for use by the old school in the late 1950s (the pavilion in 1958).

The Raikes Parade buildings closed to scholars in July 1971, the school housing pupils from Knowle and Tyldesley schools for a time. The pupils of what was by then known as Collegiate Girl's Grammar merged with the boys of Blackpool Grammar at Highfurlong when the Blackpool Collegiate Sixth Form Centre was opened at Highfurlong in 1971, for boys and girls from age 16 upwards.

What had then become Knowle High School on Beech Avenue was demolished in 1987 and the Grizedale Court flats were built.

Blackpool Grammar's original foundation and opening stones were mounted in July 1971, outside the entrance to the brand-new Blackpool Collegiate Grammar School at Highfurlong. The first headteacher there was Miss Mary Roberts who had moved with the pupils from the girl's school. The word "Grammar" was dropped in 1974, when the new Blackpool Collegiate High School opened at the 11-16 part of the

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Highfurlong complex, after comprehensive education had been introduced to the UK. It retained the motto of "*Meliora Sequamur*" upheld by Blackpool Grammar.
In 1988, the Sixth Form of Collegiate separated from the main school and became the Blackpool Sixth Form College.

Sadly, by 2013, it was found that pupil numbers at Collegiate had fallen to below 500 - down from more than a thousand a decade previously - while Bispham had around 870 on its roll. The Collegiate site offered more opportunity for later expansion. In 2014, pupils from Collegiate High were moved to Bispham High (the last leaving on the 11th of July), in preparation for the demolition of Collegiate, and the building of the new 900-pupil Aspire Academy on the Collegiate site, opening for use on the 6th of November 2015. The new £14-million complex was constructed by Carillion.

Arnold Girls' School / Yorkbourne School, Blackpool: Miss Pearts owned Yorkbourne girls' school in Hill Street South Shore, to where it had moved from Springfield Road. It soon moved to 17 Alexandra Road, where the house was separate from the school, and then to numbers 340/342 Lytham Road. By that time, it was run by Miss J Smallpage, who had moved from the Northlands High School. It was advertised as *"A Boarding and Day School for Girls"*.

At Alexandra Road, it was described then as *"Assisted by seven Resident Governesses and Specialists. The house is well built, fitted with all modern conveniences, and the rooms are large and well ventilated. The school premises are separate from the house. The grounds include a large asphalted playground. There is also a field for hockey and tennis. The boarders have individual attention, and enjoy the advantages of a Christian home. A thorough and modern education is provided in Scripture, English Grammar, Literature, History, Geography, Arithmetic, Algebra, Euclid, Needlework, Drawing, Drill, French, and Class Singing. The Kindergarten is under the Head Mistress's direct supervision"*.
It was soon to become known as the Blackpool Girls' High School.
In later years, number 17 Alexandra Road became the Victory Private Hotel. It is now the Ashley Victoria at numbers 17 and 19.

In 1899, Arnold Sarson of the High School at 356/8 Lytham Road bought the nearby Yorkbourne Girls' School, and in March 1929, his original school site was bought by Arnold House School, to be renamed Arnold High School for Girls. The school by now occupied several large houses near to each other on Lytham Road, and the playing fields were at the eastern end of Hampton Road nearby. The original Lytham Road building site became the Lytham Road Health Centre, which was closed in April 20011 and then quickly demolished to provide a car park.

Arnold High School for Girls came under council control in 1949, and in 1951, what was now called Arnold Girls' County Grammar School began to be moved to Warbreck Hill. The new school was opened for use on Bispham Road on the 12th of September 1953, and Princess Mary, the Princess Royal, officially opened it in March 1954. Its playing fields were extended in 1958. It accepted boarders until 1960.
A new sports hall was completed there in September 1974.
The school uniform was in light grey and scarlet, and grey bonnets were compulsory. The school motto was "For God and my Neighbour".

After merging with Claremont Secondary Modern in 1975, it was known as Arnold Claremont, and in 1976 became Greenlands High School, and then Bispham High School. In 1999, the school was transformed into Bispham High, and from September 2000, began to take both boys and girls. Pupils from the school were joined at Bispham with those from Collegiate High in 2013, in preparation for the construction of the

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Aspire Academy (the new joined school). All pupils moved to the new school in December 2015, and Bispham High was demolished between January and May 2017.

In May 2019, planning permission was granted for up to 176 homes to be built on the site. Any development must include playing fields, and access would be from Bispham Road with some properties having driveways opening onto Kylemore Avenue. The cadet hut on Bispham Road would be moved.

Jewitt and RG Bateson's house furnishers operated next to the Empress Buildings.
Number 66 Foxhall Road was built. It was the Coach-house Restaurant until 2003.
The Central Corner – The Most Attractive Shop in Blackpool – was on the corner of the Promenade and West Street. It sold high-end clothing and fancy goods.
The Corseteries, owned by S Moore, was on Church Street.
J Hilton was manufacturing his "Bottled Quickshine" – a patented starch or linen gloss – at 24 Birley Street.
In Blackpool, around three dozen beach photographers were counted on a single day.
Bispham's Sunday school Brass Band was formed in January.
Blackpool's first recorded murder took place on the 13th of October, when a cook named Sarah Tooney was killed by her husband, a baker, at the Foxhall Hotel. The killer drowned himself at Bispham.
Margaret Ferns was found guilty of keeping a brothel at 3 Grosvenor Street in August.
The Blackpool branch of the Amalgamated Musicians' Union was formed on the 8th of March.
The number of houses on the Blackpool Council rate book was 6,965, and this number had massively increased to 40,738 by 1938.
Reports of the winter weather describe that *"snow had drifted higher than the telegraph wires, and horses and carts could travel over the frozen snow. Many horses and cattle were trapped and frozen to death"*.

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Staining Gala: is thought to have begun this year. By 1912, it had been renamed Hardhorn and Newton Children's Field Day. This featured horse drawn floats and was declared a children's holiday. In 1977, Earnshaws gave the committee the use of a new field quarter of a mile from the original site. In the 1970s, it was renamed again to the Normoss and Staining Gala.

Thornton Co-operative store was opened on the 21st of November.
Fleetwood School Board was formed.
Cumberland Terrace was built on Harris Street in Fleetwood, followed by Westmorland Terrace in 1898.
Claremont Terrace was erected on North Church Street in Fleetwood.
Wood pulp imports were transferred from Fleetwood to Preston and Manchester.
Fleetwood Sailing Club held their first annual regatta. It boasted boat and swimming races, tug-of-war, duck hunt, and a greasy pole.
J Grimes butcher's shop was established on Lord Street in Fleetwood. They opened a second shop at 60 Victoria Road West in Cleveleys in 1933, in E Unsworth's old "meat purveyors" store. The company J Grime and Sons Ltd was established on the 31st of July 1946. In 1980, J Neal (Cleveleys) Ltd, bakers and confectioners, were also at this address, with a second shop at 13 Westcliffe Drive in Layton.

The Glendower, St Anne's: Glendower Ladies College was built at 34, North Promenade. The first principals were the Misses Bayley. In about 1905, a pupil committed suicide by poisoning herself with acid. Her ghost is said to roam the corridors.

In 1909, the school became the Glendower "Superior Private Apartments", and finally, in around 1918, the Glendower Hotel. In the mid-1930s, the owners, the Lavis family, bought the two adjacent properties, and
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these were joined by them to the existing hotel with an extension. During World War 2, the buildings were taken over by the Ministry of Home Security and the Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Food. The house called "Dungannon", next door, was then taken over to extend the hotel still more, in the 1950s.
It was taken over in 1986, by the Howarth family, and later became part of the Best Western hotels group. It was then fully refurbished to hold 60 en-suite rooms, and the St Anne's Leisure Club – with its own indoor swimming pool. The Coast Restaurant was opened inside the hotel in December 2013.

Lawrence House, St Anne's: this "School for Young Gentlemen" was founded. The original school building was on Clifton Drive North. Between 1898 and 1904, it was housed at 29/31, Clifton Drive South. In 1905, it moved to a purpose-built Preparatory School on Beauclerk Road. The headmaster in 1930, was Mr RWO Daltry, and it advertised *"Large Classrooms, three playing fields, Carpenter's Shop, Gymnasium, Large Recreation and Changing Rooms"*.
The school closed – by then known as the Lawrence House Preparatory School - in 1994, to be replaced by apartments.
A memorial to its pupils who died in World War 1 is today in St Thomas's Church.

Linden Hurst College for Ladies was at 19, South Promenade, St Anne's. In 1911, the school moved into Arnhall, on St Anne's Road West, and the college merged with St Anne's College for Girls in the 1930s.
Saxonholme Boarding and Day School for Girls was on St Anne's Road West. It later moved to premises on the corner of South Promenade and Derbe Road and also amalgamated with St Anne's College for Girls in the early 1930s. The property on the Promenade became the Dalmeney Hotel.
Wentworth House Ladies Boarding and Day School was at "Mayfield" in St Anne's and moved to 25 South Drive in 1903. By 1907, it had moved to 19, Fairhaven Road.

Cosy Corner, St Anne's: "Cousin" Freddie Carlton's "White Coons" appeared at the pier from this year. The Coons were white men who sometimes painted their faces black. Unlike nowadays, the practice was not then considered to be offensive.
In 1909, they began performing on a wooden stage near to St Anne's Lighthouse opposite Riley Avenue. When wet, they would appear on Garden Street in the Public Hall, which Carlton later bought to convert into the Palace Cinema. He later began showing films at Cozy Corner too.
The Coons also appeared at Uncle Tom's Cabin.
In 1911, the Cosy Corner Pavilion replaced the temporary wooden stage. The new pavilion was built in the many-domed Moorish style, and had a sliding canvas roof, Electric lighting, and fire hydrants. It accommodated 1,700 people – a full thousand more than the pavilion on St Anne's Pier.
Beside the theatre were several refreshment vendors, including Tootell's ice creams.
By 1921, Wilkie Warren had taken Freddie's place there. The stage was moved to North Beach by 1935, and "Freddie's Magpies" were in residence. The career of singer Gracie Fields was launched at Cosy Corner, by Fred Carlton, who employed her as a singer for £3 per week.

A free soup kitchen was opened for the poor of St Anne's.

The Fairhaven Hotel: was built by Boddington's Brewery, with elevations on Clifton Drive and Marine Drive. Its entrance was on the Promenade.
It was demolished in 1976, but after a petition from locals, Boddingtons built a new Fairhaven pub in front of the original site, while a block of flats was built on the site of the old pub. The present building was officially opened in 1977, by actress Violet Carson.

©

The Fairhaven pub closed in October 2016, due to falling customer numbers. It contained its own 80-seater restaurant and had been greatly re-furbished by owners Enterprise Inns in 2012. In 2019, Robert Benson and Gina Mancini bought the pub and re-furbished it to food-led, with regular live music. It re-opened on the 17th of June 2019.

Fairhaven Golf Club: This small club was formed beside Fairhaven Lake this year. By the summer, the fairways of this first location extended over the land between the stanner and the marine drive, so that the course lay at both sides of the new lake, with the two sides being linked by a wooden bridge. On the 3rd of June 1895, the full 18-hole course was played for the first time. The prize, presented by the club, was won by J C Sharp.

By 1897, the original fairways had been closed and moved, to a new course which had been laid out at its second location, between Cartmell Road and St Paul's Avenue, with some holes on the coast side of Clifton Drive. When King Edward's and Queen Mary's Schools were constructed, the course needed to be slightly re-designed. It is now completely on the landward side of Clifton Drive. The original club house became a café, and the club opened its new club house on the 5th of May 1900, on St Paul's Avenue. That replacement club house still exists; it was converted into a pair of houses numbered 1 and 3 St Paul's Avenue when the golf club moved to its present course in 1924.

The club moved to a third site, within Lytham Hall Park on the 17th of March 1924, with its first match there being played on the 22nd. The clubhouse was formally opened there on the 2nd of May 1925, and its Professional's shop was built next door in 1969.

Next to Fairhaven golf club for several early years, the James Johnston Holiday Camp for Slum Girls was held in the dunes each summer.
The Lytham St Anne's Express newspaper was first published.

The Primitive Methodist Chapel, Wesham: The chapel and an adjoining schoolroom were built at the junction of Garstang Road South and Station Road. This closed in 1982 and became a photographer's studio in the 1990s. It is now private housing.

The Fylde Hospital Committee was formed in November.

1896
Barnum and Bailey's American Circus performed at Watson's Farm off Lytham Road, with Fred Carno's Circus being another regular at this site for many years. The field was known locally as *"Carno's Field".*
Boswell's Circus appeared between Central and Victoria Piers. It featured many horse-riding acts and 8 clowns. These were taken on by the Tower Circus for following years.

The Great Wheel, Blackpool: With the success of the Tower, the Winter Gardens looked for a new feature to act as a counter-attraction.
At London's Earl's Court, a Royal Navy Engineer Officer, Walter Bassett had built a gigantic revolving iron wheel which opened in July 1895. A group of Lancashire cotton mill owners and business men, on seeing the wheel, decided that if one were built in Blackpool, it could re-fill the town's ailing coffers.
The group set up the Auto-Music Company Limited to run Blackpool's Gigantic Wheel, and Bassett was awarded the contract. He then appointed Cecil Booth (the inventor of the vacuum cleaner) as his consulting engineer.

©

Costing about £45,000, it was built on the site of the bowling green and gardens at the north-east corner of Adelaide Street and Coronation Street, after months of legal wrangling over its design. It was built in four stages, by Arrol's Bridge and Roofing Company of Glasgow:

> *"The four columns were erected by the 19th of March; Next the wheel's huge steel axle was forged in one piece, and weighed 29 tons 6¼ cwts, being made by William Beardmore and Co of Glasgow. It was lauded as "the largest axle made anywhere in Europe", and was 40 feet, 8 inches long, and 26 inches in diameter. When it finally arrived at Talbot Road Goods Yard, it was moved on a specially-built steel road trolley, loaned from Joseph Foster and Sons, Engineers and Boilermakers of Preston. The trolley and the axle's combined eight was over 40 tons and was pulled across town by a road locomotive owned by J and J Dagger of Stoneyhill; Then, the axle was installed by the 9th of April; The wheel itself was assembled and fitted next. When complete, it was 220 feet high and moved at 4 revolutions per hour, being driven by two 12 NHP, semi-portable, locomotive-type steam engines by Robey of Lincoln. The 2 coats of paint alone weighed 2 ½ tons; and finally, the 30 carriages were fitted. They were made by Marshall and Brown of Birmingham and got to the site on the 25th of June. Each could each hold 40 passengers – a total capacity of 1,200 paying customers at a time. One carriage was even equipped with a ping-pong table. There were six landing platforms"*.

On the 22nd of August, the Great Wheel (also known as the Gigantic Wheel or Big Wheel) had its first test run, and on the 24th, it took its first paying passengers. In the first $2^{1/2}$ days, there were 8,509 customers. The Jolly Jack Tar band played every day in front of it.

The Blackpool Gigantic Wheel Company Limited briefly renamed the wheel the "Jolly Wheel" in 1915, to try and attract more custom, but due to changing customer demands, the company was wound up in 1916. On the 30th of June 1916, the wheel was bought, for £1,500, by the rival Winter Gardens and Pavilion Company. The wheel had never made a profit and was seen to be an unnecessary distraction from their own, more profitable attractions nearby.

The whole concern was finally bought by the Blackpool Tower Company, who removed the competition by announcing, on the 2nd of June 1926, that it would close.

The carriages were sold off by auction on the 20th of October 1928, before the wheel closed. The first one went to the St Mark's Church tennis courts in Layton and had to be carried on a *"huge wagon, drawn by three powerful horses"*, one was used as a stall in Abingdon Street Market, one became a summer house on Victoria Road in Cleveleys, another a garage on Rossall Road in Cleveleys, and yet another was taken to Skew Bridge in Ansdell to be a workshop. The last one still in existence was bought by Matron Edith Swallow of the Swallowdale children's home and taken to St Michael's-on-Wyre as a dormitory. In 1943, this became the Big Wheel Café (later the Wild Boar Café and Filling Station) in the countryside near Out Rawcliffe and is now a simple sun lounge on the side of Wild Boar Cottage.
Another car is still used as a small security office, set within the roof trusses of Abingdon Street Market. Contrary to popular belief, a bus shelter near Green Drive in Lytham was NOT a carriage from this wheel. It was in fact a converted Lytham Tram body (tram 118).

After its last revolve on the 28th of October 1928, the Great Wheel was to be demolished by Ward Brothers Ltd of Eccles. Wards began the demolition on the 13th of November 1928, but the wheel itself could not be dismantled safely until the first week of March 1929, when the weather had calmed. The Blackpool Gazette and Herald wrote that *"The Wheel has at last begun to disappear. It is disintegrating amid a shower of red-hot tear drops"* - the drips of molten steel falling from the oxy-acetylene cutting torches.

©

Another "Ferris Wheel" was constructed on Central Pier, but its visitors were not as impressed.

Note: There were five such wheels originally, with others at Vienna, London, Paris, and Chicago. The Vienna wheel is the only survivor.

The shop units around the base of the Tower became available for lease.
James Cardwell bought land at the corner of Springfield Road and the Promenade, and built the Metropole Arcade and Assembly Rooms, eight shops, a restaurant, and Turkish baths.
Blackpool's trams became gas powered from July, and the horses were retired. This proved so ineffective that passengers had to be enlisted to push the trams over the bridges at South Shore and Stony Hill.
Sunday trams were allowed in Blackpool for the first time. Local Methodists denounced the move as making Blackpool "*more immoral than Paris or Sodom*".
The Catterall and Swarbrick brewery bought the Victoria Arms on Victoria Street and the Brewer's Arms on Cocker Street.

Chadwicks, Blackpool: The Chadwick Brothers started business as joiners in Lonely Lane (now St Walburga's Road), Little Layton. They soon constructed a sawmill on a plot of land at Revoe, and the attendant road was shortly christened Chadwick Street.
In 1928, then called Chadwick's Builders, they moved to a purpose-built sawmill at Layton. At the time, they also had fireplace showrooms on John Street and Bloomfield Road.
In 1956, Chadwicks moved to a purpose-built yard on Mowbray Drive, where they opened a do-it-yourself shop in 1973, next door to their own sawmill. A kitchen centre followed in the 1990s.

The Northcliff Estate – comprising Carshalton, Egerton, and Sherborne Roads, began to be built by Joseph Fielding and Sons.
John Carter opened a confectioner's and tobacconist's shop in Bispham, and his brother opened the village's first chemist.
Parker's Restaurant opened at 20 and 22 Church Street. It also had its own café and a grill room. The building is currently occupied by Millets Ltd.
WD Hallstead opened his auctioneers at 342 Lytham Road.
BB Maden had a stationer's shop at 29 and 31 Church Street in South Shore (Bond Street). The premises are now Mrs Johnson's Emporium, and arts and crafts shop.
Photographer CF Wiggins ran Imperial Studios in Talbot Road. His brother Herbert Wiggins had his own Royal Studio at number 2 South Parade from 1898 to 1909, when he moved to 92 Church Street.

Blackpool Spiritual Church: was opened by Mrs Butterworth at 71 Albert Road on June the 20th. The church had been founded by famous spiritualist medium Emma Hardinge Britten, and was one of the first spiritualist churches ever to be built in England.
It is now known as the SNU Spiritualist Church - SNU stands for Spiritualists' National Union, and, at the time of writing, was under threat of demolition.
A smaller church soon opened on Station Road in South Shore.

Blackpool Printers was established. The company changed its name to CMYK in 2005 and ceased trading in May 2010.
Blackpool North Signal Cabin was built.
Bass, Gretton and Company, breweries, hired 17 trains to ferry 11,241 of its employees to the town.

©

The L and Y and LNW Railway Companies wrote to owners of property in Kent Road affected by the widening of the Blackpool (Central) to South Shore railway line.
"Club Class" trains began running between Blackpool and Manchester on the 1st of January. Three extravagantly furnished carriages were provided to transport a group of Manchester businessmen to and from Blackpool. There was a cosy "nook" on each, to allow chatting and smoking, and an attendant on each coach served non-alcoholic drinks. The businessmen called themselves the *"Lytham, St Anne's and Blackpool Travelling Club"*.
Leavington Terrace was built on Central Drive, opposite the George Hotel.

Newton Drive Methodist Church, Blackpool: began in a cottage near Layton Hall, before shortly moving to a nearby granary. The foundation stone of a Methodist Mission was laid at the corner of Dickinson Lane (later called Newton Drive) and Killam Road (Dutton Road) on the 28th of July 1899, and the new United Methodist chapel was opened there on the 24th of November 1909. On the 13th of December 1910, a Young Men's Institute opened at the church.
In 1968, the Victoria Congregational Church moved into the building, the dedication service taking place on the 30th of October. The building was fully rebuilt from January 1989 and re-opened as Newton Drive Methodist Church on the 21st of July 1990.

Herr Cohen's Health Depot was next to the Prince of Wales Theatre, selling potions, giving health advice, and providing electrical treatment.
Frederick Boden opened his cycle shop at 14 Station Terrace South Shore, and by 1910, he had a second Boden's shop at 72 Cookson Street, selling Raleigh bicycles. That shop was demolished in 2007, at the same time as the adjacent Grosvenor Hotel.

Rawcliffe's clothes store, Blackpool: Robert Rawcliffe's hosiers and hatters opened at 67 Bolton Street, South Shore – the start of a clothing company, which still flourishes today.
In 1904, Rawcliffe's moved from Bolton Street to the corner of Corporation Street and 44/46 Church Street and into Jackson's ironmonger's old shop – also with a shop at 40 Corporation Street. In 1914, the shop was rebuilt, and Dearden's photographic studios moved in upstairs - the building was called "Schoolwear Corner".
Many local schools engaged Rawcliffe's to stock their own school uniforms.

In 1986, Rawcliffe's store moved to Birley Street, and the Church Street store was taken over by Dixon's electrical store. It moved again, to 45 Talbot Road, in 2005, and after several years of being empty, the Church Street corner store was opened in August 2012, as a Just Entertainment store. In 2016, it was converted in an outlet of Costa Coffee.
The final Rawcliffe's store, on Talbot Road, closed on the 6th of September 2014.

The Manchester Children's Home, Blackpool: In June, Cuthbert Grundy established a convalescent home at South Shore, Blackpool for poor children, giving it to the Manchester District Sunday school Association.
The Manchester Children's Hospital and Convalescent Home was duly opened in the sand dunes off North Drive in St Anne's on the 13th of November by Sir William Agnew, its builder. It had been designed by Alfred Steinthal and could accommodate 25 patients received from the Manchester Children's Hospital.
The home had a matron, two nurses, and two domestic servants.
The home was closed in 1970 and demolished in 1972.

©

The town's first pair of semi-detached houses was built on Station Road, South Shore. They have been joined together to form the Kingly House Hotel.
Sewage Pumping Stations were built on Ansdell Road Gardens by Waterloo Road School, and by Rigby Road Bridge. Nearby at Ansdell Road was a World War 2 air raid shelter which was used for First Aid training and later as a bus drivers' *"clocking in"* point, and then public toilets.

The Blackpool Company-House Keepers' Association was formed in November. It later changed its name to the Boarding and Apartment-House Proprietors' Association, and then on the 18th of April 1924, to the Hotel and Apartments Association, working from 38 Vance Road. It changed again on the 9th of September 1947, to the Hotel and Boarding-House Association, and on the 28th of January 1956, to the Hotel and Guest-house Association of today.
In 2007, it amalgamated with the Blackpool Premier Hotel Association, to form StayBlackpool, working from Church Street and the Bank Hey Street Tower Information Centre.

The Blackpool Clarion Fellowship (forerunner of the town's Labour movement) was formed and built their Woodland Cabin off Woodland Grove (now Wilkinson Avenue). This is the current HQ of the Blackpool and Fylde Art Society.
Major BN North, of the 4th Battalion, Royal Lancaster Regiment, was awarded the Royal Humane Society's Bronze Medal, when he and Sergeant Smyley attempted to rescue a soldier from the sea.
Marie Lloyd sang at the Empire Theatre.

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The River Wyre Hotel: was opened on Breck Road, Poulton, overlooking Skippool Creek. Built on the site of Singleton's warehouse at Skipton Brook, it is thought to be the only UK inn to be named after a river, and it bears the Brockholes coat of arms from the adjacent inn that it replaced.
King Edward VII was once seen drinking here with a group of gentlemen, and in the 1940's British stage and film acting couple Barry Barnes and Diana Churchill were regular visitors.
The hotel later had a glazed extension added on its western end, for use as extra dining space for a carvery. The extension *"got too hot and was replaced by the brick extension of today"*.

Rowlands View terrace was built on Rossall Road in Cleveleys.
E Cartmell opened his drapery shop at 40 Lord Street, Fleetwood.
R Irvin and Sons Limited of Aberdeen had a shipbuilding yard in Fleetwood.

The Mount Hotel, Fleetwood: began to be built on the site of the two White Houses on Tup Hill. These had been badly damaged in a storm in 1863 and were soon demolished.
The Mount Hotel was eventually opened in 1900, with 50 rooms. Winston Churchill and the Beatles are among its guests since then, although the accommodation business closed in 1979, just keeping the bar open. After refurbishment in 1990, private apartments were made available.

Andrew Johnstone opened his Temperance Hotel at 100 Dock Street in Fleetwood, to cater mainly for the Norwegian trawlermen.
St Marys Terrace was built on Rhyl Street in Fleetwood.

Our Lady Star of the Sea School, St Anne's: opened officially on St Albans Road on the 14th of September, although it had been in use since February.
Its infant's school was built as a house in 1900 but opened on the 9th of March 1909.
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The first sod was cut for the replacement school in Kenilworth Road in March 1968, but it was not completed until the 28th of October 1983, and is now called Our Lady Star of the Sea RC Primary School.

The original school building was later made into a day care centre by the Ormerod Trust, now addressed as 75 St Albans Road. In 2010, the building was transformed by the YMCA in the Paterson Centre. This facility was opened in the September, by Fylde MP Mark Menzies. It now houses 'Face to Face', which outgrew its old premises on St David's Road South. Services include accommodation, advice on homelessness, counselling, a rent bond guarantee scheme, youth provision and tenancy support. The building was renovated and refurbished and also includes a community youth facility and meeting rooms.

The Southdown Hydropathic Hotel was built at St Anne's for the Misses Whitehead. The new enterprise advertised *"a comfortable boarding house, with billiards, smoke and recreation rooms, and late dinners"*. The hotel was one of a number of buildings constructed under the chairmanship of William Porritt of the St Annes on the Sea Land and Building Company, and was built by Shepherd, Walmsley, and Smith. It became the Town Hall on the 31st of March 1926.
Gill and Read's Ironmongers opened on the corner 2-8 St Anne's Road West and Clifton Drive South in St Anne's. The shop became Burton's 30 Shilling Tailors in 1930, and for many years from the late 1970s, was the Motorworld discount shop. In 2012, Subway opened an outlet there. Beneath Burton's was the Clifton Grill restaurant. This later became the Casa D'Italia Italian restaurant and is currently the Silver Palace Chinese restaurant.
The St Anne's Traders' Association formed on the 8th of October, merging with Lytham association in 1922. The first St Anne's Regatta and Gala was held in September. After the procession left from St Anne's Road West, boat races were held, there were sand modelling competitions for the children, and the day ended with a grand firework display on the beach.

Kirkham Congregational Church: A Methodist Church was built on Poulton Street – soon to become a Congregational Church. It had been built on the site of the Bowling Green Tavern, which had closed in 1893, after the refusal of its licence. The foundation stone was laid on the 2nd of July, and the new church was opened June 19th 1897. It was designed by Briggs and Wolstenholme and is in sandstone with a slate roof. It consists of a nave with transepts, and a steeple with spire, and in 1995 a single-storey extension with a basement was added to the rear of the church. A contemporary report said *"It is a neat building in the Elizabethan' style of architecture, and the total cost of the edifice and site was £3,500. This has superseded the old Independent Chapel, first built in 1793, and rebuilt in 1820".*
A Sunday school opened next door in March, 1914, to be replaced in 1998, as part of the building work for the new Safeway supermarket.
The church has been known as Kirkham United Reformed Church since 1972.

Five "training walls" were built in the River Ribble off Lytham in order to provide deeper water for the increasing traffic to the docks at Preston. This resulted in the end of Lytham's attractive sandy beach and the change to the mud of today.
The new Lytham Rifle Range was opened at Saltcoates. It was replaced in 1903, by a 1,000-yard range to the east of Lytham Dock. This new range opened for use in 1904 and had ranges from 200 to 600 yards. The butts are still visible today.

Kirkham Institute: was opened in the old Fylde Waterworks offices on Poulton Street.
In January 1910, this changed into the Kirkham Conservative Club, which by 1924, had moved to Ribby Road.

©

Elswick Hospital: After discussions since 1893, which resulted in the temporary Great Eccleston Smallpox Hospital being brought into use at Great Eccleston Hall, the local health authorities finally got around to constructing a permanent hospital for smallpox patients in the Fylde. Cases in local villages, and especially in Kirkham Workhouse, had increased gradually, so the Elswick Leys Hospital was built on Roseacre Lane. This site is now covered by four large detached houses at the entrance to the village.

The Fylde, Preston, and Garstang Joint Hospital, a new, and much larger, smallpox sanatorium was built on the expanded site on Lodge Lane from 1902, and began to be furnished and equipped in 1904, opening for patients in 1905. Designed by architect Edward Maidman of Edinburgh, the building accommodated just 35 patients, but they were treated in total individual isolation. Besides the isolation wards, there was a male ward pavilion and a female one, an administration block, laundry, boiler house, discharge block, kitchen, and a separate gate house. Designed by Edward Maidman of Edinburgh, the total cost was about £20,000, and it was built by James Eaves of Blackpool.
By March 1912, it had still not been used, but was not even considered suitable for tuberculosis patients either. In July 1913, a lease for 21 years was taken up by the County Public Health Committee, to convert it for tuberculosis treatment. It was expanded to take up to 60 patients.

In a 1916 report, it was referred to as the Lancashire County Council Sanatorium. The Superintendent from 1918 to 1930, was George Leggatt, who became the last of the medical superintendents in the Lancashire County Council Tuberculosis Service.

Elswick Sanatorium - the new and enlarged isolation hospital for tuberculosis patients was opened on the site in 1930, licenced only to take patients who were considered to be" *advanced"*, *"educational"*, and *"observation"* cases.
By 1937, the hospital was being referred to as the Preston, Fylde, and Garstang Hospital.
In 1944, the Medical Superintendent was G Barker Charnock, who was a nationally-renowned expert on Tuberculosis (or Consumption, as it was colloquially known). The sanatorium treated all patients in individual isolation, and until 1948, it was just for patients with tuberculosis and smallpox - there was a small smallpox isolation block on site.
After 1948, however, it was used to care for patients with more general maladies, finally closing in 1957.

In 1971, the main hospital building became the Hoole House Bail Hostel, whose "residents" were made to undertake chores in the locality, such as emptying the bins. Burglaries became common, and in 1994, the hostel was forced to close. In 1996, Blackpool man Karl Crompton won £10.9 million on the National Lottery. Immediately quitting his job as a salesman at Comet, he bought Hoole House in 2002, and demolished every remaining building. He had a new residence constructed, which he also called Hoole House - listed by then as being on Lodge Lane.

The Leyland Steam Motor Company opened in Leyland near Preston, providing yet another large employer for the local people. It became British Leyland in 1968.

1897

The Wreck of the Foudroyant, Blackpool: Lord Nelson's Flag Ship "The Foudroyant" was anchored offshore, between North and Central piers, having been bought by entrepreneur George Cobb for exhibition and training purposes. The ship was driven ashore and wrecked between North Pier and Cocker Square on the 16th of June.

©

Within a week, Thomas Beecham, of St Helens, was sued for illegally having local man T Challenor paint the words *"England expects every man to do his duty and take Beecham's Pills"* on the walls of the wreck.

Two salvage steamers working on the wreck of the Foudroyant were wrecked themselves in force 4 winds on the 28th of July, and on the 17th of August, the "Aurora", a boat working on the wreck, was also wrecked, in force 6 winds.
In August 1898, a 50-pound piece of wood, studded with copper bolts, was dynamited from the wreck, and killed Mrs Gates of Manchester, who was strolling along the Promenade. The removal of the wreck took 16 months to complete.

The Foudroyant's anchor was stuck in the sand by the Metropole hotel and was marked by a hazard warning buoy. It was not recovered until April 1902, and it was then put on public display on North Pier, along with 60 feet of anchor chain. It appears to have been removed in 1903, but in 1925, parts of the chain, weighing *"many tons"* were seen wrapped around some of the pier's northern legs.

Bits of the ship were spirited away and sold as souvenirs for years. The figurehead and many other items are in Cobb's former home at Caldicot Castle, a chair in the Masonic Hall in Adelaide Street, and parts of Nelson's Cabin in the Boardroom of Blackpool Football Club. A cannon from the ship was put on display on the pavement outside the New Inn. At present, there is a beam in the Fleetwood Museum. Jenkinson's Café in Talbot Square acquired a load of planking and had an ornate staircase built. Michael Hayhurst and R Fletcher were granted official permission to sell copper off the wreck at £58 per ton. Mr Fletcher set up the "Foudroyant Furniture Manufactory" at 36 Talbot Road, making souvenirs and trinkets. He had bought all the wood from the wreck (1,000 tons) as well as the copper. Medals of Lord Nelson, struck from copper salvaged from the wreck, were given to top schoolchildren around the country throughout the 1890s.

I own an oak page turner with a copper plate, carrying an "official" Foudroyant souvenir registration mark.

The ship's wreck even inspired the building of a petrol filling station - Foudroyant Garage on Squires Gate Lane – in the 1970s. That garage was built on the site of Blowing Sands Smithy and Farm by the Sellers family. The Sellers were in business next door to the garage, on the corner of Common Edge Road, trading as Sellers Crewdson and Co Limited, who sold fireplaces and tiles. All those original buildings were demolished in the 1970s, for the widening of Squires Gate Lane.
The garage itself, as well as selling fuel, incorporated Foudroyant Car Sales Ltd and Renshaw's Marine boat services). Above the garage door was a wooden beam which allegedly came from the wreck. Both companies at the garage were wound up in August 1988, and a bungalow was built on the site in 2005.

Illuminated Trams: Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee on the 22nd of June was celebrated locally when five trams, illuminated with patriotic slogans, moved along Blackpool Promenade, copying Berlin's celebrations for the birthday of Kaiser Wilhelm II of Germany. The power for the trams came from the newly built electricity generators in nearby West Caroline Street, but their lights were powered by on-board batteries. This was the first use of illuminated trams anywhere. As an added attraction, Mr Twyford imported thirteen camels for beach rides, and housed them at the Tower's own farm on Lytham Road.

The coronation of King Edward VII in 1902, then saw 25 trams, this time illuminated by red, white, and blue lamps in patriotic fashion. Next, in 1905, car 3 was decorated by means of the words "Progress 1885 – 1905" lit up by electric light bulbs. In 1911, three trams were illuminated and bedecked with flags to celebrate the Coronation of King George V and Queen Mary, and then, in 1912, tram number 68 was illuminated with 3,000 lamps for the visit of Princess Louise in May. That tram appeared again in 1913, for

a visit by King George and Queen Mary, and it then returned once more in 1914, before the war ended such things. In 1926, however, she was again covered in lights, and ran like that every year until 1938.

The "Venetian Gondola" (car 28) first ran, on the 26th of September 1925, when the true Illuminations began as we know them today. Gondola merely carried its crew and a small orchestra up and down the line. The Gondola was re-built in 1927, and ran until 1962, after which it was scrapped.

The "Jubilee Lifeboat" (car 40) first ran on the 25th of September 1926. It was withdrawn from service on the 29th of October 1961.

In 1930, Lytham St Anne's Corporation ran an illuminated tram to Blackpool to promote their borough. The "Cottage Tram", based on Anne Hathaway's Rustic Thatched Cottage first ran on September the 16th 1933. It had a true thatched roof, created by a thatcher from Marton Moss.

The "Bandwagon" first ran on the 18th of September 1937, replacing its original incarnation as car 141, an ex-Fleetwood Company toast rack. Its novel outline soon gained it the nickname "Cottage Loaf", but it was built to raise funds for the war effort in the Second World War. It was used as a mobile advertising hoarding and playing music. This tram re-appeared in 1949 as "Progress", which ran until 1958.

The "Blackpool Belle" (car 163) in the shape of a paddle steamer, ran for the first time on the 5th of September 1959, carrying movie star Jayne Mansfield to switch on the lights. It replaced "Progress", and originally played minstrel music as it travelled. The Belle was withdrawn in 1978, being acquired by and exported to Glenwood Trolley Park in Oregon, USA. It returned briefly on the 14th of July 1979, but was finally retired in 2001, when it was sold to the Transport Preservation Trust, in Beith, Ayrshire. This tram returned to Blackpool on the 22nd of September 2016, to become a part of the Heritage Trust fleet at Rigby Road

In 1961, the Rocket "Tramnik One" (car 168) was built to celebrate the first man into space, Russian Yuri Gagarin. It first ran with passengers on the 8th of September. Designed to sit at an angle of 30 degrees from the floor, it was "driven" by King Peter of Yugoslavia and General Neguib of Egypt dressed as astronauts. They were actually in the cock-pit – two cast-off figurines redundant Louis Tussaud's Waxworks. "Tramnik One" travelled the line until 1999, and lay in the tram depot until being displayed on the Gynn roundabout during the Illuminations Centenary display in 2012. It was removed in 2014, to make way for a new display. It is now in the fleet of old Heritage Trams at the Rigby Road Depot.

The "Santa Fe Carriage" (trams 209 and 174, coupled together, and the only double car tram) ran for the first time on the 7th of September 1962. It could originally blow smoke from its chimney. Later known as the "Western Train", it eventually collided with another tram and was retired in 1999. However, it benefitted from a National Lottery grant and returned for the 2008 season.

The "Shell Hovertram" (car 222) ran for the first time in 1963. It is the only illuminated tram to have two decks.

Designed to represent the Royal Navy frigate of the name, "HMS Blackpool" (car 170) ran for the first time in 1965, and *"because the driver was sat high up in a cab with a restricted view, it was fitted with a loud air-horn which made everyone on the promenade jump"*. It was withdrawn in 2001, but made a return for the 2004 Lights, after the body was redesigned, based loosely on HMS Beaver, and carrying 64 passengers.

©

Not a tram, but still of interest, the Illuminations mobile, "Glimobile" a Citroen 2CV car, was introduced in 1988. It is illuminated by hundreds of fibre optic strands, which protrude through holes in the body.

The "Illuminated Trawler" came into service in 2001. Sponsored by Fisherman's Friend of Fleetwood, it was modelled on the "Cevic FD241" trawler, which was the company's emblem, and was constructed onto the body of car 633, which was built in 1937. Despite being officially "retired" in 2014, the tram was fully re-furbished, to be revealed once more in October 2016. Cevic was an actual Fleetwood trawler which ran aground off the Isle of Man in June 1917.

Blackpool's first Labour candidate for the town Council was James Donoghue. He was unsuccessful, and not until 1906 did the town get its first Labour Councillor – Arthur Laycock.
On the night of the 22nd of July, the top of the Tower was ablaze after an electrical fault. The two counterweights for the lifts fell down the shafts and have stayed there ever since.
Talbot Road Railway Station was demolished but soon had to be reopened to handle the increased traffic.
The Gynn Estate Company Limited was formed on the 19th of May, to develop the coastal area between the Gynn and what is now Cavendish Road. By the 29th of July, it had purchased Bank Farm, Fanny Hall, and Uncle Tom's Cabin.

Britannia Inn/Lion Hotel, Blackpool: The Britannia Hotel on South Promenade was sold. As the Britannia Inn, it had been in business since at least 1833, when it is shown on a conveyance. In August 1838, a land auction was held there. A local legend told that its roof timbers were salvaged from wreckage of boats from the shore.
The Britannia was demolished in 1909, and the site - on the corner of Shaw Road - stayed vacant.
In 1937, the Lion Hotel replaced the Britannia on the 31st of July. Addressed as 407 to 411 The Promenade, it had bull-nosed ends and curved corners, together with a central tower, all with an art deco feel, and was built in red and oak rustic brick, with a cream faience. The three-storey building was designed by Halstead Best, and was constructed by Atherton's builders of Peter Street for Nuttall's Brewery of Blackburn, who made the Lion Ales served at the new pub. The bar entrances were on Britannia Place, and the first-floor café was entered from the corner of Shaw Road and the Promenade. There was initially a roof garden, which was accessed from the café. The main area had a central bar, which served all the ground floor. It had two car parks for patrons.

It was later called the White Lion for a short time - with the Lighthouse restaurant on the first floor, then Darlings Disco Bar. It was then briefly the Red Lion Disco in 1983/4, then Leo's Disco, and finally became a Yates's Wine Lodge in the 1990s. The rear car park was transformed into a beer garden at that time.

The Grand Hotel, Blackpool: was opened on the corner of Station Road and Lytham Road by the end of the year. It had been constructed to cater for the passengers arriving at South Shore Railway Station opposite, and was originally to be called the Station Hotel, until the owners realised there was already one of that name in Blackpool.
The hotel's main entrance was beneath a cast iron and glass canopy on Station Road, and it could boast 60 bedrooms, a billiard room, a lift, and even golf nets, and was extended and refurbished in 1903.
It was soon bought by brewers Magee Marshall, who then sold it to C&S Brewery in the 1950s. C&S converted the Grand into a pub and closed the bedrooms.

In 1930, *"Blackpool's Cosiest Ballroom"* was opened inside, by manager GV Calverley.

©

C&S sold the pub to Bass Lancashire in the 1960s, and they re-furbished it yet again, but retained the original, long, mahogany main bar.

The Paris Casino in the Grand Hotel assembly buildings at 75 Station Road had a grand opening on the 16th of June 2001. It had been formerly known as the Grosvenor Casino and the Tiberius Sporting Club Casino (in the 1990s).

The Grand closed to bar customers in 2008 and carried on as a set of holiday flats. The whole of the Grand Hotel Holiday Flats building was burnt down on the 27th of July 2009. The remains had to be demolished, along with the Paris Casino next door.

The Moorish Coffee House stood opposite the hotel, for many years. Its site is now covered by a car park.

Dickson Buildings were constructed on Dickson Road, housing shops and Hamblett's Apartments.
The remaining cottages on Fumbler's Hill, from the Derby Hotel to the Park Hotel, were demolished to create Cocker Square. They included the Brewer's Arms, Burnley House, and James Crabtree's wooden Post Office and grocer. The area is now a "pay-and-display" car park.
Lyons music shop was founded at 8 Bank Hey Street. They originally sold pianos and sheet music, gradually evolving into selling gramophone records.
Lindley's fine art, fur, and book shop was at 173 Church Street. 1929 saw Fred H Rice's gentleman's outfitters at 173. He had other shops at Victoria Road in Cleveleys and 55 the square in St Anne's. Rice had moved to number 173 from numbers 93 to 95 Church Street after 1926. By 1972, Weston's Fashions were open there, selling denims of all kinds (next to H Jarvis's Optician's shop at 171). Number 173 is currently Patrick's Saleroom.
Ashton Villa was erected on the corner of Collingwood Place (now its number 3) and Layton Road.
The Jubilee Buildings were built at 2-4 Birley Street, housing the Union Bank of Manchester, next to the County Bank. The banks are now Barclay's and the NatWest respectively. The Union Bank later opened another branch at 338 Lytham Road – this is now Barclays Bank, a third at 54 St Anne's Road West in St Anne's – now a Santander branch, and another on Clifton Street in Lytham.

Warley Road Congregational Church, Blackpool: This temporary church, on the corner of Warley Road and Gynn Avenue was founded: the members of the Victoria Congregational Church had raised £2,096 in their Jubilee fund which was used to establish the Warley Road church.

Claremont Congregational Church was opened there on the 30th of August 1901. The chapel cost £5,000 and the land another £1,000. It was built by the Mayor, Alderman T H Smith, from the designs of Anderson, Simon, and Crawford, architects, of Edinburgh. The church was not consecrated until 1932. The Claremont Congregational Lecture Hall and Assembly Rooms opened on the 18th of March 1908.
In 1972, the church became the Claremont United Reformed Church, but closed in 1994.
The building later became the Kings Christian Centre, but this had closed down by 2014. It was demolished in October 2017, to be replaced by 15 apartments.

Greenlands, a terrace of houses and shops, was built on Bispham Road. Moorfield House had been demolished to make room, and Ray House and a cottage nearby soon followed.
A terrace of houses was erected on Preston Old Road, beside the Lord Nelson beerhouse.
The Cabin Tram Station was opened near Uncle Tom's Cabin.
The Seawater Pumping Station and Baths were built.

©

Ironsides Terrace was built on Charnley Road.
Southdene Villas were built on Highfield Road.
Dominic Coletta arrived from Italy, settled at 97 Moister Road (rename Victory Road in 1924) and started his ice cream business there in 1910. The factory was demolished in 2007, after being sold to the Roccos in the 1960s. The Colettas ran the Café in Stanley Park, the Anchorage at Lytham, and the Fairhaven Café at various times.
The first Children's Carnival was held on the 25th of June.

The Wood Street Mission, Blackpool: The Holiday Camp for Manchester Slum Children was set up on Squires Gate Lane, run by the Manchester and Salford Street Children's Mission. Alfred Alsop had founded the mission in 1869, to support poor children in the slums of Manchester and Salford. It was designed to take 30 children and was later renamed the Wood Street Mission.

The mission's Squires Gate Summer Camp first opened on North Drive (now Clifton Drive North) on the 15th of April 1898. It was held in temporary corrugated iron sheds between the beach dunes at Squires Gate. *"Eventually there was accommodation for 120 children. The meals provided might not be approved by modern standards but they were nourishing and they were regular. The dormitories could hardly be thought cosy but at least every child had a bed to themselves"*.

In 1921, work began on a new home at Squires Gate, to replace the temporary sheds, and the similar, temporary camp at Southport. The Blackpool work cost £20,000 and was finished in 1923, being opened by the Mayoress of Manchester on the 17th of April that year. Each year, at least 3,000 children were given a seaside holiday in the home. There were 7 acres of playing fields, a swimming pool, and a playground with swings and roundabouts.

The Manchester and Salford Wood Street Mission Home opened on Clifton Drive on the 5th of May 1927. The abdicated king Edward VIII visited in the late 1950s. The welcome sign advertised it as the *"Wood St Mission Deansgate Manchester Holiday Home for poor boys and girls"*. The home was closed on grounds of cost in 1963, and the charity moved its home to Derbyshire. *"The Blackpool Home was proving too expensive to run and had to be closed in 1963 after catering for over 1,500 children during that year. In subsequent years, some children were taken for a free holiday according to the money available, although this lasted only a few years beyond the closure of the Blackpool Home".*

The Grundy Convalescent Home for Children, Blackpool: In June, Cuthbert Grundy gave money for the establishment of a convalescent home for poor children at South Shore, giving it to the Manchester District Sunday School Association. The home was finally built, and opened for use on the 11th of January 1927, in a building called "Ansell" - number 138 Stonyhill Avenue, Squires Gate. Its official opening took place on the 23rd of July. It was an L-shaped building with extensive gardens.
The Corporation later took over the running of the home, christening the building Stonyhill Children's Centre. It was sold in September 2014, and the site was developed for housing.

The "Boathouse on the Beach" was sold by Norbreck Villa.

South Lawn, Blackpool: Builder James Cardwell constructed a large house on Waterloo Road, which he named South Lawn. He was the son of Robert Cardwell, a grocer and brickmaker, and later set up a brick making plant at Revoe which later became Messrs James Cardwell and Brothers. They were responsible

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for building some of Blackpool's most well-known buildings, such as the Winter Gardens, Raikes Hall, Palatine Hotel, Metropole Arcade and Assembly Rooms, and the main keep walls in the Tower.
James died in May 1903, and by 1931, his son James was running the building and undertaking firm from offices and works at his new house at 25 Whittam Avenue. On the corner of Whittam Avenue at the time was Blackhurst's provisions dealers (now the Berry's Bed Shop).
South Lawn was demolished from 1961 onwards, after being vacated by Thomas Humber - the owner of Marton Bank Farm, and South Lawn flats were built on its site in 1971, by Richard Clegg.

Marsden W Hargreave founded the stockbroking company of Hargreave Hale, who operated from Marsden House on Springfield Road for many years, before moving to 4 to 11 Neptune Court, Hallam Way, on Whitehills Retail Park in December 2015. In 1988, Hargreave Investment Management merged with the family stockbroking business, Marsden W Hargreave Hale and Co, and the company was incorporated in February 2001. In June 2016, the company moved to new larger premises on Boardman's Way nearby.
Edward Henthorne's Building Supplies started business, later moving to purpose-built premises on the site of Crossley and Halstead's petrol filling station at 334 Talbot Road.
The world's first motor-coach service began when six Daimler motor coaches were run from a kiosk in Talbot Square. The service only lasted 2 years though.
The Blackpool Echo newspaper cased to be published when its entire staff walked out. The paper had tried to convert Blackpool to socialism through its editor Allen Clarke. Clarke was later to become known as *"Uncle Barnet"* by junior readers of the Blackpool Gazette and Herald.
John Wilkinson was born on June the 10th in Oldham and was educated at Arnold School. In January 1908, he started the Lion Patrol that was eventually to become the 1st Blackpool Boy Scout Troop and encouraged newsagent Frank Raynor of Dickson Road to become Blackpool's first Scoutmaster.
Harry Fletcher won the Royal Humane Society's Bronze Medal, when he rescued two men from drowning in the sea at Norbreck on the 16th of June.
England's foremost musical saw expert Jack Robinson was born in Blackpool.

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A "*hippo-sandal*" was exhibited in Manchester, having been discovered in Poulton. Hippo-sandals were made by the Romans, to enlarge the surface of a horse's the hoof. This would prevent the animal from sinking into the soft mosses that were once peculiar to the area.

Jubilee Quay at Fleetwood: The North End Pier' southern extension was renamed Jubilee Quay to mark Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee. The quay was noted for its "grid iron" - a rack of iron over which smaller boats would be floated. They would then be left high and dry as the tide receded, allowing repairs to be made.
The quay was rebuilt in 1967, but was demolished in 1972, to be replaced by a concrete quay. That new Jubilee Quay was opened on the 8th of July 1972, by Sir Walter Clegg, the President of Fleetwood Inshore Fishermen's Association.

At Fleetwood's Jubilee Festivities in June, the procession set off from Rangers' Field and ended in a "Feu de Joie" being fired in Albert Square by 1,000 troops of the East Lancashire Regiment. The afternoon sports and regatta were also well patronised.
The Fleetwood Steam Fishing Company was formed.
The Kelsall and Beeching fishing fleet moved to Hull from Fleetwood.

Fleetwood Tram Depots: In advance of the purchase of the line by Blackpool, two new tram depots were needed at Fleetwood:
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Work began on the Copse Road Tram Depot on the 10th of August, next to Riley's Saw Mill and more importantly, the railway sidings. The depot was only used as a storage facility. Trams in service ran from Bold Street.
In 1962, Blackpool Corporation sold its permanent way depot Copse Road, and moved its functions to the Blundell Street depot. The depot closed for good in 1963, and was used for storage at various times, until 1983, when Fleetwood Car Centre was opened next door, in Unit 1, Victoria Business Park. Owner, Steve Abbott, had moved the business from Dock Road, and used the old tram depot as storage for the cars. After an unsuccessful bid to turn it into a tram museum, the now-unsafe depot was demolished in June 2016, to make way for additional, open, car storage space. The original stone name plaques were retained for subsequent display.

Bold Street Tram Depot: was opened in January 1899, right at the end of the line, near the North Euston Hotel. It could house four tramcars and had offices and a waiting room. Trams were cleaned here between runs.
The small depot was closed in 1920 and a loop was constructed at Fleetwood Ferry.

On the 25th of January, the Bold Street depot was vacated. It was soon being used by Fleet Carpets, and then became a store for Fisherman's Friend. Fisherman's Friend actually manufactured their famous lozenges at Bold Street between 1969 and 1972.
The depot was finally demolished in 1976, to make way for Lyndale Court flats.

St Margaret's Terrace was built in Mount Street in Fleetwood.
A Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway Policeman, PC Alfred Marsh was killed during a violent struggle to eject two drunken sailors at Fleetwood Docks on the 23rd of August.
Knott End police station was built on Sandy Lane. It was sold as a private house in 2014.
Gornall's garage was established on Broadpool Lane in Hambleton. It remains in the family today.

Chaseside, St Anne's: The house was built as a palatial family home that was to house local benefactor and mill owner Mr Willam Porritt of Helmshore and his family. Porritt built a few similar houses, but Chaseside was his own pride and joy and his own personal residence. The building has many original features still in place, marble fireplaces, coved ceilings, wide main staircase.

In 1915, it was donated to the Red Cross by Mr Porritt for the purpose of being converted into a hospital. The new premises of the Chaseside Hospital for Wounded Soldiers, at 1a St George's Square and the corner of Beach Road, St Anne's were formally opened on the 13rd of May 1916, by the Lord Mayor of Manchester. It had 30 beds. After the war, it became the Chaseside Hotel, and is now the Chaseside Care Home, whose owner, Caroline Taylforth, specialises in dementia care.

St Anne's Crescent Gardens were laid out by the Council as a memorial to the jubilee of Queen Victoria.

The Grand Hotel, St Anne's: was opened by Rose Holloway, in an attempt to attract the "*better class of visitor*" from neighbouring Blackpool.
The hotel has 54 bedrooms and four turret rooms, with three suites and three penthouses. It has the Café Grand bar/restaurant, and three function/meeting rooms. It also has its own Spa, with a 17-metre indoor swimming pool, Jacuzzi, sauna/steam room and pool side bar. There is also a gym.
From 1974 to 1982, the Louisiana Belle was a popular nightclub at the Grand.
A new annex was added across the road in 2002 and is called Grand 22 – it has 22 extra bedrooms.

©

A notable "attraction" is the family's pet cemetery in the grounds.

John Alcock – the first non-stop transatlantic flight: John Alcock moved to St Anne's, aged 5, and lived at 41 Nelson Street (now Holmfield Road). He attended Heyhouses School between the 24th of April 1900 and the 5th of April 1905, and joined the Royal Naval Air Service at the age of 20.
He then went on to make the first ever non-stop trans-Atlantic flight on the 15th of June 1919.
On the 100th anniversary of that event, a commemorative tree was planted in the grounds of the school by the mayor and the pupils

A commemorative cast iron lamp post was erected at the corner of Headroomgate Road and St Anne's Road east, in celebration of Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee.
St Anne's Hockey Club was formed as a men's club, playing on St Davids Road North. In 1899, the landlords moved them on, as they wanted to build Gas works on the site. They moved to the ground at Lytham Cricket Club, and as no changing rooms were available, players had to change in the County Hotel.

Pollux Gate Baptist Chapel, Fairhaven: A Particular and Strict Baptist chapel was built on Pollux Gate. Their original small chapel, holding about thirty worshippers, was opened about 1820.
The chapel closed in 1956 and is now the Ansdell Christadelphian Hall. By 1924, a Congregationalists' Home of Rest had been built at number 6 Pollux Gate.

Lytham and Fairhaven College for Girls, St Anne's: The Fairhaven Ladies' High School was founded on Church Road, St Anne's, run by Miss Millen.
In 1899, it was renamed the Lytham and Fairhaven College for Girls and was re-opened by Florence Morris.
By 1904, the school had been renamed Lowther College Hostel for Girls (Lowther Court flats are now where the tennis courts stood).
In 1914, now Mrs Lindley, she bought "Westwood" nearby. This large house, set in its own grounds and overlooking the cricket ground, became "The Hostel" and the Senior House. Then, in 1918, the school also bought "Lonsdale House", standing opposite the college on the corner of Lowther Terrace and Church Road - and next to the original hostel. This was called the Home of Rest. By now, the college had 160 boarders. A contemporary guide stated "The school is thought to have been one of the first private schools for girls to have its own swimming pool. It also had a private golf course. The Lowther College Tableaux were well regarded within the community for their musical excellence".
After the 1914-18 War, pupil numbers had increased, and the school needed to expand, so it moved to bigger accommodation at Bodelwyddan Castle, in North Wales, in June 1920.

In 1928, Westwood became the West Yorkshire Miners' Home, later renamed to the Miners' Welfare Society Convalescent Home, which closed in 1981 to be demolished in 1982, to provide the site for a number of properties called "Westwood Mews". The original school building has been converted back into a private house.

Lytham College for Boys: was founded in Lytham, soon having to move to bigger premises in Agnew Street. It was originally for boarders only.
Then, in 1901, headmaster John Watterson had a building called Castlemere constructed as a purpose-built school on Clifton Drive in Fairhaven, and what was then called Lytham College for Boys and Girls moved there. Its motto was "*Concilio ex animis*" – meaning "With wisdom and strength".
An article in 1904, says *"In the school, each division has its own room enabling the work to be done without distraction. A gymnasium has been added during the present summer, and an effort will be made to have*

©

the tennis lawn ready for use in the coming spring. The school has done well in the national game of cricket, and, in football it has already made for itself a reputation amongst the schools of high standing in the county".
In 1905, the school proudly advertised that *"Backward and delicate boys receive every care and attention"*, and by 1913 it was advertising for foreign pupils.
1926 saw its advert read *"The college, situate on Clifton Drive, occupies a convenient and central position in the Borough. It is within two minutes of the sea front and the Ansdell and Fairhaven Railway Station. In the upper school, the curriculum is based on the syllabus of the Cambridge university examinations, for which the school is a local centre"*. John H Watterson was still the Principal and his brother, J Gilbert Watterson the Headmaster.
The college building has now been converted into apartments and is called Ansdell Court.

Lytham's Medical Officer of Health reported many cases of serious diseases in the town, that he had found to be caused by local people eating mussels picked from sewage pipes. Also, the sheer number of private privies and ash pits that were overflowing and leaking prompted him to recommend that the town Council begin to have all such items replaced by internal water closets.

English Electric at Lytham: The Dick, Kerr and Company factory on Strand Road, Preston opened, building trams. In 1917, they began to build three Felixstowe N4 flying boats that were flight-tested on the Ribble estuary at Lytham.
English Electric took over the company in 1917, and between then and 1926, they erected hangars, where they built flying boats – including the Kingston, Felixstowe, Atalanta, Wren, and Ayr – at the east end of Lytham Green, opposite the hospital – it had its own Control Tower, and a slipway was also created. The Atalanta (N119) was the first to fly, but not until 1923. Six Kingstons were launched in 1924.

From 1926, the vacated hangars became a film studio operated by Parkstone Films, before being converted in 1930, to become Cookson's Exhibition Bakery.

English Electric Aviation, Aircraft Division, was founded in 1958, and became the British Aircraft Corporation Ltd in 1960. English Electric finally became defunct in 1968, after being merged with GEC, and later Marconi. They became British Aerospace PLC on the 29th of April 1977, and, from the 30th of November 1999, BAE Systems, who remain a major employer of Fylde people.

On the 1st of December 2016, BAE Systems opened a new Academy for Skills and Knowledge, to train its future workforce. The academy also offers schoolchildren the chance to discover more about careers in engineering and technology.

Wrea Green suffered a plague of sparrows, and *"the parish council agreed to pay a halfpenny for every sparrow, sparrow's egg or rat's tail that was collected"*.
Bradley Terrace was built on Station Road in Wesham.
Kirkham Harriers held a steeplechase at Bryning on the 8th of April. The club had been holding regular hare and hound runs since the 1860s.
Culler's Cozy Corner café was operating in Great Eccleston. Its precise location is unknown.

Note: Scarborough built its own Tower in competition with Blackpool.
It was only 150 feet high and its top revolved.

©

It never caught on and was demolished in 1907.

Note: Great Yarmouth built its Revolving Tower.
It was some 140 feet high.
The cage - which revolved as it ascended and descended - could hold up to 150 people.
The tower was demolished for scrap at the start of World War 2.

1898
The first meeting of the Blackpool Town Council took place in Committee Room A at the Town Hall on the 4th of January.
During the summer, Mr FE Baron undertook trials of a then-revolutionary motor-driven omnibus along the Promenade.
Barnum and Bailey's Circus returned to town in August.
In September, the loudspeaker was invented by Horace Short of London – and first used to broadcast records of operatic arias from the tops of Blackpool Tower and the Eiffel Tower.
Socialist Keir Hardy visited town to lecture on "Socialism and Character" in March. He had founded the Labour Party in 1893.
Blackpool Rugby Club began, and briefly played under rugby league rules at the Raikes. Football was still played occasionally, with an Easter competition seeing Blackpool play Darwen, Leicester Fosse, and Newton Heath.
A Silver Model of the Tower was presented to the Chairman of the Tower Company, Alderman (later Sir) John Bickerstaffe by the Shareholders, in appreciation of his role in ensuring the Tower was built and its commercial success. The Silver Tower was commissioned from Steinberg and Company of Manchester and was made by Round and Son of Leeds. It is now in the foyer and its value is officially "priceless".

Picture postcards: first went on sale in the town in July, and the Gazette declared "*There seems to be no demand for these in Blackpool*". Local photographers Reuben and Morris Saidman later formed their own local company "Saidman Brothers", of number 2 Alfred Street, which did very nicely out of the *"non-existent"* demand. Another local postcard printer was Edward Rhodes Green and Co, of Victoria Street, who functioned from the early 1900s up to World War 1, usually with the name "Victoria Series". The majority of their cards were humorous seaside pictures, but they also published scenic cards.

By 1904, the Blackpool Times was reporting that some shops were selling up to 1,000 postcards daily, and in 1939, Donald McGill's postcards sold a million copies in one Blackpool shop alone.

At a meeting of Blackpool postcard traders at the Palatine Hotel on the 30th of April May 1912, it was decided that a censorship committee in response to worries over the town's growing *"seaside postcard"* image. The committee consisted of Mr Beswick (tobacconist), Mr Coop (bookseller and stationer), Mr Green (draper), Mr Riley (furniture dealer), Mr Sweeten (bookseller), and Messrs Pilling and Whittaker (sub postmasters). Mr Green was elected as the first chairman.

The Blackpool Postcard Censorship Board met for the first time in November 1951, and the board was made up of a vicar, a landlady, a retired bank manager, a solicitor, and a stationer. The *"Board was disbanded in 1968. Canon Pritchard (member of Blackpool censorship board 1959-1965) said they reached the end of the road when a shop in Aberystwyth placed notices in their shop window "FOR SALE – POSTCARDS BANNED BY THE BLACKPOOL CENSORSHIP BOARD"*.

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Blackpool Magistrates' Court: Blackpool was granted its own Bench of Magistrates under Queen Victoria's Commission of the Peace, dated the 27th of August. Before this, magistrates sat in Blackpool, but only as part of the Kirkham County Petty Sessions Division (Petty was originally spelled "petit" - meaning small in French).

The first sitting of Blackpool Borough Magistrates Court was held in King Street on the 7th of September 1899. Alderman John Bickerstaffe JP presided over that first session. Blackpool's first women magistrates were appointed in 1922.

The Blackpool County Courts moved from King Street to the present site on Chapel Street in 1971, also holding a Crown Court. There are 21 cells on site. From January 1972, the Crown Court replaced the Quarter Sessions previously held by Court of Chancery of the County Palatine of Lancaster.
The Lytham Bench later merged with Blackpool, as did the Wyre Bench in 2003, to form the Fylde Coast Bench.

The Trafalgar Hydropathic Establishment was on the South Promenade, featuring *"sea water and other baths"* under the ownership of Jas W Grew.
The Matlock Hydropathic and Boarding House was at 37 Station Road, offering Russian, Turkish, and German baths. The hotel was owned and run by Mr and Mrs Bramald, late of Matlock.
Doctor George Schofield practised from 26 Derby Road, North Shore.
Christ Church Infant's School on Egerton Road, North Shore opened on the 25th of January.
The South Shore Popular Building Society was wound up on the 5th of May.
Dickson Road Post Office was opened.

The Victory Hotel, Blackpool: was built at 105 to 107 Caunce Street by William Moister, of Stonebridge House in Marton. Today's Victory Road was originally named Moister Road in his honour, and he built his hotel directly facing the end of that road. It is an impressive red brick and stone-built hotel, which originally had guest accommodation on the first floor, and staff quarters in the roof space. There are two, joined, ground-floor bar areas.
The owners for several decades were Thwaites' brewery, but it is now owned by Amber Taverns Limited. For several years, it has been called The Victory, and is no longer a hotel, but a simple pub.

General Booth of the Salvation Army presided over a rally at the Hippodrome.
Grayson's Boarding Establishment was at 17 Queen's Square. This later became the September Brasserie.
The Metropole Arcade was bought by Ward and Horsley, who ran exhibitions for two years.
The Queensborough Hotel was opened at Claremont Park, run by Joseph Eades. It later changed into Queensboro House Boarding Establishment, run by Miss Mealey.
Partington and Company, makers and bottlers of ginger beer, were in business on Bonny Street.
The Whitegate Mineral Water Works had been on Whitegate Lane for many years, but on the 4th of July this year, joint owner George Filmer was declared bankrupt. The company operated under the name Filmer and Co, with Filmer's partner being Arthur Ryden.
Ida Ellis was a palm-reader in town and this year wrote a pamphlet about the subject. In 1991, she opened her own shop on the Promenade after such "acts" were banned from the beach by the council, and by 1901, the Ellis family, *"palmists and phrenologists"*, were in business at 33 South Beach. The 3-storey building had the word "PHRENOLOGY" painted on its roof.
Springbank Terrace was erected on Hawes Side Lane, opposite Pedders Lane.

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"The Celestials", a Chinese play with music by F Osmond Carr, opened in Blackpool in August, starring John Wilkinson of the D'Oyly Carte Opera Company.
The Blackpool Chess Club Championship trophy was first won by J Carter. The club met at Mason's Café on St Ann's Street.
Blackpool YMCA was formed on the 26th of May, later basing itself on Charnley Road.
A terrace of houses replaced Garden Cottages on Blackpool Road, opposite the Albion Inn in Bispham.
The Blackpool Cigar Box was in business on the corner of Promenade and Adelaide Street.
Renwick's Shoe Repairs was established on the corner of Waterloo Road and Lytham Road.
John Docking started his undertaking business on Lansdowne Place and Cherry Tree Road. In around 1934, the business moved to newly converted premises just off Dickson Road (previously known as Mount Pleasant), as JW Docking and Son. They boasted a Rolls Royce motor hearse. The business was sold following the Second World War, and during the 1980's, was merged with another local undertaker, Arnold Taylor, as Docking and Taylor. In 2009, a new Company was incorporated in the name of JW Docking and Son (Funeral Furnishers), trading from Kingsland Grove.
The Blackpool Motor Car Company Ltd was wound-up on the 16th of December 1898. The company had begun in the late-1880s, being taken over in August 1897, by *"a syndicate which has large and realisable aims"*. At its end, the company was running 6 hire cars.

Violet Carson: was born in Manchester on the 1st of September. She moved to 18 Fleetwood Road in Bispham with her sister Nellie after the death of her husband in 1928. She achieved world-wide fame playing Ena Sharples in Coronation Street and lived in Bispham until she died in hospital on the 26th of December 1983, at the age of 85. After a service at All Hallow's Church in Bispham, she was cremated at Carleton (where there is a plaque), and her ashes interred in the columbarium at All Hallow's Church.

Lucy Morton: Later to become Britain's FIRST lady winner of an Olympic Gold Medal, Lucy was born at New Tatton near Knutsford on the 23rd of February, but the family soon moved to Blackpool, where her father became an attendant to the mayor, living in the town hall. She attended Christ Church School and joined Blackpool Amateur Swimming Club in 1908, at the age of ten. The council would open Cocker Street Baths especially for her to train, between 6am and 7am each day. She then went to work as a telephonist before going back to the baths at 5pm for another hour's training. She was a regular winner of both the Preston to Lytham race (9 miles), and the Preston to Freckleton race (6 miles).

Lucy broke the world record for 200-metres on the 18th of July 1907. She then broke the UK breaststroke swimming record in Liverpool on the 25th of September 1913, and achieved the first world record for the 150-yard backstroke in 1916 (in the days of the English double over-arm and frog leg-kick).

Lucy held two world records in the 200-yard breaststroke prior to her Olympic win, and in 1920, she was the first Amateur Swimming Association champion in the 150-yard backstroke and 200-yard breaststroke.

In 1924, Lucy became the first British woman to win an Olympic gold medal for swimming at the Paris Olympics, when she won the 200-metres Breaststroke on the 18th of July, achieving an Olympic Record of 3 minutes 33.2 seconds. She later married Harry Heaton and lived at 13 Mereland Road in Marton, and taught swimming for the council between 1930 and 1972.
She had a Blue Plaque unveiled in her honour in 2012, and in September 2019, the Civic Trust purchased her 1924 Olympic Gold Medal and memorabilia for retention in Blackpool Local History Centre.

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On the 1st of September, another famous and strong swimmer, James Finney, swam from Victoria Pier to St Anne's Pier.
In the previous 8 years, 4681 houses had been built in Blackpool – an average of 8 per week. 1,000 per year had been built in 1897 and 1898.

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Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church, Thornton: opened on Heyes Street. The church was built at the instigation of Canon James Taylor, Rector of Lytham, and the architects were Pugin and Pugin. A major benefactor was Mrs Waterton of Alson Hall near Preston. It was dedicated on the 12th of March 1900.
Its School was opened on the 5th of September on Crabtree Road, and was mainly used by families moving from Widnes and Runcorn, to work at the nearby United Alkali Works.
The church, school, and presbytery were all built at the same time. The church hall lies to the north and was built later by the men of the parish. The church is linked to the presbytery.
A stone and brick grotto was opened and dedicated in the grounds in May 1968, being known locally as the *"Lourdes Grotto".*
The school was rebuilt in 1983, and the road is now called Heys Street. A modern parish room, the Bamber Room, has been built in front of the link to the presbytery.

Bleasdale terrace was built on Trunnah Road in Thornton.

Thornton Gala: was first held, later changing to its current name of Thornton Cleveleys Gala. There are two versions of its beginnings: 1. Mr WA Hardman and Mr Walsh intended to hold a field day for a handful of youngsters. They solicited subscriptions from residents to provide refreshments and prizes for races. The use of a field was obtained and a local farmer provided a farm lorry and decorated horse – the only vehicle in the procession. The gala then progressed as the idea appealed to the local vicar, who decided it should be a church event. 2. That the gala was developed by members of a sick club who paid a weekly amount into the club to cover any loss of earnings for doctor's expenses to members and immediate relatives.

J Marr and Sons of Fleetwood: Joseph Marr moved to Fleetwood with five trawlers and introduced deep-sea trawling for hake to the port.
From those humble beginnings, the company of J Marr and Son was set up by Ann Marr and James Herbert Marr in 1902. The company offices were at the old custom house on Dock Street before moving to 228 Dock Street, and the firm was built into the largest trawler operator in Fleetwood.
Since 1934, J Marr and Sons Ltd have operated once more from Hull, but later operated a fish processing plant on Copse Road, using the Junella name. Junella folded in 1992, but the premises are still called the Junella Buildings. The Marr company still owns the Ice Processing Factory.

Ye Olde Toffee and Bacca Shoppe, Fleetwood: opened on West Street (it is now 165 Lord Street). The shop had been opened as a sweet shop by two sisters, Mrs Clancy and Mrs Gill. They later sold the business to Theodore Clegg (of fish and chips shop fame) who renamed the shop The Olde Bacca Shoppe.
In the 1920s, the shop was Besford's tobacconists, who sold pipes, tobacco, and sweets. It was then briefly called Ye Olde Cabinet Maker.
In later years, it became part of Hearnshaw's Electrical shop, and is still owned by the family. The sign-painted frontage was fully restored in June 2016, and the shop was re-designed and since the 15th of March 2019, has operated as Hearnshaw's Antiques and Vintage Ltd.

Bold Street and Poulton Street Post Offices opened in Fleetwood on the 1st of February.
CA Copeland established his decorating business at 103 Victoria Street in Fleetwood.
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Piper's Penny Bazaar was trading in Dock Street, Fleetwood.
Argenta Meats had a butcher's shop in Fleetwood
Hope Street Recreation Ground was opened in St Anne's.

The Victoria Hotel, St Anne's: was opened on the site of John Whiteside's Farm on Common Side Lane (now called Church Road). The farm had been demolished between 1894 and 1897, in preparation, and the Carnegie Reading Room stood opposite.
Constructed to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria, it was built to be a "working class" hotel, and was designed by local architect John Dent Harker, who also designed St Anne's Library. The design had to be in the domestic style of Gothic Architecture that the St Anne's on Sea Land and Building Company required for the area.
The hotel managers would run char-à-banc trips from the stables – the fare was one penny.
The building later became a simple pub and stopped taking in guests. Past landlords include Hugh Ashton (1908), James Brougham (1920s), and Walter Lines (1930s).

To the rear of the hotel were stables, where Tyler's Riding School was based in the 1930s. That later became the Victoria Riding School, which closed in the 1980s, to be converted into the car park for the pub.
The building was the subject of a Planning Appeal in 2012, as the landlords, the Spirit Pub Company, wished to demolish it. The tribunal stopped the demolition and ordered that the building be retained as a pub. It was substantially renovated in 2015, by Spirit, and now goes under its original name - The Victoria Hotel.

"Clarendon Road and St Albans Road in St Anne's were laid around this time, and nearby working-class houses along Curzon Road, Church Road and Holmfield Road were constructed to house the builders and craftsmen who were constructing the new resort"

The Dunes House Hydro, St Anne's: opened on the corner of Clifton Drive and Fairhaven Road. In November 1921, it became the Bradford District Rechabites Memorial Home – *"In grateful and honoured memory of the 524 members of the Bradford District no 20 IOR who gave their lives in the defence of their country in the Great War". The memorial plaque, which carries the above inscription, was relocated, when the building was demolished to the Drive Methodist Church"*.
It was demolished in the 1980s, to be replaced by flats called the Dunes.

St Anne's Gala: was first held, starting at fields on Glen Eldon Road.
In 1920, the gala was renamed the Hospital Fête Day, and began to raise funding for the Banastre Hospital, then in 1923, it was renamed again, to the St Anne's Carnival.
The 100th Carnival in 2016, saw the event being the last on the Fylde Coast to donate all remaining funds raised to local charities.

The St Anne's Express and District Advertiser was first published on the 7th of October by Walter Spring. His premises were in St Anne's Square in a building which later became Lloyds Bank. He moved to Wood Street in 1930, and Tiggi's Restaurant was later built on the site of the print works. It changed its name to the St Anne's on the Sea Express on the 8th of January 1904, and finally to the Lytham St Anne's Express on the 24th of September 1926.
St Albans Road Post Office was opened in St Anne's on the 2nd of August.

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The Methodist Manse was bought on Seafield Road, Lytham, and was used until a bigger and better house nearer the Church was bought in 1922, at 7 Upper Westby Street. The present Manse at The Serpentine was acquired in 1958.
James Johnston of Manchester held his "Summer Camp for Little Girls from the Slums" in the dunes at Fairhaven. The camp consisted of 4 bell tents with wooden floors, a large corrugated iron communal hut, and a "retired" gypsy caravan. It was in dunes near where Laverton Road and the Boulevard stand today and fronted onto the Fairhaven Golf Club. The girls slept in the tents, and 2 staff in the caravan, with the kitchen and dining area in the hut, which also had 2 sleeping rooms - one for the camp superintendent, and one for the other 2 helpers.
The leaking main sewer down the centre of Clifton Drive in Lytham was replaced in January.
Clifton Bank farmhouse was built at Plumpton for Anthony Butler. When his descendant, Margaret Butler, died in 1989, the farm passed to her sons, James and Harold. The pig farm was demolished and a new farm built, with four detached homes being constructed on some of the land in 1991. Nearby for many years stood Daggers Hall Cottage; this is now Saxon Bungalow.
Freckleton United Football Club was formed officially, although there had been a village team since the mid-1880s. The club was re-formed in 1931, playing at the Hodgson Memorial ground, and called Freckleton Football Club.
W Hodgson donated a piece of land to the towns of Kirkham and Wesham for use as a public recreation ground. It was a piece known locally as the Close.

Note: The New Brighton Tower opened at Whit on the banks of the Mersey.
It was taller than Blackpool's (576 feet 6 inches) but could not compete.
It was demolished in 1921, with just the brick base remaining.
Its ballroom lasted as a top concert venue until fire gutted it in the mid-1960s.
That tower was finally pulled down in 1969.

Note: Morecambe Tower (the Warwick Tower) also opened, on the 30th of June.
It revolved and reached 232 feet high, but was demolished for its steel to be used as munitions in 1902.
Morecambe built another tower in 1900, but this too was demolished during World War 1.
Its base building and pavilion remained until 1959, used as a cinema.

1899

Blackpool County Borough Corporation was granted its coat of arms on the 10th of June. They are officially described as follows:

ARMS: Barry wavy of eight Sable and Or a Seagull volant proper on a Chief Argent a ThunderBolt also proper between a Fleur-de-Lis and a Lion rampant both Gules.
CREST: On a Wreath of the Colours on the Battlements of a Tower or the Sails of a windmill saltirewise proper surmounted in the centre by a Rose Gules barbed and seeded also proper.
MOTTO: "*Progress*"

The black wavy bars represent the waves of the sea at Blackpool and the golden bars the bright shining sands of the beach.
The seagull is an emblem suitable for a seaside resort.
The thunderbolt depicts the enterprise of Blackpool as a pioneer in the adoption of electricity for lighting and traction.
The fleur-de-lis and the lion were distinguishing features in the arms of the Banks and Cocker families respectively, and their inclusion perpetuates the close association of those families with the early history of the town.

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The battlements of a tower represent "corporateness" and are the emblem of grandeur and solidity.
The sails of a windmill refer to the Fylde, which had many windmills, and to the health-giving breezes for which Blackpool is so well known.
The red rose refers to the County of Lancashire.

The Alhambra and the Palace, Blackpool: The Alhambra was opened on the 28th of May by George Sims, with its formal opening evening on the 3rd of July. It boasted a 3,000-seat Palace Theatre of Varieties, Waxworks, a 1,200 seat, three-tier circus, a 3,000-capacity ballroom, restaurants, a billiard room, and a winter garden. It replaced the old Prince of Wales Theatre and Baths. Later the elliptically shaped circus, in the old ballroom, was transformed into the "Ideal Skating Rink".
The foundation stone had been laid by George Sims on the 4th of December 1897 and covered a secret stash of contemporary artefacts. Blackpool builders Whitbreads constructed the building.
The first two clowns appeared at the Alhambra Circus. They were called "August" (real name Harold Wade) and "September" (real name John Griffith).

The Alhambra went into liquidation in 1902, after being run at a loss as it could not compete with the Tower next door. It was bought by the Blackpool Tower Company in 1903, the circus was removed and replaced by a ballroom, and a theatre was built. Bought by William Broadhead, it was renamed the Palace Theatre, and opened on the 4th of July 1904, with one of the world's first escalators – billed as the rolling staircase, and its own roller-skating rink and a monkey house. The Alhambra ballroom was then changed into a gallery of waxworks of the great and good, named the Palace Panopticum, which became the Palace Picture Pavilion - its own cinema – in 1909, when Vernon's Bioscope was installed. This operated as a cinema until 1911, when it was turned back into a ballroom, and the old circus became the 1,972-seater Palace Picture Pavilion, with its own café. The theatre itself had been increased in size to seat 4,000 in 1910. Florrie Forde appeared at what was advertised as the Palace Variety Theatre in 1913.
An underground tunnel was built to join the Palace to the Tower in 1914.
The caricaturist George Cooke worked at the Palace for a few years, creating now world-famous drawings of the artists that appeared there.

In 1952, a Wurlitzer Theatre Organ was installed at the Palace Ballroom. The organ was an Organ Opus 1716, which had originally been installed at the Tussaud's Cinema in London. It had 3 manuals and 9 ranks, and when installed at the Palace, it had an extra two-rank chest with an English Horn. The other side of the chest was being left empty, in case an extra rank was needed in the future.
The Palace Wurlitzer, by then a 3 manual, 13-rank organ plus piano, was sold in 1964, without the English Horn rank, to a private individual in Yeovil. It remained installed there until 1975, when it was exported to St Michael's Collegiate School in Hobart, Tasmania.

The Palace was closed in 1964, for demolition and was soon replaced by Lewis's Department Store.

The Tower Ballroom: The Tower's Pavilion Ballroom was designed by Frank Matcham and rebuilt in the style of the Paris Opera House. When the Tower opened, it was called the Grand Pavilion, and was now reopened on the 30th of March as the Tower Ballroom. The ballroom has the largest sprung dance floor in the world, and the inscription above the stage reads "*Bid Me Discourse I Will Enchant Thine Ear*" – and excerpt from Shakespeare's sonnet Venus and Adonis.
In May 1900, the free celebration ball to mark the end of the Boer War saw 80,000 people inside.

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Originally, dancing was not permitted on Sundays. Instead, an evening of sacred music was performed. Strict early rules included men not being permitted top dance unless they were with a woman.
In hot weather, the roof of the ballroom can slide open to release excess heat.

In 1928, Bertini (Bertram Gutsell!) first fronted his broadcasting and recording band.

On the 29th of March 1929, a Wurlitzer organ was installed in the Tower Ballroom. It was unveiled in June, but there was no-one to play it until Max Bruce tried – followed in 1930, by Reginald Dixon. It was the first American Wurlitzer organ to be installed in a ballroom in Britain, and Dixon was given the task of making the new organ as popular as live bands for dancing.

Charlie Barlow began performing with his band at the Tower Ballroom in 1932, staying until 1978.
In 1934, the Tower Ballroom received a new dance floor and a purpose-built Wurlitzer organ (designed by Reginald Dixon). This Organ, Opus 2187, had 3 manuals and 13 ranks, and was shipped to the UK on the 8th of December, 1934. The original Tower Ballroom Wurlitzer was moved to the Empress Ballroom on the same day and was subsequently sent to the Metropole cinema in London.

The murals around the ballroom were painted by Peter Miller of Rossall Beach.

On the 14th of December 1956, a lit cigarette caused the ballroom and the tower Lounge to be gutted by fire. After 18 months of repairs, the ballroom floor was replaced with 30,602 blocks of oak, mahogany, and walnut. Also, the Wurlitzer organ console was placed on a slow rising lift in the centre of the stage. Originally the console moved forward from the rear of the stage on a motorised platform, but that apparatus is now used for the Ballroom's electronic organ.
"The auditorium was saved and refurbished by architect Andrew Mazzei, allowing its unique architecture, originally created by Frank Matcham between 1897 and 1898, to remain intact. The sprung dance floor is 120ft by 102ft and the scale of the ballroom is impressive especially when you consider its age. The gateway to the gods is made up of about 800 seats across all three tiers and on the ground floor, the ballroom can cater for about 560 more visitors". The names of 16 composers are inscribed around the ballroom. The Tower Ballroom reopened on the 28th of May 1958, and instead of an official ceremony, all the survivors of the 1894 opening were invited back.

Since Reginald Dixon retired, there have been several organists in the Tower. He was followed until 1977, by Ernest Broadbent, then Phil Kelsall.

During the 1950s, a large Christmas Tree was put up in the Ballroom, and paying a small entrance fee entitled local children to collect a present from around its base.
Since 1964, an international dance tournament known as the Junior Dance Festival has been held annually in the ballroom.

Slater's Tower Refreshment Rooms were operating in the Tower. They had outlets in the Aquarium, Menagerie, Crush Room (off the ballroom), Elevator Hall, The Gardens, the Top Balcony, and in the Tower Circus, and others on Central and North piers.
The Hippodrome opened its own circus to compete with that of the Tower.
Sphaera was practicing his chromoscopy (or Colour Psychometry) at Chromoscopy Hall, 11 South Parade. He was initially thought a charlatan, but nowadays conventional colonoscopy is the most sensitive test available for the investigation of the colorectum for polyps.

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The Empress Hotel, Blackpool: was opened at 59 Exchange Street on the 21st of December. Robert Lewtas, a brick merchant of Cross Street built it as a family home, using handmade bricks, manufactured by the family business.
When it was built, it was almost on the sea front – evidence of just how much the coastline has been changed by man.
The ground floor has lounge bars and function rooms, whilst the first and second floors are mainly arranged as guest rooms. There is a rear yard area with gated access from Cross Street. The interior of the hotel features high ceilings sculptured by Venetian Craftsmen. The cellar was used as a stable for the horses and still has the original floor, and (allegedly) a tunnel, which goes to the railway station.
The Empress once hosted such celebrities as Mae West, Sir Edward Heath, Johnny Weissmuller, and Sir Robin Day.
The hotel closed in June 2014, finally to be sold on the 5th of October 2017.

The Foxhall Market opened in time for Christmas. It was the first building in the resort to have an electric lift. The area around it became known as *"the Village"* and *"Lower Blackpool".*
The Tramway system was converted to overhead power on the 13th of June, due to problems with seawater and drifting sand.
By Easter this year, there were 27 tramcars in service for the Corporation.
A new façade was erected on the Central Railway Station to cope with the increase in use.
Blackpool School Board met for the first time on the 22nd of June, only lasting until 1902, when the Education Committee replaced it.
William Cookson opened his first memorial stonemason business in Preston. Two years later, he opened another outlet on Talbot Road. That building was demolished in 2001, and the firm moved into a smaller purpose-built building next door. For its whole life, the company craftsmen engraved and lettered all the granite, marble, stone, and slate by hand rather than machine. WL Cookson closed in 2011.
The London, City, and Midland Bank opened a branch on Church Lane in Bispham.
Bispham Post Office moved to the centre of the village square. It had originally been on Church Lane. When the post office was moved to the junction of Red bank Road and Devonshire Road, a small traffic island took its place.
Blackpool Rugby League Club folded after the closure of its ground at the Raikes, and the Blackpool Rugby Football Club was formed on the 8th of March.
The Corporation closed several "Mutoscope" parlours for being obscene; these were penny slot machines showing photographs of nude women.
Roland Robinson opened his solicitor's practice in Birley Street. The modern practice of Roland Robinson and Fenton's moved to 87 Adelaide Street in about 1951, later taking over numbers 85 and 89.
Horace Laycock opened a butcher's shop on Central Drive. He also had an abattoir on Back Ibbison Street, and later helped start the abattoir on Talbot Road.
Bickerstaffe's opened a store on Foxhall Road on the 9th of December. The three-storey building had the family name cast above the parapet and was burnt down in 1995.
William Solaini was holding auctions at 17 Palatine Buildings – precursors of today's infamous and occasionally-disreputable "bargain auctions".

Moister Road Wesleyan Mission, Blackpool: The Wesleyan Mission Church opened for use at Moister Road on the 23rd of March. By 1900, it was a Baptist Mission, which was officially opened at the corner of Selbourne Road and Moister Road on the 11th of June. Moister Road is now called Victory Road.

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Williams Deacon and Manchester and Salford Bank Ltd opened a South Shore branch at 87 Church Street (now Bond Street) on the 19th of December.
Spring Gardens was built opposite what is now Lyndale Gardens, on St Anne's Road.
Primrose Terrace was built on School Road.
Rainford's jewellers opened in the Metropole buildings.
HJ Kettlewell was running his silk mercer and general drapery store at 14-20 Church Street. This later became Leonard Dews' jewellers. His brother, W Kettlewell, had his own shop in Talbot Square – a gentlemen's outfitters.
The Royal Institute of Public Health Congress was held at Blackpool in September.
The first Blackpool Bird Show was held on the 23rd of June.

Blackpool Rescue Home: The Blackpool Rescue and Preventative Home for Young Women opened on the 30th of March at 146 Whitegate Drive, in order to help up to 8 "*friendless and fallen women*". It was known as the "Magdalen Home", being one of many such facilities. The Rescue Home had its official opening on the 17th of September 1904.

Magdalen Homes expected residents to work for their keep, and as well as "*dealing with the Home's own laundry, washing was usually taken in from households in the locality to contribute towards the running of the establishment. Apart from its practical use in providing work for the inmates, and an income for the institution, laundry work was also seen as having a symbolic dimension, signifying cleansing and purification*". Some became infamous for their strictness when run by nuns.

The home was later taken over by the Fylde House of Help. It later became the Woodland Grove Post Office. When the post office closed, the shop became "We-Bay-4-U" and is now Classic Cobblers, who moved from Woodland Grove.

By 1963, the Fylde House of Help had become the only mother and baby home in the borough and had moved to 141 Hornby Road. The home was administered by the Blackburn Diocesan Council for Moral Welfare and had a total of 11 beds.

George Whittaker moved to Blackpool and opened his first grocer's shop on Market Street. Geo Whittaker (Blackpool) Limited started business on the 1st of May 1924, opening a shop at 327 Whitegate Drive, with a wholesale provisions depot at 70 - 76 Elizabeth Street. By 1938, it was known as Whittaker Brothers and had its own large fleet of delivery trucks. The company went into liquidation in October 1984.

The Beach Restaurant, Blackpool: was built on the corner of Station Road and 495 to 497 South Promenade, replacing a pair of earlier houses. It opened for business in 1900, and finally gained a drinks licence in March 1925. The then owner, JR Quayle, had the licence transferred from the Albion Hotel on Central Promenade, which had closed in the April.
The enterprise was purchased by JW Lees and Co in 1930, and in 1937, they sold it to Dutton's Brewery of Blackburn, who changed its name to the Beach Hotel and Restaurant. In 1964, Dutton's were taken over by Whitbread, who soon changed the pub's name to the Beach Tavern to attract more passing drinkers.

In June 2008, it was changed into Tommy Duck's fun pub, which became Flannagan's pub in March 2015. Flannagan's went out of business in early 2016 after losing trade to the nearby Wetherspoon's outlet. The venue was converted into three retail units in 2016. One is a Subway sandwich franchise, one a fish and

©

chip shop called the Orange Fish, and the third is a Slice pizza franchise. The new development is known as the Beach Tavern Food Court and opened on the 18th of June 2016.

Nigel Gresley was foreman of the Blackpool Central running sheds, when he met his wife, Ethel Fullagar of St Anne's. He later had the world-famous steam engine named after him and was knighted. He was married in St Anne's under his full name – Herbert Nigel Gresley. His most famous engine, Mallard, made a surprise visit to the area in 1961. Famous locomotive designer William Stanier also worked at Blackpool for a time, as a shedmaster at Blackpool Central Station.
The Blackpool Artillery shooting range took the place of the old Gun Battery.

Charlie Chaplin: made his first appearance in Lancashire was aged 11, when he appeared in a 2-week stint with the clog dancing troupe The Eight Lancashire Lads at the Winter Gardens Pavilion from the 19th of June. He next appeared in the play "Sherlock Holmes" at the Opera House on the 23rd of May 1904 - before his film fame.

Arthur Towle began busking on Blackpool beach, soon signing a contract for a 7-year apprenticeship with the Musical Cliftons. He changed his name to Arthur Lucan and later gained fame as "Old Mother Riley".

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Manor Farm was built at Singleton.
The railway opened a direct loop-line from Fleetwood to Blackpool, via Poulton, in July.
Plans were made, and contracts requested, for a new school on Copse Road in Fleetwood. It was not built.
Fleetwood began to import Jersey potatoes.
The Queen Victoria Jubilee Memorial Clock was moved from outside St Anne's Railway Station to the tower of St Anne's Church.
St Anne's refuse destructor and the public abattoir were both opened. In 1968, a Car Disposal Unit was opened there.
The Ansdell and Fairhaven Laundry was opened on Rutland Road. The company became Limited in 1903, and the laundry was rebuilt in 1921. The site later became a caravan factory – Atlas Works, owned by the Greenhalgh family's Colonial Caravan Company, and then by Fleetwind caravans in 1969. It was later burnt down, and Fleetwind moved to Naze Lane Trading Estate in Freckleton until going into liquidation in 1980.
Lytham Club Day in June featured the town's first travelling cinematograph, and Mr Dewhurst's steam roundabouts from Preston.
The County Bank opened in Clifton Square in Lytham, moving from 17 Queens Street. This building became a Trustee Savings Bank in 1947 and in 1996, the Lytham Heritage Centre. Number 4 Dicconson Terrace, next door, was also built, as the bank manager's house. It was converted into The Art Lounge in April 2002.

Holy Family Roman Catholic Church, of Freckleton and Warton: Squire Clifton leased the land for the building of the new church, and Holy Family Church was opened for use on the 30th of September at Lamaleach Brook (1 Lytham Road).
The official dedication to the Holy Family and the opening was performed by Bishop Bilsborrow and Bishop Whiteside on the 7th of October.
The church was built in plain Accrington red brick as a church/school with money from Father Francis Gillow of Kirkham and Canon James Taylor of Warton Lodge. It was initially served from Kirkham, but in 1906, Father Gillow paid for a new presbytery, allowing for a resident parish priest to begin work in 1907. That first priest was Father Joseph Roche.
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The back half of the church was opened as a school in 1913, when a partitioned-off section was created to contain the strictly private school. This closed in 1953, and the whole building became a church once more, with the then priest, Father Francis Whiteside, buying the land for a new school, and setting up the first parish hall.
The Sacristy was destroyed by fire on the 31st of December 1953. The sanctuary was re-formed in the 1970s, and a new porch added in the early 1980s.
The parish hall was opened in 1974, by Mr McCrystal. It was second-hand wooden building that was replaced by today's brick building in 2004.

Henry Alty of Hesketh Bank, commissioned the building of a steam ship to carry his freshly-made bricks into the Fylde. It was built by the Lytham Shipbuilding and Engineering Company, was 62 feet in length, had a 12-horse power condensing steam engine, and was launched on the 31st July 1899.
The Kirkham and Fylde Express newspaper was first published.
There is a record of a new porch being built at the Higher Slip Inn on Preston Road in Inskip.

The Chequered Flag, Nateby: The Cathouse Inn was situated on Parkside Lane this year, directly behind where the Chequered Flag was later built. That *"ancient"* inn was demolished in 1899, re-opening in a new form in late-1901. It closed in 1929, when the Garstang by-pass was built nearby.

The "Excel" pub was built in 1930, facing onto the new Garstang by-pass, brewers Catterall and Swarbrick, who named it after their most famous beer. The pub was designed by Halstead Beast, and it was listed in the Guinness Book of Records as the pub with the shortest name. Its title, on opening, was "The Excel", but was soon shortened to match C&S's XL ale – or perhaps simply to get it into the World Records.

The XL was later bought by Bass breweries, who renamed it the Chequered Flag, and it soon became known fondly as simply "the Flag".

That building was re-modelled in 1989, and closed in 2008, but on the 4th of July 2011, it was opened as The Bellflower Hotel by Marston's brewery.

A proposal was made, to link Lytham and Preston to Southport by tram. The Southport and Lytham Tramway would link Lytham to Southport, by means of a new traversing bridge across the River Ribble at East Beach in Lytham, and then Preston to Southport by a tramway pier between Freckleton and Hesketh Bank. The tramway would also be extended on land from Lytham to Preston, via Warton and Freckleton. Nothing materialised of it.

Note: Douglas on the Isle of Man opened a Tower to compete with Blackpool.
It was another of the Warwick revolving design.
The towerburnt down on the 28th of August 1900. .

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Chapter 10: 20th century

Great and rapid expansion continued, despite the unwelcome intervention of two World Wars. The Corporation took more and more control of matters around town, but private enterprise still flourished. At the turn of the century, Blackpool Corporation saw the potential for the expansion of the population and bought or leased large tracts of land for the building of houses. Thousands were built – particularly in the 1930s - both by the Corporation and by many private landowners and developers. In Marton alone, 1,000 houses were built in 1933. This was more than at any other time in the town's history.
Many Lancashire, Yorkshire, and Staffordshire businesses opened *"company houses"* in town – these were guesthouses reserved for their own employees for example, on Albert Road in 1906, were Baldwin's *"Miles Platting House"* and Fred Armitage's house *"From Lees and Oldham"*.

The population of the Fylde itself grew much more than in previous centuries, due to the overspill from the coastal resorts. Their workers needed somewhere to live, and the Fylde countryside villages provided those places.

In 1919, Thomas Luke celebrated Blackpool as *"one of the wonders of the world"*, and in 1934 JB Priestley proclaimed it *"the great roaring spangled beast"*.

The 1930s in particular are generally considered Blackpool's heyday. Hundreds of *"Dance Trains"* came to town from East Lancashire. Entertainment was King, and the boundaries of public decency were continually pushed – everything was available in Blackpool. The popularity of the town's many attractions however, continued throughout the war years and into the 1960s, when the "**Golden Mile**" hit its peak.

When, in 1938, the Holidays with Pay Act became law, all workers received at least one week's paid holiday a year. By the time the legislation came into force, many trade unions had negotiated private deals with employers for annual holidays. More workers could take unpaid leave, and visitor numbers soared.

The number of visitors arriving by rail increased enormously – Manchester's Victoria station even had its own "Blackpool" platform in 1947. However, after World War 2, there was a shift away from rail transport to use of the roads – the number of char-à-banc, or *"sharra"*, trips also increased. Investment in road and car park building, and the creation of better, direct links to the east was substantial, allowing the town to continue to offer itself to day-trippers as well as the traditional holidaymakers. The number of children claiming to be the first to see the Tower rocketed!

Unfortunately, the 1960s also brought with them cheap foreign package holidays, when foreign sunshine resorts such as Benidorm began to compete, and the town had to learn to adapt accordingly. This change was also affected by the increased use of cars to bring visitors to town. As cars had become more affordable, people were no longer restricted as to when they could travel, and so they came more often – albeit possibly for shorter visits.

The M62 Motorway was built between Liverpool and Hull, via Manchester and Leeds, between 1971 and 1976. This made it even easier and quicker for visitors from the east of the country to visit Blackpool. However, the opening of the M55 Motorway not only reduced congestion on the "A" roads but made it easier for those day trippers to go home, instead of using the town's hotels and guest houses – another nail in Blackpool's coffin.

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Cheap package holidays to warmer climes sucked away many families in the 1980s, and big northern cities such as Leeds and Newcastle cornered the *"weekend-break"* market in the 1990s.

An added competitor for Blackpool's holiday trade was the Holiday Camp. The likes of Billy Butlin and Fred Pontin opened their camps from the late 1950s, offering a complete holiday for one up-front price. However, entertainment was King, and Music was Queen. Every group and performer worth seeing appeared at one of Blackpool's many theatres and clubs, both when they were starting out, and when they returned after becoming famous. From Caruso to Sinatra to Robbie Williams, and from the Beatles to Queen, to Slash, the list is endless and impossible to complete; I have mentioned just a few highlights in the following pages.

Blackpool has always been a popular place for gay people, both illicitly at first, and now openly. The 1970s saw a relaxation of the law governing such lifestyles, and as a result, the gay community began to grow, and feel more at ease in our town. More and more "gay-friendly" places of entertainment opened, and then there was a failed, and illegal, attempt to open "gay-only" venues. The "Pink Pound" became a vital source of income for several decades, until a slight movement away from such openness began in the 2010s. This is now taking place in order to attract more "straight" customers into failing venues.

1900s

Sweeten's, Blackpool: Frank Sweeten started, as a toy seller, at The Imperial Arcade, 38 Bank Hey Street and a smaller lock-up shop in the Palace Buildings in the early 1900s. His first venture was with partner Thomas Donnelly, with whom he set up the Continental Bazaar in Bank Hey Street. The pair sold books, music, jewellery, and fancy goods, before Frank bought out Tom in 1910 and dissolved the partnership. He then set up the company of F Sweeten Limited.
His chain of renowned bookshops was launched in Keswick in March 1932, before later opening shops at 63 Victoria Street in 1963 (the building is currently occupied by Claire's Accessories), as well as an outlet on Topping Street. Shops in Blackburn, Preston, and Bolton (in 1980) followed.
As well as books, they continued to sell a small, but select, range of toys. One of their best-selling ranges was Tower Aircraft kits. Tower produced a 28-page catalogue, boasting that they made *"The biggest range of English models"*. The models were actually designed and made by other manufacturers around the world, and merely re-branded as Tower by Sweetens. They were made variously of rubber, balsa, and other materials.
Although it had not been in the Sweeten family' control since 1995, their company, Sweeten's Bookshops Ltd was finally dissolved in 2001.

George Street Fisheries opened about now, at 52 George Street. For many years, it was Blackpool's oldest trading "chippy", and was a simple one-roomed take-away with living accommodation. The business ceased trading in February 2016.

1900

The Boer War: In January, the Mayor gave permission for 10 horses to be billeted in Corporation stables *"for a fortnight prior to the Yeomanry proceeding to the seat of the Transvaal War"*. The 23rd (Duke of Lancaster's Own) Company of the Imperial Yeomanry was formed in Chorlton but moved straight away to Blackpool for training and kitting out prior to embarkation for the Boer War in South Africa on the 11th of February. All Blackpool's attractions allowed the men free entry during their stay. *"The Gazette reported: …training in science of musketry, the art of riding and the wiles of associated with mounted infantry. …. The sands at South Shore have been occupied by khaki clad horsemen galloping, curvetting and*

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manoeuvring in picturesque, yet methodical evolutions. Their operations have been keenly watched by crowds of pedestrians…'.

The Boer War ended on the 31st of May 1902, and a Roll of Honour for the Blackpool Volunteers was erected inside the Town Hall, in the form of a marble wall plaque. Blackpool issued its own medals to those locals who returned from the war.

The road from Blackpool to Preston was declared a Main Road, being officially opened on the 19th of November 1906.
The Metropole Arcades opened on the 5th of June, on the corner of Springfield Road and the Promenade. They were called the "Swiss Village" and later had a Miniature Scenic Railway.
The tram tracks were extended and twinned up to the Gynn, and the first of the famous Dreadnought trams was delivered. These double-decker beasts were open-topped and lasted for just over 34 years.

South Shore Baptist Church: South Shore Baptist chapel opened on the 2nd of July.
In 1909, the foundation stone for a new, permanent church was laid at the corner of Station Road and Bond Street. Made of stone, in the Gothic style, it was opened on the 13th of May 1913. The cost of building and site was £8,500, and it could seat 738 worshippers.
In 1912, there was still a Strict Baptist Lay Ministry on Waterloo Avenue nearby. Waterloo Avenue is now named Barton Avenue.
On the 3rd of June 1934, a service from the church was relayed for broadcasting on BBC radio.
In 1984, the church joined with Whitegate Drive Baptist Church, after their building began to suffer from subsidence and had to be demolished.

The Number 1 Club, Blackpool: South Shore District Club was opened on Water Street on the 2nd of June. After a brief sojourn on Station Road, it moved specially-built new premises at 74 Bloomfield Road as the Number 1 Club in the 1960s. It was now right next door to the Bloomfield Road Football Stadium.

In 2010, the Number 1 Club was bought out by the Paris Casino and obliged to merge with the Central Bowling Club at 9 to 17 Bloomfield Road. The merged club opened there on the 26th of January 2010. The premises closed in early 2017.

The former Number 1 building at number 74 was converted into a new Paris Casino, which opened on to customers on the 30th of December 2011, owned by John Rees, Pierre Coulon, and Peter Farran. The Paris Casino had a grand opening on the 10th of February 2012. It had moved from the Grand Buildings on Station Road after the fire of 2009. Liverpool-based State Casino took over the premises in January 2014, and refurbished the bar area, opened an 80-cover restaurant, rearranged the gaming area, and renamed it the Sam Tai Casino. This, too, closed on the 2nd of May 2015.

The sale brochure describes the building as: *"three floors and has previously been used as a casino. As such there is a ground floor entrance, office, cellar, and store. Lift and stairs provide access to the first floor where the main casino was operated. Kitchen, restaurant, and the main bar are also located at this level. Male and female changing rooms are located on the mid-first floor level, with a staff room, offices and WCs located to the second floor. There are two, external, covered smoking areas provided, one to the first floor for casino guests and one to the second floor for staff. Externally there are approximately 35 car parking spaces".*

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Blackpool Pupil Teachers' Centre was opened on the 3rd of September.
A Veno's Sampling Kiosk was opened at 100 Church Street, to sell Veno's Seaweed Tonic.
Pepper Hill cottage, opposite the Number 4 Hotel was demolished. Its cobbled wall remains.
Church Lane at Marton was widened between the Saddle Inn and the Oxford Hotel, and the crown of the hill was removed from outside the church (from the 19th of November) to allow the proposed tramway to be laid.
A row of shops and houses called Oxford Place was built at the corner of Waterloo Road. The corner shop later became a newspaper shop (Sumner's) and is now a shop, selling second hand equipment for babies.
Marton Church Council was formed.
A block of houses including a corner shop was built at 110 Marton Drive
John "Scrap" Boardman built a row of nine terraced houses on Hawes Side Lane. The last house held a baker and confectioner's shop.
Rossall Farm was on the eastern side of Hawes Side lane, opposite Eaves Farm (site of the Highfield). Its site is now filled by a row of shops containing Cowen's convenience shop and Simon's Plaice, a fish and chip shop.
Little Marton Smithy and Wheelwright's shop were on the corner of the old Preston road, and the local stray animal pound was behind it.

Louis Tussaud's Waxworks, Blackpool: Louis Tussaud, the great grandson of Madame Tussaud, moved to Blackpool from London. He set up his own, unique waxworks in July, and opened the attraction in the basement of the Hippodrome, which had just opened in the Empire Theatre building.

He soon moved into the Brunswick Café on South Beach, and in 1901, he bought Walker's Waxworks on Wellington Terrace, next door to the Brunswick. He then moved his own waxworks exhibition there; this was just north of what is now the Oasis amusement centre. Tussaud's has had a Chamber of Horrors since it opened – unlike Madame Tussaud's.
In 1907, Albert Lindsay Parkinson bought the waxworks, which continued there, as Louis Tussaud (Blackpool) Limited until 1928.

On the 18th of May 1929, the new Louis Tussaud's Waxworks opened at 87-89 the Promenade on the Golden Mile, next door to the Huntsman Hotel. Lindsay Parkinson had built the premises especially for the purpose, and the building originally had an Egyptian-style glazed façade by Shaw's of Darwen. This was removed in 1974, when the building was extended over the forecourt. The link with the Tussaud family was briefly re-established at this time, when Bernard Tussaud became the company's sculptor for several months, during which time he created many new figures.

1986 saw Tussaud's pay £15,000 for a replica set of the Crown Jewels.

The waxworks were badly damaged in a large local fire in 2002, but was quickly restored, and in 2006, a "Mirror Maze" was opened inside the exhibition building. It was created by Adrian Fisher, and had been designed after a Victorian Pier and other traditional British seaside attractions. In the maze is a history of Punch and Judy Shows, a family posing panel based on a saucy postcard, distorting mirrors, and an old-fashioned bathing tent. The waxworks (which had been temporarily owned by Leisure Parcs) was bought out by Blackpool Council in 2010, and the attraction closed in the November. Control then passed to the management of the Merlin Entertainment Group, and the attraction reopened as Madame Tussaud's Waxworks on the 21st of April 2011.

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Outside the Waxworks, a stone water trough for use by the landau horses was bequeathed by Mrs Braybrook in 1909 – it remains today, together with another on Simpson Street, which is dated 1895.
In January 2020, the Council announced that unused space in the waxworks building will be transformed into a *"new television-themed attraction which would be aimed at pre-school children"* which will open in May 2020.

Samuel Franklin Cody's Wild West Show played the Hippodrome on the 29th of September.
The "Savage South Africa" show arrived at Talbot Road Railway Station on the 22nd of July, to parade through the town to the Raikes. 150 wild animals, together with soldiers, artillery, and "savages" were included. It ran until the 15th of September. Unfortunately, on the 21st of August, there was a pitched battle in town between the Negroes from the show and local white men.
J W Thornley operated his painters and paperhangers from Church Street, and just around the corner, in Elizabeth Street was a fish and chip shop. Gornall's Laundry was to the rear.
The British Transport Police started a force at Talbot Road Station from now until 1909.
In June, the Blackpool and Garstang Light Railway was authorised to build a 13 ½-mile track from the Gynn via Singleton to Garstang, but the funds could not be raised.
Williams Deacon and Manchester and Salford Bank Ltd opened on the eastern corner of Talbot Road and Back Albert Terrace on the 7th of September. It had been built on the site of Rowley's tobacco store. It was substantially rebuilt in 1927 and is now the Royal Bank of Scotland. Williams Deacon's later had branches at 137 Church Street, 23 Dickson Road, Adelaide Place, 266 Dickson Road, 87 Bond Street, Bispham and at Cleveleys. In 1901, the William Deacon and Manchester and Salford Bank became simply Williams Deacon's Bank, and in 1929, the Royal Bank. This in turn became Williams and Glyn's Bank in 1970, and subsequently, in 1985, the Royal Bank of Scotland.
The "Popular Fent shop" opened at 32 Abingdon Street, with Mr Straw selling cloth remnants. By 1913 the name had changed to the People's Fent Market.
The Blackpool Limited Café and Restaurant opened in Station Road, South Shore on the 5th of June.
Eddison's Photographic Studios were at 14 Manchester Terrace.
EA and MA Smith established their baker's shops at 21, 23, and 279 Lytham Road.
Photographer Fred Ash had studios at 41A Church Street, South Beach, and Regent Square.
Valex (Blackpool) Limited, photographers, was started by John Vale in January. The company later became famous for posed publicity photographs of cinema and music stars. Similar local businesses from the 1940s, were Brel, Top Star, and Star Pics (later of Starpic studios).
Stoneleigh was constructed on the corner of London Road and Newton Drive.
Pleasant View terrace was built on School Road.
A sub-Post Office was opened in the Metropole Buildings on the 9th of July.
The YWCA (Young Women's Christian Association) Holiday Home and Institute was opened in Kendall Lodge at 123/125 Church Street, South Shore on the 22nd of June.
Pedders Lane Post Office was built at number 45.
Beaumont and Parkinson began as a firm of plumbers, initially at Abingdon Street and subsequently in Edward Street and, by 1929, in Elizabeth Street.
Walter Ayre opened his furniture and ironmongery shop at 115/117 Warbreck Road, later opening a second at 1a Imperial Street.
The Cornbrook Brewery of Manchester ran an off-licence at number 10 Adelaide Street.
The Brincliffe Hotel was built on Queen's Promenade.
Bispham Boys Brigade was formed on the 25th of September. It closed later, but was reformed in 1970, only to close again in January 2012. The brigade met at All Hallow's Church.
The council took over the running of the school on East Warbreck Street.

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Lancashire's first Olympic gold medallist: was Blackpool Harrier Alfred Tysoe. The world number one won the 800 metres Gold Medal at the Paris Olympics in June.
Born in Padiham (not Skerton, as stated elsewhere), he lived in Keswick Road, trained at the Raikes Athletic track, died of pleurisy on the 26th of October 1901 at his parent's home in Watson's Lane, and is buried in Layton Cemetery.

James Finnigan of Manchester invented the "Military Two Step" dance at the Empress Ballroom.

The Tiller Girls: John Tiller and his wife Mary Carr founded the famous Tiller Girls for a show at the Pavilion Theatre. The troupe was an expanded version of his original "Four Sunbeams" which he set up in 1885, and he had taught them the famous high kicks which he had seen at the Follies Bergére in Paris.
Tiller was NOT born in Blackpool, as reported elsewhere, but in Blackburn on the 13th of June 1854. He did however, later move his mother to Blackpool to live.

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Poulton-le-Fylde Urban District Council was formed. From 1921, it used the converted Bay Horse Hotel (briefly called the Greyhound) in Church Street as its Town Hall, and the first council meeting was held there on the 20th of March 1922. The council bought the building in 1927 and used it until 1974. From 1987, the building once more became a public house and was named the Old Town Hall.
On the 3rd of November 1950, the council was granted its own coat of arms:

ARMS: Azure on Water barry wavy proper a Lymphad sail furled Or flags Argent charged with a Cross Gules on a Chief of the second a Rose of the fourth barbed and seeded proper between to Crosses formy also of the fourth.

CREST: On a Wreath of the Colours a representation of Poulton-le-Fylde Market Cross and Stocks proper.

MOTTO: "*Sub cruce floreamus*", meaning "May we flourish beneath the cross".

The council was subsumed into Wyre Borough Council in April 1974.

Potts Alley or Potts Entry in Poulton was renamed Chapel Street Court; it was the site of the Parkinson's corn mill. A report in 1848, had described Potts Alley as *having "pigstyes, rats, and a common privy in an indescribable state"*. The alley was allegedly so named due to the habit of some early residents emptying their chamber pots out of their windows. It is now lined with small shops and cafés and is called Chapel Walks.

Windy Harbour: Horse drawn char-à-bancs left regularly from Blackpool for a two-hour trip, enjoying the unique country atmosphere, and taking high tea at the quaint Windy Harbour Farmhouse. Wagonettes also set off from Tyler's boot shop in Talbot Square for these countryside trips to the quiet location.

Windy Harbour Caravan Park was established there in 1950, soon buying its own coach, in which to transport guests. The Windy Harbour Yacht Club had their headquarters in the main farm/office building. Then called the Windy Harbour Caravan and Holiday Centre, the business was bought by Partington's in 1954, and they opened a clubhouse in the old farmhouse in 1956. Now known as the Windy Harbour Holiday Park, the complex advertises a *"fully licensed club with separate family room, indoor heated swimming pool with spa bath, children's fun club and teenage Action Zone, course fishing, extensive playground, supermarket, hairdressing salon, amusement arcade, café, and fish and chip shop"*.

Thornton-Cleveleys Urban District Council was formed. As recently as the 1880s, Cleveleys had been known as Lower Thornton. Thornton Council Offices opened for use on Fleetwood Road the 7th of January
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1904, moving from a bungalow in Rossendale Avenue, which is now the Ashley Conservative Club. The offices were officially opened in May 1905.

On the 24th of October 1950, the council was granted its own coat of arms:

ARMS: Vert a representation of the Thornton Marsh Mill proper on a Chief Or issuant from a Barrulet wavy per fesse wavy Azure and Argent a Sun rising Gules.

CREST: On a Mount Vert issuant from a Coronet composed of four Roses Gules barbed and seeded proper set upon a Rim Or a Wolf reguardant Argent supporting with the dexter forepaw a Flagstaff also proper flying therefrom a Banner Azure charged with a Saltire also Argent.

MOTTO: "*Terra Marique*", meaning "On land and sea".

The council was subsumed into Wyre Borough Council in April 1974.

The Gardeners Arms, Thornton: was built by James Blackhurst beside the original inn on Fleetwood Road North. Its construction was sponsored by Lancashire Breweries Ltd.
The new pub was built to replace a previous brewhouse, which had been owned variously by Jeanette Bailey, Alice Green, Alice Whiteside, Seth Bond, Annie Bond, and Jane Barnes. The Gazette described it at the time as *"one of the handsomest hotels in one of the prettiest districts in the Fylde"*.
The Gardeners Arms is now owned by the Sizzling Pubs arm of the Mitchell and Butler brewery chain.

Opposite the pub is a terrace of cottages known locally as *"Tay Pot Row"* after the habit of the residents of constantly having large pots of tea on the go.

Royal Buildings were built on the corner of Alexandra Road and Victoria Road East in Thornton centre. In 2015, the shop complex was home to Costello's Sandwich Bar, Thornton Village Bargains, M Nelder, optometrist – incorporating Scrivens hearing care – (Nelder's opened on the 9th of August 2011, being dissolved on the 6th of February 2018). Mr D gents' hairdresser, Albatross bar, The Carpet Store, DMA Accountants, and Maple Leaf Letting Centre.
Cleveleys' first steamroller was unveiled on the 7th of April. It was named Victoria and was driven by Jack Rawcliffe.
Fleetwood Estates was formed, to buy 1,000 acres of land from Thornton Gate to Fleetwood.
Crystal Terrace was built on Byron Street in Fleetwood.
Fleetwood YMCA was officially formed on the 26th of November. In 2003, they took over the Robertson Engineer's building on London Street and transformed it into the Lofthouse Building and Fielden House. Y-Tots childcare opened there on the 24th of May 2004.
The Fleetwood Steam Pleasure Boat Company was formed, running several boats, such as the "Pioneer", the "Cleveleys", and the "Lune" on day trips out of Fleetwood. Pioneer's first trip was from a landing stage on the beach to a specially-built wooden pier at the Wardleys Hotel. The venture ended in 1905.

St Anne's Public Hall and Assembly Rooms: These were designed by John Harker and were opened on the 14th of March on the corner of Garden Street and St George's Road. The intention was to build a cinema known as the Princess Picture House, but the decision was made to include a public meeting hall as well. It was built for the St Anne's Public Hall Company at a cost of £11,000, and had a seating capacity of 800, with a stage and dressing rooms. It was fully licensed for dramatic and musical events.

In 1908, Thomas Bannister bought the building and leased it to Fred Carlton, who opened it as the Public Hall Picturedrome – the *"most cosy and comfortable picture theatre in Lancashire"* in 1910 (the Palace

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Cinema from 1913), in another attempt to lure cinemagoers from Blackpool. In 1922, the building was bought again, and after re-fitting, was reopened as the Palace Cinema and Cafés in 1924. It had seating capacity for 1,050 people, cafés, shops, and a Masonic Hall on the ground floor. The integral restaurant had seating for 450 and a concert hall with accommodation for 600 on the first floor.

In 1925, the building was sold to the Blackpool Tower Company for £40,000. They continued to run the cinema until 1959, when the building was sold to Lytham St Anne's Masons. They converted the first floor into a Masonic suite, and still use it as such by Masonic Quadrant Lodge 8044 – the main room has a vintage pipe organ which came from "Fairlawn" at Ansdell in 1975. It is now known as the St Anne's Palace Masonic Hall, and the ground floor (the former St Anne's Market) is now an antiques emporium.

On the 7th of February 2015, Anne Nolan together with David Winder, the Assistant Provincial Grand Master of West Lancashire, officially opened the new Community Hub of Lytham St Anne's.

St Anne's Church Institute: The working men of St Anne's were provided with a meeting room above the Blackpool Industrial Co-op store on St Albans Road this year. They soon purchased a large three-storey house around the corner on Church Road, and on the 1st of October 1903, they opened it as their Church Institute. It had a large meeting room, a billiard hall, and a few smaller meeting rooms. This building is now the MICA DIY shop.

St Anne's on Sea Amateur Operatic and Dramatic Society was formed, performing at the new Public Hall. Their first show was Box and Cox by Gilbert and Sullivan. They then moved to a tiny theatre in the old Majestic Hotel, and shortly afterwards to the Pavilion Theatre at the seaward end of St Anne's pier. Then, in 1978, the company had to move to the Lowther gardens Pavilion, where they have been ever since.

The St Anne's Tennis Club: was formed, using the Hope Street Recreation Ground courts, and later the hard courts in Ashton Gardens.
In 1920, they combined with the North Drive Tennis Club, which had four grass courts among the sand hills, to form the St Anne's-on-Sea Lawn Tennis Club in Avondale Road off Clifton Drive North.
For a few years during the 1920s, the club was called the St Anne's Lawn Tennis and Squash Club.
In 1921, a large sand hill on adjoining land was removed, and three new shale courts were constructed.
The annual Open Tournament was started in 1932. In 1934, the committee spent £1,000 on extending the pavilion, and in May 1935, Alderman W Hope, the Mayor of Lytham St Anne's, officially opened three new grass courts and a stadium.
In 1964, Fred Perry opened the new tennis pavilion, built on the site of Court 1, and in 1968, the squash team was re-formed.

Lytham police station: The town's police station and Magistrates Court on Bannister Street were modernised and extended this year, but it was soon realised that this work was not enough. In 1900, work began on demolishing it and building a new one, to be designed by architect Henry Littler.
The new building was opened on the site of the original one in 1902, with the police station opening in April and the Courts on the 14th of August. The public entrance is actually on North Clifton Street.
The first chairman of the Magistrates' bench was Thomas Fair, the agent for the Clifton Estates.

It is a Grade 2 Listed Building. *"To the rear of the police station, a plain block containing magistrates' courts nos. 1 and 2. Court no. 2 has undergone refurbishment, but Court no. 1 retains good quality Edwardian courtroom C20 fittings, including magistrates entrance with heraldic cartouche to the*

©

pedimented doorcase, magistrates bench, prisoners' dock, fixed benching to the public seating areas, and pedimented doorcases to public entrances".

As Anne Ireland of Lytham reminisces *"Looking back now I realise what a beautiful building it was: the public area where there was a large thick wood counter and a roaring fire in the background, the prison cells near the back of the station that held no home comforts and finally the big back yard that had a petrol pump and where the car drivers had to check the oil every day before taking cars out"*.

A sale brochure in 2008, describes it thus: *"Ground Floor Entrance. Reception. Front Office. Office. Visitors Room. Custody Suite. Detention Room. Suite of 4 cells. Interview Room. Doctors Room. Shower and Toilet. First Floor Court Room with dock. Office x2. Toilet x2.*
Additional 2 Storey Office Space (which will be required to be demolished). EXTERIOR: Car park to the front of the property. Approx. 6,000sq ft of Land with 4 garages to the rear of the property".

The courts closed at the end of 1998, and in February 2006, Lytham police moved into premises at 23 Clifton Street. In September 2012, the front counter was closed, and the station was closed completely in 2014.

The Wignall brothers of Lytham opened their fish shop on Clifton Street. It became known locally as the *"White Shop"*, and in 1936, had just been taken over by CJ Newbrook, who advertised himself as a "*Fish, Game Poultry and Rabbit Salesman*". It is currently a branch of the Co-operative Travel Agency.
The Lytham branch of Manchester grocers T Seymour Meade and Company opened at 78-80 Clifton Street, replacing the Berlin Woolstore, Rowson's painters and decorators, and Marie's florists. Next to them originally was William Cookson's bookshop and library. Seymour Meade's shop later became a Spar outlet and is now a Sainsbury's store. They had a second shop at 14 The Square, St Anne's.
Joseph Moore established his ironmongery shop at 36 Clifton Street in Lytham. That building was replaced by the Lytham Mews shopping arcade.
The Lytham Town Trust was formed.
Henry Alty began his building business on Freckleton Street in Lytham.
Wrea Green pinfold was bought in May to enable the extension of the school – the school hall occupies the space today.

The St George's Hotel, Kirkham: was opened in the town centre. The hotel was built on the site of Johnny Murray's Jerry Shop, and on its car park used to stand the Gun Tavern. Known locally as *"the George"*, it was closed in October 2010, and was demolished in December 2012, to be replaced by 12 apartments known as St George Place. These opened on the 12th of February 2014.

Freckleton Windmill – number 2: A windmill was in use in Freckleton in 1900, as the source of the power for a joiner's shop on Bunker Street. It had sails which were 8 feet long, and was built by William Eccles, who was also the miller at Warton's peg mill.

The Blue Anchor Inn, Greenhalgh: was in business on Fleetwood Road, under James Downham (in 1934 the landlord was Albert Wilson). The Gatward family bought the pub in 2008 to try and turn around the flagging business, but it closed in 2010. The pub was then sold by Thwaites brewery in 2013, and was demolished, to be replaced by 7 houses surrounding a small pond.

©

1901
Queen Victoria died, and a bust of her was unveiled in the Town Hall on the 15th of February.

Marton Tram Depot: and accumulator house was built on "Town End Field" on Whitegate by the Cardwell Brothers, on the north side of Preston Old Road. The field had stood on the opposite side of Preston Old Road to the Saddle for many centuries.
The new depot's imposing frontage boasted the sculpted Municipal Coats of Arms and a flagpole. The front had 10 sets of folding wooden doors, and in front was a cast iron shelter for passengers. The lamp post outside had a 3-faced clock.

The Marton tramway loop was opened on the 23rd of May, connecting Talbot Square and Central Station via Church Street, Devonshire Square, Whitegate Drive, Waterloo Road, and Central Drive. The tracks had to be re-laid after they were found to be too narrow in many places.

In 1902, the depot was doubled in size, but the trams could not yet enter because the track fan needed to be re-laid.
The Marton depot was extended again in 1912. It could now take 48 trams, and the painting of all the town's trams was transferred there in September.

Marton sheds closed to trams on the 3rd of November 1939, and the RAF opened them as the Technical Training Command's northwest home, before giving it to Vickers Armstrong for the manufacture of aircraft wings. In 1944, it was returned to the Council and restored for tram use – the central air raid shelter was retained though.

Marton depot closed in 1963, the last tram leaving on March the 11th – the Marton line had already ceased operation during the previous year.
The depot was sold to Shell Mex and BP, becoming a garage and petrol station, owned by George Wragg and briefly by singer Josef Locke before being acquired by Thomas Motors. The rest of the buildings were finally demolished in the 1990s. A Tesco Express Filling Station stands at the front, while pot stands on the site of the depot and its 1912 extension. The white wall tiles from inside the old depot can still be seen to the right of the car park.

Marton Tram Depot was immortalised by Corgi Models in January 2000, with the release of a cardboard kit (number 44903) in their "Original Omnibus Range" to accompany their range of die cast tram models.

Blundell Street Tram Depot, Blackpool: was completed, having been begun in 1899, to replace the original 1885 building. Blundell Street had been named after one of its first buildings, Blundell's Cottage, and the new depot was constructed on the corner of Blundell Street and Princess Street.
By 1920, the council realised that the depot could never cope with the bodywork that was then needed, so, by 1922, they had built a new, bigger, more capable tram workshop on the other side of Rigby Road.

In 1935, Blundell Street Depot became a storage facility, until, in 1946, part of the depot began to be used as an Ambulance Station. From 1956, the depot was used as a bus garage.

The Blundell Street Tram Depot was closed operationally in 1962, although a new door was constructed at the rear in 1964. The building was demolished from the 4th of November 1982 until the 23rd of January 1983, because its roof had become dangerously unsafe. The site then became a car park.

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The tram rail which was cleared during the demolition of the former depot will be used at the new Fleetwood Tram Museum when that is built.
"During the demolition process an underground room was discovered at the Rigby Road end of the building after a digger fell through the concrete roof, the cellar room contained what appeared to be ammunition. In view of the potential danger a bomb disposal unit was dispatched to the site, and Rigby Road was cordoned off for four hours. It turns out that these were empty First World War shell casings, as part of Blundell Street depot had been used for producing munitions during WWI".

The single-track line from the depot to the main line at Foxhall Square is now the oldest tramway in use in the country.

Parts of the depot were demolished, cleared, and developed as part of the Foxhall Village housing development from 2015 onwards.

A branch of the Amalgamated Association of Tramways, Hackney Carriage Employees, and Horsemen formed Blackpool's first tramways union on the 10th of July.

The Layton Tram Route: the Layton tramway loop opened on the 18th of June, running from Talbot Square, along New Road (Talbot Road) to Layton Cemetery. The Layton route then opened fully on the 13th of June 1902, ending the use of horse-buses. It was primarily for use by the more well-off clients visiting the cemetery and was unique in having first class downstairs and second-class upstairs – mainly the inhabitants of the nearby Queenstown "common lodging house". In October 1936, the route was closed with a final trip by Standard Tram 154. The route was then replaced by the number 22 bus route.

Fifty-two of Blackpool Corporation's tramway men were conned in September by a man who announced that he had been authorised by the British Electric Traction Company to engage a number of men for New Zealand. They each paid 1s 6d and some gave up their jobs before the ruse was discovered.
The Blackpool North Pier Company first operated the "SS Deerhound" pleasure steamer on the 20th of June, and it lasted on the service until 1904.
The first Blackpool Musical Festival was held in the Winter Gardens from the 16th to the 18th of May, later being held at Arnold School. The first prize was the Blackpool Rose bowl.
Blackpool Amateur Operatic Society was formed at Mr W Read's house in South Shore. Their first performance was the Mikado in 1902.
Bousfield and Shackleton had a millinery shop at 54 Church Street.
Troop Sergeant William Butler, of the 17th Lancers, died on the 13th of February in South Shore, and was buried in Layton Cemetery. He was in the Charge of the Light Brigade. Other famous people buried locally are shown in Appendix M.
The last horse-bus ran on Blackpool's streets.
The Corporation Cleansing Department was established.

Blackpool Orphanage: The Blackpool Girls' Rescue Home was opened at number 5 Clifton Bank, New Road (now Talbot Road) on the 27th of January, funded by an 1894 legacy from Sarah Massey. After some confusion over its name's similarity to another home on Whitegate Drive, it changed its name to Clifton Bank Orphanage on the 12th of May 1915. It then became the Orphanage of St John the Evangelist during 1950s, before renaming as the Blackpool Orphanage in about 1958.

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The orphanage moved to the purpose- built Swallowdale Children's Home at 167 Hornby Road in 1960. It had been named after Miss E Swallow, the first matron if the original home, and was retitled, as the Swallowdale Controlled Community Children's Home, when it was registered as a charity in 1978.

In 1980, the Swallowdale Children's Trust was formed, to help disadvantaged young people in Blackpool and the Fylde to overcome their social and financial difficulties. After being taken over by Blackpool Corporation on the 1st of April 1998, it was officially opened on the 6th of July 2000, as a respite home for a small number of children.

The Waterloo Hotel, Blackpool: was built on an unused plot of land at the junction of Cow Gap Lane (now Waterloo Road) and Central Drive. The local community was nicknamed *"Rothwelltown"*.
The pub was built at 166 Waterloo Road for brewers Magee, Marshall and Co Limited, and etched glass panels in windows survive today, showing their name. It is a large, commanding, red brick building, whose first floor is done in a mock-Tudor style. There is an open, large, central drinking area, and one central bar. The hotel was built initially with a separate stable block to the West and with a full-sized bowling green to the North, which is still overlooked by large windows in the pub. In 1907, Robert Selkirk, the then landlord, devised its annual crown green bowling competition:

The Waterloo Handicap: The Waterloo Handicap Bowling Tournament was first held on the 3rd of May 1907. James Rothwell finally beat Tom Richardson 21-17 and won the first prize of £50.
In 1961, a new North Stand was opened, and in 1984, the new Greenhall Whitley West Stand was constructed, as was new East Stand to replace the glass enclosure. The famous Tea Bar remained until it was replaced by a bowls shop in 1992.

From 1966, the BBC began to film their BBC Masters competition from there, until 1970. After a two-year gap, this began again in 1972, as the Crown Green Masters. From 1973 until 1979, a new BBC series, called Top Crown began to be broadcast from the Waterloo. In 1976 and a few years afterwards, the BBC also filmed the Waterloo Handicap final, won by local man Keith Illingworth. The BBC tried their Top Crown recipe again in 1980, with the BBC Top Pairs, and in 1983, the Embassy Champion of Champions event was also televised. In 1994, Granada TV started filming the Bass Masters from there.
From 1995 until 1997, Sky Television screened the final, filming it again in most following years.
Television returned in 2015 for ITV4 to film both men's and (for the first time) women's finals. In 2016, ITV4 again cover the finals of the Co-Op Funeral Care Waterloo on the 20th and 21st of September. BT Sport then screen the final event of the Waterloo season, the Flowfit Champion of Champions tournament on the 24th of September.

In September 2006, the leaseholder of both the hotel and the bowling stadium, London and Edinburgh Inns, went into administration. The new hotel owner John Horne, and Waterloo Bowling Club's bowls manager, Jim Parker, took over the stadium. However, in April 2019, current bowls manager Jim Auden was told that £30,000 was needed by July 2019 to keep the venue open for the future. The east stand was demolished in 2018, for safety reasons.

On the Waterloo Hotel and Bowling Club Blackpool Ltd was formed, to run both venues. It was dissolved on the 5th of April 2016. The hotel had closed at the end of November 2012, and had its licence revoked on the 4th of February 2013. It was reopened on the 4th of June 2013. It is unusual in still being a "Free House".

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On the 18th of April 2019, owner Ian Fletcher formed a new company, the Waterloo Music Bar Ltd. The pub had hosted many rock music acts in the previous 18 months, to revive its fortunes. At the time of writing, the venue was attracting famous acts from all over the world.

The Lancashire and Yorkshire Bank opened a branch on Lytham Road on the 17th of May.
The Hotel, now known as the Golden Thistle, was built on Dickson Road.
Railings were installed along the edge of the Middle Walk.

Saint Walburga: Lonely Lane was renamed St Walburga's Road this year, by the Reverend Mother of St Mary's School at Layton Hill Convent, at the request of Blackpool Council.
Walpurga was born in around 710, in Devon, into a local aristocratic family, being the daughter of St Richard the Pilgrim. She died in about 778, and was buried in Heidenheim in Germany, but in 870 her bones were transferred to Eichstätt, where they were placed in a rocky niche. This allegedly began to exude a miraculous therapeutic oil, which drew thousands of pilgrims to her shrine. She was then canonised Saint Walburga on the 1st of May 870.
Walpurgis Nacht is the 30th of April, and is celebrated in continental folklore with dancing, and is first mentioned in 1603, as the date of the annual meeting of witches and sorcerers.

What is now Blackpool's oldest post box was erected at the corner of Gynn Avenue and Dickson Road. It is marked "VR" and was made by A Handyside and Company Limited. The first pillar boxes were erected in Blackpool and Preston in 1856.
Bousfield and Shackleton, milliners, were at 54 Church Street – currently a New Look store.
George Vernon opened his bookshop at 5 Regent Street.
The Misses Crowe had a ladies' wear shop in Tower Buildings, specialising in both evening wear and mob caps.
JR Shaw of 55 Palatine Road was the sole Blackpool agent for Pure Delpht Yeast, used by bakers and confectioners.
C Firth set up his forge on John Hill Street in Marton.
The Alhambra (Blackpool) Shield cricket competition was devised at the Railway Hotel on November the 4th. It started in 1902, and later became the Palace (Blackpool) Shield of today.
William Lyons was born on the 4th of September. He went on to found Swallow Sidecars with William Walmseley. His father, an Irish musician owned a successful music store at 26 Oxford Road, Blackpool, where William was born. William attended Poulton-le-Fylde grammar School and later went to Arnold School. He got a job at Crossley's Motors, designing chassis for army vehicles.
June Tripp was born in Blackpool on the 11th of June. She became a famous actress, appearing in the Alfred Hitchcock film The Lodger.

Frank Randle: Arthur Hughes was born in Wigan; "*the illegitimate son of Rhoda Hughes, a domestic servant. Initially educated at St George's School in Wigan, he later travelled to Blackpool to re-join his natural mother who was now married to a former soldier, Arthur McEvoy, whose name he took. After spells as a waiter, bottle-washer, and tram conductor, he took to the stage, joining an acrobatic troupe and renaming himself Arthur Twist. While with another group, The Bouncing Randles, he settled on the name he was to employ for the rest of his career, Frank Randle*".

Frank Randle moved to Blackpool at the age of six, and with his mother and stepfather in their home at 16 Heald Street and attended Devonshire Road School.

At first, he earned a crust performing Charlie Chaplin impressions on the beach, but he trained in Harold Gregory's Rigby Road Gymnasium. There, he met brothers, Harry and Fred Roy, and they put together an act where the brothers did gymnastics and Randle supplied the slapstick. They called themselves "The Roy Brothers and Mac", and their first job was at the King's Lancashire Military Convalescent Hospital, at Squires Gate. It was unpaid.
In 1922, Frank made his first, paid public appearance after having joined "The Three Ernestos" acrobatic troupe at the Tower.

He married his wife May, known as Queenie, in 1924, and they continued to live at 16 Heald Street. Then, as he became more famous, the Randles moved to a slightly larger terraced house at 38 Ellesmere Road, where they lived for several years.
Frank appeared many times in Blackpool with his "Randle's Scandals" show, having been banned several times for his risqué material.

In 1935, they moved to 14 Heald Street, where they remained for three years before moving to 32 Forest Gate. After that they moved to 50 Grenfell Ave – then "Westwood" at number 209 Whitegate Drive – then to "Craig Royston" on Lytham Road. Whilst living there, he famously moored his yacht "Namouna" at the end of South Pier.

Randle was in regular conflict with the Authorities, and on one occasion, he hired an aeroplane, and bombarded the Town Hall and Tower with toilet rolls! He was declared unfit to serve in the Army in World War 2, so he joined the Blackpool Home Guard.
The couple finally moved to 94 Bispham Road, but after collapsing at the Queen's Theatre in November 1956, he contracted Tuberculosis, and spent many months in Devonshire road Sanatorium. He died on the 7th of July 1957 and is buried in Carleton Cemetery.

Dame Nellie Melba starred at the Winter Gardens on the 1st of September, as did Lily Langtree.
The Census this year shows 47,348 people living in Blackpool.

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The Poulton-le-Fylde Club was formed, using premises on Tithebarn Street before moving to a purpose-built clubhouse in 1909, on Elletson Street.
Rossall Beach estate was laid out by T G Lumb, who built Beach Croft there for his own home – moving from the Towers hunting lodge on Holmefield Avenue (bought by the Horrocks family in 1867). The Towers later became Highfield College, then Thornton Villa, and was demolished around 1970.
Pomfret and Livesey were operating the Fylde Furnishing Stores from 31 Church Street in Fleetwood, and the Cash Drapery Stores from 34 Church Street.
Thomas Threlfall's Temperance Hotel opened on Dock Street in Fleetwood.

The Ship Inn, Fleetwood: at 24 to 26 Warren Street - a four-storey building - was rebuilt by Thomas Drummond.
On the first floor of the building next door for many years was the Fishermen's Club.
The inn's stables block and cobbled courtyard, built in the late 19th century, survive today.
The pub was closed in 2009, to be converted into flats in 2011, owned by the Fleetwood Nautical College as student accommodation. The 4-storey building is now called the "SHIP Halls of Residence", and its apartments are called cabins. The accommodation boasts: *"12 Bed Spaces with TV points per room, Free WIFI throughout, 7 Shower Rooms, Bathrooms and WCs, Laundry area- 2 Washing Machines and 2 Dryers.*
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Modern fitted communal kitchen area and diner, Modern lounge with 50" TV, Central Heating and Fully Double Glazed, Coded locks on all doors, Plus a private courtyard".

Alexandra Terrace was built on Elm Street in Fleetwood.
Stansfield Terrace was erected on Radcliffe Road in Fleetwood.
Silverdale terrace was built on Milton Street in Fleetwood, with Springfield Terrace following in 1903.

JR Taylor, St Anne's: Century Buildings opened at the corner of number 4 Garden Street and the Square. The shops included the chemist's shop of JH Taylor of St Anne's - founded by Joe Taylor, who came to St Anne's and took over the St Anne's Pharmacy from William Hargreaves in 1889 – and JH Taylor's (James) fashion store – soon to become JR Taylor Limited - next door. Other shops in the block were TW Tipping, a tailor's shop, and a confectionery shop called the Bon Bon.
By 1908, Taylor had taken over two adjacent shops (6, 8), and then another (10) in 1917, modernising the whole store in 1924.
By 1961, by then covering numbers 4 to 12, the store employed over 100 people and covered 3 floors plus a lower-ground. By the mid-1980s, they also had a shop at 118 Abingdon Street in Blackpool. JR's then remained the area's most "upmarket" store until going into administration in November 2014.
The town's oldest store closed on the 16th of January 2015. Owned by Richard Berry, it finally went on the market in April 2019, after a lengthy legal battle.

The sale notice lists: *"5 no. floors to include retail space to the basement, ground, first and second floors. - Third floor provides office and ancillary space - End of terrace property. Passenger Lift 1: connects the Basement, Ground, First and Second floors - Passenger Lift 2: connects the Ground, First and Second floors only. - Rear loading door to the ground floor. - Additional rear pedestrian access door with stairs connecting the Ground, First, Second and Third floors"*.

The Manchester and Salford Bank opened at 26 St Anne's Road West. This became the RBS in 2007. The building shows the carved motto "*Respice et Prospice*" above the door, meaning "Remember the Past and Look to the Future".

St Anne's Police Station: was built at the junction of St George's Road and St Andrew's Road North, having been designed by Henry Littler, the first County Architect.
The first village constable, in around 1870, had been J Davis, who had been housed at Heyhouses.
The new County police station had replaced the original small station at 10 Park Road, which was soon taken over by Whiteside's Taxis. The building still has the original cells intact.
The station's public front desk was closed on the 29th of March 2018, although officers are still based there.

St Anne's Old Links Golf Club: this was founded on the 24th of June. The course was then laid out by George Lowe and James (Sandy) Herd, on land which had been the home of the Lytham St Anne's Golf Club from 1886. That club had relocated to their present site (Royal Lytham St Anne's) in 1897, and the more local townsfolk could not afford the new fees.
The new golf links were opened for use on the 5th of May 1903. The word "links" is derived from the Anglo-Saxon word *"hlinc"*, meaning a ridge in any rough grassy area between the sea and the land. The first clubhouse was opened on Mayfield Road on the 10th of June 1905, finally closing to customers in 1910.

The land containing the current course was obtained in 1909, and the current course was opened on the 21st of January 1911. The clubhouse was opened, on what was by then called Links Road, in May of the

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same year. The layout of the course included the original 10th and 11th greens of the old Lytham and St Anne's Golf Club, as the new 17th and 10th greens respectively, and these are the oldest holes in the locality.
The links course has seen action as an Open Qualifying Course for Royal Lytham since 1926 and has also staged tournaments such as the English Ladies Amateur Championship.
It was also the home of the Royal Lytham and St Annes Artisan Golf Club.
During the heyday of entertainment between the 1920s and 1960s, an annual tournament was held there between the Old Links and the Vaudeville Golfing Society.

1980 saw the club erect an extension to their club house.

St Anne's Private Links Golf Club was a nine-hole course, opened on the 13th of July 1912, on land recently vacated by the Old Links. Restricted to use only by working men and boys, it was the first golf club for artisans, existing until 1925.

St Anne's Urban District Council began to supply its own electricity on the 12th of March.
St Anne's Public Hall opened on the 14th of March.
Alexandria Drive Post Office was opened in St Anne's, with Miss Taylor as its first post mistress.
The St Anne's Promenade Band was first formed, being taken over by the Council in 1902.
Pollux Gate Post Office opened on the 1st of March, and the Walton Tea Rooms had been nearby at number 3 for several years beforehand.
Betty Jumel was born in Fairhaven on the 5th of May, as Amy Grimshaw. She became an actress and appeared in films such as Cup-Tie Honeymoon (1948), Demobbed (1944) and Under New Management (1946). *"She was only 10 years old when she made her first stage appearance, alongside her father Harold Jumel, who toured an act round the music halls entitled The Four Jumels"*.
A whale was washed up onto the shore at Fairhaven, causing quite a local commotion. The local newspaper reported *"The animal tho' not near so large as the one recently shot measures about 13 feet from the end of its nose to the tip of its tail, and has a girth of about fourteen feet. It has evidently met its death through coming in contact with the screw of a passing steamer, for it is very badly cut about the neck and at the hack of the head. Otherwise the animal is in very good condition"*. The length was actually 31 feet – a vintage typo!
Squire John Talbot Clifton trekked into *"Eastern Siberia, north of the Arctic Circle, discovering a new species of wild sheep which he named Ovis Cliftoni. During his travels he killed a bear that was terrorising a local village and it was sent back to Lytham Hall as a trophy and was placed in the entrance hall for many years"*.
Bishop Whiteside of Liverpool wrote that he had recently *"opened a small chapel at Freckleton, which thanks to several benefactors, is free of debt"*.

The Lane Ends Hotel, Wesham: was built this year, located at *"Bloody Lane Ends"* where the town gibbet once stood. Its first landlord was Thomas Wilson.
Further into Wesham township stood the Royal Oak (landlord Luke Brown in 1828) and, by 1881, the Stanley Arms stood opposite as a beerhouse.

Corner Hall farm was rebuilt on Fleetwood Road in Greenhalgh, replacing the earlier dwelling.

1902
The Coronation of Edward VII on June the 26th, was celebrated by the giving of medals to the town's children on North Pier. There was also a parade of Blackpool LVA on the sands, and 25 trams were

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decorated with coloured lights. As the new King had been taken ill, the celebrations were repeated on the 9th of August.
Between 1902 and 1904, Blackpool Corporation Transport made a far-sighted decision to send more than £300,000 on widening the Promenade. They also replaced the congested street tramway with a segregated track which was years ahead of its time. This led to an 80-foot-wide Promenade with space for pedestrians, trams, and motor traffic. It was officially opened in 1905.

Les Montagnes Russes: A circular Switchback Railway called "Les Montagnes Russes" (the Russian Mountains) opened in the Italian Gardens, between the Empress buildings and the Ballroom, at Whitsun. It attracted many complaints about noise from the residents of Leopold Grove, where its entrance stood. The unusual name originates in the 17th century, when the Russians were constructing "Russian Mountains" – series of hills and slides of ice reinforced with wooden supports designed for sleighs. Theses became especially popular during the 18th century in St Petersburg, and the idea spread to other parts of Europe. A version using wheeled wooden carts on tracks was built in Paris in 1804 and was the first to be named "Les Montagnes Russes".

Note: The name Montagnes Russes does NOT mean the Red Mountains!

The Big Dipper, Blackpool: A new Switchback Railway was built at the Pleasure Beach, costing £25,000, being opened to the public on the 23rd of August.
It is now the second-oldest in-use rollercoaster in Britain (after the Scenic Railway at Margate – built in 1920).

The first in the UK to use the friction created by under-track wheels, it was designed by John Miller. His early work had been for the Philadelphia Toboggan Company, who even today supply coaster trains to the Blackpool Pleasure Beach Company. The ride was built by William Strickler and was the first in the world to bear the Big Dipper name. Strickler fell from his new Noah's Ark at Southport's Pleasureland on the 4th of April 1930. He sadly died later, in a Blackpool nursing home, and is buried in Layton Cemetery.

Pilkington Brothers (Accrington) supplied ropes and pulleys, J Holden made prints and Blackpool Free Press took photographs, J Hetley provided ornamental glass, the Lancashire Dynamo Company the motor, Edward Henthorne and Co made the cement, and Blackpool Plumbing fitted the guttering. Over 200 contractors worked on what was the biggest roller coaster project in the world.

"A suitably luxurious marble and mahogany pay desk was added to the station, on an Italian terrazzo floor. Above this was a circular roof with a clerestory, a glazed circular tower, and a skeletal ogee dome, through which the cars passed as they descended from the top of the lift hill into a very tight 180-degree turn, before descending the first big dip. The route originally comprised two initial dips with a full-height crest between, followed by a high-level sharp left turn where the track reached the original southern boundary of the park. This was followed by a third big dip and a smaller fourth dip which led to a mid-level 180-degree left turn, and then a further two small dips leading to a rising, banking right turn that brought the track back through two undulations to the station".

In January 1929, Alderman Bean and his daughter, Doris Thompson officially opened the Big Dipper. Bean immediately set off on a cruise to America. Sadly, he contracted pneumonia, died, and was buried at sea off the Canary Islands. Daughter Doris and her husband Leonard Thompson took over the reins, and by 1931, had full control.

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Until the new South Promenade was opened in 1926, the high tides reached the foot of the dipper.

The ride was altered by Charles Paige in 1935, when "*The high-level turn and the third and fourth dips were replaced by a third, turning dip, an arch over the S entrance to the park, and an aeroplane bend at the new southern boundary. The mid-level return loop and banking turn were adapted, and linked to the original undulating station return by another new dip, this time going under the new access road leading from the S entrance; altogether the ride was extended by 200ft*".

Then, in 1936, to compete with the Pleasure Beach's own Grand National, that had opened the year before, the Big Dipper was extended to 4,000 feet. Joseph Emberton designed a new station interior and altered the tower. He also added arches over the south entrance of the park, with three more drops and two more curves.
The ride now operates with two trains, each containing three four-bench cars, which seat two people per bench.

The dipper was struck by fire in 1953, and architect Felix Samuely had the station rebuilt - retaining the 1936 concrete arcades. The enclosed tower above the station was replaced with inclined latticework legs designed by Samuely himself. Joseph Emberton then designed a concrete dome at the base of the legs.

On the 26th of June 1975, part of the lift hill and the first drop, were severely damaged by fire. In the subsequent re-build, the round finial on the top of the ride was replaced by a tear-shaped finial.

In 2000, Richard Rodriguez smashed his own 1998 world record by riding the Pleasure Beach's Big Dipper for 2,000 hours. In 2007, Guinness World Records altered the rules, and wiped his records from the books. He then set a new record, riding both the Big One and the Big Dipper, of 405 hours and 40 minutes.

The ride was designated as a Grade 2 Listed Building on the 19th of April 2017.

Thousands watched Stanley Spencer pilot Hiram Maxim's gas airship from Rigby Road Gas works on a 26-mile flight to Ulnes Walton, near Liverpool on the 20th of October.
Agricultural Shows began to be held on newly-acquired land to the north of Talbot Road, and east of Devonshire Road.

Bateson's, Blackpool: Robert Bateson started his business as a house furnisher at 15 to 19 Talbot Road, later becoming RG Bateson and Sons – his sons being Dean and Hargreaves. By 1895, the company had a second outlet next door to the Empress Buildings, and in 1901, RG Bateson was advertising Linoleum for Company House Keepers from his store at 36 Talbot Road. Robert lived at 2 Second Avenue. RG Bateson and Sons Limited went into liquidation in July 1967.
Another distant branch of the family, W and D Bateson, ran a small fancy goods store at 2 Foxhall Road, selling both drapery and toys. This closed in the mid-1930s, and the site is now filled with an amusement arcade called Slots of Fun.

Joseph Bateson - as J Bateson and Son - opened his first dedicated toy shop on the 26th of February 1927, at 58 Abingdon Street, but they moved 2 Abingdon Street on the 23rd of July 1932, setting up Bateson's Station Bazaar on the corner. The Sports department sold Sykes' tennis racquets, and cricket bats from Don Bradman and Maurice Leyland.
That building had originally been W Kirkman's Bazaar (jewellery), but was by then also owned by J Bateson, who was running an outfitter's shop there. When Bateson's took over the corner site, Kirkman's moved

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next door on Abingdon Street, calling themselves "Kirkman's Curriers" (they had a tannery behind off Deansgate, which later became part of Norman Whiteley's shop. By 1935, the corner shop was being advertised as Bateson's Sports Depot, and although they later sold the corner part of the shop, they retained the Abingdon Street half and added two floors. 1939 saw them offering *"300 Rackets by 10 makers"* to tennis players.

Bateson's stayed there, also briefly operating from 67 Talbot Road, as Blackpool's favourite toy shop, until the late 1980s, when (along with Diggle's on Albert Road) they were taken over by Toymaster. The shop then quickly moved to the Hounds Hill Centre as Beatties toy and model shop.
The Abingdon Street building is now occupied by a fashion shop called Zilch.
Next door, in 1968, Pearl Assurance House was built at number 19 Abingdon Street. That site had originally housed Sterling's Limited, boot dealers.
The corner shop later housed Stones greeting card shop and various discount stores. It is currently a charity shop.

Eaves' brick works, Marton: moved to Vicarage Lane from Cocker Street, and at its peak, it produced 15 million bricks a year from there. Their clay pit stretched from Colwyn Avenue to the Railway Inn (later the Welcome) and then towards Cherry Tree Road. The brick works closed in the late 1960s and is now a car scrap yard. Wm Eaves and Company Ltd also ran The Dagger's Hall Saw Mill, Joinery, and Brickworks on Vicarage Lane.
Another brick works was on the opposite corner to Rectory Road and Crossland Road, until it closed and the present row of shops replaced it.
Eaves's brickcroft – aka the "Brickie" – stretched from opposite Crossland Road to Winton Avenue and to the edge of Cherry Tree Road. The kilns for the brickworks were beside the coachworks of HV Burlingham. In 1979, the Co-op Hypermarket (now ASDA) was built there.

Many large houses and guesthouses were built at this time. For example, the Knowledene Hotel on what was soon to be Knowle Avenue is listed as being built this year. Also, on Knowle Avenue, on the corner of Holmfield Road, was the Clifton College, which is now the site of a chemist's and a newsagent.
A surface water drainage pipe was laid from Beechfield Avenue to Marton Mere.
The School Board effectively became the Blackpool Education Authority, and, as well as the schools previously mentioned it controlled Queen Street and Crystal Road schools. The change was not made official until 1903.

Devonshire Road Board School, Blackpool: this two-storey, red-brick building opened with 780 boys and girls. It opened for use on the 27th of February, being formally opened on the 24th of April 1904. The first headmistress was Harriet Pye, the sister of famous cricketer Richard Gordon Barlow.
Its infant school opened next door in 1911, taking 290 children.
By 1912, it was called the Devonshire Road Council School and had its own Prize Choir.

In 2003, two pupils caused a fire, devastating Devonshire Road Junior School. The old school was demolished in 2004, having been known affectionately as *"Devvy Dumps"*. All its 400 pupils were transported on a daily basis by double-decker buses to accommodation in the vacant Grange Park Infants' School, for 3 years.

In September 2005, a new school was established by amalgamating the infant and junior schools. It opened for use on the 6th of September 2006, having been renamed Devonshire Primary School. The new

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school had been officially opened on the 22nd of April, by Olympic athlete Denise Lewis, and was designed with a "Beehive" concept. Built by Parkinson Builders, this provided classrooms and play decks on the same level, together with a roof garden with a pond and weather station on the second floor which is used for outdoor science and environmental studies. At the centre of the building is a "flexible social area" for dining and pupil interaction. Each level also has south facing play decks with sheltered play areas.
In September 2013, it became Devonshire Primary Academy.

Bispham Methodist Church: The foundation stone of the Alexandra Road Methodist Church in Bispham was laid on the 2nd of May, and on the 5th of August, the new chapel opened. Alexandra Road was later renamed Beaufort Avenue. It had cost £1,800 to build and was designed by TP Lumb.

The Blackpool Historic Buildings Record states that it was *"Built from hard red brick with stone dressings to windows and copings. Stone bands and coping to gabled parapet on front elevation. Symmetrical design with large arched window with keystone to central bay flanked pilasters and square windows at first floor level visible above 1957 extension. Steeply pitched red clay tile roof. Original entrance was single storey set forward from the front elevation. The second phase designed by prominent architects Messrs E.P. Prestwich in 1957 (who designed the Grade 2 listed cenotaph) is single storey and extends across the original entrance. Main entrance adjacent to original building beneath canopy. Extension constructed from rough orange brick with yellow brick panels above and below windows. A modernist style building with flat roofs and simple lines. Tall slender tower to north end topped by a cross".*
The church closed on the 8th of December 2013 and is currently for sale.

The Collosseum, Blackpool: opened on the 12th of August on Lytham Road, after having been moved from Raikes Hall Gardens. In 1905, the Collosseum hosted Volpi's Royal Italian Circus, with over 150 animals.

The Royal Cinema: Blackpool's first proper cinema, the Royal opened on Rigby Road in 1906, in place of the Collosseum Skating Rink. This had been in the old, the large, circular, wood, and cast-iron building called "Niagara" that was left over from the Raikes Hall Gardens. Until the Royal opened, there had only been films known as "shorts", shown at the Palace and Hippodrome theatres.

In 1909, by now-named the Collosseum Cinema, it closed, when its owner W Morris moved to the Royal Pavilion, where his company, A1 Animated Picturefilm, had been showing films, sharing the stage with live acts. The building became the new Colosseum Skating Rink on the 23rd of March 1910. The Coliseum Picture Drome opened briefly on the 28th of November 1911. **Note** the changes of spelling.
In 1912, the English Co-operative Wholesale Society bought the Coliseum, opening a warehouse and garage on the site on the 1st of July. Blackpool Ice Skating Syndicate built a rink on the site of the Coliseum Garage in September 1929, but by 1934, Wright Brothers (Burnley) Limited, motor coach, and garage proprietors, were offering accommodation for 200 cars at their Coliseum Garage on Lytham Road. The venue was also used to disembark tourists from their coaches, and to park the vehicles.

The Coliseum Bus and Coach Station: The Coliseum garage and bus park was demolished to make way for the new station, which was opened on the 4th of September 1936, by Blackpool Omnibus Stations Limited. *"The exterior was faced with beige, light green and black terracotta, whilst inside, all the flooring was in terrazzo. The panelling, doors and seating were in polished walnut, and the metal fittings in bronze and chromium steel. A spacious arcade, central-heated, divides the building into portions. On the left are a fully equipped café, mess rooms for drivers and conductors, a parcels and luggage depot and a newspaper kiosk. On the right were booking and inquiry offices (resembling bank premises), managerial quarters, a*

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row of telephones for the public, another kiosk, and conveniences. No fewer than 11 electric clocks were installed throughout the station. At the rear, and on the Hopton Road side, were covered arrival and departure platforms, designed to facilitate the handling of large crowds. The station could provide shelter for over 2000 passengers and take 70 vehicles".

The bus station was knocked down in 1973 and replaced with an open-air version. This too closed in the late 1980s, to become a succession of supermarkets, one of which had Coco's children's play area upstairs – complete with a giant clown mouth as a door.

In 1996, Kwik Save opened its fifth superstore in Blackpool at the derelict Coliseum – now number 70 Tyldesley Road. They had built a completely new, large store, although there was already a Kwik Save on Lytham Road. Then, on the 19th of May 1999, Somerfield, having re-built the store, opened there. They had taken over the whole of the Kwik Save company. Somerfield closed on April the 29th 2006.

On the 26th of June 2008, Wyndsors World of Shoes opened their 40th store on the southern half of the site, and a Home Bargains discount store opened in the northern half on the 12th of July. The Home Bargains replaced the old shop in the Hounds Hill Centre, which had closed in February 2006 (that store had first been known as Half Price or Less). On the 24th of August 2013, the Home Bargains store expanded into the recently-vacated Wyndsor's store, taking up the whole of the block.

South Shore Bowling Club was formed on the 18th of March on Green Avenue, off Highfield Road (rear of 44 Lodore Road) and was formally opened on the 15th of July by Doctor Cocker. Its green is one of the biggest in Lancashire, and at the time of its inauguration, most bowling greens were attached to Public Houses which were considered places of low resort. A group of South Shore businessmen had clubbed together to set up a more up-market establishment.

Tower Children's Ballet: The Children's Ballet was first performed at the Tower in July, produced and choreographed by Pauline Rivers. Miss Rivers went on to found the Tower Children's Ballet in 1920, and it lasted until 1960. She produced the ballet until she died in 1935, and its first big star was "Little Emmie" – Emmie Tweedale - who was fondly known as *"La Petite Pavlova"* or *"Blackpool's Little Shining Star"*. A later dance mistress was Madame Shultz.
The Children's Ballet closed in 1972.

Blackpool Corporation sought visitors from abroad with posters at French and Swiss stations. They also levied a special rate to pay for this - the first such rate in the UK.
Bonny's-i-th'-fields farmhouse was demolished. It had been sold, along with 48 acres of land, to Enoch Read in 1870. Read's estate stretched at one time between what was later named Read's Avenue, and Palatine Road West.
Blower's Restaurant and Refreshment Rooms was on South Promenade, operated by Miss Blower, who was also a fruiterer, confectioner, and cake maker. By 1934, Tomlinson's Café and Restaurant was in the premises, which were now numbered 499 The Promenade. They too had a shop on the ground floor - their sweet shop, tobacconists, and fancy goods shop. The restaurant had a parquet dance floor. Robert Tomlinson also a had similar concern at 72 and 78 North Promenade, and a small café at 5 Simpson Street in South Shore.
The South promenade premises have, since 2005, been occupied by the Beachcomber Licensed Restaurant and Steak House.

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George Roby and Vesta Tilley both appeared at the Alhambra Theatre in July, before the Alhambra was wound up on the 22nd of November. Vesta Tilley later married Walter de Frece – Blackpool's MP.
Foxton's Dispensary moved to Cedar Square on the 28th of February.
E Brook had a photography studio at 8 Talbot Road.
When Norbreck Villa became the Norbreck Hall Private Hotel, William Strickland changed the name of his Norbreck Hall to "The Castle" to avoid confusion.
Coar's Chip Restaurant began trading at 38 to 42 Queen Street, in Station Buildings, next to the railway station. This later changed to various clubs, including Frolics in the late 1990s, Club Rendezvous, and finally, Kaos.
A row of houses and shops called Whitegate Terrace was built on Whitegate Drive. Several similar rows were also built on the Drive this year.
Samuel Cody returned to the town, appearing at the Raikes Gardens in May, with his revolutionary "man-carrying" Kites. He had first flown a string of small kites from Blackpool beach, to get the top kite close to the Tower. His revolutionary, manned kite was then slid up the cable using the lift from its wings, the nose-up attitude being adjustable by pulling on the rigging. He later manufactured observation kites for the Army and Navy.
In August, the Marton route was extended between the Waterloo Hotel and the Royal Oak.
A large iron tram shelter was opened at Gynn Square. There were public lavatories attached.
The Blackpool Sandmen's Union was formed on the 8th of August to protect beach traders' rights.

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ET Knagg founded his insurance company in Poulton.

Illawalla, Thornton: The bungalow called Illawalla was built on Skippool Road, for Mr Clement Howarth of the Alhambra Theatre, who lived there until his death in 1920. Music hall star Vesta Tilley had laid the foundation stone on the 12th of June, and was said to have stayed there occasionally, with husband Walter de Freece – she did **NOT** live there. Other music hall stars also used the venue whilst performing locally.

The Blackpool Times on the 21st of June wrote: *"The foundation stone was laid on Thursday week by Miss Vesta Tilley. The plan shows a large entrance hall on the south side opening on to a dining saloon 56ft. by 35ft. (including corridor) from which access is gained to the reception rooms, bedrooms, billiard room, etc., and also to a tower 56ft. high. A special feature of the drawing room will be a large inglenook. The coachman's cottage, stables, loose boxes, dynamo and accumulator house, etc., are all arranged on the north side. The building will present a very pleasing and picturesque appearance, as the exterior walls are to be faced with Huncoat plastic bricks, with Yorkshire stone dressings, and the roofs are to be covered with red tiles. The premises will be lighted throughout with the electric light, and will be heated with hot water by means of radiators. The architects are Messrs. Fairbrother and Hall, of Bank Chambers, Poulton"*.

Mr Howarth had moved there from Skippool, and after he died, his widow continued to live at Illawalla for several years until it was bought by Ernest Broadbelt, a Manchester wholesale fruit merchant.

In 1942 Illawalla was bought from Mr Broadbelt by Fred Emery, although it was being used by the Army as a transit camp for the Royal Engineers, and later by the Home Guard. Later in the War it became a home run by the Ministry of Health for pregnant evacuees. Emery finally moved into Illawalla in 1945.

The house was turned into "The Illawalla Country Club" in 1975 and was an extremely popular nightime venue for several years. Trade died down however, and after dabbling briefly with holding flea markets, it was closed in 1990, as it could not compete with Blackpool's attractions. Illawalla was demolished in 1996 and was quickly replaced by a housing estate with the same name.
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It was said that when it was built, Illawalla was Europe's largest bungalow. The name means nothing – it was made up by Mrs Howarth. In certain Indian and Arabic dialects, one can find a similar phrase *"illaha walla"*, but its meaning is unknown – the nearest match meaning "House of Plenty".

Note: It was **not** called The Illawalla. There was no "the" in its name.

The Victoria Café was built on Victoria Road in Cleveleys by the Duxbury family. The site later housed the Manchester and County Bank, which then changed to the National Westminster.

The Cleveleys Congregational Church: was built on Kensington Road. The worshippers had originally met in Ivy Cottage (which belonged to Mrs Mary White, the widow of a Congregational Minister), next to the Cleveleys Hotel, before briefly moving to Rossall Road in 1901.
This original church became Kensington Garage and petrol station in 1922, after a new church had been built nearby on Rossall Road. That building became a social hall when the bigger church was opened in 1932. The social hall apparently hosted a temporary Jewish Synagogue from the early 1940s until 1947. The Sunday school was added in 1955, to join the new church with the old, and the church became the United Reformed Church in 1972.

Fleetwood Post Office and telephone exchange opened on the corner of Victoria Street and North Albert Street. The building was later used as the Register Office, and then the Tourist Information Centre.

Warrenhurst Park at Fleetwood: The park was opened on the 12th of July, using the aviary and other parts sold off from the Raikes Estate in Blackpool. It had been designed by Thomas Lumb, who based his design on the Raikes Pleasure Gardens in Blackpool, and the new park had its own boating lake surrounded by planted walks and crossed by 3 footbridges, an aviary (transported from Blackpool's Raikes Gardens), monkey house, cricket ground, tennis courts, and pavilions. On its football ground, Fleetwood Amateurs won the Lancashire Cup in 1903. The football pavilion was taken, whole, to the Fleetwood Cricket Club off Broadwaters.

After World War 1, the Fleetwood Heroes' Fund Committee bought the park from the Council, and the park became a War Memorial. The whole of the Memorial Park is dedicated to Fleetwood's fallen; it is unique in that respect, and it is now the oldest registered First World War memorial landscape. In 1921, the park was bought from the Fleetwood Estate Ltd by the Fleetwood Urban District Council.

In 1925, the wooden gates at the entrance were replaced by iron gates which were set in the stone gateposts which had been copied from those at the Raikes Pleasure Gardens: *"New iron gates by the eminent company HH Martyn were installed in the main entrance arches. HH Martyn made the gates at Buckingham Palace, Marble Arch, and Liverpool Cathedral, and supplied bronze panels similar to those at the park for the Menin Gate at Ypres. On Armistice Day in November 1925 the first half of a remembrance tree avenue was planted by children related to the fallen. The following November saw the official opening of the park which was renamed Memorial Park, with the opening of the new gates and planting the second half of the avenue"*. The bronze panels of a soldier and a sailor were stolen in 1980; the sailor symbolised Fleetwood's naval role in the First World War and heavy loss endured by the community as a result of the many trawlers lost at sea. Using detailed photographs taken by local resident John Dales, these were re-modelled and replaced in 2014.

Note: The gates were NOT moved from the Raikes Estate.

©

The park was redesigned in 1926, by Sir Leslie Abercrombie, a town planner and civic designer of national repute, and his original layout survives relatively intact, with its circular focal point containing the war memorial, and five radiating avenues remaining as designed. The park was then officially reopened by Lord Stanley on the 11th of November 1926, after being renamed as Memorial Park.

Fleetwood War Memorial was unveiled in the centre of the park in 1927. It was dedicated to the memory of Fleetwood's war dead by Admiral Sir William Goodenough on the 22nd of October and had been sculpted by Herbert Smith. The statue was installed in the main avenue, known as Remembrance Avenue, and the avenue was lined with elm trees, each dedicated to a family in Fleetwood who had been bereaved during the war. The trees were replanted in 2010.

In 1930, Alexander Edwards became Parks Superintendent, and was responsible for completion of the park's landscaping, the rose garden, the rock and water garden, and its tennis courts and bowling greens. The first bowls tournament was held on the new greens in 1931, and the pond and rock garden opened in 1932. He also set up a plant nursery in the park's glasshouses. These were demolished in 1974, to be replaced by raised flower beds. In the late 1930s, the park was extended slightly at its north-west corner to incorporate part of the garden of Warrenhurst House.

Chaucer Board School, Fleetwood: The school's foundation stone was laid on Milton Street on the 15th of April on the site of a former ropewalk.
The school was opened to 750 pupils on the 22nd of April 1903, with the boys on the ground floor and the girls on the first, and a separate technical block. All the pupils from the Testimonial School and Blakiston Street School were transferred there.
A temporary junior girls' school in London Street was closed at the same time and its pupils transferred to the now-empty Blakiston Street School.
In 1920, the technical block became a selective Central School for 140 boys, and when Bailey Secondary Modern opened in 1931, Chaucer became a primary school for 810 pupils.
The boys' and girls' schools were linked and merged in 1972, and it became known as Chaucer Primary School in 1984, when Chaucer Junior School merged with Blakiston Infants School (later demolished).

Fleetwood Fish Market: A temporary fish market was set up in the old railway goods sheds 1 and 2. From 1906, Fleetwood's trawlermen began to sell their catches by auction from the fish docks. The auction building was later greatly expanded and had the "Fish Merchants' Gallery" on its first floor, complete with its own café. This arrangement sufficed until the Fish Dock began to be built in 1908.

Fleetwood Fish Dock: Fleetwood's Fish Dock was opened next to Wyre Dock in 1916, with a covered fish market – the old Timber Pond had been fully converted. This dock was able to take the new steam trawlers with ease and expanded the port's accessibility to ships. In 1915, three cantilever coaling gantry cranes were opened at Fleetwood Fish Dock by the Government. A coal bunkering facility was opened at the Fish Dock at the same time. The dock was not fully operational until 1916. At the same time, a coal bunkering area was set up to the east of the new Fish Dock.

The fish dock was extended in 1928, and a new slipway was constructed. The fish stages were extended out towards the water by 30 feet, a new carting berth was built, and fish box storage yards were added. Berthing accommodation of another 50 trawlers was made, and the access cartway was tarmacked and doubled in length. Also, new railway sidings were built to make it easier to load catches for onward transport. Finally, a traders' gallery was added around the whole of the upstairs of the market.

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Fleetwood Fish Market was rebuilt in 1976 and opened in 1977. It now provided 2 fish markets and 49 self-contained processing halls. At its peak over 100 "lumpers" would unload the fish baskets from the holds of the ships for sale in the building.
Today, the market is where fish from elsewhere are sold and processed. No fish are landed there.

WS Fielding opened his furniture and decor shop on St Davids Road South in St Anne's.
St Anne's Sewage Works, at Kilnhouse Lane (formerly High Dam Lane and renamed after Kilnhouse Farm) were also erected. Its buildings comprised a Meldrum's Destructor, tin baler, and mortar mill. Two cottages were also built, for the Destructor chargemen.
Clarke's Central Laundry opened on Back Glen Eldon Road in St Anne's. Its horse-drawn vans would collect and deliver back the washing of those residents who were rich enough to afford the service.
Kilnhouse Farm stood where number 1 to 4 Meadowcroft were later built.

St Thomas's School, St Anne's: began to be built. It actually opened for use on the 17th of July 1907. At first, the infants were separated from the other children by a simple screen across the schoolroom.
The infant's school was however not added to the building until 1968.
It is now known as the St Thomas's Church of England Primary School.

A water main from Ballam was laid to supply water to Heyhouses.
Lytham Refuse Destructor and Sewage Works were built off Preston Road. The buildings comprised a pumping station, refuse destructor, storage tanks, disinfector, and a live-in Manager's cottage. The complex was fully re-built in 1938, and was extended and modernised in 1961 to cope with the refuse from an extra 10,000 inhabitants.

The Villa at Wrea Green: This large country residence was rebuilt by Percy Birley – he had bought it off the Earl of Derby in October 1895.
The site had originally been occupied by Villa Farm and had supported a market garden.
It was later bought by Dutton's Brewery and turned into a public house and is now a restaurant.
In November 2019, the Villa was awarded the title of the Best Luxury Accommodation in the Lux Global Hospitality awards.

Moss Side Infectious Diseases Hospital: The new hospital was opened on the 14th of April near Lytham, relieving pressure on Blackpool. Building was begun in June 1900, by the contractor S Wilson of St Anne's. It was the first joint Infectious Diseases Hospital in Lancashire. The typhoid and diphtheria pavilion was nearest to the road and had 4 wards – one for each sex for each disease. The scarlet fever pavilion was behind this and could take 11 patients of each sex. There were also 8 beds for "enteric" patients. The nurses' home and administration blocks were to the south east, together with various support services.

It was known as the Fylde Joint Hospital and used as the Infectious Diseases Hospital by all local Councils. The hospital was extended in 1938, with several cubicle blocks being added, and was later known as Fylde Isolation Hospital. In 1938, after having a 20-bed extension block added, it was officially named the Fylde Joint Isolation Hospital.

From the NHS take-over in 1948, Moss Side dealt with long-term orthopaedic patients, with infectious cases being sent to Devonshire Road in Blackpool, and in later years the old scarlet fever ward was used to provide continuation beds for Victoria Hospital. It had been mainly as a geriatric hospital at the last, although I remember having to visit some infected patients by looking at them through closed windows!

©

It closed in 1988, to be replaced by the housing development of Willowmead Park in September 1996 – the site of the main hospital building being where numbers 2 and 4 now stand.

The Fylde Waltz was written by T Almond and K Kaps and has been danced to at many subsequent Blackpool Dance championships.

1903

A train ran into a stop block outside Talbot Road Station on the 13th of April, killing Driver Hallam, and injuring the fireman, Ambrose Heap, and 4 passengers. The London and North-Western 8:54 pm excursion train returning from Greenfield to Blackpool had gone through a signal without stopping.
The tramway's first electric trams ran on the 20th of May, with passenger services to Lytham starting on the 30th.
Blackpool Education Authority was formed on the 1st of July, to succeed the School Board.
Bispham-with-Norbreck Urban District Council replaced the Bispham Parish Council on the 8th of April, lasting until 1918.
Rougemont Ladies College was at 6 Horncliffe Road, South Shore. By 1907 it had moved to the corner of Hornby Road and Liverpool Road.
Telephones began to be used in town on the 17th of March.
Talbot Road Mortuary opened on the 17th of February.
The London and Midland Bank opened a South Shore branch on Church Street (now Bond Street) on the 17th of March. In 1989, the building was converted into a pub, called the Vogue, which later morphed into the Last Orders, the Old Bank Inn, and in June 2011 changed its name to the Harold. The owners of the Vogue also owned the New Vogue Night Club on Back West Crescent in St Anne's.
The road eastwards from Lytham Road to the Moss was renamed Highfield Road.
The Tower Company bought the Alhambra on the 16th of June.

Wylie's South Pier Hotel (later the Sea Beach Hotel), Blackpool: was auctioned in August, to allow the Promenade to be widened. It was originally Bonny's Bath House, then the South Pier Hotel. Fairyland was built afterwards on the remaining land at 109-111, with the Trocadero next door.
The Lifeboat Inn, at 58 Foxhall Road, wrongly claims that it used to be Wylie's at the start of 19th century.

Queen's Drive was opened up to Norbreck Road. Starting at the Metropole Hotel, Queen's Drive was the principal promenade road and continued along the top of the cliffs to Gynn Square, where, from 1904, it became King's Drive.
Another landslip demolished the increasingly-rickety wooden steps to the beach at Bispham, known locally as *"Jacob's Ladder"*, and parts of the nearby buildings were moved further inland.
Henry Starr stabbed his wife Mary at their Lord Street home on the 24th of November. He was hanged at Walton Gaol in Liverpool on the 29th of December. Lord Street started out as Polam Road.
Charles Crewe was running his plumbing company from Foxhall Square.
Elizabeth Lewis, from Blackburn, started holding summer temperance meetings on the sands.
The Motor Car (Registration and Licensing) Order 1903 required all car drivers and motorcycle riders to pay 5 shillings per annum for a licence to drive around Blackpool. This lasted until red Driving Licences were introduced in 1930.

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William Bennett opened a butcher's shop at 22 Breck Road. It stayed in the family until 1970, when it became Junior Fayre – a children's clothes shop. The premises were later to become Cameron's of Poulton - menswear and are now the Pulsi Pizza restaurant.
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The Fleetwood Motor Passenger Carrying Company was set up by the Blackpool and Fleetwood Tramway, to link between Pilling and Knott End. In February 1906, the Fylde Motor Service Company Limited, was registered with an authorised capital of £20,000 in £1 shares, to acquire the undertaking of the Fleetwood Motor Passenger Carrying Company Limited. The registered office moved to Bispham, and in June 1907, they began to use Arrol-Johnston char-à-bancs to serve the Knott End, Fleetwood and Lancaster districts. Apparently *"The record of these vehicles in the neighbourhood of Fleetwood and Blackpool has been excellent, and their extension into fresh territory is the result of numerous demands from residents and others"*.
Fleetwood YMCA opened new meeting rooms on the 10th of November.
Fern Cottages were built at 56 and 58 Addison Road in Fleetwood. Rose Cottage had been built nearby, at number 61 in 1902.
Garden Terrace was built on Peel Road in Fleetwood.
West Street Post Office opened in Fleetwood on about the 24th of August.
The Swedish Gymnasium Physical Culture Institute was established in Century Buildings on Garden Street in St Anne's, with its principals being Miss Florence Watson and Froken Alma Jonsson. In the 1920s, it moved to the Majestic Hotel, and the old institute is now the second floor of JR Taylor's Department Store.
Arnall School for Girls was at 2 St Anne's Road West from now until 1908, with its principals, the Misses Gibb and Hall. The school became Linden Hurst College in 1911, and in the 1990s became the Technical Department of the Town Hall, alongside the present public entrance.
Geo Thompson, menswear, was established on West Crescent in St Anne's.
A bungalow called "Electra" was built on St Thomas's Road in St Anne's. It disguised it contents - an electricity substation. The substation was *"constructed for the Blackpool, St. Annes and Lytham Tramway Company, designed as a bungalow to fit in with the locality. Designed by Herbert and William Wade and built in 1903, the substation was in the basement and the upper floor was the residence of the tramway company's managing director. The basement was also converted to residential when the tramway closed"*.
The Lytham St Anne's Lyric Society was formed.

The White Church, Fairhaven: Lytham St Anne's Congregationalists first met in the basement of Luke Walmsley's house "Deanley" on Marine Drive on the 5th of April. In 1900, Mr Walmsley had *"retired to Deanley, Marine Drive, Fairhaven, a solid, detached brick villa whose exterior gave little away and whose chief feature was a large room on the ground floor which could serve as a private picture gallery on weekdays and a Congregational church on Sundays"*. That first congregation numbered 48.
Their new Congregational Church Hall was opened, nearby, on Clifton Drive on the 4th of May 1904. The new hall could hold 250 worshippers, and had a reception room, vestries, and a caretaker's house. Its Sunday school began in September 1905, and it was registered for marriages on the 7th of April 1906. The congregation then moved to this hall whilst the new "White Church" was being built.

Christened the Fairhaven Congregational Church, it was finally opened, at 22a Clifton Drive, on the 17th of October 1912. It had taken 9 years to build, and its architects were Briggs, Wolstenholme, and Thornley of Blackburn with their white tiled design imitating Byzantine architecture. The main entrance to the church was at the south-east corner junction, and entry *"was through an open octagonal vestibule, topped by a campanile, ninety feet high. There were two other octagonal vestibules, one for the church parlour (which again was octagonal, with a domed ceiling), and one for the church hall. These two vestibules were also topped by towers, fifty feet high this time. There were the usual vestries for choir, minister and deacons"*. The iconic white tiles were Ceramo tiles made at the fireclay works of the Middleton Brick and Tile Company at Leeds. There is over 10,000 cubic feet of them. The church's original cost was to be £7,000, but the final tally was almost £12,000.
An organ was purchased from Messrs Ainscough of Preston, for £348.

©

In 1972, it became one of the congregations of the United Reformed Church, a union formed by Congregational and Presbyterian churches.

The church has altered significantly since it opened. As JCG Binfield explains *"The completeness is no longer quite what it was: the lights (electric since 1922) have been altered and some of the pews removed; some will regret the sale of the incongruous metal statuette of Andromeda, 'Gloire aux Vainqueurs', which was placed in the porch in 1934, in the guise of 'Recording Angel', or of the oil paintings hung in the hall in the same year: 'The Prodigal Son' and 'The Convincing of Thomas', by G. Mazzolini (1885). The paintings were the gift of one of Lytham's three mayors in the 1930s to be deacons of the White Church. Long stored in a church cellar they were sold in 1973 for £224. The pulpit was presented in 1921, with panels by Walter Marsden*.

Underground toilets were dug and opened in Lytham Square. The two entrances were separated by a red GPO telephone box and were disguised by a small hedge and rockery on each outer side. The square was pedestrianized in 1998, with the toilets (known locally as *"bog island")* being filled in and covered.
Cambridge Road Post Office was in business in Lytham. From 1980, it has been a private house, which still has a post box outside.
Sumner's Grocery shop was on Windsor Road in Ansdell. The shop not only supplied rail passengers leaving the adjacent footbridge, but in summer, it sent an ice cream cart down to Granny's Bay.
Kirkham North Junction signal box was opened. It had 75 levers to control the traffic to and from Blackpool. On the 18th of July 1936, the signal box handled a record number of 656 train movements within a twenty-four-hour period. Nearby was an almost unique "flying junction" where the railway track heading to Blackpool South crossed the Blackpool North and Fleetwood line via a bridge and embankment. The signal box was demolished in November and December 2017, along with the four others between Preston and Blackpool.

1904
The rapidly developing town of Blackpool was constituted as a County Borough on the 1st of October - a status the town retained until the 1974 reorganisation of local government. A statue of Queen Victoria was unveiled at the Town Hall on the 4th of October, by mayoress Mrs Blundell.
Raikes Road Post Office was in business. When the street was re-named to Church Street, its name changed to Church Street Post Office. The post office closed in 1986.

Blackpool Municipal Secondary School: The foundation stone was laid at Raikes Parade on the 1st of October, on the site of the main tollbooth of the recently bankrupt Raikes Gardens. Its future pupils were still being taught in a pupil/teacher centre in the Winter Gardens building and were transferred to the new "Raikes Road Technical School" in 1905. Blackpool Municipal Secondary School (also known as the Dual School) officially opened to new pupils on the 1st of January 1906; being formally opened on the 21st of February. It was built to take 400 children, but the 94 boys and 147 girls at the Winter Gardens had been transferred from the Pupil Teachers Centre there in 1905.
The first Headmaster, with a staff of 13, was Mr J Turral.
The basement had been built as a Technical School, which lasted until 1937.
It officially became the Blackpool Grammar School for Boys in 1933 and is now the Salvation Army Citadel.

Ashburton Road Council School, Blackpool: opened, after being acquired from Christ's Church, for whom it had been the Infants' School.

©

The school became the location of the School Dentistry Service in the early 1960s, and was replaced by Ashburton Court apartments in 1978.

Waterloo School, Blackpool: opened as a temporary tin school on the 11th of April. There were initially 88 children, but by the end of the month, there were 191.
The present Waterloo Primary School opened on the 27th of May 1907. It initially had 237 pupils in the senior school and 126 in the infants. It had two Head teachers; Mrs EA Walton (infants) and Mr GR Mills (seniors - now known as the juniors). An extension, opened in April 1915, provided extra classrooms so that infants and juniors could be split into separate groups.
It is now called Waterloo Primary Academy.
The green to the immediate east of the school is the only remaining public part of the original "marl" - left unclaimed after the "Enclosure Act".

Middle Lane was renamed as Central Drive, Dickinson Road as Newton Drive (because it led to Newton), and Park Avenue as Park Road, all on the 12th of January. Park Road was completed in 1935.

Revoe Library, Gym, and Museum, Blackpool: Revoe Branch Library officially opened on the site of old Revoe Villa Farm on the 23rd of July. A temporary town museum had been started in the building in 1901, and its exhibits were put on display at the new Library.

Revoe Gym: The town's first Municipal Gymnasium opened in the same building on October the 5th; later used by Revoe pupils for Physical Education classes. The Gazette described this gym as *"a municipal Sandow"* which *"will develop the young Revoeites; and as the development of muscular force will follow out the Baconian theory that the best preservative of peace is to be prepared for war, there should be no more fights in Revoe".*
Miss Madgwick of Bolton had been recommended by the Revoe Library Sub-committee for the position of instructress of physical culture at the Gymnasium.

Revoe Municipal Museum: was opened on the 10th of March 1910 in the Gymnasium building. From the late 1920s, it was only open occasionally, and was completely closed by 1940 at the latest.

The small garden outside is known locally as Sparrow Park and was retained as a village green when the above buildings were constructed. Simpson's Farm stood nearby, and the Revoe Post Office was on the corner of 218 Central Drive in Cleveleys Terrace, to the right of the library. The Post Office later became the Central Drive Hardware Stores, run by Chas Smith.

Quaker meeting house, Blackpool: The first Quaker meeting was held in Blackpool, gathering behind J Bamber's chip shop at 26 Caunce Street. By 1918, the President was Mr Lot Gommersall, and the Adult School was run by him and Mr Ezra Ford. Services were held only on Sundays at 11 am, with the Adult School at 9.30 am.

The Quakers opened their Friends' meeting house at 30a Raikes Parade on the 17th of December 1932, at a cost of £1,600. It had a large meeting room, a classroom, a kitchen, and toilets. The first wedding was there on the 28th of June 1933. For some time before its closure in 2012, the building had been used by several Alcoholics Anonymous and similar support groups.

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Hiram Maxim's Captive Flying Machine, Blackpool: This revolutionary ride was built at the Pleasure Beach in June. The maiden flight was on August the 1st, with ten cars each holding twenty passengers at just 3d per ride. The Flying Machine (travelling at 40 mph!) was designed to raise money for Maxim's attempt to become the first man to fly the measured mile. Unfortunately, he was beaten to it by the Wright brothers. The Flying Machine still survives, as the Pleasure Beach's oldest ride, although the original gondolas have been replaced by rockets.

Altogether, there were now 49 stallholders at the fairground, including the Cave of the Winds, the Asteria Sideshow, and Pudge's Peculiar Passage.
The clearance of the Pleasure Beach site began, removing such features as Old Dan's Merry-go-round, skittles games, some stalls, and the troupe of "N*gger" minstrels.

The first motor van was seen in Blackpool in January.
Blackpool's first motor vehicle licence was issued in October. Blackpool got its own Car Registration letter "FR" on the 26th of September (under the Motor Car Act 1903). It received "FV" in 1921, and its first 3 letter code "AFR" in December 1937. They were all transferred to Preston in 1974, to become "PFR" and "PFV". The Mayor's vehicle was always registered as FV1 and was offered for sale in July 2012, but did not sell. The current car has the number M55 BBC.
The first motor char-à-banc brought visitors from Manchester. Mr Rhodes Marshall had mounted a horse-drawn coach body on a motorised chassis and did the complete journey in four hours on the 2nd of October.
An iron tram shelter was built at Layton Square. This was replaced in 1928, by a brick version, which also included a rest room and public conveniences. The shelter was designed by JC Robinson. When the trams stopped running to Layton in 1936, the building became public toilets.
Messrs CH Rolls and FH Royce met for the first time in a Blackpool hotel to lay the foundations for their Rolls Royce empire.
The LYR laid a branch line to the Council yards in Blundell Street. James Blundell had built Blundell Street on the profits from his wife Mary's gingerbread making business, it had originally been named Corporation Street, but Blundell campaigned for it to be named it after his own cottage.

Standerwick's Coaches, Blackpool: This year, Walter Standerwick (middle name Clinton) began operating a carriage business from a Mews Stable in Coronation Street. His brother, Victor, ran the King Edward Garage at 469 Central Drive, which is now part of the adjoining hotel.
In 1906, Standerwick acquired the licensed horse char-à-banc of R Strickland, a former horse omnibus proprietor, and in March 1920, he bought the whole company. In 1907, he had the char-à-banc stand relocated to a position outside the Central Drive Livery Stables, which, by now, was his operating base.

On the 25th of August 1911, the first licence to run motorised char-à-bancs in Blackpool was issued to Walter Standerwick - by then at Chapel Street, and later at Adelaide Street. His first bus was a Karrier FR530. The Corporation began to issue taxi licences on the basis of one for every two landaus.

In October 1911, the company ran Lancashire's first long-date coach tour, with an 8-day trip to London, and in 1912, Walter Standerwick started a coach service to London and the South Coast.

In 1928, Standerwick's bought land on the corner of Bethesda Road and Kent Road, and built a new garage for their growing fleet of coaches, the upper floor being leased to Blackpool Central Working Men's' Club

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and Institute. Their surplus coaches were parked and dispatched from their own King Edward Garage, off Central Drive.
By 1929, they had opened Standerwick's Central Promenade Garage and attached coach park, next to Luna Park. They hosted a luxury coach show there in 1934.

Next, in 1932, and by now a Limited Company, WC Standerwick Limited purchased Bracewell's Coaches, and Wood Brothers (Blackpool) Limited of 124 Coronation Street. Taking over the Wood Bros offices, they ran express services, primarily London - Blackpool/Fleetwood, London - Blackburn/Colne, Blackpool - Birmingham/Oxford, and Blackpool - Colne and London - Keswick.

By 1932, many coaches ran from the Coach Park behind the Dog and Partridge on Waterloo Road, which had been built on the site of the hotel's bowling green. In later years, the park was used mainly by Standerwick's vehicles, even becoming known as the Standerwick Coach Park.
In 1933, Ribble Motor Services bought out Standerwick's coaches, but allowed it to operate independently as its coach services arm, with Ribble concentrating on stage carriage services. However, by 1936, Ribble were also running excursions from there. 1937 saw them buy out the Queen of the North Char-à-banc service, which was operated from its own mews and stables in Bank Street by Johnny Jenkins.

By 1958, WC Standerwick Limited was running "Travel Corner" in Abingdon Street on the corner of Talbot Road - a building which had replaced the Corner House Café in 1954. Ribble, and then National Travel, later operated as travel agents from this building, until it was taken over by Jessop's Photography shop. In 2015, it became a betting shop owned by the BetSid chain.

In 1960, Standerwick's introduced their "Gay Hostess" concept for excursions to London - double-deck coaches equipped with toilets, refreshment facilities, and a hostess serving drinks. The prototype vehicle was Ribble Number 1251, a Leyland Atlantean, and they soon received another 10 - Reg numbers SFV 412 to SFV 421. The firm started motorway express services with these coaches, followed by a further 12 in 1961. Shortly afterwards, the company began to share the Ribble bus garage on Devonshire Road (now a Lidl supermarket). By 1965, Standerwick's were operating up to 1,250 journeys per month, to and from London. The Gay Hostesses were phased out by the end of 1971.
In 1974, Standerwick's, who were by then under National Bus Company ownership, were taken over by National Travel Northwest in February, and the Standerwick name disappeared.

Blackpool Motor Speed Trials: This event, known as Speed Week, was first held on the new South Promenade on the 14th and 15th of October, and a British record of 84.68 mph was set for the "flying kilometre".
At the 1905 trials, Henri Cissac rode his V-twin Peugeot to set a World record with a speed of 87.38mph. He then went on to break the record for a standing start mile, by doing *"a flying kilometre (1093 yards) in 25 seconds, equal to 89½ miles an hour, and a standing start mile in 50 1-5s (71 17 miles an hour)*". Cissac later became the first person to be killed in Grand Prix.

The Blackpool Automobile Races (their official title) were then held on the 11th, 12th, and 13th of October 1906, beginning at Gynn Square. A large, wooden stand was erected for the duration, on the sea side of the Promenade just to the South of the Tower.
In the first of a series of motor races along the Promenade, a Darracq car set three driving records on the 13th of October. They were the world's fastest standing kilometre in 32.4 seconds, and the world's fastest standing mile in 45.6 seconds. Salford cycle builder, Harry Reed built a motorcycle, which he rode to claim

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the World Championship for the flying kilometre in 21.0 seconds at 106.52 mph. A smaller forerunner of the races had been held in 1905.
Dorothy Levitt also broke the women's world speed record for the flying kilometre, recording a speed of 91 mph, and receiving the sobriquet the "Fastest Girl on Earth". She drove a six-cylinder Napier motorcar, a 100 hp development of the Type K5.

1909 saw Walter Goerke on his 7hp Indian break that record by clocking 86 mph at Blackpool.

In 1923, the Blackpool Motor Cycle Speed Trials were first held near the Gynn, won by a Brough Superior machine, clocking an impressive 76.5 mph. In later years, the Sprints were organised by the Thornton Cleveleys Motor Cycle Club.
The first Castrol Blackpool Sprint motor time trials were held on the Lower Walk in June 1972.

In 1984, Fleetwood Motor Cycle Club took over the running of this annual event, held on the Lower Walk at Bispham every June or July. They renamed it the Blackpool Motor Cycle Sprint.

The event was cancelled by the Auto Cycle Union in 2001, for failing to pass a safety check. It was restarted several years later, but in 2004, rider Steven Anderton of Blackburn was killed when his motorbike crashed on the Lower Walk at Bispham on the 13th of June. Bikes as powerful as 1100cc have raced against the clock over a quarter-of-a-mile in the annual time trial for many years. That event was immediately suspended as a police investigation began.

St Kentigern's Church, Blackpool: As the result of over-crowding at Talbot Road Catholic School (Sacred Heart), St Kentigern's Mission was built on Newton Drive. It was opened on the 6th of November by the Archbishop of Liverpool, Thomas Whiteside.

A replacement stone-built St Kentigern's Church and Presbytery were opened, opposite Ascot Road, in 1931 by Canon McManus, with the first Mass being celebrated on the 2nd of August. Work had started on the new church in 1926, and it was the first church to be built in the newly-created Lancaster Diocese. Both the architect, Mr Mercer, and the builder Mr Eaves were parishioners. The church is *"built in yellow sandstone, with red sandstone dressings. It is in the Gothic style, with Decorated/Transitional features. It has a clerestory, with tall windows, aisles, and porches on the north side, there is no tower. Low walls with blank arcading and gate piers to Newton Drive form part of the curtilage".*

St Kentigern's School: The new, red-brick building was first used as a school, from the 11th of October 1904. At the opening, Father Huggins enlightened its first 120 children regarding the history of Saint Kentigern, who was actually a Scottish bishop born in 516.

Services in its hall were taken by the Sisters of The Holy Child Jesus (until 1972). The school had both an infants' and a seniors' department (seniors being from 8 to 13 years old). It was built opposite Dutton Road, not Ascot Road like the current church. Next door was Cardwell's chicken farm.

When the new church building was completed in 1931, all worship moved there, and the original chapel became the main hall for the new school. Its head teachers continued to be nuns, working with a mainly secular staff.
Infants were taught in their own building and had a separate playground. The juniors' play area was separated into boys and girls by a 6-foot-high wall. Senior girls up to age 15 were housed in another distinct section, but senior boys went to St John Vianney.

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Such a small space meant that pupils had to take their sports lessons in other venues. Gymnastics were taught at Revoe Gym, Queens Park playing fields housed boys' football and annual sports days (later moved to Stanley Park), swimming lessons meant a coach trip to Cocker Street Baths and Thames Road School's learner pool. These later moved to Derby Baths.

Ex-pupil Barry McCann describes changes from the 1960s as *"Class sizes at St Kentigern's increased with the upper juniors housed in a Medway hut where the raised car park now stands. However, the arrival of the 1970s saw the biggest changes in the school's history. The administration by the Society of the Holy Child Jesus came to an end with the departure of Mother Mary Mellissa who was replaced by a secular head, John Moores. The school buildings were remodelled with modern efficiently-heated classrooms and the installation of indoor toilets, replacing the misery of Edwardian outdoor loos that did not even have a roof! The Medway hut was dismantled with Junior Three and Four being brought into the main building, while the infamous wall that separated the boys' and girls' playgrounds was also brought down. Unfortunately, no sooner was modernisation eventually completed when a fire broke out early one morning on November 21, 1975. It turned into an inferno, gutting the library, cloakroom and storerooms, and junior classrooms were rendered unusable until they could be cleared up. Two junior classes relocated to the infant's building, while the others took space at St Joseph's College, though the pupils were kept completely segregated from the big boys"*.
In October 2018, permission was finally granted for the school to erect a raised playground facility. Its headteacher, Frances Wygladala, said the school had one of the highest rates of obesity in Blackpool among its Year Six pupils, so it was vital children had more space to exercise in. As a result, the school secured a grant through the sugar tax to fund the playground.

Father Gerry Farrell opened St Kentigern's Parish Social Centre in July 1973, and on the 121st of November 1975, a fire severely damaged parts of the school. The library, a storeroom, the cloakrooms, and one adjoining classroom were damaged so badly that the Junior School had to be closed for several days.

The Catholic Apostolic Church, Blackpool: was opened on Queen Victoria Road in Revoe on the 20th of November: the adherents were known as *"Irvingites"*.
From about 1981, it was briefly the Assemblies of God Pentecostal Church, and is currently known as the New Life Community Church.

Gadsby Street Baptist Mission, Blackpool: The Baptist Mission at 10 Gadsby Street had been formed by a group of Baptists from Poulton, who had moved to Blackpool in April 1887. By 1934, this had been taken over by the Christadelphians, and it is now a private house, with one bedroom.

Crossland Road Mission, Blackpool: St Paul's Mission Room was opened on the corner of Crossland Road and Hawes Side Lane on the 28th of January. The people of this mission fared badly in the First World War – the mission's Roll of Honour states that 144 served, of which 34 died, and the list of names shows 14 Cardwells, 6 Boardmans, and 5 Fishers etc.
In 1918, the Lay Reader was Mr JA Wolstenholme.
The mission has been demolished for many years.

Blackpool's first Cricket Festival Week was held in July.
On the 15th of September, George Beer opened his Mill Hayes school on Warley Road. He advertised it as a *"First-class Boarding and Day School"*.

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North Shore Golf Club, Blackpool: The club was incorporated on the 15th of March, leasing its land from Cabin Farm, Knowle Farm, and Bank Farm (with a later addition from Warbreck Farm). Mr R H Mabbott along with a group of golf enthusiasts set about laying out the initial 9-hole course on the Knowle. Designed by HS Colt, the course was extended to 18-holes in 1905.
The club first used a thatched cottage at Cabin Farm in Cornwall Avenue as their clubhouse, but a more permanent arrangement ensued after two years, with the opening of the clubhouse at 62 Cornwall Avenue on the 11th of November 1905. This, the town's first golf clubhouse, was opened by the Mayor.

In 1925, Blackpool Borough Council bought the Knowle Estate from the Ainsworth family for new housing, but in 1926, the golf club took out a lease on its land. In 1927, the club was then able to begin building a new course - also designed by HS Colt - and a clubhouse centred on the highest point in Blackpool - Knowle Hill. That clubhouse was built by Atherton's builders, and was opened on the 23rd of June 1928, by Sir Walter de Freece. The old clubhouse still exists, being sold by January 1929, to the Deaf and Dumb Institute. Its north facing elevation originally opened onto the 18th green.
The growth of North Shore Golf Club heralded the demise of the nearby Norbreck Golf Club (1928 to 1964), and the Cleveleys Hydro Golf Club.
In July 1963, North Shore, by then reckoned by many to be Blackpool's best course, hosted an unofficial Britain versus "the World" match involving the likes of Jack Nicklaus, Arnold Palmer, and Gary Player, and attended by Prince Philip.

Fairyland, Blackpool: opened on the north corner of Chapel Street and 109/111 the Promenade, complete with its smoking "Dragon ride", and "*an automated ride through fairy dells, goblin glades, and pixie dens*".
Fairyland burnt down on the 8th of May 1914, reopening in 1931, but it burnt down for the second time on the 20th of July that year. It was immediately rebuilt, and then contained amusements and a roller-skating rink. By 1950, Lane's Premier Amusements had opened between the nearby Montmartre Theatre and the Super Dodgems.
Fairyland, and its popular Roller Disco, began to be demolished in 1968, and Lane's was demolished in November 1970 to permit the widening of Chapel Street.
Fairyland is NOT the Huntsman building.

Chinatown, Blackpool Tower: opened, replacing "Ye Olde Englishe Village". Surrounding the Tower ascent, it had a continuation of the Great Staircase which led to the roof garden, which had been re-styled as a Chinese Tea Garden. Chinatown itself was laid out in the space between the legs of the tower – one the ceiling of the circus. It had shop and stalls, and there was a buffet in one of the recesses.
There were four bridges, connecting the new balconies on the 4 sides of the Tower, and in these there were more stalls, shooting galleries, and "Chinese games of skill". The whole ceiling was painted deep blue, with Chinese birds flying across it, but as night fell, electric "stars" and Chinese lanterns would slowly illuminate the area.
It was renamed the Oriental Village and Old China Tea House in 1907, it later became the Oriental Lounge, and was converted into the Apollo Playground in 1970, in which the Tower ascent became like a rocket being launched.

William Chadwick's furniture store at 23 Dickson Road closed when he went out of business on the 9th of November. In about 1925, the building was demolished and a Williams and Deacon's Bank opened on the site. In the late 1980s, this became a solicitor's office with a small guest house – the Gwalia Hotel – on its first floor. It has since been a shop – Clubwear 200, and several incarnations as bars – Cruz Bar, Kitty's

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Showbar, Taboo Bar and the Queen Vic. In 2015, the building became the Man Bar. Trade Televisions operate a studio on the first floor.
MA Wild was running his "Fish, Chips, and Oyster Saloon" on Albert Road.
Wright's was at 71 Lytham Road, selling rock, postcards, beach equipment etc.
AJ Dakin was running his milliner's shop on Church Street in South Shore.
Copley Dene was built at number 85 Preston Old Road.

Blackpool Allotments: The Blackpool Allotment Gardeners Association was formed on the 6th of September, first using many plots which stretched along both sides of Central Drive between Bloomfield Road and Waterloo Road. There had previously been a putting green and children's playground at the Revoe end, and tennis courts where today's all-weather pitches are.

By 1910, allotments ran along both sides of Lytham Road, from Bloomfield Road to Waterloo Road, and in 1912, more allotments were opened there.

In 1938, Cherry Tree allotments were opened by the Corporation. Cherry Tree Lodge had been demolished to make way. It had stood since the mid-1860s and its place was taken by the allotment's main car park. It is thought that the nearby Acregate Allotments were also opened at this time, although proof of them cannot be found prior to 1946.

There have been many other sites for public allotments over the years, and I am not listing them. Current allotments however, are at Acregate - Keasden Avenue, Bridge Farm - Haweside Lane, Cherry Tree - Cherry Tree Road, Lawson Road, Oxford Square - Whitegate Drive, and Scotswood. These were run by Blackpool Council until 2011, when the Blackpool Federation of Allotment Associations (formed in 1998) assumed responsibility. Independent allotments are run at Beckway Avenue in Layton (opened in 1946 on the site of an old brickcroft), and at David's Slack off Newton Drive (officially opened in 1941).

These are now joined by the Gorton Street Community Garden, and the Grange Park Community Garden.

Blackpool Rational Association Friendly Society was established.
The Blackpool and Fylde branch of the National Association of Women's Suffrage Societies was founded.
JH Shoesmith started his ventilation business in the Fenton Works on George Street.
Photographer William Buckley opened his studio in Cocker Square.
North Shore Garage and Motor Works Ltd was at Warbreck Road and Wilton Parade. This year, they became the sole distributors of the "Auto-Glider". The business was taken over in 1946 by Northern Commercials Ltd. Today's North Shore Garage is at 141 High Street.
The Century Restaurant, run by Harry Blakeway, was on Dickson Road, opposite North Station. He also offered *"Comfortable rooms"* with *"Accommodation for 200"*, along with *"Ladies' and Gents' Lavatories, baths, coffee room and breakfast rooms"*. All meat was proudly "Guaranteed British".
Buffalo Bill Cody's Wild West Show appeared at the Portland Trotting Track off Whitegate Drive on the 24th of September.

Other businesses operating this year included:

- Arbury's Baths in the Metropole Arcade;
- J Donnelly's fashions at 84 Church Street - originally Henry Ridings' old ironmongery, (Chester's Tea Rooms since 2007), 86 Church Street (now Pizza Express), and 109 Church Street - extended in 1909 (more recently the Mosaic fashion shop, and from 2015, the Amaro Italian restaurant)

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- Goulden's ladies tailoring and furriers at 52 to 56 Victoria Street;
- Hill's Bazaar, with RHO Hill, proprietor;
- Clarke and Heap, butcher's in Palatine Buildings;
- J Turner and Company, opticians in the Conservative Club Building on Victoria Street;
- The Alpine Model Laundry in Back Reads Road;
- MacDonald's artificial teeth at 1 Clifton Street (over Ashton's Chemists); and
- John O'Brien, selling oilcloths, carpets, and furnishings from 34A Abingdon Street.

By now, Blackpool was offering ferry trips to Southport, Liverpool, Llandudno, Beaumaris, Holyhead, the Isle of Man, Barrow, Morecambe, Grange-over-sands, and Glasson Dock.
Bispham Council offices were on Church Road and on Red Bank Road. The Church Road premises also housed the town mortuary in a rear block.
At this time, the sewerage facilities in Bispham were still primitive: *"The excreta from the houses in King's Drive, Hesketh Avenue, Hesketh Place, Norwood Place, Garden Cottages, and most of the houses along Red Bank Road is carried into a large brick culvert, which is laid mostly along Red Bank Road, and empties into two large tanks on the east side of the village. The sewage from Norbreck Estate runs southwards across private land, and is discharged into the culvert in Red Bank Road"*.

The Daisy Colony at Carleton: Allen Clarke wrote to Leon Tolstoy, outlining plans for a self-supporting rural colony-cum-holiday resort – the *"Daisy Colony"* - to be located at Carleton. Higham House and some land were rented in the village in 1905, and produce was grown and sold locally, but the chosen site proved unfavourable ground for ideas of rural regeneration. Divisions among those running the colony meant that the site was abandoned by 1907.
Daisy Bank, a bungalow near Carleton crossing, was named in honour of the colony. This house originally offered "Teas and Apartments", courtesy of Messrs Boyes and Ackroyd.

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Poulton Day Schools opened on the 19th of October.

Cleveleys Park Methodist Church: The wooden, temporary Cleveleys Wesleyan chapel was built at the junction of West Drive and Rossall Road. The local Methodists then bought the site from the Cleveleys Cottage Exhibition. They then converted, what was by then operating as a tearoom, into a chapel.

Cleveleys Park Methodist Church was subsequently opened on West Drive on the 4th of August 1909, by Mrs T Lumb, the wife of the architect. It had cost £1,600 to be built and was constructed by Lancaster and Son in 14 weeks.

The current Cleveleys Park Wesleyan Church was opened on the 4th of August 1962, and the original church became the church hall. The worship area seats over 300 people, and other accommodation includes a comfortable lounge, meeting rooms, and a hall with a stage that is used by the Church Drama Group. There is also a kitchen and toilets.

The Fleetwood Wesleyan Cycling Club was formed.
Fleetwood Amateurs won the local football league.
Hambleton Reading Rooms were officially opened by Mrs Renshaw of Shard House on the 21st of October. They were reopened as Hambleton Village Hall in 1955, with the introduction of a Pavilion bar and Billiard room, and the hall was rebuilt in 1999.
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The Golden Ball Hotel, Pilling: was built on School Lane by Major EGS Hornby, opening in the winter of this year. The licence had been suspended in 1716, when Robert Carter's school had been built on the site of the original site Golden Ball Inn. That first site now houses the public conveniences for the town.
The new hotel actually boasted *"bathrooms"* and had its own stables and bowling green. A popular putting green was added in later years.

St Paul's Church, St Anne's: opened on Clifton Drive and King's Road in Ansdell on the 29th of February. It was designed by James Medland Taylor of Manchester and built by John Walmsley of Preston. The building cost of £8,215 and was constructed in the late perpendicular Gothic style of architecture, of brick with stone facings and pillars. The plans provided for additional nave and side aisle, but these were not built. There are seats for 485 people.
It became an independent parish on the 9th of February 1917, and Fairhaven, Pollux Gate, Cyprus Avenue, and Miletas Place all take their names from St Paul's travels.

St Paul's Mission, Commonside was also run by the church, until it was destroyed by fire in 1969. The mission was demolished and replaced by a small a small park, then by Ansdell Library. The money from the insurance money from the destruction paid for a new church hall, the site of which was originally destined to be an infant and junior school.

Lytham Amateur Operatic Society was formed. They held their first show at Lowther Pavilion in 1928, performing "Highwayman Love". They were regularly supported by the Lytham Amateur Orchestra, under WF Holden.

Lytham Bowling Club: On the 29th of September, Lytham Bowling Club Ltd was established. The freehold in approximately three-quarters of an acre of land, which was at that time a market garden, was acquired from the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway Company and became the site of the present club.
The club replaced the Lytham Subscription Bowling Club which played at a green on Henry Street, and in 1905, that club moved from Henry Street to next to the Railway Station.
The pavilion was built in 1905 and was replaced with the current building in 1980.

The population of Lytham had reached 8,000. In 1881 it had been a mere 1,421. The town had almost doubled in size in 23 years.
Lytham Sewage Works received a new Steam Disinfector, and the recently-built Destructor Works was working well, and coping with all the refuse *"scavenged"* by Council workers.
Richard Benson opened his butcher's shop and slaughterhouse in Kirkham. The company grew to become R Benson Catering Meats Ltd. They opened a shop at 248 Whitegate Drive in Blackpool in 1973, along with one on Clifton Street in Lytham and Dock Street in Fleetwood. The Whitegate Drive shop was taken over as "Plaice to Meat" in June 2013 – closed in 2014, to become a Subway outlet in 2015.

1905

The New South Promenade, Blackpool: Mayor Joseph Brodie opened this to the public in a lavish ceremony attended by the *"great and good of Blackpool"* on July the 25th.
The Promenade to South Shore had been widened to 80 feet, reclaiming 22 acres of land from the sea, and changing Blackpool's look to that of a proper town. However, in most places, the beach could still only be reached by walking on wooden boards. The 700 men who worked on the scheme for three years were each given a linen cloth, showing details of the massive South Promenade's construction scheme.

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The council had also built its first "surface" public urinal on the new promenade, opposite the Manchester Hotel, causing much local consternation at the "obscene" view.

The Miniature Railway, Blackpool: was opened on the sands by the Pleasure Beach on Whit Monday, by the competing Miniature Railways Company of Great Britain. Its "Little Giant" 15-inch engine and carriages ran for 433 yards along the sands before stopping at Gipsyville Station by the Gipsy campsite. The railway had been brought from Eaton Hall in Chester, where it had been built in 1895.
Next door to the station was the tent of Jennie Boswell, who was "Gipsy Sarah's Only Clever Granddaughter" – allegedly "Patronised by His Majesty"!
The Scenic Miniature Railway was removed from the beach in 1909, and sold to Sunny Vale Park Gardens near Halifax.

The Blackpool New Fairground Company Limited was formed by Albert Ellis, operating a "figure-of-eight" Roller Coaster and the Alpine Water Chute near Thomas Nickson's Star Inn (behind which, there had been a rifle range in the 1890s). The Water Chute was "all but blown away and the lake destroyed" in a great storm in 1907. This rival to the Pleasure Beach, managed by Richard Flanaghan, lasted until 1910.
Bostock's Great Zoological Arena appeared on the beach opposite the Manchester Hotel.
Barnum's Circus Show performed on Lytham Road, by South Shore Station.
The "French Exhibition" appeared on the Promenade, for this season only. It featured waxworks of Paris street scenes, and a risqué representation of mixed bathing at Trouville.
The first Blackpool Championship Dog Show was held. The second annual show was not until June the 6th and 7th 1934, held at the Corporation Transport Depot on Rigby Road, the show having been revived in principle in 1921. The show soon moved to the Stanley Park Oval and then to Lawson Road.
The cast iron shelters were erected on the Promenade. They are now Listed Buildings.
Erosion of the north cliffs became so bad, that a Board of Trade Notice was erected, prohibiting the removal of gravel and boulders from the bottom.
The North Pier Hotel was in business on the Promenade, just to the north of Talbot Square, supplied by Mann's Ales.

St Thomas's Church, Blackpool: was founded at the corner of Caunce Street (number 135) and Devonshire Road. It was described as *"a spacious building of Accrington brick with stone facings, was built as a church-of-ease to St. John's. The foundation stone was laid by Thomas McCandless, Esq., the donor of land and a great benefactor. In 1913, the parish of St. Thomas' was formed into a conventional parish, with the Rev. W. Walmsley as curate-in-charge. He was succeeded in 1917 by the present vicar. In 1921, the parish was formed into a separate one".*
The church opened its three-floored men's institute on the 1st of October 1907. This is now called the Parish Centre.

That first church was replaced in 1932, by the church we see today, which was designed by Lancaster architects Austin and Paley, and cost £10,326. It is built in brick with stone dressings and has windows with mixed decorated and Perpendicular tracery. Only the east end of the church and 3½ bays of the nave and aisles were completed. Because it was never completed, Hartwell and Pevsner in the Buildings of England series describe it as *"a stump of a church".*

St Mark's Mission Church, Layton: opened, as a tin mission hut, with the Parsonage at 1 Poulton Road.

©

In 1911, the second St Mark's Church was built on the site of Hoo Hill Croft, opening in March. The new iron Mission Hall cost £600 and housed the famous "Braithwaite's Bell" which could be heard all over Blackpool. Layton Church Institute was opened on the 27th of September 1913.

The current St Mark's Church was built in 1927, being consecrated on the 27th of September. The architect, Mr EE Dennis, designed the *"Church on the Hill"* to feature strong Norman Architectural aspects. The original plans included a bell tower and north and south transepts. It was planned to seat 800 people, and the cost would have been approximately £45,000. The budget was only £17,000 to £20,000, so the original plans for the main body of the Church remained, leaving provision for further building at some future date. It is constructed in Rainhill Red Sandstone by JR Fielding and Son.

In 1929, St Mark's opened tennis courts on Pelham Avenue. The pavilion was one of the old Big Wheel carriages, and the site was turned into Beckway Avenue allotments in 1939. In 1938, the church opened a Sunday school building on the site of the old tin mission.
The Vicarage was built slightly later on the corner of Kingscote Drive and Drummond Avenue.

The Metropole Assembly Rooms acquired a licence for dancing and music.
Yorkshire Fisheries opened at 16 Topping Street. By 1924, it was being run by William Taylor, and by 1934, by Edward Fawcett. It the 1950's, the chip shop changed its name to Whittaker's, however, in the early 1980s, the shop changed its name back to Yorkshire Fisheries, as this was where new owners Robert and Hilda Taylor came from. In 1989, the shop was bought by George and Val Vasiliou. Since George Street Fisheries closed in 2016, it is now the oldest surviving "chippy" in Blackpool.
Albin's Bazaar opened on the 25th of May on Church Street.
FC Griffiths opened his butchers at Holmcliffe Road.
H and L Roper's baker's shop was at 3 Cheltenham Road. It is now a private house.
Abrams and Whiteson, Jewish Poulterers and Provision Dealers, were at 188 Church Street - the only Jewish poulterers for Blackpool and district and authorised by the Blackpool Hebrew Congregation.
Number 1 Gynn Avenue was built, later becoming the Seebreeze Guest House.
Boland Wolfenden, photographer was in operation from 198 Central Drive. He had originally worked from his home at 20 Belmont Avenue.

Fylde Farm, Normoss: The Fylde Farm School Reformatory School for Boys behind Normoss farm opened on the 1st of June, run by the Manchester and Salford Society for the Reformation of Juvenile Offenders. The school had been started in 1854 in Blackley, as an industrial school, but its owners decided to buy the 80-acre site near Poulton for a more rural and roomier setting.
The Foundation Stone was laid on the 16th of July 1904, by James Beard JP, and the architect of the school was Mr Higginbottom.
On the 1st of June 1905, 80 boys from Blackley were transferred to the new premises, which were officially certified on August 25th, to take up 130 boys.

The main building, arranged around three sides of a quadrangle, included dormitories, workshops, gymnasium etc. and a new schoolroom was built in 1912. There was a block of staff cottages to the west of the school complex. The new heads were *"Mr and Mrs CS Potter. The other staff at the new establishment were the head schoolmaster (Mr Thomas C. Gibbs), the assistant schoolmaster (Mr F. Faunthorpe), farm bailiff, shoemaker, tailor, carpenter, bandmaster, gymnastics instructor, baker, and cook, two gardeners, engineer, laundress, and domestic. In 1910, industrial training at the School included farm work, gardening, tailoring, shoemaking, carpentry, and baking. The whole School had a daily session*

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in a course of "free gymnastics on the most up-to-date army system". Cricket, football, and athletics were encouraged, and there was a small library. The School's band was rated as *"quite first-class"*.

In 1933, Fylde Farm became an Approved School, one of the new institutions introduced by the 1932 Children and Young Persons Act. The Fylde School by then accommodated up to 130 Senior Boys aged between their 15th and 17th birthdays at their date of admission. In 1973, the school became a Community Home with Education (CHE) under the control of Lancashire County Council, and in later years, it gained the more acceptable name of the Fylde Community.

The Emmanuel Christian School moved to the site in September 2002. The private school specialised in the education and care of children with special educational needs. Dales House closed on the 8th of October 2004, and the main school closed on the 16th of July 2010.
After several other uses, the buildings were finally demolished in February 2013, to be replaced by up to 115 houses. The outbuildings of Normoss Farm – which was demolished in 1964 - were demolished too.

In January 2019, it was agreed that Kensington Developments Ltd will construct 162 new homes on the site, together with holiday accommodation, offices, education and conference facilities, a fishing lodge, swimming pool, gym, and a large country park.

Church Cottages, Lytham Road, Blackpool: The Tower Circus owned the cottages on the corner of Lytham Road and Stoneycroft Avenue, which were built for St Mary's Church around the corner. The open land was used by the Blackpool Tower Company to train the circus animals, and the cottages were used to house them, and to prepare meat for them. The Tower's animal hospital was also sited there, with containment pens for the larger animals.

In 1905, there were three partly-grown lions at the Tower site, when William Livesey, who had been drinking at the Dunes Hotel, let himself into the enclosure where the lions were kept. It appeared that he stumbled and fell over, and the lions killed and ate him. His friend Edward Eaves was with him but escaped uninjured. They both threw their beer bottles at the lions but to no avail.

The Gazette wrote *"A butcher who worked for the Blackpool Tower Co. found two lionesses and a lion cub wandering about the Aquarium Yard, Lytham Road at Blackpool. He had gone to feed them and they were in the yard and the other in the lion-house and rather bravely he got two back in their house. Both he and Mr Walmsley got them all into the cages, but a horrendous discovery was made when they trying to find out how they escaped. On the floor lay William Livesey, a carter who worked for the Tower Company. He was nude and ripped to shreds, his left leg was dislocated and portions of the body had been eaten away. His back and chest had deep claw marks. A witness by the name of Beck, saw Livesey and another bloke go towards the lion-house and a man was seen running away. It is thought that alcohol played a major part in the stupid act of going into the lion-house"*. Livesey is buried in Preston Cemetery.
They are now known as Church Cottages and are privately owned.

The Oldham Savings Association was formed in Blackpool, to allow access to their Wakes Week savings for the many visitors from that town.
The Blackpool and Fylde Auto Club was formed, first meeting at the Metropole Hotel on the 16th of May. During August, the first Blackpool Motor Meeting was held on the Promenade. C Earp set a British Record for a Flying Mile in his Napier car – he took 21.5 seconds and averaged 104.52 mph. Monsieur Cisse set a

©

motorcycle World Record for the Flying Kilometre when he took 25.5 seconds at 96.25 mph. A Wolseley Ambulance car patrolled the whole event.
The Blackpool and Layton Angling Society was formed. It is the annual holder of one of oldest sea competitions in the UK - the "North Pier Open" - which was first held in November 1907.
Blackpool's first fatal motor accident occurred on the 23rd of April.
Escapologist Harry Houdini appeared at The Hippodrome on Church Street from the 12th to the 17th of June. On the 12th, he was granted permission to try to escape from the cells at South King Street station. He was stripped and searched by officers, then his clothes were placed in one cell, and he was locked in another. He quickly got out of the cell, got his clothes, unlocked the iron bar door in the corridor, and walked into the police office - all in 7 minutes.

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The Swan Inn, Carleton: was in operation on Swan Street. Both the inn and the street have now vanished.

High Simmons was the Poulton Blacksmith and was much-decorated a champion *"Shoer of Champion Harness Horses and Ponies"*. His workshop was on Station Road.
Fleetwood steamer "Viking" came into service - reputed to have been capable of over 24 knots, it was said that only the latest Cunarders were faster. "Viking" was built in response to the Midland Railway's Manxman, on the Heysham-Douglas route. During the First World War, the Viking was converted into the seaplane carrier "HMS Vindex". She survived the conflict, and returned to service in 1920, to stay as the mainstay of the Fleetwood service until 1930. The Viking was finally scrapped in 1954.
James Marr and James Robertson formed the Lancashire Steam Fishing Company Limited at Fleetwood.

The Thursby Home, St Anne's: The Thursby Convalescent Home for Children was opened by the Bishop of Burnley in the sand dunes on the 11th of April, in the old club house of the Blackpool Golf Club. It had been built by John Whiteside of St Anne's for Sir John Thursby, a colliery owner from Burnley, who had been made Sheriff of the Duchy of Lancaster in the March. On the 22nd of July 1914, The Thursby Trust Incorporated was registered as a charity.
By 1933, it had begun to provide holiday accommodation too, as the Misses A and E Lackenby, Mrs, Swift, and others took miners' children from Burnley and district to and from St Anne's every Saturday, for a fortnight's holiday.

The home closed in 1976, and became the New Thursby Care Home in the late 1990s with an address of 604 Clifton Drive North. The home now has 36 bedrooms and 17 en-suite apartments.

The Clifton Park Hotel was opened at 299-301 Clifton Drive South in St Anne's.
A private boarding school, run by the Misses Bendall and Berwick *"for daughters of gentlemen"* was at 25 Clifton Drive.
John Brierley established his building company at 2 Devonshire Road in St Anne's.
Ansdell College for Girls and Preparatory School for Boys was at number 6 Cyprus Avenue. It was a small private boarding school, whose pupils lived in the adjacent six-bedroomed house. In the 1960s, it became Cyprus Lodge, a NALGO Convalescent Home, which changed its name to the Unison Welfare Convalescent Home before being closed in November 1998. It was quickly converted into 3 self-contained flats.
The Rossendale Boarding House was on the southwest corner of Clifton Drive and Woodlands Road in Ansdell. It later became the Rossendale Rest Home.

Lytham Conservative Club: was opened in Hastings Place in June.
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The Hastings Bistro opened in the building in October 2010. From 2008, it was called the Sparling, and soon retitled itself as the Hastings Eating and Drinking House.
It closed in February 2012, to be replaced on the 22nd of May 2013 by the Istanbul Turkish restaurant.

At 60 Clifton Street in Lytham stood Hugh Gaskill's Commercial Hotel, and next door were Wykeham Cottages. The hotel both took in guests and ran its own café and tea rooms. It later became a simple shop, and the cottages were knocked down in 1929, to make way for the Palace Cinema. They included Ralph Firth's plumber's shop.
The Lytham Standard newspaper was first published on the 23rd of June.
Thomas Hyndemarch, dispensing chemist, was at 15 Clifton Street in Lytham. By 1934, John Forbes had taken over. The shop finally became the La Tete et Toute clothing store.
Lark Hall Farm was built on Ballam Road, between Westby and Lytham.

Wrea Green Cricket Club: was formed. Cricket had been played on the Green for many years, but only now did it become organised. A meeting instigated by Tommy Myles started things off, and a pitch was first marked out on the village green.

Stalmine Village Hall: Stalmine Reading and Recreation Room was instituted, being built on a site donated to the village by Miss Dickinson. The opening ceremony took place on the 19th of August 1910, performed by Lady Ashton, followed by a luncheon. Two days of opening events followed including a Grand Bazaar and a Horticultural Show in a marquee and a dance on the second evening, music provided by the Preesall Orchestral Band.
The rooms are now the village hall, and the enterprise became a registered charity in 2005.
In 2008, it changed its name to Stalmine Village Hall.

Great Eccleston Club Day on the 19th of June saw the opening of a new Athletics Pavilion in the village.

Nateby Lodge and pre-historic remains: At this time, the lodge was the home of the Bretherton family. It is thought to have been built in the early 19th century and is now a large farm.
To the east of the lodge are the remains of a *"pile settlement"* – an artificial island in what used to be Ainspool Lake, whose remains were uncovered by members of the Fylde and Wyre Archaeological Society in 1996. The lake may well have stretched as far west as Nateby Lodge and was drained in the early 1940s. The name "Ainspool" is thought to be a corruption of "St Anne's Pool", which may even have been joined to Myerscough Lake.
Also, to the east of the lodge are the remains of a pre-historic *"henge"*. These remains are in the form of a circular embankment which surrounds a henge that would have been ten times bigger than Stonehenge.

1906

The Scenic Railway, Pleasure Beach: While on a visit to the USA, JH Iles saw a scenic railway, or roller coaster, and bought the British rights to it. He now began to build Britain's first scenic railway at Blackpool Pleasure Beach. It was duly opened on the 25th of June, having been designed by LaMarcus Thompson, and costing £20,000. It was first managed by local gypsy Trafalgar Boswell.
The Scenic Railway was over 1 mile in length, 40 feet high, and had and a top speed of 35 mph. After the start, the train entered several enclosed sheds, and its entry tripped lights inside, to illuminate the different scenes. Riders made two circuits, and on one day in July 1909, it carried 1,500 customers.
In 1919, the Pleasure Beach bought the railway outright.

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The ride closed in 1933, and was removed in 1939, to be quickly demolished to make way for the Grand National ride.

The Pleasure Beach first acquired electric lighting, powered by the Corporation's system instead of its own generators. They also opened Vanderdecken's Haunted Cabin and the Sea Circus.
Blackpool Council described the Pleasure Beach as *"a disgrace to Blackpool and the ruination of South Shore"* – a far cry from today's relationship.
The North Pier Private Hotel was on the corner of the Promenade and Queen's Square. It is currently Kelly's Café.
W Naylor and Sons Ltd, jewellers and merchants, were at 38 Church Street.
The Blackpool Coroner found that the death of a woman at Blackpool was caused by the driver of a motor car driving negligently and beyond the statutory limit of twenty miles an hour.
The Blackpool Lyric Amateur Operatic Society's first performance was "the Geisha". Also performing around town at the time was the South Shore Amateur Operatic Society.
Trams started running between Lytham and Blackpool, and Blackpool Corporation finally allowed advertising to appear on its own tram fleet from January.

The Co-operative Convalescent Home/Glenroyd, Blackpool: The Co-operative Hospital opened at 164 Whitegate Drive on the 14th of April, on land which had been bought by the Wilson family in 1884.

It later became Glenroyd Maternity Hospital and was used as an emergency hospital in the 2nd World War. In 1946, it was requisitioned by the corporation for use by maternity cases under Emergency Medical Services laws. Blackpool Corporation continued to use the hospital for maternity patients until it was closed on the 1st of October 1974, and then demolished from August 1976. The Co-op's Northwest Convalescent Homes Association, which had run Glenroyd as its last home, was dissolved in 1978.

Glenroyd Medical Practice was established in 1951, and after the demolition of the original home, the medical practice was re-built on its site, facing Whitegate Drive. Eventually, in 1988, the combined Glenroyd Medical Centre and Rest Home opened – in two separate buildings - on the site at number 164. The 78-bedroomed Glenroyd Rest Home was soon taken over by Barchester Healthcare Ltd.
The medical practice had meanwhile expanded to take over a second practice at 467 Devonshire Road, and those premises are now home to the main Glenroyd Medical Practice.

From June 2010, the Glenroyd Medical Centre was extended by the addition of a second floor, built by Nobles Construction Ltd. An in-centre branch of Cohen's Chemists was also added, replacing the previous Whitworth's branch.

Blackpool's Mayor, TP Smith, moved into Blenheim Lodge on Whitegate Drive.

The Castle at North Shore, Blackpool: Arthur Townley Knowles built the Castle at 64 Queen's Promenade North Shore for his wife, who unfortunately stayed in France. The couple stayed in the house for a mere 9 months during 1929. Apart from housing Belgian refugees during World War 1, it stayed empty until 1935, when it was auctioned on Mr Knowles' behalf in May. It was bought by entrepreneur Lawrence Wright with the intention of building a theatre on the site. At the time, Lawrence Wright's Pierrots were appearing nearby in the Gynn Gardens – *"Admission Free".*
Lawrence Wright was the real name of Horatio Nicholls.

©

For a period in 1940, it was used by the RAF as their "Castle Club", even inspiring a song called "The badge from your coat" to be written about it by Annette Mills.

Wright sold it in 1941, and it was then bought and opened in 1946, as a "Picnic Centre" by the National Federation of Old People's Associations. It was regularly used by over 1,000 people per week, both for days out and as a guest house, being known fondly as the Old People's Castle.

Next, after several years as the home of the Blackpool and Fylde Motor Club, it became the Castle Casino in 1965, first owned by wrestler Jack Pye, who moved to Blackpool in 1950. Pye and his son Dominic also owned two clubs on Dickson Road in the 1950s, the Embassy Club and the Horseshoe Bar.
It has since had various identities, and was last taken over in 2005, now being known as the Genting Club – part of a national chain of that name. It can hold 384 gamblers.

Edward's Shaving Room and Cotton's Dining Room faced each other on Talbot Road adjacent to the Post Office on the corner of Topping Street and 110 Talbot Road. For many years, this was a Ladbroke's bookmaker's shop, then Peel Street Chemist's, and now a Lloyd's Pharmacy.
James Wright had photography shops opposite Bailey's Hotel and at Uncle Tom's Cabin.
Bertha Cummin's drapery at 47 Bank Hey Street closed in July when she went bankrupt.
S Butterworth and Sons Limited, builders and contractors, were operating from their Public Sawmills on Hornby Road.

The Alexandra Restaurant, Blackpool: was on the corner of 28 to 30 Bank Hey/Victoria Street, being the *"Most Commodious and Central Restaurant in Blackpool"*. The premises could cater for parties of up to 500 people.
It also had 2 billiard rooms upstairs – the Alexandra Billiard Rooms – which had 8 tables by Burroughes and Watts and advertised themselves as *"The best ventilated and lighted rooms in Blackpool"*. These rooms also offered the games of Pool, Pyramids, and Snooker.
After becoming Henry's store, it was demolished in 1978, to make way for the current Boots store.

The Blackpool Fruit and Poultry Farm Company Limited was wound up in June.
The houses named Elm Bank were built on Vicarage Lane.
The Moore's Hotel was built at 42 Banks Street.
The Brickcroft, halfway down Warbreck Hill was the source of clay for many of Blackpool's red brick buildings. Gynn Gardens is now on the site, with its putting green and floral displays.
James Kirtland's Piano store was next door to the Albion Hotel and Restaurant on Central Beach. He later opened a second shop at 68 Church Street, South Shore (now called Bond Street). Mr Kirtland wrote a special Blackpool song, called the Bucket and Spade Polka.
Italian ice cream maker Arturo Naventi arrived and founded his business in Singleton Street, which soon blossomed into over 40 local carts and stalls. He later opened a warehouse on Bickerstaffe Street. From 1994 until 1999, the building became Naventi's Leisure Centre, and is now a Key Fitness club.
Albin's Bazaar opened at 49 to 55 Church Street on the 25th of May, later becoming Marks and Spencer's.
Blackpool Confectionery Works was on Springfield Road, run by R Hartley and Sons, who would soon start Waller and Hartley's.
In May, Baldwin's bottling plant on Ibbison Street was sold at auction. Mr Baldwin had gone bankrupt, and all bottles and equipment, two horses and harnesses, carts and stable requisites were all sold.
The Mackintosh family were selling toffee from stalls near the fairground.
CH Wood's jewellery and fancy goods shop was on the corner of Central Drive and Hornby Road.

©

A Davies started his Coal Merchants business on Highfield Road.
There was a robbery at Warbreck Road Telegraph Sub-Office on the 7th of September.
Arthur Laycock became Blackpool's first socialist councillor. He later wrote a popular song about the town entitled *"We're havin' a grand time at Blackpool"*, which appeared on postcards of the time.
Blackpool School Library Scheme started on the 5th of October.

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Cleveleys: An architectural competition, won by Sir Edwin Lutyens was held, and building began after the Cleveleys Cottage Exhibition was held from the 21st of July until September. The exhibition took its name from a Mr Cleveley who had moved from Manchester and set-up a coaching house; as was common, the premises took the name of the proprietor. For the exhibition, 44 houses of differing modern designs and construction were built on Stockdove Way, West Drive, and Whiteside Way, with temporary exhibition buildings (including "Ye Tea House" and visitor lounges) between Cleveleys Avenue and Rossall Road. Whiteside Farm was still standing at the time, at the eastern end of Whiteside Way.
Number 10 West Drive won the prize for the best detached house, and numbers 28 and 30 Whiteside Way won for the best semi-detached. All the original houses are still standing.

The only houses actually designed by Lutyens himself are the "Dutch Cottages" on Way Gate (now called Thornton Gate), and "Beach Croft", which he designed for the architect TG Lumb – who built it. 10 Cross Way (originally called the Mellings, and now the Kingfisher Rest Home), is outside the exhibition area, but also thought to have been of Lutyens' design.

The new town comprised several distinct estates, such as the Central Beach Estate and the Rossall Beach Estate.
Cleveleys was known as *Ritherholme* or *Ritherham* in ancient times, and Ritherham Farm has stood in the same place for many years. The farm was spelled *Rytherham* when it was sold by Thomas Aked in 1858. The name is thought to derive from the stream flowing into the sea there - *"river holm"* - which MAY be the last remnant of a spur of the River Wyre.

A little-known Cleveleys fact is that the town now has NO "streets". It originally had one – Little South Street – but this had its name changed to South Avenue in 1953.

Beach Road Council School, Cleveleys: was opened. It was founded by Sir William Hodgson.
Beach Road Junior School closed in August 1998, and merged with the 1950s Manor Drive County Infants, to become Manor Beach Primary School – both located on Manor Drive. Manor Beach Primary School has 8 classes, each with an equal mix of boys and girls.

In 1991, the old Beach Road School was turned into the Frank Townend Community Centre. It then became the Cleveleys Community Centre in 2000 and the Cleveleys Community Church in 2010.

Ashley Conservative Club, Thornton: was opened on the 24th of March on the corner of Victoria Road East and Alexandra Road. A grand opening feast was held at the Gardeners Arms on the 31st. By 1910 it had moved into Rossendale Bungalow on the corner of Rossendale Avenue South and Victoria Road East, which had briefly housed the Council. Henry Heys, a builder who constructed much of Thornton, lived opposite in Stacksteads Bungalow.
On the 25th of February 1950, it moved to new premises at 68 Victoria Road East. It is now simply called the Ashley Club.
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Thornton Gas Works: were opened on Butts Road, having 2 gasometers. In 1949, the works were taken over by the North-Western Gas Board. The site was cleared between 1982 and 1983, and the Gas Board sold it for building and business plots.

The Blackpool Sailing Club, Skippool: was founded. In 1909, it changed to the Blackpool and Fleetwood Yacht Club, with headquarters in Blackpool and Fleetwood. The first clubhouse was on a beached yacht, soon to be replaced by a wooden hut. The current clubhouse was opened in 1962 on the same site. The riverside nearby has been the mooring place for many houseboats.

St Paul's Church, Fleetwood: was formed, with its first service being held on the 20th of October in the Minor Hall of the Co-operative building on London Street. Towards the end of 1906 a group of people had resigned from the Parish Church and had formed their own St Paul's Church. The later moved directly across the road, to a hall that they altered and prepared for worship.

In 1926, the congregation bought a plot of land on Darbishire Road, and a new church was begun. Help came from all walks of life, and the church was completed in less than six months. Having been constructed with bricks built by members of the congregation, the new church was first used on the 31st of August 1927. Its Sunday school began in 1929.

Fleetwood Amateur Swimming Club was formed on the 14th of June.
The Oil Factory opened at Fleetwood on the 15th of September.
Fleetwood Sewage Works were opened. The first sod of the new works had been cut by Sir George Armytage Bart on March the 21st 1905.
T Rawlinson's joinery on Dock Street, Fleetwood went bankrupt in November.
The schooner Old Hunter was wrecked after being stranded on Shell Wharf at Fleetwood on the 20th of February.
Mains water reached Preesall on the 30th of June.

St Anne's Library: St Anne's Carnegie Library was officially opened by Councillor George Walters Spring on the 10th of January. The land was given by the St Anne's on Sea Land and Building Company and philanthropist Andrew Carnegie paid for the building itself after a fund-raising campaign by local people. Designed by local man JD Harker, it was built by Samuel Wilson of St Anne's, and was the first library in the town, although there was a Reading Room on Church Road.
A 1d levy on the rates was imposed by the Council to pay for its upkeep.
"The first Librarian in charge, appointed in July 1905, was a Mr TP Thompson who had come from Bolton where he had worked at the Bolton Free Library for 14 years. By March 1906, however, he had been replaced by Miss Bertha M Barrow".

An extension was opened on the 25th of September 1932 to house the Reference and Children's sections. This was built by John Heap and Sons of St Anne's.

The library closed for repairs in 2017, and re-opened in March 2019.

Boots Chemists opened at 3-5 St Anne's Road West. There was originally a café on the first floor of the store. The date of construction is carved above the entrance. Boots' other Fylde branch was on Park Street in Lytham, with each shop having its own small lending library.
St Anne's Rifle Range was opened on the 3rd of November.

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Frank Dickinson was born in Blackpool. He started work in 1921 for his aunt Maud Farnsworth who was a St Anne's optician, and went on to become an international contact lens pioneer, researcher, and writer, and developed the micro-corneal contact lens at his own practice in St Anne's Square. The practice premises became a Dollond and Aitchison branch in 1966, after Frank's own business was taken over by them, and he became managing director of the firm. It now houses Boots opticians.

Peet's Light at St Anne's: A pile lighthouse was erected by James Barron, roughly opposite Denford Avenue, on the north wall of the channel, approximately twelve miles from Preston Dock. The wooden building on top was originally used as a bunk house and store for workers building the stone training walls in the Ribble channel.
The light was soon being called "Barron's Beacon", but after the First World War, it became known locally as Peet's Light (or "Pete's Light", or "Piet's Light"), as it was originally intended to accommodate Jack Peet, the *"tipper"* who supervised the correct tipping of dredged materials to form the training walls.
Royal Marines occupied the structure during the Second World War, and the cabin was destroyed by fire on the 25th of May 1954. The light's pile was saved, but the rest of the structure followed in 1985, when it was destroyed in a gale.

Ansdell Unitarian Church: The first few meetings of the local Unitarians had been held in Mr Cuthbert Grundy's house in Lake Road. After about six months it was decided to build permanent a church, and it was decided that they would construct a small corrugated iron building, at a cost of £400. The tin building on the junction of Channing Road and Kingsway was opened by Mr H Keigh on the 14th of March.

A more permanent brick building was opened on the 19th of July 1930, replacing the original corrugated iron mission. A plaque commemorates the event, saying *"Samuel Thomas F.S.I. Honorary Architect. Opened by Sir Cuthbert Grundy, J.P. July 19th 1930. J.E. Myerscough Ltd. Builders, Lytham"*. Its single-storey church hall was opened in 1968 at the rear of the church building.

The Lancashire and Yorkshire Bank opened their Ansdell branch at 58 Woodlands Road, and on the 3rd of January 1928, it became Martins Bank. The 15th of December 1969 saw it become Barclay's Bank, and this closed on the 8th of January 1993. Until 2017, it was the Woodlands Gallery.
Great Eccleston Cricket Club opened their Pavilion and Club Room on Hall Lane on the 19th of June.
Five thatched cottages on Cock Robin Row at Elswick were completely destroyed in a fire on the 15th of October. The Singleton Fire Brigade had arrived too late – allegedly because they were unable to catch the horse to draw the engine.
Wrea Green Institute was built, being officially opened on Station Road on the 9th of September 1911.

1907
The Channel Fleet of 14 warships anchored off Blackpool between the 9th and the 11th of August. The crews were given a Mayoral Reception in the Metropole Hotel on the 10th.

Claremont Schools, Blackpool:
Claremont Council School: the junior school opened on Claremont Road on the 29th of May, as an infant and junior school for boys and girls. It could accommodate 540 children but opened with just 212. It was begun in June 1905 on Westminster Road.
The mixed school closed in 1931 and the school was divided into Junior Boys, Junior Girls, and Infants departments. In August 1938, it was again reorganised into mixed Juniors and Infants departments.

©

Re-amalgamation in 1984 created the present Claremont Community Primary School.
In September 2017, Claremont became Westminster Primary Academy, when the Fylde Coast Academy Trust (FCAT) formally took control.

Claremont Senior School: There had been pupils over 11 for several years, and their part was called Claremont High School. In 1926, the Sports Day had featured a girls' bicycle race.
The new senior school opened opposite the primary school on the 1st of September 1927. It later became split into Claremont Boys' School and Claremont Girls' School, but by 1958, it had changed to Claremont County Secondary School for Boys and Claremont County Secondary School for Girls.
Claremont Boys Secondary Modern school closed in 1969 when pupils transferred to Warbreck Hill School.

Claremont Girls Secondary Modern closed in 1974, to be merged with Arnold Girl's Grammar at Greenlands High School for Girls in 1975, becoming Arnold Claremont School. Within a week, the pupils were "on strike" – an Arnold teacher had referred to the Claremont girls as *"sluts"* and the outraged Arnold girls reported her to the Evening Gazette. The school buildings on Claremont Road were then demolished and replaced by flats.

The Catholic Church of the Holy Cross, Blackpool: was formed, when a group of people moved out of a house in the Aintree Road area into a newly built temporary corrugated-iron church on Middle Lane (now Central Drive), where the church club now stands. The Parish is a daughter church of the Holy Trinity on Dean Street. On the 30th of November 1930, the present church and hall were opened.

In 1962 alterations to the church meant that it could be consecrated as a parish church and this finally took place in 1965. In 1995, after a fire, the Presbyterium was re-ordered and in 2007 further alterations, including a new porch, and renovations were carried out. The Parish Hall was fully refurbished in 2004, and there are two distinct halls. Its Mothers' Union was formed in 1934.

Knowle Farm was on Middle Lane (that part is now St Anne's Road) – it later gave its name to the high school which was built on its site.
A cast iron tram shelter was built in Ward's Park at Devonshire Square. Two others were built at the corner of Waterloo Road and Central Drive, and at Marton Institute.
Jackson Brothers ran the Central Motor Garage in the old court buildings on Abingdon Street, from where they hired *"landaulettes",* and ran charabanc and wagonette tours and trips around the Fylde; the return fare to Garstang was 3 shillings and 6 pence. Their "Royal Red Motor Coaches" ran trips to Morecambe and Southport. They also had premises on Cedar Street, Cocker Street, and Station Road - known as Victoria Garage. Blackpool's first glider was built above the Abingdon Street showroom in 1909 by the Blackpool and Fylde District Aero Club.
The Jubilee Club was on Reads Road.
Knight's Princes Restaurant was in operation at 39 Market Street.
Alex S Galloway's Cash Chemists were at 92-94 Church Street, at the corner of Abingdon Street. He sold eczema ointment, blood tablets, and skin tablets of the *"Chevasse Brand"*, and deafness drops. By 1943, the company also had a shop in Liverpool.
On Lytham Road, *"Skew"* bridge was rebuilt and the new, straighter, Lytham Road railway bridge was opened on the 10th of May.
The Maypole Dairy (number 114a), the Future Boot Company, and the Central Boot Company were all in business on Central Drive. Maypole Dairy later had other shops at 13 Church Street, 114 Bolton Street, 121 Dickson Road, and 29 Talbot Road.

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Pleasure Beach Water Chute: The Water Chute was opened at the end of June, having been constructed by Samuel Butler and Co of Stanningley. *"It was a continuous circuit coaster with a water splash drop and is most commonly known as a 'circular water chute'. On circular water chutes, the 'boat' never leaves the track; the ride is actually a side-friction wooden roller coaster"*. Costing £12,000, it was 65 high and featured two tracks carrying passengers to the top. Once there, they would be decanted into boats, which would then hurtle down the 81-metre-long chute into the 2-foot-deep water. Each boat had its own gondolier, who would then ferry it (up to 55 per hour) to the side for disembarkation.
It was removed in 1939, but in 1979, a new Water Chute was constructed close by, having been bought from the Belle Vue Park in Manchester. It was renamed Vikingar in 1997, to complement the Valhalla ride nearby, and was closed in 2005.

Also, by this time, the Pleasure Beach featured a Model Colliery and a Haunted Cabin, all reached by railway sleeper pathways through the sands.
Spanish Street was also built at the Pleasure Beach this year, in place of the scattering of beach edge sideshows. In 1912, the row was renamed "The Old English Village".
Herbert Battye was manager of the Switchback Railway in the sands. He and his wife Florence (daughter of horse dealer Edgar Lee) were Romanies who lived in the sand hills in tents.
The Central Pier was host to its own Central Pier Pierrots, led by Bobby Sutton. Future comedian Fred Walmsley began his love affair with Blackpool with them. Fred went on to form his own troupe, the Tonics, at South Pier Pavilion during the Great War. His best-known catchphrase was "Ee, mother, lewk at t' tower!"
Sir Edward Elgar was commissioned to write "The Reveille" for the Blackpool Music Festival.
The Blackpool and Fylde Photographic Society was formed on the 20th of December.
The houses named Poplar Bank were built on Vicarage Lane.
Percy England started business at 420 Waterloo Road selling electrical appliances. Percy England Ltd was soon calling his shop "The Eckovison Shop". After several years as an insurance broker's, it became the new home of The Blackpool Music Academy C.I.C in October 2012. A small drop-in café was opened in 2014 to the rear of the main premises.
South Shore Tennis Ground was opened on Waltham Avenue on the 18th of May. The South Shore Tennis Club moved to Midgeland Road in 1973 and Jimmy Armfield opened the new premises.
Somerset Avenue Lawn Tennis Club was formed on the 29th of July.
Blackpool Motor Cycle Club was established on the 7th of November.
Three Stourbridge holidaymakers - Dolly Gillam, her brother James, and her fiancé Ernest Taylor - drowned in the sea at Blackpool in June.
Blackpool's first sewage outfall pipes were laid from Manchester Square, eventually stretching 1,000 feet into the sea.
Blackpool Corporation appointed its first female Health Visitor to advise nursing mothers. Miss Annie Heaton was also the Inspector of Workshops and Bakehouses.

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Thomas Ingles established his nursery on West Drive, Cleveleys, selling self-grown fruit, vegetables, tress, and flowers. In the 1930s, he had another nursery off Fleetwood Road North, near to where the Bourne Poacher was later built. In 1990, the company relocated to Poulton and turned into Ingles Dawndew Salads of Poulton, specialising in producing cress.
Cleveleys Park Club was founded on West Drive on the 2nd of October.
A Homesteads and Small Holdings Exhibition was held at Rossall from December this year until January 1908. It almost resulted in the building of a large Hydro at Larkholme, but the scheme died.
The Fleetwood branch of the St John's Ambulance was started. It closed in 2002.
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Milton Street Council School, Fleetwood: was opened, with just an Infants' department. It was reopened in 1931 after the addition of separate boys' and girls' junior departments, and as a result of the reorganisation of local council schools, the pupils of Lord Street Council School, which was closed, were transferred to Milton Street. The juniors became co-educational in 1948.
The school buildings are now occupied by Lancashire County Council Youth and Community Services.

The Fleetwood Fishing Vessel Owner's Association was formed, electing J Marr as the first president.
The ferry "Viking" set the record for the fastest crossing from Fleetwood to Douglas when she made the journey in 2 hours 22 minutes on the 25th of May. This record stood until 1994, when the SeaCat broke it.

St Anne's Technical College: was opened on Clifton Drive South on the 30th of September, by Sir Henry Hibbert, the Chairman of the Education Committee of the Lancashire County Council. It was designed by Henry Littler, the County Architect, and erected by Preston builder Thomas Cottam. Although the original building had 3 floors of classrooms, together with offices, an additional wing was quickly added.
The college building was converted in 2000, into the 20 flats of College Court, with the later additions being demolished to provide more room.

The Lancashire and Yorkshire Bank was built on the corner of West Crescent and Park Road in St Anne's, in the centre of Walmseley and Sons' dress shop.
Northfield School for Girls was on North Drive, St Anne's. The building was converted into St Anne's Conservative Club in 1922 – the club had moved from above the Rossendale Boot Store on St Anne's Road West. It is now an Aldi store.
The St Anne's on Sea Tradesmen's Association held their first annual dinner on the 25th of February, at the St Anne's Hotel.
The Seaside Home was opened at St Anne's on the 13th of July.

Commonside Lane Council School, Ansdell: opened on Central Drive on the 2nd of September with just 46 children, having been paid for out of the local council rates. It was non-religious.
After a short time, it became Ansdell Board School, becoming Ansdell Council School in 1911, and by 1939, Ansdell County Primary School. It was extended in 1964 with the addition of 4 classrooms and a hall.
Now on Lansdowne Road, it is known as Ansdell Primary School.

A second water main was laid from the Trawl Boat Inn, down Smithy Lane and into Church Road in St Anne's in July.

St Joseph's Roman Catholic Church, Ansdell: a mission was established by Canon James Taylor and his brother Father Roger Taylor, priests in the parish of Lytham St Peter from 1873.

A temporary chapel was built in 1908, and the first Mass was said there on the 8th of March that year. That temporary mission church is now the church hall, which hosted a weekly youth club from the 1940s.

The permanent church was built by Pugin, on Woodlands Road, funded by the Taylor brothers. The foundation stone had been laid on the 22nd of August 1909 by Dr Whiteside, the Bishop of Liverpool. Although it had been completed in 1911, when the peal of eight bells in the tower was blessed, the current church was not opened until the 20th of September 1914 by Dr Whiteside, by then Archbishop of Liverpool. The cost of the church was £12,000 including furnishings. It has a Tower with belfry. Fifty years after the opening of the church, it was consecrated by Bishop Foley in September 1964.

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The Whitworth Cottage Home was at 4 Church Road in Lytham. It had been established by Robert Whitworth as a convalescent home "*for women in need of a rest*".
Lytham St Anne's Choral Society was formed from the relics of the Lytham Choral Union. One of its protégés was soprano Kathleen Ferrier whilst she worked as a GPO operator in Blackpool during WWII.
The Midland Bank opened in Lytham Square in December.
The Lytham Motor Garage was in business on Henry Street.
The Cheetham Hill Institute Holiday Home was at 10 Albert Street in Lytham, and the convalescent home branch of the Harris Orphanage (Preston) Seaside Home was at number 84.
The Home of Rest of St Mary the Virgin (Wantage) was at 11 Lowther Terrace in Lytham.
Miss Mary Jane Miles was running her private school for girls and junior boys at Crescent house, 8 Hastings Place, Lytham.
The National Telephone Company Ltd was operating at 7 Queen Street in Lytham.
There was a Nursing Home, Park gate, on Woodville Terrace in Lytham.
Dagger's Confectioners was at 5 Church Road in Lytham, opposite the County and Commercial Hotel. In later years, the shop became the Lidun Cottage Café and Barbeque, and then, Benito's Patisserie. In 2013, it became the Vida Tapas Bar and Bistro, which closed on the 13th of January 2019.
In May, HE Dixon, managing director of the Ribble Steam Laundry Co Limited wrote *"We have pleasure in sending you two photographs of our 12-15h.p. New Anc-Johnston motorvan (photographs by David Edges and Son, Lytham). We are sorry we cannot as yet give you the running cost, as the van only commenced work for us on the 28th March, and up to the end of April only completed 29 actual running days. The van is giving every satisfaction so far. The weight of the van and chassis is 37 cwt, and it has delivered loads of 23 cwt, at our depot at Blackpool"* (in Alfred street) *"The petrol consumption up to now gives an average of 144 miles per gallon. The body-work is painted in chromoyellow, with black lettering, and we think it will make an excellent advertisement for our particular business"*. The Ribble Steam Laundry was also in operation on Alfred Street in Blackpool.
A proposal was made by Mr Hardman for the construction of a tunnel between Lytham and Southport.
Wrea Green Fire Brigade was formed.
Whinbrick Railway Bridge at Westby was re-built, and the cobbled roadway replaced.
Tugman's Tea Rooms were in business opposite the Grapes Inn in St Michael's, being a popular stop for char-à-bancs from Blackpool and Preston.
The first Isle of Man TT (Tourist Trophy) race was held, prompting a great increase in seasonal ferry traffic from Fleetwood.

Note: The Wembley Tower, the Blackpool Tower's owners' attempt to copy their Blackpool edifice, was finally declared a failure and dynamited out of existence.
Nicknamed *"Watkins' Folly"* after its designer, it had reached a meagre 155 feet, and it eventually made way for today's Wembley Stadium.
Its construction was stopped when one foundation sank into the soft ground.

1908
A Byelaw was passed, banning gypsies from any ground *"set apart as a fairground*", and by 1909, all gypsies had moved from the beach – although they did return for each summer season.
The company Marine Novelties Limited was running adverts for concessions on the beach at South Shore in September but was bankrupt by 1910.
Lord Derby was elected in June as the first MP for the Blackpool Division.
North Shore Wesleyan School was opened.
Central Drive Methodist Mission Hall opened on the 4th of September.

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St Stephen's Church, North Shore, Blackpool: Informal worship began in houses on Knowle Avenue this year, and in 1910, land was bought to build the St Stephen's Mission at north shore. Housing development meant a larger congregation needed more space. The local "hymn singers" moved to Clifton College on Knowle Avenue and then, in summer, to the Serenaders' Enclosure at Uncle Tom's Cabin. St Stephen's Mission was then established on the 27th of November.

The Church of St Stephen on the Cliffs began to be built, when the corner stone was laid on Holmfield Road in August 1911. On the 23rd of March 1912, that church - now the church hall - was opened and dedicated by the Bishop of Manchester. Standing among green fields, and accessible from the tram track by a causeway of old railway sleepers, it was dubbed by the first People's Warden *"The Church on the Cliffs"*.

St Stephen's was made a parish on the 27th of June 1919, and 1925, the first sod for a new building was cut by the Mayor of Blackpool. The current church was consecrated on the 17th of May 1927 by the Bishop of Blackburn.
Its internationally-famous and unique Actors' Chapel was added in 1928. It features a reredos with a double procession of carved singers, dancers, and musicians above a marble altar, and the side panels bear the names of theatrical benefactors. An additional panel, with names of donors who were members of the theatrical profession, was unveiled by Gracie Fields in May 1929. She and playwright Noel Coward are among the stars that have been in the congregation at the church's end of season services.

In 1949 St Stephen's became the first church to incorporate a Columbarium. It was required because the church has no burial ground. This chapel of repose for the ashes of departed parishioners was consecrated by the Bishop of Blackburn. The marble floor of the chapel is a memorial to Jenny Tiller, who founded the Tiller Girls with her husband.

The Church of St Mary South Shore, Blackpool: was built on the corner of Mayfield Avenue and Highfield road. Its first service was held on the 30th of October.

The current St Mary's Parish Church was built further down Mayfield Avenue, on the corner with Stonycroft Avenue. It was opened on March the 2nd 1932, although not formally consecrated until 1965. St Mary's started a preschool group in the church hall in 1967

The cottages and the terrace of houses on the site of the original church, the church hall, and its field, had been bought from the Blackpool Tower Company in 1931.

The Blackpool British Israel Association meeting house was at 26 Caunce Street.
Laycock's butchers moved to the abattoir on Talbot Road.
Hilldich and Co, drapers, costumiers, and furriers were operating on Bank Hey Street.
Edward Schofield, in business as Eclipse Flock Cleaners and Manufacturers, at Common Edge in Blackpool, and Fred Woods, working as Eclipse Motor and Cycle Works, at Bull Street, Poulton dissolved their partnership by mutual consent from the 31st of August. All debts were paid by Edward Schofield, who carried on with both businesses at Marton.
The Bispham Subscription Band was formed on the 8th of May, from the remnants of the Sunday school Brass Band.
The County Borough of Blackpool Band first performed on the 15th of May.
The Blackpool Agricultural Show was held on the 24th of July.
L Berni's ice cream was being sold on the beach at both St Anne's and Blackpool.

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The Canadian Toboggan Slide and the Brooklands Racing Track opened at the Pleasure Beach. The slide operated next to the Water Chute until 1925, when it was replaced by a children's playground. This had slides, a see-saws, swings, and a paddling pool. It was the park's first children's play area.
Bispham Ratepayers' Association was formed on the 11th of April.
John Hall was in business in a cycle shop at 141 Church Street and was president of the Blackpool Road Club. He later moved the business to 102 to 106 Devonshire Road and expanded into motorcycle sales and repairs – he was the area's main Lambretta dealer. In 1990, Blackpool Honda took over the store (later called Savoy Honda). Farm Foods opened a new frozen food store in March 2007, moving from Waterloo Road to Devonshire Road, where it occupied the space vacated by John Hall and Son's car showroom.
The Criterion Club, on Church Street, South Shore (now Bond Street) opened on the 11th of February.
J Grimshaw's Fish Chip and Tripe Restaurant opened at 19 Bolton Street, South Shore.
Waterloo Road Assembly Rooms opened on the 7th of March.
Number 28a Whitegate Drive was built as a dental practice, which, for many years, was run Mr John Mitchell. In 1989, Stephen Woodhouse bought the building from him, and expanded in to form the present 4 surgery practice. This utilised the whole building for dentistry and did away with living accommodation. It is now known as Ivory Dental Care.
The Blackpool, Fylde, and Wyre District Referees Association was established, in order to regulate the officiating of local football matches.
Blackpool Lyric Amateur Dramatic Society was formed on the 10th of May.
Dr John Wilkinson formed the Lion Patrol, which became the 1st Blackpool Scouts in 1909. In September 1919, he took part in the first Scoutmasters' training course, becoming the first person to be presented with a "Wood Badge" by Lord Baden-Powell. The other half, the Hound Patrol, was formed by Alec Leslie.
Blackpool Grammar held its first sports day.
The Blackpool and South Shore Grocer's Association launched the "Golden Fleece" Margarine Scheme in Blackpool on the 10th of December.
Calvary, an oratorio composed by Clifford Higgin for the Blackpool Orpheus Glee Society, was first performed in Blackpool, and then "opened" in London.
Psychologist Sigmund Freud holidayed in Blackpool
Alfred Cooke was born in Salford on the 20th of November, and his parents moved to Blackpool when he was 7. He lived in his parents' guest house at 10 Vance Road until 1919, when the family moved to 55 Ormond Avenue. He attended Revoe School and Blackpool Secondary School, before going to Cambridge University on a Blackpool Council scholarship. Alfred changed his name to Alistair Cooke by deed poll in 1930. His now-famous Letters from America series on BBC radio aired 2,869 times between 1946 and 2007. He died in 2004.

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Mr F Knott started a horse drawn wagonette service from Thornton Station to the beach.
Thornton Bowling and Tennis Club was opened on the 23rd of May.
"The Battle of Trunnah", a skirmish involving gypsies, took place, much to the annoyance of locals.
The Bohemian Entertainers appeared in their first concert party at Cleveleys. The members included Stratton Wells, William Beanland, and Frank Pettingell.
The Furness Railway paddle steamer "the Philomel" entered service in April, to run between Fleetwood and Barrow. The service was halted by the War and did not re-start. Trips by steamers like the Lady Evelyn, and Lady Moyra continued.
There were also Sunday sailings by the steamers "Britannia" and "Sunbeam" from Morecambe to Blackpool and Fleetwood.
It became compulsory for skippers and mates of all fishing vessels to be able to read and write.
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Two craftsmen called Brown and Jackson opened their builders' yard on the corner of Elm Street and Warrenhurst Road in Fleetwood. In 1923, they formed a company of the same name, and this traded well, until in 1979 it became Eric Wright Limited. They are now called the Eric Wright Group.

Fleetwood Ice Works: Ice Works were opened at Fleetwood Docks this year. This was an informally run facility and did not last long.

The new Fleetwood Ice House was opened on the docks in 1916, by the specially-formed Fylde Ice and Cold Storage Company, thereafter supplying the port's boats with fresh ice, instead of them having to import it from Norway. Dedicated railway sidings ran to both sides of the plant, and a dedicated Kipper Storage house was added in 1927. By the 1930s, the Ice Works were the largest in Great Britain, providing 340 tons per day.

The Fylde Ice and Cold Storage Company temporarily stopped making ice in 1990, when an automatic unit was built on the dockside. However, trade increased again after the company switched to supplying shops and party caterers, and in 2005, a new, additional plant was built next door. The address is now Herring Arm Road on Wyre Dock.
Another company, the Packaged Ice Company, was later set up, also working from what now called the Fylde Ice Works.

St Nicholas's Mission Church, Fleetwood: the mission in Wyre Street in 1908, meeting in the cottages in that street. Soon the first modest mission church was built bear the tram tracks, but this was washed away in the floods of 1927. It was a temporary wooden mission church.

The second St Nicholas's Mission Church was opened in Poulton Road in Fleetwood in 1929. Despite grand plans, only the Broadway Rooms were built, and worship continued in the wooden church until the 1960s. Part of that second church survived until 2007 next to the present church, as the scout hut.

The foundation stone for a new church was then laid by Nicholas Meynell on the 15th of October 1960, when the site was hallowed by the Bishop of Blackburn.

The third, and current, church opened to the rear of the parish rooms on the junction of Broadway, Poulton Road, and Highbury Avenue in 1962, with the old wooden mission being dismantled in May 1963. The new church was dedicated on the 27th of April 1962, by Bishop Hoskyns-Abrahall, the Bishop of Lancaster, but was not consecrated until 1987, when it became the parish church of the new parish of St Nicholas, Fleetwood. The architect was Laurence King, the architect of the corona and spire of Blackburn Cathedral, whose design resembles the upturned keep of a ship. This represented the seafaring connections of the town and St Nicholas.

Manchester Sunday school Union Children's Holiday Home was at Seabright House at 243-245 Clifton Drive in St Anne's. Seabright House became the Clifton Academy dancing school.
The London City and Midland Bank opened a new branch in St Anne's Square on the 2nd of March. In its previous incarnation of the Preston Banking Company, the bank had occupied "High Bank" on the other side of St Anne's Road West since 1885. The new building, with an ornate, classical frontage, was designed by famous bank designer, TB Whinney. This frontage is in fact a "tromp-l'oiel" – the exterior looks like it has two storeys, but inside, it is all one, tall room. It is currently the HSBC.
The Barber Memorial Hall was opened at St Anne's on the 7th of March.

©

St Anne's Primitive Methodists: This church held their first worship meeting on the 26th of July, in the Palace Arcade of the Public Hall. The congregation soon managed to secure the old Liberal Club in Garden Street. They renovated and furnished this "Upper Room", and it was turned into a Church Hall, where weekly services were held. Renamed the Primitive Methodist Church Hall, it was opened on the 17th of September. The hall soon became too small, and in June 1910, the church temporarily secured the use of the vacant Baptists chapel on St Andrew's Road.

The foundation stone of a new church on King's Road was laid on the 1st of August 1910, and a contemporary newspaper declared that *"The new church and school are from designs by Messrs. T. E. Davidson and, Son, of Newcastle, and was chosen in an architectural competition, the estimated cost of the building being about £5,000. The church will be erected adjoining the Carnegie Library, with handsome elevations to Clifton Drive South and King's Road. As will be seen from the sketch the design is handsome and imposing, which is still further improved by the tower at the corner of the two roads. The school will face King's Road. The church, which is to seat 450 worshippers, will be built with nave, transepts and chancel, the latter accommodating the choir and organ, and a small, back gallery over the entrance to seat about 60 people. The buildings are to be of red brick, with stone dressings, the roof to he covered with Welsh slates"*.

That church was opened on the corner of King's Road and Clifton Drive South, St Anne's on the 7th of August 1911, by Sir William Hartley. After the Methodist union of 1932, members of King's Road dwindled, until, in 1965, the Lancashire Education Committee leased part of it for evening classes. It closed on the 29th of December 1968 and was demolished in early 1969. The manse had just been moved from 15 Derbe Road to 14 Bromley Road. The Clifton Lodge flats now stand in its place.

The St Anne's Catholic Club opened at 63 St Albans Road. Before this, parishioners had socialised in the Public Rooms on Garden Street. The club is now known as the Our Lady Parish Centre.
W Shields was running his grocery shop at 17 and 18 North Crescent in St Anne's. He had a second shop on St Andrew's Road South at the time, later opening a third on Woodlands Road. He specialised in his own potted shrimps. The original shop is now occupied by Ward's Carpets.

Ansdell Baptist Church: was opened on the 17th of October on Ansdell Road North. The fledgling Baptist movement at Ansdell had increased rapidly from a tiny bethel, which opened on the 11th of November 1903, being turned into a full mission church a year later.

Architects Haywood and Harrison of Accrington designed the church in the Gothic style, and its foundation stones were laid on the 11th of January 1908. The church was then opened on the 17th of October 1908. It had been constructed by Smith Brothers of Burnley and Blackpool of Accrington brick with sandstone dressings. It has a 3-bay Nave on a north-south axis, with east and west transepts, a 3-stage north-west tower with belfry, the narthex at the north end, and the apse at the south end.

Since 2010, it has been known as the Lytham St Anne's Campus of the Well Church.

King Edward VII Independent Day School, Fairhaven: Designed by Blackburn architects Briggs and Wolstenholme, this new boys' school was opened on the 25th of September, as a non-denominational grammar. The site had previously been used as rifle ranges of between 150 and 600 yards, by the Lytham Rifle Volunteers. It held just 75 boys – pupil number 1 was Stuart Cartmell - and was staffed by 4 teachers

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and a headmaster. With its fashionable new headmaster, Mr Henry Bompas-Smith, it was another competitor for the patronage of the boys of Blackpool.
The new school had its own assembly hall, 10 classrooms, an art room, a museum, 3 science laboratories, and a lecture room. A separate dining hall and kitchens, together with a master's house completed the square of buildings, which had an inner quadrangle. Its motto was "*Sublimis Ab Unda*" – meaning "Raised from the Waves".
In 1916, the school began to publish its own school magazine, named The Lidunian.
The Headmaster's house, opening onto St Paul's Avenue, became classrooms for the 6th form by the 1950s.

In September 1939, 300 evacuees from Runcorn and Chorlton High Schools arrived. Unfortunately, the school was designed to accommodate 250 boys - it now had 452. Also, in December 1941, a Spitfire fighter plane crashed into the school cricket ground.

In 1999, the school merged with the adjacent Queen Mary School to become KEQMS, and in 2013 the school joined with Arnold Boys' School of Blackpool to become Arnold KEQMS. The combined schools now house 600 pupils of both sexes.
From September 2015, the school was more fully known as AKS Lytham.

The Catholic Collegiate School for boys: was at Stamford House at West Beach in Lytham, with FM Reardon as Principal. One of its pupils was infamously sent to Whittingham Asylum in November 1906, where admission records include a statement from schoolmaster Nicholas Jones who reported *"He has attacks of great excitement when he struggles and fights with superhuman strength and it takes five men to hold him down - I had to tie his legs together".* The young man concerned was Pedro Vasquez, a Peruvian.

1909

Blackpool's (and Britain's) first official Aviation Week: Squires Gate was chosen to host this inaugural air show, from the 18th to the 23rd of October. The land had been leased from the Clifton Estates, and the facilities had been built in just seven weeks, helped by over 200 unemployed local men. Lord Northcliffe of the Daily Mail had written to the Council making the suggestion to adopt the idea of the Mayor, in a tent at the Champagne Flying Week held in August, in the French town of Rheims, that Blackpool could build an airfield in 7 weeks.
The chosen flying ground was actually land in St Anne's - owned by the Clifton Estates, with several holes on the Blackpool Golf Club being flattened as well. There were hangars, stands, and over two miles of "track". AV Roe was booked to fly first, but his aircraft would not lift off.

Famous foreign pilots such as Samuel Cody, Louis Paulham, Henri Rougier, and LeBlanc did perform. Henry Farman made the first ever flight in Lancashire there, and then, on October the 20th, he flew 47 miles and 1,184 yards around the "track", winning £2,000 and setting the first ever British flying record. Henri Rougier achieved a speed of almost 40 mph, and then Henry Farman got up to 45 mph. Mr Chavez, a Peruvian, had already raised the British height record to 5,750 feet while flying at Blackpool on August the 3rd. Several famous English pioneers also flew – including Mr Moore-Brabazon, and Mr Mortimer Singer. 200,000 spectators attended the event, and drank 36,000 bottles of beer, 40,000 dozen bottles of minerals, 500 cases of champagne, and 600 cases of whisky. They also got through 500 hogsheads of beer, 1,000 hams, and 2,000 pork pies!

After the show, Lindsay Parkinson ordered his own Bleriot monoplane, to be based at the new airfield.

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As I write, the 2017 show was Blackpool's 108th.

Note: Another "first Aviation Week" was held at Doncaster from the 15th of October, but very little flying was done due to poor weather. It should be remembered though, that 130 miles was recorded as the total flown at Doncaster, while at Blackpool only 115 miles were flown. Also, Blackpool was the first to be recognised officially by the Royal Aero Club.

The Royal Pavilion Theatre, Blackpool: Blackpool's first purpose-built cinema opened on the corner of number 9 Rigby Road and 45 Tyldesley Road on the 23rd of June in a converted garage. It was set up by A1 Animated Pictures, who had moved from the nearby Collosseum, where it had shared the stage with live acts. The theatre was closed during World War 1, and was reopened at Easter 1919, with alterations being carried out in May 1925, which gave it 700 seats.

It was renamed the Futurist Cinema in 1929, had become the Plaza Theatre by 1937, and the Plaza Cinema by 1939. In 1941, it became the Alexander Theatre and Cinema, then in 1943, simply the Alexandra, and after being taken over by Fylde Cinemas Ltd in 1947, it became the 650-seat New Alexander Cinema, and gained its own permanent repertory company. The Jack Rose Repertory Company was hired to perform weekly plays. In August 1949, it was again renamed the Royal Pavilion, with "live" shows staged in summer, and being a cinema in winter. It billed itself as "The Little Theatre".

The cinema closed in 1959, to re-open in June 1960 - leased by Arthur Fox to show his "Follies Striptease" show, but it was taken over by Classic Cinemas in the late 1970s and began to show repertory films.
The cinema closed between 1983 and 1984, during which time it reopened as Charlie's Bar, with a live theatre, *"girly"* and *"drag"* shows, and The Buttered Egg café. Returning briefly to use as a cinema in 1990, it again reverted back to live theatre use on the 1st of April 1993. It was then turned into an amusement arcade, then Barney's Bingo, a bar hosting magic acts, and finally the Crazy Scots Karaoke Bar – The Heart of Scotland, calling the building Entertainments Corner.
The Crazy Scots will be transformed into the Beatles-themed venue called the Yellow Submarine for Easter 2020.

Boots Cash Chemists, Blackpool: extended their St John's Market Buildings at 8 Market Street and West Street to include the vacated bank building next door at number 10. It was by then called Boots Arcade, and besides being a pharmacy, it sold stationery, toilet requisites, and silver goods. Boots' Circulating Library had operated from those premises.
By 1918, Boots had a South Shore shop on the corner of Station Road and Church Street (now Bond Street), together with other outlets were at kiosk 4 North Pier, 88-90 Central Drive, and 45-47 Waterloo Road (the corner of Moore Street). Their "territorial department" was at 11 Queen Street.

Boots Fire: Fire destroyed the Boots building on West Street on the 7th of October 1936. The intense heat cooked rabbits and fish in the Market next door. The fire also destroyed Riley and Sons Milliner's and Drapery store and the Borough Surveyor's offices in Clifton Chambers - with the loss of 50 years' worth of plans. A fireman, Ray Laycock, lost his life in the blaze, and 10 others were injured. Laycock Gate was later named after him, and he was buried at St Paul's Church, Marton.
Boots soon opened a temporary store in the former Critchley's shop on the corner of Temple Street and Church Street. The replacement Boots in Market Street, West Street, and Corporation Street, was opened in October 1938, on the site of the original. The new store also covered where the Orient Café and several

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small shops had stood before the fire. Boots occupied the basement and ground floor of the new building, which was mainly designed as an extension to the Town Hall. Boots also had its own lending library.
On the 12th of November 1938, Council staff moved into the Corporation offices, in the same building, which is adorned by a frieze of several stone decor panels depicting modes of transport through the ages.

Note: The name Boots does **NOT** have an apostrophe

Enrico Caruso (*aka The Great Caruso*) appeared in the Winter Gardens Pavilion in August.
Thomas Boardman built the Nook on Cherry Tree Road, near Whalley Lane. He was a well-known local market gardener. At the junction of Whalley Lane and Cherry Tree Road, was a public well.

The Roller Coaster, Blackpool: At the Pleasure Beach, John Miller designed a new wooden ride, which soon became known as the "*Velvet Coaster*" because of its plush velvet seat covers. This ride was the first to give a negative "G" sensation, and it cost 3 pence per go.

In 1933, the Velvet Coaster was moved to accommodate the building of Watson Road, and was reconstructed in a different design by Charles Paige of the Milleride Company. Coasters American Diner was later home to an original carriage from the Velvet Coaster, with seating in dodgems and waltzer cars, and was built as a replica of the original casino. Coasters Restaurant closed in 2008 and was moved to the site next to the Big Dipper shortly afterwards.
The new ride utilised parts of it the original coaster. That new ride was christened the Roller Coaster. It was rebuilt yet again in 2011, being relaunched as the Nickelodeon Streak.

Skating at the Pleasure Beach: The Roller-Skating Rink was built at the Pleasure Beach, by B Tweddle, opening on the 27th of June. It had a grand maple floor and was the town's largest at the time, also housing the Ladies Hockey Club. By 1914, all the others in town had closed, as the roller-skating fashion waned. This was the only remaining rink and was bought outright by the Pleasure beach in 1916. It was demolished in 1935, to make way for -

The Ice Drome: Designed by Joseph Emberton, the Pleasure Beach Ice Drome was opened in 1936, on the site of the skating rink. The arena had an extending stage at one end (removed in 1975), facing the hemispherical opposite side, through which the audience enter. The ice tank (the rink) was 11,250 square feet in area, and 1,000 people could be seated to watch the show, with an extra 1,000, lower down for summer performances. The venue has the usual cafés and bars. Above the main entrance were several murals, painted by Joan Lockley.

The venue was not opened officially until the 17th of July 1937, when William Ashton, the mayor of Blackpool, performed the ceremony. The first performance of the Marina ice show was held at the opening show. The *"Ice Drome Jack"* logo was unveiled at the same time. He was replaced by the "Mr Funshine" character in 1977, which was also retired in 2005.
In the summer of 1949, the interior of the ice drome was gutted by a fire, but was fully rebuilt in 3 months, in the same style as the original.

It is the oldest purpose-built ice drome in the world (as recorded in the Guinness book of records).
Before the start of the 1992 season, the drome was renamed the Pleasure Beach Arena, and the 1,00 lower seats – that had been removable – were made permanent.

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The Ice Show: The first Ice Show was performed there in the first year, 1936, being entitled "Marina". It is now called "Hot Ice", and is the world's longest running ice show. In 1959, Frank Wright and Pleasure Beach staff designed and built a great illuminated staircase, which was suspended from the roof. It is still used in the show to this day.
In 1939, the first Children's Christmas Ice Show was held. This is an annual event.

Ice Hockey At that time, ice hockey was enjoying a boom in Britain with the Great Britain team winning the Olympic gold medal in Berlin, and many new rinks and ice hockey teams springing up all around the country.

Despite the area of the skating surface being slightly too small for a regulation sized hockey pitch, the Blackpool Seagulls Ice Hockey Club was formed there in February 1938. They immediately joined the Midland Intermediate League, staying until 1955, and played in the Southern League from 1970 to 1978. They then entered the English League North from 1978 to 1982 (winning in both years), the English National League from 1981 to 1982, the British League from 1982 to 1983, and the Heineken British League Division One from 1983 to 1988. The B Team was called the Beavers.
In the 1981/82 season, *"four out of the six players in the English League North All-Star team were Blackpool Seagulls players – goal tender Andy Sharples, defenceman Steve Currie and forwards (and twin brothers) Canadians Brian and Bruce Simms"*.
The Seagulls folded in 1993, when the rink at the Pleasure Beach was deemed to be too small for competitive hockey. The Seagulls reformed in 2011, playing at the Sub-Zero Ice Arena in Cleveleys.

Another roller-skating rink opened at the Winter Gardens on the 21st of January, and yet another at the Palace on the 3rd of February. The Swiss Skating Rink opened in the Metropole Assembly Rooms, and with another rink being built on South Pier, this made eight skating rinks in town.

Ardron's, Blackpool: Joe Ardron opened his first workshop in Wood Street, and toured Blackpool on his bicycle, sharpening knives etc.
By 1914 he had moved his growing company, J Ardron and Son, to 1 Cedar Street (this is now numbers 12-13 Cedar Square), and in 1934 they moved again to 127 and 129 Church Street.
The ones at Bolton Street (which moved to 253 Lytham Road), Westcliffe Drive in Layton, 67 Crossland Road in Marton, and on St Andrew's Road South in St Anne's closed one by one. The Ardron's store and warehouse on Mowbray Drive, closed in 1994.
The company was run, in its last years, by Joes's grandson, Michael Ardron. The final shop, at 16-18 King Street, closed on the 1st of December 2001, and was taken over by Kingswood Stationers.

Whitegate Drive Baptist Church, Blackpool: Hornby Road Baptist Church was founded on the 13th of April on Hornby Road East (now called Forest gate). In 1910, a schoolroom was added, and the church was officially opened on the 18th of July 1912. This building stood where the car park of the current church is located.
Opposite, on the corner of Whitegate Drive, was a Corporation bowling green.

The church was greatly enlarged with new church buildings in 1927, built in eye-catching white stone. Called the Gordon Memorial Baptist Church, it was opened on the corner with Forest Gate on the 26th of October. In 1984, South Shore Baptist Church joined with the church, after their building began to suffer from subsidence and had to be demolished.

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Whitegate Drive Baptist Church began to be demolished on the 24th of May 2001 – also due to subsidence.

In its place, Forest Gate Baptist Church was officially opened in March 2004. As the church is the only Baptist Union church in Blackpool, it is also known as Blackpool Baptist Church. Its first wedding took place in February 2010.
On the remaining vacant space, Newfield Jones built 15 luxury apartments, called The Chimes, which were completed in March 2004.

Winnie Laycock opened her flower shop in Princess Street. She created the official bouquet for the Queen during a royal visit in the 1950s.
Mrs Comor, of the Vienna Café in Manchester, opened Summerhill on the North Parade, as a strictly Orthodox Boarding House on the 2nd of July.
Thousands of pounds were spent on tree planting and making open spaces. The Corporation considered plans for the first car park, to relieve Promenade congestion.
The County Court office was at 1 Clifton Street.
Blackpool Police distributed OXO drinks to the poor children of the town in January.
Blackpool Scout Association was registered by Scout headquarters in London in November. The first Honorary Secretary was Mr Allan Sharpe.
The Bishop of Manchester hosted one of many "Bishop's Missions" that were held on Central Beach in the open air.
Mrs J Laurie, was running Laurie's Cash Chemist's at 2 Lytham Road (on Brighton Terrace). The shop has been the Photex Drug Store for many years.
Blackpool Debating Society was formed on the 28th of December.
Blackpool and Fylde Model Aero Club was formed on the 16th of July - the first of its kind.

Blackpool Taxis: There were now 256 motorised hackney carriages, with a further 44 horse drawn hackney carriages – landaus – principally working the Promenade. In February, "Blackpool Watch Committee declines to license taxicabs, on the ground that local hackney-carriage proprietors are already undergoing sufficient hardships". However, the increasing use of taxis in competing holiday destinations soon changed their minds, and the Blackpool and Fylde District Taxi Cab Company began the town's first taxi service on the 27th of July.
One of their first jobs was to hire a cab to Doctor Thomas Leighton, of Brinscall, Chorley, who then made a trip which he took in a 16 hp Napier taxicab (hired from the Blackpool Taxicab Company), and *"throughout a run of no less than 840 miles, much of which lay through the hilly parts of Wales, the cab at all times did its work smoothly and entirely to the satisfaction of the hirer"*.
Another of the first taxi companies to appear was Citax.

In March 1911, the Council eventually decided to licence taxicabs for use during the summer, but that *"taxicabs must be submitted for inspection like other cabs, rowing-boats, tramcars, donkeys, etc. A half-glass screen only is allowed in front of the driver. Drivers of the first two cabs in every rank must be ready to be hired at once. Licences will be granted, as far as practicable, only to proprietors at present; licensed in respect of horse-drawn vehicles"*.
On the 25th of August 1911, the first licence to run motorised char-à-bancs in Blackpool was issued to Walter Standerwick - by then at Chapel Street, and later at Adelaide Street. His first bus was a Karrier FR530. The Corporation began to issue taxi licences on the basis of one for every two landaus.
The first taxi cab given a legally-enforceable licence by Blackpool Council did not run until mid-1912. Then, in 1913, it was announced that char-à-bancs stands would no longer be allowed on the promenade, and they had to be parked and loaded only at private premises.

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The Great War caused enormous shortages in fuels supplies, and by September 1917, *"Owing to the shortage and the consequent high price of petrol, coal-gas is being used extensively in many towns for driving motor vehicles, notably in Blackpool, where char-à-bancs are being propelled by it. They are filled at points round the gasworks"*.

Black Taxis: In 1949, Box Brothers introduced the town's first black taxi (Austin FX3). Violet Carson, on seeing it, described the noise it made as reminding her of a *"Second World War bomber"*, and the nickname stuck, bombers taxis becoming what we all know them as.
The taxi drivers of Manchester first got together in June to take hundreds of disabled children on a special trip to Blackpool Pleasure Beach. One year, the convoy, led for the last few miles by now-disgraced Disc Jockey Jimmy Saville, stretched to over 100 taxis carrying more than 200 children. Sadly, due to rising insurance costs, increasing red tape and a lack of drivers willing to volunteer their time, the charity organisers had to cancel the event from 2005.
Blackpool taxi drivers began to provide a similar service for local children in later years.

Blackpool hosted its first TUC Congress on the 2nd of July.
Bloomfield Bowling and Social Working Men's Club and Institute opened on Bloomfield Road football ground on the 6th of August. It was built on the site of Dr Cocker's bungalow of the same name.
In the test match between England and Australia at the Athletic Ground on the 12th of August, the record opening partnership by an English pair against the Australians in England was made when Douglas of Essex and Knight of Leicestershire made 284 runs for the first wicket.
Blackpool's Elementary Schools' athletics festival was first held in June.
The South Shore Trades Exhibition was held in the Masonic Hall on Waterloo Road in April.
A detached house was built next to St Paul's Church in Marton, off Whitegate Drive. Lived in by the Leigh family, who were landlords of the Oxford and then the Saddle, for many years. Many people wrongly believe it to be the vicarage.
Brooklyn Avenue in Layton began to be constructed.

Blackpool Buses: Blackpool transport officials were testing a Hallford-Stevens petrol-electric minibus in October.
Finally, in November 1917, they announced that *"The Blackpool Corporation will promote a Bill in the next session of Parliament to obtain powers to establish a motorbus system, in conjunction with the Corporation tramways, embracing services to Poulton-le-Fylde and Hardhorn, Marton Moss, Blowing Sands and other districts"*.
The first Corporation motor buses ran in Blackpool in 1922, being mainly single-deckers. Double-deckers became the norm from 1932, and then, from 1935 to 1940, new transport manager Walter Luff introduced 130 modern, streamlined buses.

The Blackpool and Fylde Women's Suffrage Association first met on the 25th of September.
Tom Rose of Blackpool won the world wrestling titles at lightweight and welterweight.

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After the Poulton to Fleetwood railway line was closed in 1970, the site of the halt and line were landscaped to create a children's play area and park. The line which served it closed in November 1964 and the complete site is now covered by Tithebarn Park.

Poulton Golf Club: The Fylde Golf Club was founded off Breck Road. In 1910, it was renamed Poulton Golf Club, which was opened on the 15th of January by W Ashley MP.
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The new Poulton-le-Fylde Golf Club was formed by the council in 1975, opening a 9-hole course at Myrtle Farm on Breck Road. The course covers 48 acres of parkland terrain, with a par of 35 and a yardage of 2,980 yards. The Professional's Shop was opened there in July 2001.

Hargreaves Removals was established, now working from Poulton Industrial Estate.
DT Brown set up his wholesale seed and bulb merchants' business on Bull Street in Poulton. The business moved to new buildings in Station Road in 1927, before moving to Suffolk.
"Holmefield" was built, on the Towers Estate in Cleveleys, by Everard Gadd. When the house was sold to GM Robertson, the Mayor of Fleetwood, in the 1930s, it was renamed "Skerryvore". Another house, again called "Holmefield" was built just to the south in 1920 to house Mr WA Lutyens.
The Cleveleys Carriage Company was founded Frederick James Knott. It was Cleveleys' first horse-drawn bus service, and operated from opposite the Cleveleys Tram Station, offering transportation to Thornton station. By 1912, the Carriage Company was running regular bus services and picking up passengers.

The Empire Theatre, Fleetwood: The Empire Theatre and Hippodrome was opened on Lord Street on the 9th of August. It was designed by architect Herbert Winstanley and boasted to be 'the first theatre to have a white marble façade'. From around 1913, it was listed as operating as a cinema. In early-1915, it was closed for reconstruction, when the seating capacity in the gallery was enlarged, and the total seating capacity increased to 900. It reopened in June 1915 as the Art Picture House.

Art Cinema: In 1923, the Empire was demolished to build a new Art Picture Hall, and now had a single circle seating 340, with seating in the stalls for 668 and two boxes on each side of the 30-foot-wide proscenium. There was also a café and tearooms on the first floor, for the convenience of patrons. The Deep-Sea Mission next door had been taken over as an extension. By 1937, it was operated by the Blackpool Tower Company, and by 1944, it had been renamed Art Cinema, with the Art Café included.
It was closed in 1959, and demolished in 1960, to make way for a Fine Fare supermarket, built in 1961.
Fine Fare had moved from Larkholme to another location on Lord Street, where had they stayed briefly, before moving to this site. By 1965, this had become Cooper's supermarket, and it is now an Iceland store.

The 1st Fleetwood Scout group was formed. The Group started with some of the boys and leaders breaking away from the Boys Brigade, who met at St Margaret's Church. The group then moved to a room overlooking the Market Hall in Adelaide Street. An old army Nissan Hut was erected on land in Lune Road. After that site was demolished, the current hut was erected and an official opening of the building was held on the 29th of November 1971.
Dosworth's Ice Café opened on Upper Dock Street in Fleetwood.
William Watson had one of the first motor cars in Fleetwood, and he turned it into an ice cream van selling Savoy Cream Ices around town.
At Knott End, a camp of the NRRGA of the Territorial Army was held. This was a common event for the town, and the 5Th LRG Artillery Volunteers were later visitors.
On the corner of Riley Avenue in St Anne's, a large house had recently been built for Willam Edge from Bolton, the inventor of "Dolly Blue". Mr Edge had started his factory in Backbarrow in Cumbria 40 years earlier and had made his fortune by selling these small muslin bags containing his "magic concoction" - a mixture of blue dye and washing powder, which is still used today to whiten clothes in the wash.

Ansdell Institute and Public Hall: was opened on Woodlands Road on the 2nd of October, with an adjacent bowling green. It had been run from St Paul's Mission on Commonside from 1904. The building was

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designed by Manchester architect GH Willoughby, and features high-quality, external terracotta decoration, created by sculptor JJ Millson.

Lytham and St Anne's YMCA: New YMCA premises were opened in Lytham on the 13th of October.
The Fylde Coast YMCA centre was opened, in a wooden hut on St Albans Road, St Anne's St Anne's on the 6th of December 1922, by HRH Helena Victoria. The Junior Football Club was founded at the same time and is the oldest junior football club in the Fylde, and in 1928, Lytham St Anne's YMCA began entering football teams into local leagues.

From 1964, the YMCA centre on St Albans Road was rebuilt. The new centre was opened in March 1967, by the Duchess of Kent, reopening for use on the 13th of March 1968.
Nearby, on waste ground on the corner of Trafalgar Road, an outdoor chess board was erected. The area is now a car park.

The YMCA also had an indoor centre on Albany Road in Ansdell (built on the site of South Heys Farm). In April 1971, the YMCA acquired its William Pickles Sports Ground on Seafield Road, and the pavilion was built and officially opened by the Mayor.

In 2005, Lytham YMCA was opened on Mythop Road, with its Lawrence House Sports Hall, outside pitches, conference facilities etc. This replaced the site on Albany Road at Ansdell, which was replaced by Albany Court flats. The Albany Sports Club closed on the 2nd of January 2000 and was demolished in the September.

Henry Snalam, butcher, was in business at 8 Henry Street in Lytham. By 1978, the premises housed The Toybox.
Another "posh" visitor, Doctor Poole, wrote this year that Lytham was *"one of those places which does not cater for the day tripper and is rapidly becoming a fashionable residential watering place"*. This was still exactly what the town's leaders desired.

Wareings of Wrea Green: George and Jim Wareing started in business as wheelwrights and joiners at Smithy Fold in Wrea Green – the village smithy had stood on the site previously. The site is next to four cottages opposite the church.
In the mid-1970s, the company purchased Brook Corn Mill, Wrea Green, where manufacturing took place until Wareing and Son relocated to Whinbrick Works off the A583 road at Westby in 2004.
The firm now runs the corn mill complex as Brook Mill Industrial Estate.

The Whittle and Turner weaving mill opened in Kirkham.
The Kirkham and Wesham News was first published on the 19th of February. The offices were at 40 Poulton Street and the print works were on Marsden Street.
Also, on Marsden Street was a Common Lodging House, with accommodation for 42 men and 33 women, with separate day-rooms on the ground floor. It was run by James Thornton, being transferred to Henry Slater in 1919, and to Dobson Heaps in 1920. In 1925, 5 water closets were provided by the Council. The lodging house was closed in 1947.
The West Riding Royal Field Artillery arrived at Knott End on the 27th of June, ready to begin gunnery practice on the sands. They fired at both their own, placed, targets and at the many wrecks that were already on site. Many regiments were to use those sands for practice in the future.
Great Eccleston smithy was at West end in the village.

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St Michael's Parish Garden from behind the Grapes Inn was moved to join with the town's allotments. The site is now home to the police station.

1910s

Poulton shops: Shops and businesses in Poulton at the time included: EM Sharrock's ladies' and children's outfitters at 18 Breck Street, Thomas Sugden, *"Poultry Expert"*, on Park Road, Kay's Noted Sweet Shop by the Church Gates in the Market Place, Tomlin's tobacconists and confectioners on Breck Street, *"near the station"*, DE Lawson *"Fishmonger and Poulterer, and English and Foreign Fruiterer"* also on Breck Street, Hall's confectioners at the corner of Church Street and Tithebarn Street, W Lawrenson, an antiques and general furniture dealer, in Askew's Yard on Tithebarn Street, Mrs Dunn's apartments at 3 Longfield Avenue, Norris and Sons *"Cycles, Trolleycars, and Prams"* at 9 Church Street, Thompson and Son at Higher Green Nurseries selling fruit and vegetables, RV Baldwin *"Watch and Clock Maker, Jeweller, and Optician"* at 3 Breck Road, E Yeadon's Fancy Work Repository on the Breck called itself *"The Leading Establishment for Ladies', Gents', and Children's Goods"*, Jenkinson's Corner Shop on the Breck *sold "Post Cards, Heraldic China, and all the Latest Novelties in Jokes, Puzzles, Games, Toys etc"*, Edward Walker, a *"Plumber, Painter, Glazier, Gasfitter, and Bellhanger"* was at 11 Church Street, Lord and Rhodes "High Class Confectioners at 6 Breck Road, James Roskell on Church Street offered *"Choice beef, mutton, lamb, veal, and pork", "Pickled tongues – Delightful!"*, and their *"Home-made sausages – a Speciality"*, JW Brierley, a joiner, contractor, and undertaker was at Chapel Street Sawmill, James Foster, at 12 Breck Street, was a dispensing pharmacist and chemist, H Jackson on Tithebarn Street, was a *"Grocer, China, and Earthenware Dealer"*, Oman Wood was a draper and hosiery knitter, working from home at 27 Higher Green, photographer RW Lord of St Chad's Studio offered for sale *"Post Card views of Poulton and District"*, John Atkinson and Co were *"Builders' Merchants, Coke, Coal, and Lime Merchants, and Carters"*, grocer W Ewbank was a grocer on Breck Street

Church View Farm in The Nook at Staining was run by the Gratrix family. By 1917, the Dagger family ran it, then, by 1924, by Albert and Jane Feecham. 1934 saw it run by John Wainman.

1910

The Blackpool Education Committee was formed.
Homosexuality in schools became a serious worry to school authorities to the extent that, in Rossall School, this infamous edict was posted: *"No master is to be left alone with a boy for more than 10 minutes and never in a room with the door shut"*.
Blackpool employed its first District Nurse, paid by the Council. By 1924, there were and by 1933, this had increased to 3. By 1954, there were 17.
The Pleasure Beach Limited was registered, with Willam Bean as its managing director. The Gypsy encampment in the sand hills, south of the old Star Inn was evicted on Valentine's Day to make way for it.

Pleasure Beach expansion: The company rebuilt the River Caves, originally built at London's Earl's Court Exhibition of 1909, and designed by Lot Morgan. Ten people were carried in each of fifty boats, through intricate underground caverns extending over one and half acres of the complex. The water circulated repeatedly at the rate of a thousand gallons a minute using powerful gas engines fuelled by the town's main gas supply. The different caves had exotic names such as "The Cave of Emeralds of Ceylon" and "The Mysterious Dripping Well of Arizona".

The Spectatorium was also built. Perhaps the biggest of their attractions was the Spectatorium, which showed massive shows of the Battle of Chesapeake Bay, fought between the ships Monitor and Merrimac.

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It boasted *"real ships, real guns, real firing"* and also had a review of British Dreadnoughts. The Spectatorium was replaced by the Indian Temple of Mystery in 1927, the Chinese Theatre in 1931, and the Indian Theatre in 1936, which burnt down on the 27th of September 1939.

The Clifton Palace Theatre, Blackpool: This enterprise opened at 56-58 Church Street on the 1st of April, on the site of Hill's Bazaar and the Liberal Club, now opposite Marks and Spencer. It originally had 700 seats, and later changed its name to Clifton Palace Pictures.

In 1950, it became the Tatler News Theatre. Its grand opening was on the 13th of March, after being rebuilt by Clifton Constructions Limited of Clifton Road. The new cinema had 407 seats and a café off the circle. Customers were given steel tickets – to be handed back on exit. The Tatler originally showed only newsreel films. It was closed in November 1952, and taken over by another company in 1953, who renamed it the Tatler Cinema. After being reduced to showing "naughty" French films, the Tatler closed in 1954.
The building was converted for use as Woodhouse's furniture shop (which had moved from Clifton Street), and it later became Brown Bros and Taylor's furniture shop.
Becoming a Poundstretcher shop in the 1990s, it was later a New Look clothes shop, and then a Poundland. This closed in 2011, to become a British Heart Foundation charity shop.

Blackpool's Aviation Week: Lancashire Aero Club ran the second Blackpool Aviation Carnival between the 28th of July and the 20th of August. Another ten hangars were built.

The Frenchman Monsieur Tetard flew round the tower.
The first civilian commercial flight in Britain was an experimental mail flight from Blackpool by Claude Grahame-White on the 10th of August. White also became the first person to fly over a Lancashire town and to carry a photographer on the 13th and was the first to drop bombs (flour bags) during his flight on the 14th. He was trying to convince the War Office of the usefulness of aeroplanes.
On the 1st of August, American actor/aviator Robert Loraine flew from Blackpool to Wales and back.
On the 10th of August, a test flight was made from Blackpool to Colwyn Bay, taking 1 hour 25 minutes.
The carnival lost over £10,000, and in September, the stands and hangars at the aerodrome were demolished. This was the end of Blackpool being the centre of British aviation.

Exchange Buildings/Paddy McGinty's Goat, Blackpool: A building was erected at 12 Cookson Street, possibly for the Blackpool Parcel Delivery Company Ltd. By 1929 and throughout the 1930s, the property, by then known as the Exchange Buildings, was shared between the auctioneers Frederick Waterhouse and Son, the Exchange Garage, and Peter Quinn's Billiard Hall.
Waterhouse's salerooms had moved to Caunce Street by 1953, and at that time Fleetwood Coachbuilders Ltd were at the Cookson Street building.
In 1961, the premises were used as the North Station Garage, selling Shell fuels, and repairing cars.

In 1968/69, it became a bingo hall, run by Hugh (Paddy) McGinty, boxer Brian London's ex-manager, who had moved his business from the pool and bingo hall above the Tivoli arcade. Then, in 1972 it was turned into a nightclub, and renamed Paddy McGinty's Goat (to cash in on the 1964 record by Val Doonican), run by Ian Prince. It then became La Rosa Restaurant, The Squires Cabaret Lounge and Disco, and a Bingo Hall run by the Bottomley family.

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Its next incarnation was its best-known, and this was as the Your Father's Moustache nightclub (no apostrophe). Over the main door – on the right of the building - was the motto "*Your father's moustache-don't laugh, your daughter might be in here!*" The dance floor was painted as a Union Jack, and by 1988, Frenchy's Nite Club was upstairs – with its own door and stairs on the left of the building.
It had NO connection with the nightclub of a differently, but similarly-spelled name on Cherry Tree Road.

The venue's last function was as The Tache rock club (with Barney Rubble's) since 1980. The Tache was temporarily closed by the Council in October 2008. The club was bought by Blackpool Council in August 2011 to be demolished. It closed on the 19th of November 2011, and the club itself relocated to the Beat nightclub above the Rose and Crown on Corporation Street.

New Road Mission, Blackpool: The small, non-denominational church was opened on the 5th of January, on the corner of what was to become Talbot Road and Cecil Street. Its missionary was R Singleton of 248 Palatine Road.
Services were only held on Sundays at 6.30 pm, and Wednesdays at 7.30 pm.
The mission was demolished to construct the Ribble Bus Garage, which is now occupied by Savoy Timbers.

Salem Methodist Church, Layton: The Primitive Methodists began worshipping in a stable loft in Westcliffe Drive, Layton. An iron mission hall was soon built on the site, founded from Chapel Street Primitive Methodist Church. It was originally to be called "Bethel" but ended up being "Salem".
Opposite the hall was an iron tram shelter, now the site of a traffic roundabout.

The Salem Methodist Church of today was built on Westcliffe Drive, and was opened on the 5th of July 1939. It was almost immediately used as a school for Manchester evacuees. The original iron hut stayed alongside for some time.

The New Jerusalem Church, Blackpool: and the attached hall were built on the corner of Livingstone Road and 42 Reads Avenue - then called Hornby Road East. It replaced the temporary church behind, which faced onto Stanley Road. The entry in the London Gazette for the 3rd of September reads: *"NEW JERUSALEM CHURCH, situated at the corner of Reads and Livingstone-roads, in the civil parish of Blackpool, in the county borough of Blackpool, in Fylde registration district, was, on the 2nd September, 1910, registered for solemnizing marriages therein, pursuant to 6th and 7th Wm. IV, c. 85, being substituted for the building named New Jerusalem Church, situated at Stanley-road, Blackpool".*
In 1986, the church was demolished and rebuilt, to become New Church Centre – a single-storey building with a hall and a vestry. This closed in 2012.

A tramways bureau and cash office (where staff received their wages) was opened in July, in one the kiosks at North Pier.
Miss Taylor opened her baby clothes shop at 16 Clifton Street.
Palatine Pharmacy was at 65 Whitegate Drive, on the corner of Palatine Road.
G Fish had a butcher's shop in Bonny Street.
WA Hooton's toy shop was on Clifton Street.
Manchester Dining Rooms were at 99 to 103 Talbot Road, run by George Cotton's butchers.
Hartley's Builders were operating from Boro' Saw Mills on Middle Street and Marshall Street.
Jack Grimshaw ran a tailor's shop at 59 Caunce Street. Next door was Bates's Butchers.
Dawson's Dividend Store was at 98 to 104 Church Street.

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Charles Jaques, William Juby, and Fanny Juby were in business, trading as Jaques and Juby and running a silk merchant's shop at 4,6, and 8 Market Street (the Town Hall buildings), as well as a tailor's in Lytham Street, South Shore. Their partnership was dissolved on the 1st of April this year, with M Juby soon moving, and opening a lingerie shop at 10 Queen Street, where he went into liquidation in May 1931.
The Nazone Medicine Company was at 2 Central Beach, making Nazone cold cures.
The Marton Brewery was nearly destroyed by fire on July the 15th. It had resumed brewing in 1905.
Aero Terrace was built on Central Drive at Revoe.
Townley Grove was built on Daggers Hall Lane.
Harrison's farm was built on Midgeland Road.
There was working Corn Mill on the corner of Bonny Street and East Street.
Stockydale brickworks were in operation.
A hotel, which became the Gables Balmoral Hotel, was opened on Osborne Road opposite the Pleasure Beach. It later became the first in Blackpool to have all en-suite rooms and was known for the 12 Polish coats of arms on its front wall. Its Biggles public bar was a boon for passing visitors needing a drink after their Pleasure Beach visits. The building was demolished in 2008, to be replaced by a Travel Lodge outlet.
South Shore Tradesmen's Association was formed on the 1st of February.
The first Blackpool and South Shore Shopping Festival began on the 12th of April.
The Blackpool Socialist Party leased a café and furniture at 64a Central Drive on the 21st of October, for their meetings.
Blackpool and Fylde Women's Suffrage Society met in West Street Café.
The Junior Conservative Club was opened on Gorton Street on the 16th of June.

Blackpool and Fylde Society for the Blind: A local Blind Society was formed, as was the Blackpool and Fylde Blind Band. The society was discontinued during World War 1 but was restarted in 1919. By 1924 it had been formally christened the Blackpool and Fylde Society for the Blind. The society opened its Marton workshops on the 16th of June 1925, in the Tram Offices off Whitegate Drive, where they made and sold baskets, firelights, and firewood. They also opened their new clinic there in October.

On the 21st of January 1928, the society bought the house "Red Lees", at number 1 Hesketh Avenue in Bispham, for use as a Blind Home. In 1935, they opened their first Blackpool home, followed swiftly by workshops and a social centre, on Castlegate in South Shore. This had been bought for the society by Blackpool Council.

Princess Alexandra of Kent officially opened the Blackpool and Fylde Residential Home for the Blind on Bosworth Place, off Squires Gate Lane, on the 18th of April 1956, and the home was then formally named the Princess Alexandra Home. Luncheon was taken at the Imperial Hotel. In February 1965, a chapel for the blind was opened next to the home, and the home's function room was named Sharples Hall. The chapel was deconsecrated in the 1990s, and the building is now part of the Low Vision Centre. A charity wishing well and glass fountain was situated outside the home for many years. The Princess Alexandra Home is now a care home for up to 40 infirm elderly residents.

The society also opened two pilot blocks of flatlets for the blind in St Anne's and Lytham in 1965 and 1967, followed by another at Anchorsholme in 1972.

In 1977, the society launched its own Talking Newspaper in the town.

The society later opened their "Sleep at Ease" Bed Centre, on Clifton Road, to sell beds, which were fitted with mattresses made in the society's own workshop to the rear of the shop – called the Industrial Centre

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for the Blind and Disabled. The Bed Centre closed in 2007. The society finally opened their first charity shop, at 16/20 Highfield Road, in 1998.

The charity's name was changed to N-Vision in 2006.

Miss Avril Raw of Bolton was elected the original "Blackpool Belle".
The Beecham Opera's "Comique Tour" premiered at Her Majesty's Opera House in September, starring Caroline Hatchard and John Bardsley.
The Blackpool Labour Advocate newspaper was first published.
Blackpool and District Newsagents Association was formed on the 1st of April.
Arthur Moss opened a ladies' outfitters shop on the corner of Church Street and Coronation Street.
Banks and Co's Mineral Water works were in Back High Street.
EK Hambleton, hatter, tailor, and hosier, was in business at 40 Lytham Road.
Goulden's costume store and furriers opened at 51/53 Church Street, with a tearoom for customers. During World War 1 they supplied uniforms for the local troops, advertising themselves as "The Military Tailors". The uniforms department was *"Under the personal management of Mr Goulden, whose two sons are both at the front"*. They later moved to 52 to 56 Victoria Street, and opened a second outlet on Queen Street.
During this year's "season", over 2,000 shops and stalls were opened in Blackpool.

Scots Weekend: The first "Scottish Weekend" began with an AE Pickard of Glasgow excursion to Blackpool. The weekend of the Glasgow Fair rapidly became an annual mass excursion to Blackpool by Scots eager for a good time.
On one Saturday in August, over 190,000 passengers were turned over in the town's two railway stations. The 27 platforms handled 434 arrivals and departures. At Talbot road, there were 3,000 items of advance luggage, needing 40 delivery carts.
During the 1970s, the weekend gained a reputation for fights, but in recent years, the holidaying Scots have been more than welcome.

By the 31st of December Blackpool had 1,134 water hydrants. Fleetwood had 227, Lytham 209, St Anne's 218, and the rest of the Fylde 720.
Madeleine Montalban, was born Madeline Royals on the 8th of January in Blackpool. She moved to London in the early 1930s, immersing herself in the city's esoteric subculture, and associating with occultists, such as Aleister Crowley and Kenneth Grant. She became an astrologer, and co-founded the esoteric organisation known as the Order of the Morning Star (OMS), through which she propagated her own form of Luciferanism.

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Warwick House School, Poulton: Opened on the corner of 1 Lockwood Avenue and Elletson Street as a *"Day and Boarding School for Girls"* offering *"Excellent Staff of Resident English and Foreign Mistresses and Visiting Masters. Gymnastics, Hockey, Tennis, Swimming"*.
1934 saw it advertised as the Taylor and Hardman boarding and day school for girls, at Westbourne house, Elletson Street.
By the 1950s, it had changed its name to Poulton High School, and was run by the 3 Cryer sisters, with Miss A Williams as its Principal. It was later bought by Mary Walker and closed in the 1960s.

The building was later demolished and re-built as a GP practice called the Lockwood Avenue Surgery, at Westbourne Court. In 2002, the practice was Incorporated as Lockwood Avenue Medical Services Ltd, and
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then moved into the Wyre Civic Centre on the 18th of April 2016. An area that formerly housed the Council planning department was re-constructed as a reception and waiting area for 40 people, complete with children's play area, 4 consultation rooms, 2 treatment rooms, and a minor operations room.

Miss Bertha Cryer's private school and kindergarten opened on Breck Road in Poulton, lasting until 1947. The shops, billiard hall, and coach house which stood opposite the Golden Ball in Poulton were demolished in order to enlarge St Chad's churchyard. They included Twenty Steps – an impressive four-storey town house, which had sadly become a tenement.

The Palace Theatre, Cleveleys: This small venue on Victoria Road had begun as a theatre several years earlier, and had just been changed into a cinema, with its own gift/sweet shop.

The Savoy Cinema, Cleveleys: This cinema and its attached café were opened in the Palace Theatre buildings in November 1915. There was a ballroom and shopping arcade attached. The Savoy Café, complete with its first-floor eating area – Ye Olde Knights Gallery - was burned to the ground in December 1917. During World War 2, the ballroom became an amusement arcade, but it re-opened as a ballroom in 1949. By 1947 the Savoy had a small dancehall attached, and shortly afterwards was purchased by Fylde Cinemas Ltd. The Savoy Cinema closed on the 23rd of September 1960.
Next door, on the corner, was the Happy Land amusement arcade.

In 1962, the site became Cooper's Supermarket (with Fairclay's store next door), then a Co-operative store, selling food on the ground floor, with household goods on the first floor. It then became a Fine Fare Supermarket, and then the Victoria Market a traditional-style indoor market with various stalls including a pet shop, greengrocer's, sweet stall, book shop, café, and others, which closed on the 6th of January 2011. The building was then demolished and replaced by an M and Co outlet which opened on the 27th of November 2014.

The Beanlands Pavilion: Another small cinema was already in operation nearby – the Beanlands Pavilion (owned by Will Beanland, a local female impersonator), which had been built – complete with a very noisy tin roof - on the site Pym's garage, and next to Woodbine Cottage and the old Cleveleys fire station.
Charles, another member of the Beanland family promoted the Silloth Fillies on Silloth Green.
During the summer season, the Beanlands Pavilion offered *"Cinema Photoplays"* and Mr Beanland had also secured *"the services of a First-Class Concert Party"*.
The pavilion closed in 1929, after the construction of a permanent building at the newly-built Cleveleys Arena. It was demolished by FDC – Felton's Demolition Company.

It became the Pavilion Cinema in the 1930s, with 350 seats, a 21' 6" proscenium, a 20-foot-deep stage, 4 dressing rooms, and a Western Electric sound system. It was later managed by Mr Tom Gribble.
It was demolished in March 1957, and, along with the adjacent temporary wooden fire station.
The site then became Wallwork's garage, then a Home and Colonial shop at 75 Victoria Road, the BOC car saleroom (Blackburn, Oldham, and Cleveleys), and then the HBS Shopping Village, which closed on the 28th of October 2013, to become a Poundland store.

Cleveleys Beach Camp: was established by J and R Wilkinson, at Rossall Beach near Cleveleys, next to where Jubilee Gardens later stood. At the camp, holidaymakers slept in rows of ex-army bell tents, and ate their meals in a large wooden hut that was the dining hall and kitchen. Locals knew it as Wilkinson's Beach Camp.

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The camp closed on the 16th of September 1935 and was sold at auction on the 20th.

Cleveleys Co-operative store: A Co-operative store was next door to the Savoy Cinema at 23 to 27 Victoria Road. This was rebuilt in 1972, so that grocery was on the ground floor and dry goods were upstairs, an escalator and stairs led up to the first floor. Some years afterwards, the Co-op Grocery closed and the store began to stock just dry goods, selling furniture and electrical equipment, and running several other departments.
The Co-op closed in January 1987, when it became a CSL furniture store. When CSL left, it was then split into two stores – Argos (at number 23) and M and Co (at number 27), and the former Co-op delivery alleyway was built on, to become a Barnardo's shop.
The M and Co store ceased trading there in late December 2014, only to re-open nearby, in the old Victoria Market, on the 27th of November 2014. Also, in mid-2012, a frozen food store called Cool Trader moved into the M and Co men's and children's clothing store (at number 74) on the opposite side of the road. M and Co began life as McKay's and moved into Cleveleys in 1980.

St Andrew's Church, Cleveleys: was opened on Rossall Road, having been dedicated on the 30th of November 1909. Ritherham village was situated in the exact area for many years before. The church replaced the early 20th century wooden *"Institute"* and mission that had stood near to where today's bus station is located.

The church now consists of the tower (added in 1939), nave west bays, baptistry, west end, and west porch. It was probably designed by R Knill Freeman, a local church architect, whose design seems to have been followed throughout. It is built of uncoursed squared stone, with red sandstone ashlar dressings, and has a Welsh slate roof with green slate bands. It is a Grade 2 Listed Building and is also known as Cleveleys Parish Church.

At numbers 76 to 86 Victoria Road in Cleveleys were 5 shops, including a hardware shop, Wilson's art shop, Holt's chocolatier's, a tobacconist and chocolate shop, and M Clayton's Supper Rooms (a fish and chip shop). In later years, these became respectively, a Coral betting shop, a Scope Charity Shop, a Fishmonger, the Crumbly Cheese shop, and a branch of IH Daniels' butchers.
Edwards Circulating Library was in Victoria Road, Cleveleys. He advertised himself as *"stationer, newsagent, tobacconist, shaving and hairdressing saloon"*.

Belle Chrystall: was born in Fleetwood on the 25th of April, living with her parents at Rossall Grange Farm. Whilst there, she attended a convent in Fulwood, then went to Westbourne House School in Poulton. She appeared with locals in "Hello Fleetwood", a film featuring town residents, and they flocked to see it when it premiered at the Victoria Cinema in Poulton Road on November the 24th, 1930. Belle went on to be educated at Cheltenham Ladies' College, and progressed to become a famous film actress, best known for her roles in "Hindle Wakes", "Hobson's Choice", and "The Edge of the World". She died on the 7th of June 2003.

Fleetwood Pier: The Fleetwood Victoria Pier Company was registered on January 11th 1892, but it took several years to bring the project to reality.

The Victoria Pier opened on the 30th of May, near the north terminus of the Blackpool trams. Designed by T Lumb of Blackpool, it originally had a 218-yard-long promenade deck and jetty, with an ornate pavilion at

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the landwards end and two small hipped roof pavilion-style kiosks at the entrance. The pier was constructed by Gradwell's of Barrow and was one of the shortest in Britain.
The company name changed in 1936, when the Fleetwood Pier Company came into being.

A 1,200-seat pavilion was opened at its entrance on the 19th of June 1911, which by 1926 was showing films – such as Charlie Chaplin's newly-released "The Gold Rush". Those films were simply shown on a large screen in the main pavilion hall, but in 1937, the Pier Pavilion Cinema was opened, having 850 seats, a café, and a ballroom. By the end of World War 2, now simply called Fleetwood Pier, it had impressive art deco style architecture, and boasted had a milk bar, slot machines, and a Walkie-Snaps photographer. On the outside deck, was a children's fairground with a Ferris wheel and dodgem cars.

The pavilion was burnt down on the 20th of August 1952 by a fire which started in the cinema and was not restored until 1958. Work on building the new "Super Pier" started in 1953 and included reinforced concrete beams, as well as galvanised steel lattice girders. The original cast iron supports were able to be re-used to support the new superstructure. The re-built pier soon re-opened, and the cinema was started again, but was not popular and lasted just 2 years.
In 1965, a bingo hall and amusement arcade were added to the entrance, along with the Wyre Lounge Bar (later renamed Jollies Bar, and lastly The Harbour Arms) and a 250-seater café. The pier end boasted a children's fairground, complete with dodgems and a small Ferris wheel.
The pier closed in 2000, after its owners Fleetwood Amusements Limited went into liquidation. The pier had hosted many events in its day, bonfire night displays by the Coastguard and Round Table, and charity *"birdmen"* of Fleetwood taking flight from the side, all kept afloat by beer from the Jolly Roger bar (opened in 1967). By 2001, only the amusement arcade remained open, and despite a revamp in 2002, the pier's customers dwindled away. In 2007, the pier was bought by local comedian Joey Blower (real name Mike Simmons), and the pier was destroyed by fire on the 9th of September 2008, having been disused for two years. The pier was to become luxury apartments but planning objections had been raised. The pier was unfortunately demolished in September for the sake of public safety.

The pier at Fleetwood was the last new pier to be built in England.

The "Prawn House" and Wyre Fishermen's Co-operative Society was formed in Fleetwood. Their Victoria Street fish and prawn shop was demolished in 1982.
The East Street Dairy was in business in Fleetwood, delivering milk to local homes and businesses by horse and cart.
An "original" Convict Ship was put on display at the Jubilee Pier in Fleetwood. It was supposed to be over 100 years old but had actually been raised from Sidney Harbour in Australia (where it had been sunk by locals who did not appreciate being conned). The ship was the "Success" – built in 1790 - and she had recently been refitted at Glasson Dock. The ship also called at Fleetwood in 1912, complete with additional mediaeval instruments of torture, before sailing to Boston, USA.

Knott End Golf Club: The Knott End and Fleetwood Golf Club was founded with money from brewers Magee Marshall, who saw it as a way to fill their nearby Bourne Arms pub. Fleetwood split away in 1932. Knott End Golf Club's club house (a reclaimed ex-army hut) was opened on the 27th of August 1921, replacing the original wooden hut. The current course has 18 holes and was designed by James Braid. The club's new club house was opened by Sir Michael Bonnallack in 2000.

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The Imperial Hydropathic Hotel, St Anne's: The 200-bedroom Imperial Hydropathic Hotel opened at Christmas, having been constructed on a small piece of open parkland. Oliver Porritt had commissioned Bury architects JD and SJ Mould to design it for him. It had 120 bedrooms on 5 floors, electric elevators to every level, hydropathic baths, a spacious ballroom, a theatre, and a flat roof which was originally planted with trees. The ballroom's dancefloor was 70 feet by 38 feet with seating around for 600 people to be entertained by the resident orchestra, and every room had electric lighting, telephone, and hot and cold running water. The hotel also had its own indoor swimming pool, lawn tennis, croquet, and quoits courts outside. Gentleman guests could compete for the hotel's own magnificent golf and tennis trophies.

The Hydro provided revolutionary treatments such as the Finsen Lamp, the Giaffe Static Machine, the D'Arsonval High Frequency Apparatus, Auto Conduction Treatment, the Electric Light Bath, Dr Schnee's 4 cell bath, the D'Arsonval High Frequency Apparatus, Auto Condensation Treatment, and unusually, its own X-Ray machine.

The town council would not award the hotel a drinks licence until 1922, being afraid that the new venue would attract the same "unsavoury" types that frequented Blackpool.

It changed its name to the Imperial Hydro on the 20th of February 1920, both to distance itself from the now unpopular water treatments, and to avoid confusion with Blackpool's own Imperial Hydro. By the 14th of May, the name had changed again, to simply the Majestic Hotel.

By the 1930s, the hotel had its own entertainment, provided by the Majestic Celebrity Orchestra, conducted by one Gerald Bright – "Geraldo". His regular concerts were broadcast on the radio and managed to attract a wider variety of guests. The dining room held 300 people and the ballroom could take 350 guests. On the roof was a large bronze statue of Hygeia, the Greek Goddess of health (not Boadicea!) in her chariot, which was taken to be melted down for the war effort in 1914. A famous guest in 1948, was ex-Prime Minister Sir Winston Churchill, and the hotel named his suite the Marlborough Room in his honour. Many other famous people stayed there, including such visiting stars as Danny Kaye, the Marx Brothers, and Margaret Lockwood.

The Majestic Garage was run at the time by FE Gibbons Ltd, and by 1957, they were the main dealers for Morris-Cowley and Morris-Oxford cars. The garage also carried out repairs and offered vehicles for hire. From June, the Imperial Aeroplane Service flew day trips from the beach opposite the hotel to the beach outside the Hazelwood Hydro at Grange-Over-Sands.

After the war, James Brennan took over its running, but could not restore its level of custom. Another attempt came in 1962, when it was relaunched as the Hotel Majestic Sporting Club. It lasted just one year.

In 2010, ex-guest June Baxendale recalled that *"The hotel was the venue for all the prominent winter dances - North Drive Tennis Club always had their events there. The Fylde Horse Club held their very first dance there on April 30th 1948 after the hotel was re-opened. Afternoon tea dances were held there in the winter months. Sixty years ago, Fred Morris and Eva Lawless held ballroom dancing classes at the hotel"*.

The Majestic was bought by Iranian David Alliance and his brother in 1974, and was demolished in January 1975 by Robinson's Demolition Ltd of Blackpool.
It was immediately replaced by a 5-storey block of apartments called Majestic Court, which has its own underground car park, and a pub called the Bounty public house - opened in 1982. The pub was built on the site of the hotel tennis courts, which had by then become a car park. It has since been called Elliot's,

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Churchill's, and the Admiral public house, which closed in 2010, to be refurbished and opened as the Lord Derby in the autumn.
Of the original hotel nothing remains, except for a brick archway at the south-western corner of the site. It still has the initials "IH" on the capstone.

St Anne's Council School: opened on the 29th of August on the corner of Alexandra Road and Sydney Street, for 310 pupils, with infants and mixed departments.
"The Girls' entrance is placed at the north-west corner of the building, the Boys' entrance is on the south side; and the Infants are admitted at another entrance at the north-east corner. Splendidly-equipped cloak-rooms and lavatories are placed near the entrances, and all the classrooms open on to a large central hall running down the centre of the building. The classrooms are provided with tiled dados, and wall and window ventilating inlets and large outlets in the centre of the ceiling, all of which cans be regulated in a simple and easy manner. The Infant department is provided with two rooms, and the mixed department will be distributed in five classrooms". "There are open-air and covered playgrounds—one for boys and one for girls and infants—asphalted and surrounded by a high iron railing". The headmaster was John Fallowfield, and the headmistress Lillian Longworth.
The departments amalgamated in 1945, and the school subsequently became St Anne's County Primary School, closing in 1981. The Oak Tree Children's Centre was later built on the site.

George Thompson opened his tailor's shop at 60 St Anne's Road West, moving from North Crescent. He was a bespoke outfitter whose regular customers included many of the wealthy resident mill owners. The shop was later replaced by Barclays Bank, which was demolished in 1962, and re-built as a branch of the Bradford and Bingley building society. It is now the Santander Bank.

Fairhaven Methodist Church: opened on the corner of Woodlands Road and Clifton Drive, by Mrs Hincksman. The new church replaced the original mission house, built in 1899. The foundation stone for the new church had been laid on the 17th of April 1909. The Gazette said at the time that *"The new church is erected from designs by Mr. Arthur Brocklehurst, of Manchester, in a commanding position at the corner of Clifton Drive and Woodlands Road. The design is in Gothic of the late decorated style, the main features being a large five light traceried window over the front double entrance doors, and a flanking side turret and massive tower, from the corners of which spring carved pinnacles".* It was built by Smith Brothers of Burnley and could seat 500 people.

Hippodrome Cinema, Lytham: The Hippodrome Electric Palace cinema was opened on Henry Street, replacing a skating rink (on the corner of Queen Street) and the tram depot.
From April 1914, it was also known as the Lytham Picture House.

Nicholas and Hannah Parkinson were running their confectionery shop at 28 Clifton Street in Lytham, in Elizabeth Cooke's old store. The shop is currently Oscars Gallery.
Point-to-point steeplechases were held annually at Bryning.

Rifle Shooting on the Fylde Coast: A miniature rifle range for the Lytham Miniature Rifle Club, was formally opened. It had been constructed on land beside the clock at Warton with money given by Captain Wykeham Clifton of Lytham Hall and his wife. The opening ceremony was performed by Mrs. Clifton. The club held an annual Rifle and Pistol Easter Open Meeting each April, when trophies such as the Maymon Challenge Cup were shot for (the cup was donated in 1945, in memory of Mr Harold Maymon of 18 Mythop Avenue). The club's range was later off North Warton Street by the railway sheds.

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Blackpool Rifle Club was formed on the 26th of January 1906. They became the Blackpool Rifle and Pistol Club in 1957 and were registered as a charity from the 23rd of January 1970 until 1995.

Blackpool and Fylde Fullbore Pistol and Rifle Club was formed in 1962. It began as a club dedicated to Target Rifle practices, and all competitions were held at Altcar Military Range. From the 1970s, members with pistols were allowed use of the old barracks range at Weeton Camp, but in the late 1980s the MOD closed the Range as it was unsafe. The club built its own 30-metre 6 lane indoor range on land on Wildings Lane near Lytham.

The Lytham St Anne's Rifle Club was formed on the 10th of December 1968, shooting at Wildings Lane. The club finally folded in April 1994.

Kirkham and Wesham Primary School: opened on Nelson Street on the 29th of August, with 50 children including 12 infants.
In 1973, additional school buildings were erected at Barnfield to house the expanding infants' section, but were demolished after a serious fire on the 17th of May 1980, and returned to parkland – the concrete support raft remains. The school can take up to 200 children.

The 1st Kirkham Scout troop was founded in May at the Parish church. It closed during the First World War but was re-founded on the 4th of November 1924. They met at Church Memorial House (now Ash Tree House surgeries).
William Hodgson bequeathed an indenture for 26 acres of open land in Pool Lane (now Bush Lane) to the village of Freckleton, for public amusement. John Cardwell quickly persuaded the council to sub-let 23 acres for poultry allotments. After the council rented an extra 7 ½ acres in 1926, by 1927, the plots were home to over 6,00 birds. The land soon became the Hodgson Playing Fields and Allotments - commonly known as Bush Lane Playing Fields and Allotments.

1911
King George V and Queen Mary were crowned on the 22nd of June. The Borough gave the town's children its "freedom" and there was widespread celebration, including galas and sports days, and a famous bonfire and ox roast at Revoe. The Rose Queen, Maggie Gomersall, was crowned at the council showground off Talbot Road. In Talbot Square, 13 stone columns, each supporting a heraldic beast, were erected in celebration of the Coronation.
A Coronation bonfire was lit on Fleetwood beach that night, and then, after a town parade, a celebratory Coronation Regatta was held in Fleetwood by the Blackpool and Fleetwood Yacht Club on the 24th of June.

Blackpool Central Library and Art Gallery: The Carnegie Free Library was opened on the 26th of October, at the corner of Queen Street and Maybell Avenue, on the site of "Little Ben's" bowling green. It was funded by Andrew Carnegie, a wealthy American businessman, who had already funded St Anne's Library, and was designed by Scottish architecture firm Cullen, Lockhead, and Brown, who had won a competition for the project. The public were first admitted on the 30th of October.

The Library has two storeys, an attic, and a basement. On opening, the ground floor held the Entrance Hall, Lending Library, Ladies room, News room, and Magazine room. On the first floor were the 250-person capacity Lecture Hall and Ante Room, the Reference Library, the Committee Room, and the Librarian's Room. Today, the Lending library is housed on the ground floor, with the Local History Centre

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(which was originally the Reference Library) on the first floor. The Blackpool Library Service is also administered from the building.

The Grundy Art Gallery opened next to the Library, funded by John and Cuthbert Grundy. Cuthbert personally invited all the Blackpool library staff to his residence in Lytham Road for supper, and to receive *"a silver table vase as a memento of the notable day"*. In 1903, the Grundy brothers had donated a collection of fossils and shells, together with their 33 paintings to the town. These were displayed at a temporary museum at the Revoe branch library from the 8th of June, until the Grundy Art Gallery was opened. By 1906, they had provided a further 36 paintings for the Blackpool Art Gallery collection, and in 1908, they provided the finance (£2,000) for the building costs of what became the Grundy Art Gallery. The new gallery was entered through the Entrance Hall (or Sculpture Hall), which led to two large galleries downstairs and two more on the first floor. One the first floor was access into the adjacent Library to assist in holding public functions.

In 1912, a purchase fund for new artworks was set up to build upon the 33 original pieces. By the late 1930s, the collection and general ambition of the gallery had outgrown the original building, and so an extension of two extra galleries was built. This opened in 1938, when the gallery was extended by two rooms to house the growing number of exhibits donated by John and Cuthbert Grundy. These included many fossils and shells, as well as paintings. The extension was opened on the 28th of February. Works in the collection include *"Aircraftsman Shaw"* by Welsh painter Augustus John, *"Sanctuary Wood"* by English landscape painter Paul Nash, *"The Yellow Funnel"* by English painter Eric Ravilious, *"The Waterway"* by English painter Lucy Kemp-Welch, and *"Woods and Forests"* by English landscape painter John Linnell. The Grundy Collection is not on permanent display, but it includes Victorian oils and watercolours, modern British paintings, contemporary jewellery and video, oriental ivories, ceramics, and a few photographs and souvenirs of Blackpool.

In June 2015, a bronze sculpture of a South American Gaucho on horseback was re-installed in the foyer of the Library. Sculpted by Walter Winan, it had been donated in 1933, by the Honri family, but had been stored in a shed at the Grundy Art Gallery since 1977.

The Council describes the gallery as follows: *Grundy's collection, which is displayed as part of the temporary exhibitions programme and is not on permanent display, includes: Victorian oils and watercolours, Modern British paintings, Contemporary prints, Jewellery, Video, Oriental ivories, Ceramics, Photographs, and souvenirs of Blackpool. Artists whose work is represented include: Craigie Aitchison, Martin Creed, Laura Ford, Gilbert and George Augustus John, Peter Liversidge, Eric Ravilious, Lindsay Seers, and Julian Trevelyan.*

The Coast Erosion Committee reported that the cliffs at Norbreck were eroding by about 3 yards per year.

Waterloo Road Wesleyan Mission, Blackpool: opened on the 24th of May, at Spen Corner, on the first floor of a shop at 195 to 199 Ansdell Road (then known as Bloomfield Road). In 1924, they bought an iron mission hall off the Free Christian Church, which been opened across Waterloo Road, at the junction with Arnott Road on the 20th of January 1914. The worshippers moved into that hall immediately (they called it the Tin Church), but in 1931, they transferred into a new building adjoining the old Mission Hall.

In September 1956, the newly-built Waterloo Road Methodist Church opened, replacing the mission in its tin hut, but keeping the hut for use by youth clubs etc. The 1914 hut was replaced in 1996 by a brick building and six Methodist Housing Corporation homes.

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The church was closed in 2015, due to fallen congregation numbers, and the building was sold in October 2017. The premises have been purchased by D Hollowell and Sans, funeral directors.

The original building on Spen Corner became an auction hall until it was pulled down in 1925, and four new shops and houses were built there. The first floor became the Blackpool Church of Spiritualism on the 21st of June 1938, and at one time housed an expansion classroom for Waterloo Road School. The spiritualist church was deregistered in November 1981.

The ground floor of the building comprised Starkie's Pharmacy, Macintyre's Chemists, a hardware shop, and the "Hairs and Graces" hairdresser. DMS (Discount Motor Spares) moved into one of the shops, from opposite the Saddle Pub, in 1976, and by 1981, they occupied all three units. DMS changed their name on the 24th of June 2003 to DMS Automotive Components Limited, which closed (due to retirement) on the 30th of November 2012.

Clifton Park Racecourse, Squires Gate, Blackpool: Squires Gate airfield was leased to the Clifton Park Racecourse syndicate, who demolished Layton Hawes Farm, laid out the course and paddock, and built a grandstand. It opened on the 11th of July, and the Coronation Gold Cup was run on the official opening day, the 1st of August and annually thereafter, attracting over 20,000 spectators. The races were advertised as the first *"summer steeplechase meetings ever held in England"*.
The Gazette reported that *"The bar accommodation was described as wonderful, and the sanitary arrangements as being excellent and good enough for anywhere". "The bright green and white palisading, the smart buildings, the freshness of the turf and banks of flowering plants, made the paddock and the enclosed lawn pictures of prettiness, while the very stylish costumes of the many ladies present outvieing the Sunday morning parade on the North Pier, made up a scene which was surely without equal in the history of our town".*
The first day's races included the Lonsdale Gold Cup – won by Main Royal, the County Felling Hurdle Race, and the Walker Gold Cup, with the Gazette reporting that *"all the horses took the jumps in surprisingly good style"*.

The building of a racecourse for the town was first raised in 1865, but it was not until 1910 that permission was finally granted.

Also known as Blackpool Racecourse, it closed with the final meeting on the 26th of April 1915. It was too short a course to qualify for a flat racing licence. Mr Reid Walker (who acted as steward at the meeting) won the final event - the 3-mile Hunters Handicap Chase - with Ragged Robin, ridden by J Manley.

The racecourse site was then taken over by the Military, and the Lancashire Military Convalescent Hospital, for the treatment and training of disabled soldiers, was opened on October the 1st 1915.

The Kite Club: The club that became the Kite Club was in a small building at the western end of the old grandstand, having been formed by the Blackpool and Fylde Gliding Club. It was demolished in the 1950s, when Squires Gate Lane was dual-carriaged.

In 1986, the Kite was re-started by local DJ Mick Schofield, and moved to the upstairs of the Signal Box, with its first gig in March 1987. Some of the first gigs at the new site were hosted by Fillmore Productions, Fillmore being the name of Mick Schofield's record shop at 20a King Street in Blackpool. It was near the Terminal Bar, which had been a pub with a licenced restaurant and snooker table since the 1960s. Near to the Kite had been the Blackpool Toc H Club.

©

The Kite Club building was later demolished and was replaced by the Air Balloon Premier Lodge Hotel, which also covered the site of the old fire station and its barracks.

The music club itself moved to the Raikes Hotel, later run by Stuart Walmsley (son of famous local guitarist, Cliff). The club then spent some years at the Downtown Bar in the Station Hotel, before relocating to the Central Club – where Budgie appeared on the 18th of November 2006. It also had brief, and even one-off, gigs at St Anne's Road WMC, Dean's Bar and Restaurant in the Derby on Dickson Road, Central Pier, and the Manchester Hotel.
The club specialised in Blues and Rock music, and famous artists to have played there include the Groundhogs, Walter Trout, Man, Norman Beaker, and Joe Bonamassa. The Kite was resurrected in December 2016 at the Waterloo Music Bar, based in the Waterloo Hotel.

The site of Layton Hawes farm is now almost where the Helicopter terminal now stands.

The House of Nonsense and the Bowl Slide opened next to the Flying Machines at the Pleasure Beach. The House of Nonsense – a hall of mirrors - was later rebuilt as the Fun House. The Joy Wheel was installed in the new attraction.
The Labour Exchange was opened on Coronation Street on the 7th of April.
Red Bank Road had been recently opened, having been developed from the cutting taking the tramline from the promenade to the Bispham depot. It had previously been known Town Lane, which began at West Gate.

The Sands Express, Blackpool: A concrete wall was built by the metropole Hotel. It was 100 yards in length and 18 feet high, and when it was complete, a large gap was left between it and the old sea wall. This required ¼ of a million tons of sand to fill it, and this sand was left at South Shore, in a great bank from Balmoral Road to St Chad's Road.
It was decided to build a temporary narrow-gauge railway from the beach by Victoria Pier to the Metropole. The trains began to run from the 1st of February.

Christened the Sands Express, the temporary railway ran along the promenade carrying materials from South Shore. It went to where the Princess Parade was being built to replace the raised wooden walkway. The engines were named "Annie", "Alice", "Netherton", "Horbury", and "Reliance".

By mid-April, the work was finished, and by the 23rd of May, hardly a trace was left, except the indentations in the Promenade left by the tracks.

During the year's Railway Strike, people were ferried home in brewer's wagons and the like.
The Corporation introduced *"toast-rack"* trams on the new "Circular Tour" in August, to compete with private char-à-bancs, and they had 1000 postcards of the event printed for sale to the public. The tour would stop opposite the Oxford Hotel and from 1912 until 1924, the landlord would get the driver of each tram to hold up a unique number so that he or his son could take a souvenir photograph.
Two iron tram shelters were built outside North Pier, one on each side of the tracks. These were replaced with steel shelters in 1942, and those themselves were then replaced in 1991 and 1994.
The dry summer and the town's unreliable water system meant the train companies had to fetch in 12 tenders full of water each day to keep the trains running.
Bispham and Norbreck Urban council erected a generating station on Red Bank Road, between Bamber and Montpelier Avenues. During 1939, the building became a fully operational Fire Station.

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Bispham Bowling Club was opened on the 27th of May.
A postal business opened at the corner of Waterloo Road and Threlfall Road. It was made into a true Sub-Post Office in 1920 and is now a Nisa grocery shop. On the opposite corner of Threlfall Road stood the grocer's shop of J Stables.
The Karo café opened briefly, between RJ Lea's tobacconists and Jenkinson's café in Talbot Square.
The Crown Stores opened on Lord Street.
Ladies outfitters, Duckworth, Son and Co, were on Abingdon Street.
Semi-detached houses began to be built on the Portland Park Estate – around Portland Road, and on Marlboro Road, Gorse Road, and St Stephen's Avenue (changed to St Vincent's Avenue in 1930).
The Beechfield Estate was built off Whitegate Drive.

Children's Pantomime, Blackpool: The first annual Blackpool Children's Pantomime took place in the Grand Theatre on February the 23rd. It was called "Sunset Land". The *"Initial driving force behind the project, was local drama teacher John Fitzgerald, ably supported by his wife Edith. Such was the success of their first production that 12 months later, over 100 young performers were back on the Grand stage, this time with Rumpelstiltskin. By the time of the couple's 1931 production of Puss in Boots, the shows had become the country's longest running children's panto"*. Fitzgerald died in 1933 and his place was taken by Madame Elsie (Elsie Williamson)

In 1927, the panto moved to the Opera House, moving back to the Grand in 1937.

Kilivory School, Blackpool: opened at 112 Hornby Road, by sisters Edith and Annie Simpson. The school was very musically orientated, entering local musical, dance, and drama festivals. Children were educated up to about 14 years of age, the boys continuing their education at Grammar School.
When Edith died in 1938, the school continued in Manor Road with just a few pupils.

Blackpool Philharmonic Social and Working Men's Club and Institute: opened at 68 to 70 Foxhall Road. The club had been formed in 1900. On the ground floor, it had a concert room taking 250 people, and a small lounge and bar. The first floor held a large family and games room. The Philharmonic Club closed in December 2016, and its company, the Blackpool Philharmonic Social Club Limited was wound up in June 2017.

The Blackpool RAOB Institute: The Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes opened their new premises at 1-3 Lyncroft Crescent, Layton on the 23rd of May. Another RAOB club opened in Stanley Road on the 22nd of March 1927, and a third was at 57 Victoria Street by 1934. There is now yet another, meeting at the Guards Club on Whitegate Drive.

Tetley's Bottling Stores were at 25 Crystal Road.
JR Shaw, a wholesale yeast and provisions merchant was on Back Palatine Road.
F Hardisty was running his coal yard at the New Road Coal Sidings.
Tom Fletcher ran butcher's shops at 52 to 54 Lytham Road and 35 Bolton Street.
RJ Lightbown ran a bespoke tailor's workshop and shop from 82 Central Drive.
Miss Huddart's School of Millinery and Scientific Dresscutting was at 3 Newton Drive.
Hilda Hewlett was awarded pilot's ticket 122, flying into the history books as Britain's first woman pilot on the 29th of August. She had been inspired by the first flying meeting at Blackpool in 1909.
Blackpool's population was 60,000 – a four-fold expansion in just 30 years, taking Southport's position as the country's fifth largest resort.

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Blackpool could now boast of having 90 fish and chip shops, and the town also had over 4,000 landladies.

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The chimney at Raby's Brickcroft outside Poulton was demolished. The brickcroft lay where Fylde Road and Haworth Crescent now stand.

Cleveleys and Rossall Golf Club: The 9-hole Cleveleys and Rossall Golf Club opened at Cleveleys Park, to the south of Rossall School. It was later enlarged to 18 holes, but reverted back to just 9, prior to its closure due to lack of members in 1940.

Cleveleys police station: was in operation in a thatched cottage on Victoria Road West, next door to where the Cleveleys Hotel stood later.
The station later moved to 23 Rough Lea Road, and this was sold on the 6th of December 2013, to be turned into flats. Its front office functions had been moved to Fleetwood in October 2012, soon to be followed by all other functions.

Coronation Buildings were built on Victoria Road west in Cleveleys in commemoration of the coronation of King George.
The timber pond to the south of Wyre Dock in Fleetwood was converted into a full dock.
Fleetwood County Court first sat on the 1st of March.
Stretton House School was in operation at St Stephen's Place, 64 Adelaide Street in Fleetwood.

The Wyre Light pub, Fleetwood: Listed at 20 London Street in the 1911 census, was a Company House, run by Catherine Smith and Margaret Ireland.
The Co-operative meeting hall was later either built in its place or occupied the first floor at the same time as the Company House. The hall was used for dances, meetings etc.
It was later Hearnshaw's suite store.
In 1970, the building became Burridge's electrical depot, which became Finlay's Fire Salvage outlet in 1983.
In 1996, Robert Browning bought it as the home for his Robert Browning Upholstery business. He sold the building in 2005.
The Wyre Light public house was opened there on the 25th of July 2007. The pub closed on the 1st of November 2013, when the owners went into administration, and was taken over by the Ma Kelly's chain in the December. Ma Kelly's was put up for sale in November 2017.

Two purpose-built shops were designed by local architect Arnold England, being built for Luke Slater Walmsley, a fine art dealer. Their numbers are 9 to 11 Park Road, and they are soon to become holiday flats.
A dead White-beaked Dolphin was washed up on the beach at St Anne's on the 23rd of October.
Ansdell Public Hall began showing films in January.
Mains water came to Ansdell when a new pipe was laid from Ballam.
Margaret Read was using her house at 51 Warton Street in Lytham to run her drapery business from. The house was built c1850 and is now a Listed Building.
The Coronation Sports Field was opened in Kirkham.
Dow Bridge was rebuilt at Kirkham. A bridge of sorts had existed just north of the site (these can still be seen) since at least 1279 and had been made permanent in 1849. It was again rebuilt in 1930.
Jack Wrennall began working as manager of Will Barron's poultry farm in Bartle, where he developed various well-used systems of poultry rearing. In 1926, he moved to Barton, where he set up The Poultry Farm, Barton by the main A6 road. He was instrumental in setting up the Catforth Sports Hall. In later
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years, his company manufactured poultry accommodation such as the Wrennall Trap Nest and the Wrennall Night Ark. He then opened Barton Nurseries, selling greenhouse-grown tomatoes and other items.

1912

Princess Parade, Blackpool: Princess Louise and the Duke of Argyll visited Blackpool on the 1st and 2nd of May. Princess Louise opened Princess Parade on the 1st, and the nearest thing to the modern-day illuminations displays was staged there to mark this first Royal visit to Blackpool.

As the tale goes, Alderman Thomas Bickerstaffe was surveying the new electric street lights, and suggested that some coloured lights be strung up along the promenade. When the passing public began to stop to look at these lights, the idea of the Illuminations was born.

Tram number 68 was illuminated with 3,000 lamps, and the whole event was seen as the means to extend the town's holiday season by a massive eight weeks longer than their competitors were. The Town Council was so impressed that the display was relit on the 8th of September until mid-October.

An underground toilet block was opened on Princess Parade at the same time, as was a small park area in front of the Metropole Hotel. In the centre of this area was a large flagpole, which was replaced by the Cenotaph in the 1920s.

Jubilee Gardens, North Shore, Blackpool: Originally called the North Shore (Sunken) Gardens, the gardens near Gynn Square were opened. A sunken, paved, and lawned area had been re-modelled into a true garden. 4 ventilation shafts, disguised as stone columns with ornate urns, were constructed by the south entrance in 1925. In 1928, a rockery was added at the Northern end, complete with a waterfall whose glass fibre steps were illuminated - initially by lights in front, but later from the rear. The stream which the waterfall fed, stretched the full length of the gardens until it was paved over in 2002. A wishing well, sponsored by the Blackpool Rotary Club, stood at the Southern entrance for many years.

Over the years, the gardens have gone under many names, including: North Shore Gardens, New Sunken Gardens, Sunken Gardens, Promenade Gardens, Gynn Sunken Gardens, Cliff Gardens, Gynn Gardens, Fairy Gardens, North Shore Promenade Gardens, The Gardens North Shore, The Rock Gardens, North Cliff Gardens, and even Water Way. But since 1977, they have been officially called the Jubilee Gardens.
The Blue Light Emergency Services Memorial was erected there in 2013.

In March, the Blackpool Watch Committee authorised the formation of the Police Reserve. Sixteen men were recruited and a nominal roll of 310 Special Constables was prepared.

The Princess Electric Picture Theatre, Blackpool: The Metropole Arcade building opened on the Promenade on the 12th of December. It contained the Metropole Assembly Rooms and The Princess Electric Theatre, with 905 seats. It was built on the original site of the Blackpool Tramways, Omnibus, and Carriage Company's depot on the site of the Bailey's Hotel stables. The theatre replaced Wright's Photographer's, Weston's Cycles, Pullen Brothers palmists, and Priest's newsagents, and was named in honour of Princess Louise.

In 1922, Blackpool Entertainments Limited bought the whole building. They rapidly demolished them and the southern end of the adjoining building, and following the designs of Halstead and Best, built the 1,770-

©

seat Princess Cinema, which opened on the 10th of July. It had its own café and lounge. By 1926, it was advertising *"Signor Bitelli's Orchestra at every performance"*. It was briefly named the Princess Hippodrome in the 1950s.

In 1960, the Princess was renamed the ABC North Shore, and was renamed again to the ABC Princess in 1963 – during which year it had a serious fire but reopened quickly. The Princess closed its doors in 1982, after being sold by the ABC. It had boasted the last Cinemascope screen left in town.

The building, at 168 to 170 The Promenade, was briefly used as a concert hall called The Venue – the band New Order played one of their first gigs there on the 30th of October 1982. It then soon became the Metro Market, when the Venue moved to Central Drive, but in October 1992 was transformed by the Nordwind family into The Bizness night club. In 1994, the Bizness was rebranded as the Bizness Club Class and moved upstairs, making room for a new venue, the Main Street nightclub and Good Times Drinking Emporium downstairs. These became the Waterfront and Time (over 25s only) nightclubs in 1997, and Club SanUK opened there on the 26th of May 2005, after being blessed by Buddhist Monks! (SanUK is the Thai for Fun). Club Sanuk changed to Club Domain in 2014, and when that was put up for sale in 2016, and offered a property which had *"been sub-divided to provide 4 nightclub/bar areas comprising the main arena with a capacity of 800 known as Domain, a nightclub known as Sub-Domain a nightclub which is utilised as a holding area for the main arena and finally there is the Bavarian Bier Keller located to the ground floor fronting onto the Promenade"*. The venue closed for good in 2018, to be turned into apartments.

The Waterloo Cinema, Blackpool: The Favourite Cinema opened at 36 Waterloo Road on the 16th of April. It was known as the Waterloo Picture House by the time it reopened on the 9th of December. It had 963 seats and a 24-foot proscenium, with a screen that was 18 feet by 14.
A Jardine Straight Organ, with 2 manuals and 17 Speaking Stops, was installed at the cinema, where it was opened by George Tootell. It was removed in 1935, and re-installed at the Church of The Sacred Heart, where it remains today. The organ was then replaced by a new projector.
By then called the Waterloo Cinema, it closed in 1955, to become an indoor market.

The block of buildings was later replaced, and currently houses a Superdrug store. The Taboo Cinema Club was upstairs in that block by 1981.

The Electric Picture Theatre, Blackpool: opened at 11 Station Road on the 23rd of November. The Victoria Palace Cinema opened on the site on the 9th of May 1913 and closed in 1915. Woodhead's Café was in business on the corner of Simpson Street, nearby.
By 1919, it had become the commercial outlet of Brown and Mallalieu's vehicle sales - an Austin franchised dealer.

In 1939, nearby Woodhead's also took over the upstairs of the garage, as well as taking up the whole of the first floor above the shops next to it at number 9, and opened the whole space as another café. The café later became the Victoria Club.

. In 1939Another South Shore Market soon appeared, situated below Station Road Social Club at number 11 Station Road, next to the existing Beach Market.

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By the 1950s, the garage had become Fred Chadwick's South Shore Motors. When Chadwick moved to Bond Street, selling Lambretta and BSA motorcycles, the downstairs space became South Shore Garage for several years.

In 1972, the garage premises were converted into South Shore Market. The Beach Market opened next door in February 1972. Both markets closed in 2014, and planning permission exists for them to be replaced by terraced housing.

Riffs rock club was opened at 11a Station Road in September 2006, where the Michael Schenker Group played on the 12th of January 2008. Riffs closed there in October 2008, and briefly moved to the Tower Lounge. The first floor then became the Station Road Social Club in 2011, then it was simply known as the Sports Bar. In June 2014, it was turned into the Gallent Pioneers, a club for supporters of Glasgow Rangers Football Club. A kebab shop soon opened in the smallest of the ground floor units.

The Omega Electric Picture Palace, Blackpool: This small cinema opened on the 6th of February in the Masonic Hall at 35 Waterloo Road.
By 1932, the Queens and Brighton garage and Austin main dealer had moved to the site from their original 1920s' home at the south-west corner of Bath Street. They are said to have sold the first mini car in the Northwest.
The building became the New Market in 1976. This closed on the 17th of January 2014, when its owners, Shops Centres Ltd, went bankrupt.

The Rainbow Wheel opened at the Pleasure Beach. It was a novel ride, in which the enclosed wheel contained several illustrated scenes, which rotated around the carriages which stayed on the ground.
The "Joy Wheel" moved from the Pleasure Beach to the Metropole Assembly Rooms for a short time. The Assembly Rooms then reopened in December as the Princess Electric Theatre.
An Industrial Exhibition was held in the Pleasure Beach's Roller-skating Rink.
Blackpool's first municipal bowling green was opened on the 6th of August. Another was opened at the Raikes Hotel.
St Margaret's Home for Friendless Girls opened on the 20th of August.
The Halifax Building Society opened its Blackpool office at 21 Clifton Street on the 19th of January. It was first rented from the Corporation before being purchased in 1925. It stayed there until it moved to Church Street in the late 1990s.
The Texalo Manufacturing Company was at Trafalgar Square on Lytham Road, selling Flintex paints. Their works were on Henry Street and they advertised themselves as *"manufacturers of paint, varnish, enamels, distempers, water paints, and wall paper factors"*. The company was wound up in February 1968.

Whitegate Park, Blackpool: The new green park opened between Whitegate Drive and Westwood Avenue, with its entrance on Mere Road. It had previously been known as Mycock's Green. The park boasted a trotting track (enclosing a football field), a separate racecourse holding the Blackpool Horse Races, tennis courts and a Cricket Ground with a pavilion. The back straight of the track ran along what is now West Park Drive, the stand was on Westwood Avenue, and the Cricket Ground remains today.
Mere Road was prone to flooding at the time, and sometimes had to be traversed by rowing boat.

RA King flew from Freshfields at Formby, circled the Tower, and landed on the sands in front of the Imperial Hotel.
Bispham began to get electricity on the 16th of March.

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Layton Institute: The first Layton Workingmen's Institute began in a Little Layton barn in St Walburga's Road, on the 8th of November. It soon moved to a bungalow on the eastern side of Westcliffe Drive, adjacent to Lynwood Avenue, where Layton Motors stood for many years until replaced by P and G's bargain store in November 2004.

Due to increased popularity, it was decided that dedicated premises were required, and the foundation stone for the Layton Institute was laid on Westcliffe Drive on the 6th of June 1925. The new institute – at number 8 Westcliffe Drive - had a large ground floor lounge bar and games room (boasting 2 world championship snooker tables), and a very large first floor cabaret room. There is a bowling green and pavilion at the rear.

The institute was closed on the 12th of August 2012, with the ground floor reopening of the 14th of September as The Layton, a pub and sports and social club, and the first-floor concert room being used for occasional live music events and hosting the AVR Dance and Performing Arts School. In January 2018, the building was placed under a council directive to prevent any development without full Council debate, and this resulted in Aimee Rutherford, the owner of the dance school, purchasing the complete building.

A taxi drivers' hut was erected in Queen's Square, being demolished in 1954.
The Parisienne, a jeweller's shop, was at 118 Church Street. Until 2016, the premises were home to The Vapour Shop, selling e-cigarettes.
Mr E Riley, the famous Billiard table maker, cut the first sod for his new, expanded Cliffs and Norbreck Hydro hotel.
Blackpool Tower was used for wireless telegraphy for the first time on the 5th of August.

Collinson's Café, Blackpool: Collinson's Café and Restaurant opened on the 24th of May, on the corner of Dean Street and 82 Church Street (now Bond Street) South Shore – this is now the Bond Street Chippy. Their first shop had been on Lytham Street. They had also opened a tea room at 13 West Street in 1902 (in what had been the Orient Café), and another café on North Pier in 1903. Other addresses were Talbot Road, and 5-6 Central Beach, and a different café opened for business on North Pier on the 3rd of June 1939.

On the opposite corner of Dean Street (number 3) and number 487 the Promenade was a large house named Linden Lea. This is now the Camelot Hotel, and the Laurels, next door, is now the Sands Hotel.

Collinson's Restaurant opened by the corner of 98 the Promenade and West Street on the 17th of June 1939, in the former Lyon's Piano Shop. The restaurant covered both the ground and the first floors of numbers 94 to 98, and a small chip shop was on the corner of West Street at number 92.

After briefly being renamed Collinson's Grill and Coffee House, it became the Lancastria Restaurant in the 1950s, and closed in 1979. By 1985, it had reopened as the Lancastrian Steak House downstairs, and the Old Lancastrian on the first floor. 1987 saw Roy and Elaine Barratt running it as Harlequinns a-la-carte restaurant, and by 1998, it had reduced itself to being called Lancastria Fish and Chips. The company also had another Lancastria self-service restaurant on the first floor on Waterloo Road.

The Saloon Bar opened at number 98 in September 1997. In 2008, Chubby's R&B Bar opened in the premises, with the Eden Club, a lap dancing venue, on the first floor. Eden became Eden 2 in October

©

2014. Chubby's was later called Nobby's Karaoke Bar, and then Knobby's 80s and 90s Rewind. It went into dissolution on the 14th of May 2013.
That venture only lasted a short while, and the premises became the Saloon Bar – a cowboy-themed pub, soon changing into the Uno Bar, and then Chubby's R&B Bar in 2010.
In June 2012, the ground floor became a sports and karaoke bar named Shenanigans.
When offered for sale in September 2014, its description was *"The property contains 2 bars, 2 retail units and a nightclub over the first floor. In addition, there is a self-contained two-bedroom flat"*.

In the late 1990s, number 92 became Yum Yum Fish and Chips – still known locally as the Lancastria Chippy and is now The Beach – still a fish and chip shop.

JH Lawrence, Blackpool: opened his fireplace and hardware shop on Buchanan Street. During the First World War, the company was the War Office's sole supplier of the "Whittaker Patent Convoluted Stove". By 1930, called Lawrence and Co (Blackpool) Limited, they were operating as plumbers' merchants, electrical factors, heating engineers and hardware merchants, at 59 Buchanan Street and the corner of Charles Street.
The building was next occupied by Gee's Bar Fitters premises, until in 1987, Variety Video opened a large video rental shop there. The shop was later occupied by Northern Commercial Cleaning Services, The Planning Office UK (until 2001), Display Systems and Eyecatching Displays, and is now empty.

Kay, Lord, and Smith opened a furniture showroom in Clifton Street on the 26th of March.

Lytham Road Maternity Home, Blackpool: The house called Greystones was built on the land of Stonyhill Farm. Numbered 573 Lytham Road, it was first occupied by Doctor AB Winder, until 1925. It was then bought by the ex-Lord Mayor of Manchester, Sir William Cundiff.

In October 1939, the empty house was requisitioned as a "Sick Children's Hospital" for evacuees. It then became *"ante-and post-natal hostel"*, and in 1945, an *"ex-servicewoman's ante-and-post-natal hostel"*.
The Corporation Hostel was closed on the 22nd of March 1947.
The La Sagesse Nursing Home, next door, took it over in 1965, and it was eventually demolished to make way for the Church of St Margaret of Clitherow.
The site is currently empty.

Anna Pavlova appeared at the Opera House in September, starring in Blackpool's first hosting of a professional ballet production.
Blackpool and District Amateur Football League was formed (Wednesday section). The Saturday section was formed in 1919.
Blackpool's first Scout Rally was held on the 26th of March.
German, Joseph Pilates came to England to become a boxer and circus performer and taught self-defence to Blackpool detectives. His exercise regime is now internationally famous.
Roy Fuller was born on the 11th of February in Failsworth but was brought up in Blackpool from the age of 10, after the death of his father. His mother moved to Blackpool, taking rooms at the Metropole Hotel. Roy and his younger brother John became boarders at the High School in Alexandra Road, South Shore. Roy became a world-famous poet and Professor of Poetry at Oxford University.
Fred Walmsley, starring on South Pier, bought a boarding house on Central Drive, before moving to 15 Second Avenue, where he lived until he retired in 1934, and then died in 1943.

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The "Titanic" sank - Mr Leonard Taylor, 23, had signed-on to the "Titanic" on the 6th of April, and gave his address as 6 Sherbourne Road, Blackpool. The "Titanic" was his first ship. As the head attendant of the Imperial Hydro Turkish Baths he received monthly wages of £4.

Norcross Farm was auctioned by its owner Richard Bibby. The catalogue at the Royal Hotel on the 4th of September lists the farm as being *"A large, modern, and well-built house, approached by carriage drive with nice young shrubs and evergreens on each side. The grounds are tastefully laid out: tennis court, flower and kitchen gardens. The Dwelling contains: Entrance Hall, Dining Room, Drawing Room and Morning Room, large kitchen, scullery, larder, and lavatory. 1st Landing: Four large Bedrooms and Dressing Room, separate Bathroom with large linen cupboard, separate WC, also small room fitted up for extra linen. 2nd Landing: Four large Bedrooms and one boxroom. The usual outside offices".* It also had stables, and a coach house. The sale included 2 cottages on Norcross Lane and 2 on Fleetwood Road, as well as piggeries, shippons, stables, barns, yards, various sheds. The buildings were all demolished in 1940 to make way for the new Civil Service complex.

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Weeton Camp and RAF Weeton: opened on the grounds of Preese Hall. There had been an army barracks on the site for over 100 years, but this ceremony marked its official opening. It was then merely a tent town for 10,000 Territorials, and the 4th and 5th battalions of the King's Own Lancashire Regiment are shown as being billeted at their annual camp at *"Kirkham Camp"*. In June 1915, the 2/2nd West Lancs Field Ambulance, RAMC, arrived at Weeton, returning in the winter to billets in Blackpool, south of Central Station. The 3/9th Battalion of the King's Liverpool Regiment was based at Weeton Camp from January 1916.

RAF Weeton: opened on the 21st of May 1940, and housed Number 8 School of Technical Training until the 30th of September 1965. In 1943, an RAF Police unit was established to support the British North African Air Force, and the RAFP School moved from Uxbridge to Weeton Camp. Weeton camp became the permanent location of the RAF's Number 8 School of Technical Training in 1952.

By 1955, the camp was listed as the following:

No.8 SOTT, HQ No. 2 Police District, RAF Hospital

Technical:

Education Block, lecture rooms, workshops etc;
70 type 'B' huts (pupil capacity in lecture rooms 890);
Technical cinema seating 100;
9 Hinaidi Hangars (240 by 100 ft);
Equipment stores steel / asbestos shed 190 by 150 ft;
Acid, paint etc stores in temporary brick;
Armoury and SAA store.
Miscellaneous stores and gas decontamination centre in 'B' hutting and six temporary brick buildings.
143 underground air raid shelters for 5,720.
MT Section brick garages, workshop, and offices.

Hospital:

'B' hutting. Beds for 190 RAF and 34 WRAF;
Infectious diseases ward, 34 beds; medical inspection quarters;
6 dental surgeries.

Admin:

SHQ and office accommodation on 'B' hutting.

Quarters:
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Single: 78 officers + 230 SNCOs + 3,943 airmen. WRAF 12 + 20 + 322;
Married: 2 officers;
PMRAFNS: 23 WRAF officers.
Messing:
58 officers + 350 SNCOs + 2,000 airmen +23 WRAF officers and all SNCOs and airwomen in single sitting;
Catering capacity 'single sitting' (which means 1,943 airmen and 12 WRAF officers go hungry?).
Services:
MTGAS: three 2,000-gallon underground and two 5,000-gallon underground;
Kerosene: one 2,000-gallon underground tank;
Recreational: Cinema, gym, squash, and badminton courts, NAAFFI, churches, playing fields.

The army took over the camp when it became the home of the 1st Battalion the Lancashire Fusiliers in September 1965. RAF Weeton was decommissioned in 1971, and the camp was then completely taken over by the Army.
In 1972, a group of Ugandan Asians were housed in a transit camp at the former officer's mess and medical quarters.
The camp was fully rebuilt between 1983 and 1985. In 1990, Queen Elizabeth II went to Weeton, to present new colours to the 1st Battalion Queen's Lancashire Regiment, on the 9th of July. Since 2011 it has been the home of the 2nd Battalion the Duke of Lancaster's Regiment. Since 1965, a total of 18 different regiments have been stationed at Weeton, however briefly.
Weeton was where the local fleet of Green Goddess fire engines were kept, to be used in case of dire need when the public force was unable to cope.

Weeton RAF County School: opened on Grantham Road in Weeton Camp on the 20th of February 1958. The first head teacher was Mr Evans. Its name was changed to Weeton County Primary School in 1966, in 1978, the infants and juniors joined together, and in 1999, it was again renamed, to Weeton Primary School. A Special Needs extension was added in 2004 and a dining hall in 2005.
In May 2017, a newly-built replacement school opened. It has 7 classrooms, a new playground, and an -weather sports pitch. The new site also has a library, a Rainbow Room for children who need extra support, and a sports hall.

On the 9th of July 1990, Queen Elizabeth II visited Weeton Camp. It was the first such visit by a reigning monarch, although her mother, Queen Mary, had visited on the 31st of October 1972, in her capacity as Queen Consort.

The camp is now known as Weeton Barracks and is divided into two parts.

1. The camp area has authorised access and houses Single Living Accommodation, Unit Departments, messes, a NAAFI/Junior Ranks Club, and a gym.
2. The second area houses the Service Families' Accommodation, the Primary School, a Crèche and Pre-School, a Londis Shop, the Families Complex, a Surestart Centre, a Medical and Dental Centre, and a Community Centre.

The camp's original St Joseph's church is now closed, and the camp grounds are now a well-used motor car rallying centre.

Whitehead Close in Staining was given to the poor by Ellen Whitehead.
Edmondson's Creamery was at 2 Nutter Road in Cleveleys, advertising itself as Fylde Dairy.

©

Alys Milner: was born in Thornton on the 1st of December. After starting to model swimwear for Windsor Woolies of Poulton, she became a world-famous model and in the 1930s, was known as the *"Face of Blackpool"*. In 1936, she was photographed by Ralph James on a promotional poster for Blackpool and its illuminations, designed by the local Gazette and Herald. The poster won a gold medal for Britain at the fifth International Salon of Photography at Zaragoza, Spain.
She married Derek Lancaster at 2 pm on the 3rd of June 1937, at the Wignall Methodist Church on Victoria Road in Thornton, and their reception was held at the Norbreck Hydro.

A fish-packing shed was built on Fleetwood Docks.
The Fleetwood Trawlers Supply Company began trading. The group now employs over 100 staff at 240/244 Dock Street and has departments for Sheetmetal, Lighting, Port Services, Yacht shop, Sailmakers, and Industrial Sacks.
The Active Steam Fishing Company was formed in Fleetwood.
Fleetwood Conservative Club was opened on Queen's Terrace on the 12th of December.
Fleetwood Labour Exchange opened on the 25th of November.
A dedicated Post and Telegraph Office and the Dock Office were opened on Fleetwood Docks. The dock offices were greatly enlarged in 1914/15 by Thomas Wrigley Ltd.
Hoadley's Circus visited Fleetwood before touring the Fylde.
The cottage named Broadwater was built on the Fleetwood road of the same name.

Regent Cinema, Fleetwood: The St George's Wesleyan chapel on West Street was converted into the 450-seat Empress Picturedrome cinema, which opened in August. It was closed in 1918, but reopened in 1921, and continued as a silent cinema until around 1931. It reopened in 1935, as the Regent Cinema. The frontage had been entirely re-clad in white tiles, and the seating capacity increased to 720. In the basement for many years was the "Creamland" snooker hall, which was later changed in caféteria known as the Milk Shake Diner.

In 1955, it acquired a new Cinemascope screen and *"High Fidelity Magnetic Sound"*, but in the 1960s, it was taken over by the Hutchinson Cinemas chain of Burnley. It was twinned in 1971, with screens having a seating capacity of 110 and 150 and was finally converted into a 3-screen studio in July 1973. Next door at this time was the Sewing Centre, and Fleet Cleaners.

It showed its last film on the 18th of May 1983 and was closed for good in 1986, when it was demolished and replaced by a branch of Barclays Bank, and a Lunn Poly travel agency. During demolition in April 1986, a large fire devastated the remains.

W Stanley, a confectioner and caterer, was running the Beach Café on Victoria Road in Cleveleys.
CC Humber was running the ironmongers and cycle shop on Victoria Road, which G Bowen had opened some years earlier.
TW Howarth's butcher's shop was also on Victoria Road, calling himself *"the oldest established butcher in Cleveleys"*.
Also, on Victoria Road, The Cleveleys Stores, run by WJ Edwards were selling clothing, boots and shoes, jewellery, fancy goods, and toys and games. Meanwhile, nearer to the tram station, was John Wilson's boot and shoe shop.
The Misses Nicol were running The Tea House on Victoria Road. JF Turner's West End Stores were nearby, selling groceries and provisions.
The Edwards' Circulating Library was based in his hairdressing salon on Victoria Road.

©

St Anne's Girls Institute opened on the 19th of October on St Davids Road South. It later moved to North Promenade, where it became the Princes Hotel after the school closed.

The Empire/Plaza cinemas, St Anne's: The Empire De Luxe Picturedrome opened on St George's Road on the 5th of August, accommodating 900 people. It was originally only one storey and had an arched frontage, being designed by Arnold England and Albert Winstanley.

By 1914, it had changed its name to the Empire Orchestral Pictures, and by 1916, to the Empire Pictures. In 1930, it had a first floor added and changed its name to the Plaza, gaining notoriety for presenting "adult" films – such as "A Clockwork Orange", which Blackpool cinemas were not allowed to show.
In the basement for many years was Cyril's Billiard Hall.

The Plaza then became Studio 1-2-3 on the 24th of February 1972, and finally Plaza Bingo with the Clifton Casino Club and its a-la-carte restaurant (upstairs), before finally being turned into the St Anne's View old people's apartments.0

Fairhaven Tennis Club was founded, playing at Fairhaven Lake.
The First Lytham St Anne's Scout troop was formed, from the relics of the Church Lads' Brigade. The first Girl Guides Company was then formed in 1918, with the second Guides Troop starting in 1945.
The Municipal bowling green opened at Lytham in June.

The Lytham St Anne's Art Society: was formed, after a meeting at Green Drive between Thomas Alfred Clarke (a local art shop owner) and James Terry. Those men, together with professional artist Walter Eastwood, held the first committee meeting in his studio in Market Square.
It held its first exhibition in the Market Hall, Lytham, in March 1913. Future exhibitions were held in the Ansdell Institute, the Woodlands Institute, the St Anne's Café, and St Anne's Technical College, going back to the Market Hall in Lytham after World War 2, and on Dicconson Terrace in the 1950s.

Society meetings moved around between St Anne's, Ansdell and Lytham using Lister's café, Kiosk Café (later Street's baker's), Crescent café, Dickinson's café, Lantern café, Dalton's café, and Queen's Café in Wood Street, St Anne's.
In the 1960s, a studio was leased from Booth's in Market Square, with access through a door in Chapel Street and across the roof of the Booth's shop. It was opened on the 14th of January 1967, by amateur painter Arthur Leslie, star of Coronation Street. The society then moved to the old, wooden, Senior Citizens' Hall on Haven Road in 1986, and a new purpose-built studio was built across the other side of Haven Road, opening in August 2007.

The Kirkham and District Liberal Association was formed. Its first chairman was Mr Bowdler.

1913
King George V and Queen Mary visited Blackpool on the 8th of July. A suspected suffragette bomb had been found on Central Pier the day before. They also visited Kirkham, where two temporary welcome arches were constructed at Ribby Road and the Town Centre. Ribby Road itself had been newly-tarmacked for the first time for the occasion. After their Kirkham visit, Lord Derby took them to Mowbreck Hall.

©

Palatine Council School, Blackpool: This large urban school was finished on Bennett Avenue off Palatine Road on the 11th of April and opened on the 1st of September – its date plaque says 1912. It had a Senior Boys, Senior Girls, Junior and Infants departments.
The school was officially opened in 1917, and the playing fields for the school were purchased by education chiefs in 1919, when the school became known as a Central School. Although all pupils under 11 were excluded, scholarships were available to send brighter pupils into its secondary part.

In 1928, the school became the Palatine Central Selective School, when it began to take the lower end of the scholarship winners to concentrate on teaching technical and commercial subjects. The place was separated into the Palatine Boys' Central School and Palatine Girls' Central School. The building was completed in 1934, and later became part of the Technical College campus to be renamed Palatine Technical Grammar School. It was hidden in 1937, by the arrival of the Technical College.

In 1963, as Palatine School, it moved from Bennett Avenue to St Anne's Road, becoming a full "comprehensive", some girls having moved to Collegiate in 1961. Palatine's old buildings were then taken over by the Technical College as annexes located to the rear of the site, although some pupils still used the old site for more 4 years. Palatine had its own school magazine, called the Palatinian.

The new buildings on St Anne's Road cost £300,000 and were started in 1966. *"The decision to name it Palatine High School caused controversy as councillors wanted to rename the school and give it a fresh start. However, school staff and the community were against the decision and the Palatine name lived on"*.

In 1969, the new Palatine High School was completed, the first 900 pupils having started in September 1968, using a six-form entry system. Being built on the site of Cartmell's Field and its coach park, it was briefly renamed Knowle High School, after Knowle farm which had stood nearby. It soon regained some of its old identity when it changed to Palatine Community Sports College in 2004. It changed once more in January 2014, to South Shore Academy, complete with a new dark green uniform.
In April 2016, builders Morgan Sindall began constructing two new buildings - a three-storey main building, and a single-storey sports hall. The main building will house 25 classrooms, with general classrooms on the 1st floor, and art rooms and science labs on the 2nd floor. The sports hall will fully Sport England compliant, and will have double height spaces to maximise the number of sports that can be played. It will also hold a Special Educational Needs group room. A formal Turf Cutting ceremony was held on the 17th of June 2016, and Time capsule was buried by pupils in February 2017.

The new school includes 7 *"state of the art science laboratories, four technology workshops, music and drama rooms, and a stand-alone sports facility with dance studio. The new building includes a learning centre, dubbed the Galaxy Suite, and there is also a drama studio, music facilities and a main hall with retractable seating"*.

The new complex became the new main school buildings in August 2017, and began to be used from the start of the next term in September.
The old buildings were demolished in February and March 2018, to make way for a new car park, with a landscaped front aspect to the whole complex.

The foundation stone of the Wesleyan School on Raikes Parade was laid on the 17th of September.
Victoria Street Congregational Sunday schools opened on the 30th of April.
Henri Salmet "buzzed" all three piers in his monoplane, and Gustave Hamel flew over Blackpool, advertising the Daily Mail newspaper on his wings – the first of many such advertisements over the years.

©

The Council was encouraged to stage the Princess Parade lights, between the Gynn and Victoria Pier, as an after-season event in September. Corporation Park, near the Pleasure Beach, was also illuminated.

The Pleasure Beach Casino: The first casino was built from "new" reinforced ferro-concrete; as well as restaurants and bars, it also housed the 700-seat Pleasure Beach Cinema. Visitors to the Pleasure Beach were able to park their cars for free on a grassed area on the Promenade, opposite the new Casino.
The first Casino was demolished in 1937, but the Ferro-concrete, was so strong that contractors had to use dynamite to get rid of it.

Immediately after the demolition, Joseph Emberton designed a replacement building, assisted by Halstead Best. Its main staircase *"owes something to Gropius's model factory for the 1914 Werkbund Exhibition at Cologne"*, and the second Pleasure Beach Casino was opened on the 26th of May 1939 by Baron Stamp.

This time, it had been designed purely to cater with large charters from the LMS Railway. The basement remained a billiards room, housing the original tables, the ground floor opened on to the Park grounds, giving on to a grillroom and a large American style soda fountain and snack bar. It also boasted the Savarin Restaurant, the Beach Restaurant, a 700-seat banqueting hall, and various bars.
Doors opened automatically in response to a selenium cell, and the internal staircase, encircling a central pillar within a glazed cylinder, was similar to the one outside the building. On the roof was a solarium. Another floor was added after the war.

The Horseshoe Bar opened in 19063, with Tessie O'Shea starring, supported by Yuri and Tina Gridneff.

In 1964, the Savarin became the Gaslight Bar, and the billiard hall in the basement became Diamond Lil's, and later the Paradise Room, and the Carousel.

Leonard Thompson's death in 1976, saw Keith Ingham, in 1977, being *"engaged to make extensive alterations to the Casino, when its name altered to the Wonderful World Building! Its concrete exterior was painted for the first time, reflective glass put in and Mickey Mouse-style red kiosks placed around the base. An external glass lift was added and the park's monorail re-routed around the circular building. Inside, the central kitchens and service areas were removed and most of the public rooms were altered, losing their 1930s atmosphere. The main exceptions were the managing director's office and compact flat, which still have built-in furniture by Emberton"*. The park's own bank was on the top floor.
Also, during the renovation, a new ride, called "The Greatest Show on Earth" was built. After some years of use, it was briefly enlarged in 1990, and then moved to the Southern end of the park – to the spot now taken by the Burger King restaurant.

In 1978, the Savarin Restaurant became the Steakhouse, and the Horseshoe Bar was converted into a show bar. The rooftop Calypso Bar – complete with bamboo furniture and waitresses wearing basques – was also opened (renamed the Attic in the mid-1990s), as was a new pub, the Gaslight. Also, the Monorail was extended to run around the Casino building.

The Horseshoe Bar presented wrestling shows, which were promoted and hosted by Bobby Barron, whose wife Rita wrestled as the Apache Princess. The wrestling shows later moved to the gaslight Bar in the Casino building. Professional wrestler Darren Matthews (Lord William Regal) began his career here, helping with the set before being allowed to perform.

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Witching Waves / Dodgems at the Pleasure Beach: The Pleasure Beach also added a new driving ride, called the Witching Waves.

In 1920, George Tonner started buying up concessions at the Pleasure Beach and fetched his tin 2-man carts there in 1921. In 1923, he upgraded the Witching Waves with those carts, which he had bought from the USA. Tonner sadly went bankrupt in 1938.

More dodgems-type cars – called Auto-Skooters, were introduced to the park by the Lusse Brothers in 1927, just before Billy Butlin imported the first true dodgems into the UK in 2918. In the 1980s, the Auto Skooters were renamed as the Superbowl, to capitalise on the popularity of American Football, the cars being re-bodied as different-coloured quarterbacks. These later became part of Beaver Creek, and in 2009, those second dodgems were relocated into the old Whip building next to the Revolution ride and renamed the Alpine Dodgems. The dodgems building was demolished in November 2009.

By then located next to the Noah's Ark, the original dodgems were renamed the Auto Skooters in the early 1960s, and were then run until the late 1970s, by Lawrence Silcock, as a concession.
The original building was demolished in November 2009, and in 2010, the park installed a garden on the location of the ride, featuring sculptures and water features designed by David Harber.

There were two major bumper cars brands: Dodgem – patented on the 29th of March 1921, by Max and Harold Stoehrer of Massachusetts, and Auto-Skooter – invented in 1927, by the Lusse Brothers. Joseph and Ray Lusse (real name Robert) were from Philadelphia.
In 1923, Lusse patented the name Bumper Car, and provided further patents in the next few years, for drive mechanism and steering. Then in 1927, Lusse revealed their first Auto-Skooter, followed in 1928, by a patent for dodgem electrical apparatus. Lusse were the first to make the car with vertically-mounted front drive and steering, improving the original Dodgem idea to have a rear drive. This gave us the dodgem with which we are now familiar – a small 2-seater car, travelling on a metal floor. They receive power from a pole touching a wire net, suspended from the roof, and this completes an electrical circuit.
By the 1950s, although Auto-Skooters were far more popular than Dodgems, all such rides had become known as dodgems. Then in 1959, Lusse released the world's first fibreglass-bodied version, which enabled frequent re-modelling to be done by amusement parks.

In 1933, Leonard Thompson met the Lusse Brothers, and soon set up a new company, Lusse brothers Limited, in the grounds of the park. Thompson became Chairman of that company in 1933, and it built Auto-Skooters as well as other devices for sale in Britain and Europe. For some years, all dodgems used on the Pleasure Beach were manufactured onsite.

The Central Picture Theatre, Blackpool: This unusual single-storey cinema was opened on Central Drive on the 7th of July and was possibly one of the first purpose-built cinemas in Lancashire. The candy stripe brickwork and the Dutch profile are still in evidence today. Several small railway outbuildings for Central Station had been demolished to make way. It was briefly called the Central Picture Palace, but was renamed the King Edward Picture Palace in 1914, and had 1,009 seats, before reverting to the Central Cinema after 1954.

In 1971, Tudor Bingo moved into the cinema, Coral Bingo soon took it over, and it continued as a bingo hall until March 1984. Then, in 1986, it was converted internally into the short-lived Village Pizzeria, which later became the Village nightspot (37 Central Drive) with Langan's Café Restaurant on the ground floor.

©

That soon became the Village Pizzeria, and after several years lying empty and unused, it became Hackett's night club. That was then turned into a nightclub named The Venue and the façade was restored.
After briefly becoming the Riverboat cabaret bar, it has been unused since 1995, apart from a brief period as a bar called "Family Fun", and then as the Central Cabaret Bar.

The Imperial Picture Palace, Blackpool: The turreted Imperial opened at the corner of 102 Dickson Road and Lansdowne Crescent on the 14th of July, offering "High-class Photo Plays" twice nightly. Built with a brick façade, dressed with Portland stone, and being a pre-sound cinema, it was a two-tier house with 731 seats.
It changed its name to the Empire for a few months from late 1924, in recognition of the British Empire Exhibition in London.

On the 30th of April 1939, the interior was destroyed by a fire, leaving just the walls and the iron frame. The architectural firm of Derham, Mackeith and Partners were commissioned to redesign the cinema within the original brickwork, and it reopened on the 1st of July 1939, with Warren William in "Wives Under Suspicion" and Harry Davenport in "Young Fugitives". The seating capacity had been slightly reduced to 719, and a billiard hall had been added.

In July 1954, the New Imperial Cinema was the second cinema in Blackpool to be fitted with Cinemascope. By then its screen was 16 feet by 12 feet and the proscenium was 21 feet 4 inches wide. The cinema was burnt down in April 1958, but quickly rebuilt. Advertising itself as "Blackpool's Cosy Cinema" it was known locally as the *"happy"* cinema and closed in 1961, being worked by independent operators throughout its cinematic life. The auditorium was converted into a warehouse, storerooms, and a shop – Blundell's furniture store, which closed in February 1987.
In 1980, the auditorium was gutted and a false floor inserted at balcony level. It was then used by JW Docking and Sons, Funeral Directors, owned by George Lovell, until 2004, and is now known as the Corner House, housing various community groups.

The Central Beach Cinema/Ritz Cinema, Blackpool: The Central Beach Cinema opened on the 17th of May, at 93 the Promenade, opposite Central Pier. The name quickly changed to the Central Cinema.
The building had been built by Sir Lindsay Parkinson, to a design by Thomas Lumb, and was first occupied in March, housing the White Café, a large open hall, and several shops. Redman's Café opened upstairs in December 1914, before expanding onto the ground floor by the 1920s, when they also ran an amusement arcade in the building.

The cinema reopened as the Trocadero in 1921, with its Cinema Grill café-cum-restaurant (also known as the Trocadero Restaurant) and the Trocadero Hotel and flats complex attached. An amusement arcade opened on the ground floor in 1930, and in 1938, the Trocadero Hotel was re-named Huntsman Hotel. The building had first been fully re-faced in the then-popular white faience, after a design by Halstead Best.
The hotel had many guest rooms, all with private bathrooms. It was fully central heated and had several private, self-contained suites. The hotel was owned by Tetley's brewery and boasted its own restaurant, as well as two large public bars.
After a brief spell with a bierkeller in the basement, the main building is now the Happy Dayz amusement arcade, with holiday flats above. The Huntsman Leisure Centre Building is still owned by Huntsman Leisure Limited and is numbered 991 to 101 the Promenade.

©

The cinema was located in the right-hand frontage of the building, and was closed in 1927, and taken over by the Fylde Cinemas Company Ltd (of the Royal Oak Buildings on Lytham Road), and screened films and some variety shows. It closed again in 1929 but was taken over by Union Cinemas and was renamed the Ritz Cinema which opened on the 23rd of June 1935, showing Joan Blondell in the film "Dames. When the Union Cinemas chain went bankrupt in 1937, the Ritz was taken over by an independent operator, but was closed once more by 1939. By 1943, it was in operation as the New Ritz, and in 1947, previous owners, Fylde Cinemas Limited (formed on the 15th of April 1946, for the purpose, by Sir Frederick Emery, and by then working from Palatine Buildings on Adelaide Street), took over again in 1947, and reopened it as the New Ritz Cinema, with 584 seats. The New Ritz began showing "Telekinema" in 1952, soon reverting to simply the Ritz Cinema.
In the 1960s, it sub-titled itself the House of Cartoons and opened all day, to show only cartoons to attract children at 2 shillings each.
The Ritz was closed in 1971, and it became a café, and a discotheque (now a Bier Keller) in the basement. Fylde Cinemas Limited went into liquidation in 1989.

The Doctor Who Exhibition: opened in what had been Chicco's Café in the Huntsman building, at 111 Central Promenade on the 10th of April 1974. Opened by Dr Who Jon Pertwee and his assistant Elisabeth Sladen, it was a new BBC seafront exhibition dedicated to the cult science fiction series. The entrance was a replica of the Dr's Tardis – a police telephone box.
The attraction closed in October 1985, to be replaced briefly by the Laurel and Hardy Exhibition Centre. The centre ran continuous films by the pair and had a memorabilia shop.
Nearby, at 115/117 Central Promenade was another BBC exhibition, this time of the costumes from various BBC TV series, and featuring especially, the Six Wives of Henry VIII.

The ground floor amusement arcade is now called Happy Dayz Amusements.

The Doctor Who Exhibition reopened in a different format nearby, on the 9th of April 2004, closing again on the 8th of November 2009, when the BBC took back many of its exhibits. The biggest Doctor Who exhibition in the UK, it was in the basement of the old Fairyland, in the Golden Mile Centre. The exhibition was the brainchild of David Hoyle, who was well known his beloved Dr Who car Bessie in the Lytham Club Day parade. He also founded the Dapol model railway company. In 2015, he opened his Blackpool Alien, UFO, Spiritual, And Paranormal Exhibition in the old Village Market building on the corner of Dale Street and Foxhall Road.

A "motor train" service was started between Blackpool and St Anne's on the 1st of September.
A railway halt opened at Burlington Road, South Shore on the 1st of October, to serve the Pleasure Beach. Burlington Road had been named after Burlington House which stood nearby from the 1890s until the 1980s – built by John Hall. From the 1910s, the house was the Burlington Club, complete with its own gardens and conservatory for members.
A similar railway halt was opened at Gillett's Crossing, near the Old Links Golf Course at the same time. Both halts closed exactly 2 years later, only to be reopened in 1920. They were closed for the second time in 1939, and then both closed for the final time on the 1st of January 1949.

The Brighton Hydro, Blackpool: at 465 South Promenade was a popular venue for wedding celebrations, and in the 1920s, flying pioneer AV Roe based himself and his staff there whilst flying from the South Beach. In World War 2, the Hydro became a temporary local RAF headquarters, being the base to which the rank and file would report – they were all billeted in South Shore.

©

By 1962, the Brighton Hydro had become the Post Office Fellowship of Remembrance Holiday Centre. It is now named the Colonial Hotel.

Bispham Electrical works was opened on the 3rd of November.
Blackpool Bankruptcy Court first sat on the 11th of November.
Brickworks were still in operation behind Layton Hall.
The Metropole Hotel was awarded 5 stars in the first edition of the AA Hotel Guide – one of only 20 in the country. The Carlton, The Clifton and Queen's Hydro were all rated three stars, while St Anne's had the Imperial Hydro (four stars) and The Grand (three stars), and Lytham had the Clifton Arms (three stars) and the Ship and Royal (one star). The Mount Hotel, Fleetwood had three stars.

The Mariner's, Blackpool: The Victoria Hotel (otherwise known as Parker's Victoria Private Hotel and Boarding Establishment) at 8 Norbreck Road was leased to accommodate staff for the Norbreck. In 1934, the Highfield College for Girls on Queen's Drive, moved to the Norbreck Road building. The college at the Towers in Cleveleys was owned by the same people, and the college later moved there.
When the college left, the building became Victoria House, and accommodated Civil Servants working at Norbreck Hydro during World War 2. It then became the Mariners pub (with Maggie May's Bar downstairs), and then the New Mariners, which burnt down on the 2nd of August 2007. The last vestiges of wreckage of the Mariners were finally demolished in 2015.

The Fylde Coast Rambling Club was formed.
Blackpool French Circle held its inaugural meeting on the 29th of January.

The Belle Vue Garage, Blackpool: The stables of the Albert Hotel on Whitegate Drive, which were themselves built on the exact site of the original Belle Vue Inn, were converted, and with additions, became Bell Vue Garage, owned by John Greenwood. Meanwhile, James Wrigley owned Stanley Park Garage at 66-70 Newton Drive, where he had started business in 1900. By 1928, Wrigley owned both garages, and by 1928, they both sold, hired, and garaged cars; he boasted that he could garage 275 cars.

Mr Wrigley had built his garage in the cobbled yard of the old Home Farm of Layton Hall, whose stables were converted for storage. The stable block was built between 1892 and 1900 (when he moved in). It was an integral part of a quadrangle of buildings surrounding the yard and accessed by a short lane leading south. The ground floor contained iron and wooden stalls for working horse as well as a separate, tiled room with stalls for riding horses. There was also a tack room next to this. The first floor was for hay and fodder storage, and had a loading door with winch housing. The rest of those buildings were demolished in the 5 years to 1992. The stable block was demolished in 2008.

In 1934, Belle Vue Garage was bought off Wrigley by David Ellor, who rebuilt it in contemporary style and stored various vintage vehicles there – including a Ribble Bus. Parts of the old garage buildings survived behind it, built into the stables block of the old Albert Hotel. The unique 1930s' design and rounded frontage inspired a vehement local campaign to restore and retain the building, but this was ignored by the local council, and the garage and all its outbuildings were demolished in September 2009. Sainsbury's opened a new Local store on the 11th of March 2011, on the site of the garage. The store is modelled on the old garage buildings.

The Newton Drive premises soon became a small Thomas Motors outlet, with a paint shop at the rear, and after that it was Castle Motors car salerooms for many years. In 1984, Blackpool Mazda was established as

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a car dealership on the site. The Mazda dealership closed in 2006, moving to Peel Hall Business Park, and the site was filled with a small housing estate in 2014, built by Baxter Homes Ltd.

The First Church of Christ Scientist, Blackpool: was founded in a wooden hut on the corner of Hornby Road and Park Road, opening on the 4th of October. The town's Christian Scientists had begun worshipping in rooms on Egerton Road in 1910. That church was demolished in 1897, and its services transferred to the adjacent Sunday school premises.

A replacement church, designed by local architect Halstead Best, was opened on the 18th of August 1929, on the corner of Whitegate Drive and Gloucester Avenue. The later church closed and was demolished in 1986, to be shipped to the United States for re-construction. The site was filled by the Gloucester Court luxury flats in 1987. The church carried on briefly, in the church hall which had housed the Sunday school (built in 1926) next door at number 135, but that too closed in 2013, to become a luxury private home. The alcove which was the site of the altar now holds a massive fish tank.

An appeal fund was launched on the 21st of May 1965, to raise funds for a Christian Science Reading Room at number 1 Whitegate Drive. This was soon built and remains today.

The Primitive Methodist Church was opened at North Shore on the 8th of October.

Blackpool Ambulances: Blackpool Ambulance division's new institute was opened at 34 King Street on the 30th of January. The first motor ambulance was given to the town on the 8th of April 1914, and the Wolseley vehicle was first used on the 27th of July. On the 21st of August, local ambulance classes started in town.

In 1927, Henry and Nellie Mallinson established Invalid Transport Service (ITS) in Ryburn Avenue in Marton. They became an agent for the NHS when it was established in 1948. By 1956 they had 12 ambulances and six sitting cars, and in April 1958, Blackpool Council took over their ambulance service.

In 1934, the council was running two Crossley motor ambulances from the fire station in King Street. In 1942, the council had 2 ambulances based at Devonshire Road for infectious cases, 1 at the Maternity Hospital, and 2 more at Rigby Road, for accidents and non-infectious patients.

Part of the tram depot, on the corner of Blundell Street and Princess Street, began to be used as an Ambulance Station in 1946. The town's ambulances were serviced, repaired, and painted there. Nearby was the Blundell Street Gym.

At the end of 1952, the Corporation had 10 ambulances and 1 car, and was hiring another 5 ambulances and 2 cars. Those maintained by the Corporation Transport Department dealt with non-infectious cases, accidents, and maternity cases, whilst the agency service handled all infectious cases and out-of-town journeys.
On the 1st of April 1958, the contract for the Invalid Transport Service was terminated, and the Corporation bought 7 more vehicles, to bring the fleet up to 10 ambulances and 3 sitting cars. The full fleet of 15 was then housed at Blundell Street for the first time and was fitted with radios. That fleet comprised:

Ambulances (Morris) (Petrol)	5
Dual Purpose (Bedford) (Petrol)	3
Ambulances (Dennis) (Diesel)	5

©

Cars (Morris Cowley) (Petrol) 2

In 1962, the illuminated "Ambulance" signs on ambulance roofs were replaced with blue lights, and in 1963, bells were replaced with sirens. By 1964, the town operated 17 ambulances, and by the end of 1971, it had 20.

The Ambulance Station moved from Blundell Street on the 15th of April 1982, to a purpose-built complex on the site of the Civil Defence Camp at 105 Waterloo Road. The smaller station on Threlfall Road had already closed.

Blackpool Tower's telephone number was "Blackpool 1" from this year until 1946.
Robinson's Café opened on Clifton Street on the 9th of May.
The Louvre milliner's shop was open at number 8 Clifton Street.
WH Kay moved his electrical shop from 70 to 74 Church Street in June. Numbers 74 to 78 later became the Lyon's Corner House.
The shoe shop of H McAllister and Son was at 61 Abingdon Street (later Travel Corner, Jessops etc.). They later opened a second shop on Queen Street, and another at 5 Cedar Square (later Cedar's Restaurant, and now the Number 5 Café Bar). The shops were known for their sales of ladies' fashion shoes, but children's shoes were also sold after feet had been X-Rayed in the shop.
Dixon and Collinge's tailors were on Birley Street.
Charles Howell opened a photography studio on Bank Hey Street, and in the 1920s, he opened another studio at Pleasure Beach. By 1928, he was being described as the Official Photographer of Pleasure Beach. He was there until at least 1939.
The incumbent organist, David Clegg, built a military band organ for the Empress Ballroom. He played there from around 1895 until 1923.
A Hunger March from Leeds ended at Blackpool on the 25th of July. The 30 men were taken to Lockhart's restaurant to dine and they were told of the progress made in negotiations and given news of their families. The police would not allow the marchers to collect so they spent the day around the town lodgings, after which, they were accommodated by the Salvation Army in their barracks.
George Eastham was born on the 13th of September. He became the captain of Blackpool Football Club and was capped once for England.

Frank Swift: The legendary Manchester City goalkeeper, was born at 33 Ibbison Street on the 26th of December. He worked as a coke-keeper at Blackpool Gas works, later playing football for Fleetwood Town before and signing for Manchester City. Swift was captain of the England Football team twice, and his brother Fred played in goal for Oldham Football Club. During the summer months, they ran a pleasure boat together at Blackpool. Frank Swift died in the Munich Air Crash.

(Albert) Kenneth Cragg was born in Blackpool on the 8th of March, and was educated at Blackpool Grammar School. He went on to become the Anglican Church's leading authority on Islam and was the assistant Bishop of Jerusalem.
Alice Burnham died in a bath at Mildred and Adelaide Crossley's boarding house at 16 Regent Road on the 12th of December. Her husband, the "Brides in the Bath" murderer, George Smith (alias Oliver Love, Charles James, Henry Williams, and John Lloyd) was executed at Maidstone Gaol on the 13th of August 1915. Smith made sure that Alice was buried in a pauper's grave in Layton Cemetery, and the grave is now marked by a simple wooden cross.

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Cleveleys published its first Holiday Guide – price one penny.
Winnifield's Tearooms were in business at Victoria Square in Cleveleys.

Fleetwood Seaman's Mission: The Royal National Mission to Deep-sea Fishermen's Institute was opened in a vacated butcher's shop in Lord Street (near Preston Street). Re-named Victoria House, a large and specially-constructed building on the site on the 3rd of December.
The mission moved to the old institute – re-titled the Fielden Sailors' Rest - on Dock Street and London Street in 1922.
In 1959, the centre was demolished and a new centre built on the same site. The new centre had an extra storey with 27 bed-sitting rooms, a lounge, residents' dining room, and a canteen. In 1960, that new mission opened in new premises. That building later became the LMR Social Club and then apartments.

1961 saw the first intake of boys for training at the Navigation School. Their costs were split between the school and the mission.

In 1989, the mission moved to Station Road, and the building on Lord Street was transferred to the Salvation Army.

The Station Road mission closed in November 2014. Now known as the Fleetwood Fishermen' Mission, it is located inside the Trinity Baptist Church at 206 Poulton Road.

Fleetwood Dock Post Office opened on the 17th of February. The Wyre Dock Post Office opened on the 21st of April.
Fleetwood Wednesday Football Club were in operation.
Williams Deacon's Bank opened on the corner of Orchard Road and St Anne's Road West. This is now the Royal Bank of Scotland. The building had been erected in 1892, as TA Stead's West End Pharmacy, but was re-designed for Williams Deacon's by architect Cecil Jackson of Chesterfield. It was built by James Eaves of Blackpool.
The two identical shelters on St Anne's Promenade were built this year. Made of cast iron, wood, and glass, their hipped roofs are a well-known local feature.
The twelve Marine Villas on the promenade at Ansdell had been recently built. One of them, the Warren, at 22 Clifton Drive, was bought in 1955, by the British Polio Fellowship, who converted it into the Northern Lantern hotel. This closed in 1977, being demolished, and replaced by the Seville Court Apartments.

Green Drive Golf Club: Lytham Golf Club Ltd: was founded at Green Drive, opening to the public the 3rd of May, with a match between the Captain, Mr James Wallace and the President and Landlord, Mr JT Clifton, which was played over the 9-hole course. It was officially opened in July, by Squire Clifton, and was expanded to 18 holes a year later, with the original course being designed by a Doctor MacKernie. The Club was taken over by the Lytham Urban Council in 1916, and they ran the club until 1923, when it returned to private ownership. This was achieved with a membership of 300, and the new company is now called Lytham (Green Drive) Golf Club Ltd.
The second opening for the private club took place on the 23rd of June 1923, and tennis courts were soon built on the site of today's car park. The course was redesigned by professional James Steer, shortly after he joined the club in 1939, and the club received a new clubhouse in October 1943. This was the bungalow pavilion moved from Blackpool Golf Course at Squires Gate. According to a newspaper it had *"been reassembled in an entirely new design with the help of some new brickwork"*. A second storey was to be added later.

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The clubhouse was extended in 1985, by the construction of a front and rear extension.

The Central Motor Company was at 34 Clifton Street in Lytham, offering their "Luxurious Landaulettes" for hire for just 8 pence per mile during the war.
The Fylde Coast Ramblers were formed.

Holy Family School, Warton: was opened in the back half of the church. It closed in 1953, when land was bought for a new school. That was finally opened on Lytham Road in January 1974.
The school was extended in 1976, and again in 1993. In 2010, an Early Years Outdoor Learning Environment was added as an extra facility for the youngest pupils.
Its name is now the Holy Family Roman Catholic Primary School.

The District Bank opened on Freckleton green, replacing the village smithy. This changed to a Westminster Bank in 1919.
Charles Whyatt Barlow was born in Freckleton on the 30th of July. He grew up to become Charlie Barlow, a world-famous band leader who played many times in Blackpool.
Southport Pleasureland opened, boasting a figure-of-eight rollercoaster and a slide, hoping to rival Blackpool's Pleasure Beach.

World War One - 1914 - 1918 - The Great War

Blackpool was used as a training ground for troops.

Blackpool raised £2,600 for British Prisoners of War, by collections, a carnival, and a boxing tournament.
Military pickets guarded the coastline, from Uncle Tom's Cabin to Squires Gate.
The Imperial Hotel was taken over as a hospital and convalescent home for over 200 officers. It still has its own mortuary in the basement.
The Queen's Hydro at South Shore was a convalescent hospital.
The Pleasure Beach Casino was used as a dining room for the troops.
The Star Hotel was used as dressing station by the RAMC.
The shops at 38-40 Station Road were converted into the Victoria Hospital Station Road Branch (For wounded soldiers) for treating the more minor military wounds. The building was soon to become the Red Cross Auxiliary Military Hospital – South Shore, otherwise known as Station Road Hospital. It is now a building called Centenary House.
There was another small auxiliary hospital on Adelaide Street, where many RAMC medics were trained in that street's hotels. That hospital was known as Adelaide Hospital. The Seafield Hotel, whose Sister-in-Charge was Miss M Chell, was renamed the Seafield Military Hospital. It was re-built in the 1930s.
The Empress Ballroom was used to make Barrage Balloons. The roof was removed and the finished balloons were floated off to guard the Vicker's shipyard at Barrow.
Silk parachutes were made in the Tower Ballroom.
230 local horses were commandeered for the war effort, leaving landaus and deliveries bereft.
Airedale Avenue Park was a military training ground, with full sized trenches and dugouts.
The Mayor, Lindsay Parkinson, prevented a milk shortage by buying it wholesale and arranging Corporation distribution.
Blackpool Tramcar number 4 spent the War ferrying bread to the military camp at Squires Gate.
German-made musical instruments, such as Steinway pianos, were mothballed after local musicians blacklisted them.

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The Army Spectacle Depot set up headquarters in Blackpool. It is now the National Artificial Eye Service, and operates from 221 Bristol Avenue, manufacturing artificial eyes for the NHS.
The Grand was the first Blackpool theatre to present the two big musical hits of World War One – "The Maid of the Mountains" and "Chu Chin Chow".
Goulden's Military Tailors were in business at 51/53 Church Street, supplying the local troops.

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St Chad's Vicarage at Poulton became the Poulton-le-Fylde Auxiliary Military Hospital.
Cleveleys and Rossall Golf Links were just north of Thornton Gate. They were soon taken over for house building.
During the First World War, many of Fleetwood's trawlers were taken for mine sweeping duties and other naval service, and 34 vessels were lost either on active service or whilst fishing.
The Admiralty took charge of Fleetwood docks and staffed them with Royal Navy personnel.
Lytham and St Anne's were also used by the forces, with several hospitals and munitions factories accompanying the 4,000 troop billets and training facilities there. At the start of the War, the two towns were used as a training base for the West Lancashire field artillery brigades. Later, Lytham was used to billet and train soldiers from the Pioneer Battalions, and the St Anne's Imperial Hydro (later the Majestic) was used to house officers.
The Royal Field Artillery trained, and was based, at stables at Headroomgate Road in St Anne's between February and August 1915, and over 3,000 artillerymen were billeted in the town. The 150th Blackburn Brigade was billeted to the South of Wood Street, and the Manchester Brigade were billeted on the northern side.
Aked's Garage in St Andrew's Road North in St Anne's was converted into a munitions factory. The building later became the Fylde Box Company premises.
Pembroke House School, 16 Clifton Drive, Ansdell became a Voluntary Aid Detachment Hospital, and was funded entirely by local cotton manufacturer JL Lee. His wife Sarah was Commandant of the Pembroke Auxiliary Hospital for the duration. The hospital equipment was auctioned off in May 1919.
Starr Hills at Ansdell was another VAD and was opened on the 19th of January 1916. The trustees of the late William Henry Hincksman had lent the house for use as the Starr Hills Auxiliary Hospital. It had 57 beds for wounded servicemen. Its soldiers later presented the sundial in Lowther Gardens in recognition of the services of its nurses. The equipment was also auctioned off in May 1919.
The house Chaseside became the Chaseside Red Cross Hospital in May 1916, run by its matron, L Golland.
Number 15 East Beach in Lytham also became a combined military hospital and, from August 1914, a convalescent home for Belgian refugees.
The Lytham munitions factory produced TNT at a factory built in a field at Warton Hall Farm with a single-track railway linking the works to the main line. The workers gained the title of "Canary Men" as their skin turned yellow from the effects of the noxious chemicals used – even the local cows had yellow noses. All the munitions buildings were demolished in the 1920s; the best of the bricks were used to build houses in Lorne Street and Nelson Street, Lytham. The field stood in the first field to the east of the Main Drain, straddling the waterway.
Lytham dockyards built many vessels for the War Department, including 4 minesweepers (named Fandango, Morris Dance, Step Dance, and Sword Dance), 5 hospital ships and over 50 others.
The Fylde Institution at Wesham Workhouse was used as a military hospital. It came under the command of Number 1 Western General Hospital (Territorial Force) based in Fazakerley, and cared for the less-seriously-wounded, and those who were convalescing. It was named the Wesham Military Hospital, and had 60 beds in 1917, closing in 1918. Whittingham Hospital was similarly used.
Troops camped and trained in the fields around Knott End.
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Local military honours:

1. Blackpool police Inspector Alfred Smith, a Second Lieutenant in the East Lancashire Regiment, was awarded the Victoria Cross for *"conspicuous bravery"* in the trenches in the Gallipoli campaign. On the 23rd of December 1915, *"a grenade he was about to throw fell from his hand and into the trench, close to several officers and men. He immediately threw himself on the grenade and was instantly killed in the explosion but saved many lives. He is buried in an unidentified grave in Twelve Trees Copse Cemetery on the Gallipoli Peninsula, Turkey"*. This action also won him the Croix de Guerre. He was an inspector in the Blackpool Police Force, and there is a plaque in his honour in St John's Church.

2. Stanley Boughey won the Victoria Cross for his action at El Burf in Palestine on the 1st of December in 1917. *"He single-handedly attacked an enemy machine gun position with grenades, killing many and causing the surrender of about 30 enemy soldiers. As he returned for more bombs, he was mortally wounded"*. A bed was dedicated to him in Victoria Hospital - unveiled on the 17th of September 1919.

3. Harry Beaumont fought in the Mesopotamian Campaign against the Ottoman Empire in Iraq in March 1917, when thousands of Lancastrians fought their way from Basra to Baghdad and beyond. Local soldiers from the 3 Lancashire regiments - the East, South, and Loyal North Lancashire Regiments - belonged to the 13th (Western) Division. The Division included the 38th (Lancashire) Brigade, a typical Kitchener formation, made up of the wartime-only 6th (Service) battalions of the East, South, and Loyal North Lancashire, plus the 6th King's Own Royal Lancaster Regiment from Lancaster.

The officer *"who led the largest party of Loyals to successfully get across the river was a schoolteacher from Blackpool named Harry Beaumont. It was he and his men who established the defensive enclave, into which the rest of the survivors gathered, which they were to defend for the next 30 bullet and bomb–swept hours. Awarded the Military Cross for his gallantry that day, Harry Beaumont returned to home after the war, married, had children, spent the rest of his career teaching at Blackpool Grammar School"*.

4. Second Lieutenant Hardy Parsons (ex-King Edward VII School) was awarded a posthumous Victoria Cross when he single-handedly held his bombing post against massive German opposition in the trenches in France in October 1917.

5. Temporary Second Lieutenant John Schofield attended Arnold School. He joined the Lancashire Fusiliers, and in April 1918, at the time of his award. The citation for his Victoria Cross describes how he led a raid on a strongpoint at Givenchy in April 1918. The action resulted in the capture of 123 officers and men when 2Lt Schofield stormed a parapet under fire, and *'by his fearless demeanour, skilful use of his men and weapons forced the enemy to surrender'*. He was killed at the scene a few minutes later.

6. Thomas Topping was awarded the Distinguished Service Order for his actions in the Boer War. He subsequently performed the opening ceremony for the Blackpool Cenotaph in 1923 – as Brigadier General Topping.

7. Ex-Kirkham Grammar School pupil, Leading Aircraftman Albert Osborne. He was awarded a posthumous George Cross for his *"unsurpassed courage and devotion to duty"* during constant German air attacks on Malta in 1940. *"The following are examples of his bravery: (a) put out a burning aircraft during a heavy bombing raid, (b) attempted to save a burning aircraft, (c) assisted in saving a burning aircraft and*

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putting out the fire, (d) saved an aircraft from destruction by fire and (e) attempted for 6 hours to extricate airmen from a bombed shelter, despite continued bombing and falling stonework. On one day alone, he fought fires in two aircraft, saving one of them; he freed the parachute of a burning flare that was caught on the aircraft, enabling the pilot to taxi clear, and he checked the fire in a burning aircraft. On the 1st of April 1942, he was leading a party to extinguish the flames of a burning aircraft when one of the petrol tanks exploded, injuring him. On recovering, he returned to fight the fire and was killed by the explosion of an air vessel while attempting to pour water over two torpedoes that were in danger of exploding".

1914

War with Germany was declared on the 4th of August.
Earl Kitchener, the Secretary of State for War, immediately laid plans to raise a New Army of 70 Infantry Divisions. The Earl of Derby suggested that men might be more willing to enlist if they could fight alongside their own friends, neighbours, and workmates.

The Local forces:
By the 6th of August 1914, the 7th (Service) Battalion of the Loyal North Lancashire Regiment was formed, comprising "A" Company, from Blackpool, "B" Company, from Kirkham and the Fylde, "C" Company from Chorley, and "D" Company from Preston. They were known as the 'Pals', and on the 31st of August, a recruitment parade was held on the Preston flag market. Within two days, 221 local men had volunteered for service, and four more companies of the 7th (Service) Battalion, Loyal North Lancashire Regiment were formed. The first company was from Preston, and the others making up the battalion were filled by 'Pals' from Blackpool, Kirkham and the Fylde, and Chorley.

In early November 1914, over 1,200 men of the 4th and 5th Territorial battalions of the Loyal North Lancashires arrived at central, and were billeted upon housekeepers and hoteliers in the northern end of the town.
The 24th Battalion of the Loyal North Lancashire Regiment was formed in Blackpool during November 1914, before being sent to fight in France and Belgium in 1916 as part of the 57th Division.
The 11th Lancashire Battery (Territorial Force) was formed on the 4th of August 1914, at Blackpool, in the 2nd West Lancashire Brigade, West Lancashire Division (55th Division), and mobilised for battle inside Preston Market later in August.
The 1st Battalion of the Blackpool Volunteers was formed and were stationed in town until 1919. The troops were billeted in and around Buchanan Street, parading on the fields at Revoe School.
By February 1915, the 2nd/5th battalion of the Loyal North Lancs were also in Blackpool, and the 3rd/4th and 3rd/5th Battalions arrived in Blackpool in the October.
The 2/4th (Cumberland and Westmorland Battalion) of the Territorial Force of the Border Regiment were billeted in Blackpool from September 1914 and sailed for Indian duty in March 1915. The 2/5th Battalion were also kept in Blackpool from October 1915.
The 1/12th Battalion (Pioneers) of the Loyal North Lancashire Regiment was formed at Lytham in April 1915.
The 42nd Provisional Battalion of the Loyal North Lancashire regiment was formed in June 1915, from Home Service personnel, and was based initially at Blackpool, before disbanding in the December. On the 1st of January 1917, those men became the 14th Battalion, and were attached to the 218th Brigade of the 73rd Division.
The 2/12th Battalion of the Loyal North Lancashire Regiment was formed at Lytham in March 1916.
The 13th (Home Service) Battalion of the Loyal North Lancashire Regiment was formed at Blackpool on the 4th of December 1916. Placed under the command of 219th Brigade in the 73rd Division, it moved the next month to Danbury, and in October went to Southend.

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The staff headquarters for all Blackpool's troops was in the Central Library.

The Blackpool Volunteer League ran the Recruiting Offices at 15 Birley Street (which was later the Pepper Mill licensed carvery restaurant). They issued a now-rare set of 60 lapel badges to staff.
Blackpool's struggling landladies sighed with relief in November, when the Government announced that 14,000 troops would be billeted in the town. The first 2,000 arrived on the 10th.
On the 11th of October, 2,000 Belgian troops arrived at North Station, the first 54 of whom were sent to convalesce at Victoria Hospital.
Blackpool received special Government dispensation to keep its lights shining until 10pm, despite the blackout.
The Blackpool Special Constabulary was formed on the 26th of October and the first parade took place on the 9th of November. By the end of 1914, 693 men had attested for service, but this number reduced due to unsuitability, loss of interest, conscription, and the lowering of the age for army service. The wartime Special Constabulary was formally disbanded on the 16th of February 1919, at a ceremony in the Tivoli Picture Theatre at Talbot Square. In November 1919, the Watch Committee awarded 707 medals to the Specials - all inscribed with recipient's name and number. They were distributed by post on the 8th of December. Long Service medals were presented to 131 recipients by the Chief Constable HE Derham in May 1920. These men comprised of 22 Inspectors, 36 Sergeants, and 73 Constables.
In November, 1,200 troops of the 4th and 5th Territorial Battalions of the Loyal North Lancashire Regiment disembarked at Talbot Road Station. They were billeted around North Shore and were trained at Clifton Park Racecourse.
The 3rd West Lancashire Divisional Engineers and Field Ambulance began their winter training at Blackpool. The officers were billeted at the Imperial Hydro, the Field Ambulance men in boarding houses in Clifford Road, and the Engineers in Adelaide Street hotels.
The Liverpool Scottish 9th and 10th Battalions of the Kings Liverpool Regiment were billeted in town. The 2/5th 3/5th battalions also moved to town on November. Most regiments trained on the beach.
The 5th (Reserve) Battalion of the King's Own Royal Lancaster Regiment (soon to become the 2nd/5th Battalion) were billeted in Blackpool. At the time, the regiment only had two battalions - the 4th, recruited from Furness and the 5th, from Lancaster and the Fylde. The regiment was soon sent to the Front, and the 5th was renamed the 1/5th and its Reserve battalion called the 2/5th. *"When the 2/5th sailed to France with 57 Division in February 1917, the Reserve battalion became the 3/5th"*.

Belgian Refugees: On the 16th of August, 16,000 refugees arrived in Folkestone, fleeing German atrocities in Belgium. A total of around 250,000 came to Britain, and many of them were sent to Blackpool and the Fylde Coast. In mid-October, the first Belgians arrived in Blackpool, being quartered in the Wesleyan School in Alexandra Road. There were 40 men, 35 children, and 10 children. Within a few weeks, more refugees were arriving by train, and being given shelter in local homes. There would eventually be about 8,000 of them.
The Belgian Refugees' Committee was set up, working out of the Empress Buildings in Church Street. Its chairman and president were both later decorated by the King of Belgium for their work.
The first arrived in Kirkham on the 31st of October.
On the 4th of February 1915, 2,000 Belgian refugees were expected in Blackpool. 400 were billeted in Blackpool and the rest were housed around the Fylde Coast. Accommodation was found in hotels and homes, such as the Castle at North Shore. Another 1,000 refugees soon followed.
In Lytham St Anne's, *"140 were housed at the North Drive Camp, and by the Roman Catholic Church, St. Thomas' Church, and the Drive Wesleyan Church"*.
On the 14th of February 1915, a Blackpool Council member reported that *"lodging house keepers" "were for some reason willing to take refugees for an unlimited period. However, they asked that 'only the*

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'middle class' should be sent" - ie respectable artisans, clerks, small shopkeepers etc (lower middle class, but none of the lowest class), because they would not interfere with the 'ordinary patrons' during the summer season. They also haggled over the number of children to be sent".
On the 12th of April 1915, a Catholic school for 220 of those Belgian refugee schoolchildren was opened inside Revoe School. Several classrooms were allocated for them to rent. *"The school at Revoe was the first of its kind to be established in the country, and its model was used for different parts of the country. Mother ('Mere') Angelo was in charge of the largely Catholic, Belgian school and she had three sisters of the Ursuline Order to assist her. But facilities were provided for other religious denominations"*. The school closed in February 1919, when the Belgian children were sent home. Belgian teachers were also taken on in the Victoria Church of England School on Tyldesley Road.
A Belgian doctor, Victor Phillipe, was sent from London, and he carried out medical checks on the children from a makeshift surgery at Central Pier.
A Belgian Club was set up in Redman's Buildings on Central Beach.
Briefly, in 1915, Blackpool FC changed their strip to the colours of the Belgian flag - red, yellow, and blue striped shirts, and white shorts - in support of the town's Belgian refugees.
In February 1919, a special train was chartered to take 800 Belgians to Hull, and thence home to Belgium. By mid-1919, almost all refugees had been repatriated by the British Government – except 4 women, who married Blackpool men. There had been 125 births and 75 refugees had died whilst here.

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A firing range for local trainees was set up near Singleton.
Anti-German sentiment swept rural Fylde, and on the 9th of October, Kirkham Urban District Council condemned the Governors of Kirkham Grammar School for retaining a German, Mr Schweikher, as their Science Master – he resigned in November.

Blackpool was divided into twelve Municipal Wards on the 12th of October.
Layton Reading Room and recreation grounds were opened, with their own bowling green, on the 13th of August. South Shore Branch Reading Room was opened on the same day.
Cuthbert Grundy was presented with a Ceremonial Key by the Corporation, on the opening of the Highfield Road Branch Reading Room and Public Recreation Grounds, on the 13th of August.
In June, Harold Blackburn operated his Avro bi-plane from the sands at the Pleasure Beach.
Flagstaff Gardens were opened on South Promenade, by the Corporation, in time for the opening of the Illuminations. Its fountain was installed soon after, by the Tramways Committee, and an ornamental sundial was added in 1925, by the Tiller family. The centre of the fountain was installed in St John's Square in 2009.

Garville Girls' School, Blackpool: was at 231 Whitegate Drive, on the northern corner of St Vincent's Avenue. By the 1930s, this had become Bessie Fitton's School. It has since been demolished and replaced by 6 balconied flats.

John Dixon bought Marton Bank Farm (which had been built pre-1839) together with several fields. This meant that he now owned a large swath of land on both sides of the new Preston road, and he sold these to builders over the next few years.
Top o'th Town Farm at Preston Old Road was sold off for development. The fields were built on, but the farmhouse is now named "Merelands" at number 142 Preston Old Road. The farm was described as *"that ancient messuage or dwelling house"* when it was put up for sale in August 1846, when it was to be sold with *"Mereside Land"*. The Pixie House Mushroom factory was on part of the site of its fields until it closed in 2000 – another mushroom farm was at the Nook in Staining at the same time.
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Layton Primary School: Originally called Lynwood Avenue Elementary School, this began to be built on part of Hoo Hill Fields, which had been sold for the purpose by Baines School, Marton.

It was renamed Layton School when the extended building opened on Meyler Avenue in 1926 (still shown on carved gate stones). This had been constructed to the designs of the borough surveyor JC Robinson, and the *"original L-shaped form was augmented in 1932 to form a figure of eight, with two internal courtyards with glazed walkways"*. Also, in 1932, it was again renamed to Layton Primary School, and the main entrance was made to face Lynwood Avenue, with the playing fields now facing Meyler Avenue. The new school was further extended in 1948. Layton Junior School opened on the 26th of September 1953, next to the Infants on Lynwood Avenue.

The whole school was almost fully rebuilt in 2012 – classrooms being officially opened in July 2013.

The Blackpool Ice and Cold Storage Company Limited: was formed. In 1926, the Blackpool Ice and Cold Storage Company Limited, the Blackburn Crystal Ice Company Limited and Southport Crystal Ice Company Limited all became the Palatine Ice and Cold Storage Company Limited. In 1934, the Palatine Ice and Cold Storage Company Limited on Harewood Street was taken over by Palatine Dairies Limited but continued to trade under its old name. After the war, they returned to business with the Palatine Dairies Limited name, and became Palatine Food Services Limited in 1961, trading from Queen's Factory off Staining Road. The company continues today in Blackpool.

A terrace of houses named "Green Mount" was built on Layton Road.

Blackpool's tunnels: An underground passage was opened between the Tower and the Palace Theatre. Performers often went by tunnel to the Palace, to perform there on the same night!
This is the **ONLY** proven tunnel in town, which was designed to move people about.
There are many other underground maintenance passages, drainage channels, culverts, storage passages, and disused subways etc. which give regular rise to tunnel myths.

For example, former worker Harry Luby described maintenance tunnels between the Winter Gardens and the Tower *"these tunnels were nine foot wide and six foot tall and that the route from the Tower to Tower Street was more straightforward than the route from Tower Street to the Winter Gardens which may have had to contend with sewage and water pipes and a steep incline. There were actually two tunnels so that you could not go directly from the Tower to the Winter Gardens. The tunnels were on two different levels"*.

At the outbreak of War, fire destroyed Bloomfield Road Football Ground's only stand.

The Central Club, Blackpool: The Blackpool Central Working Men's' Club and Institute was opened on the 24th of November 1913, and formalised in the George Pub in March, after which it was registered as a company. It then took up residence on the first floor of Chadwick's Sawmills at 7 Chadwick Street. The sawmill was still operating, and since the staircase to the club was open, the new club gained the name *"The Sawdust Club"*. In the early 1920s, after C&S Brewery had moved to their new premises off Talbot Road, the club took over the whole building and built a new main entrance.
In the 1920as, they also had some premises on Church Street and Dixon Street.

In October 1928, it moved to its new premises, above Standerwick's bus garage at 70 to 76 Kent Road, and the Trades Club moved into Chadwick Street. The present concert room was built in 1956 and is still the

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biggest such club room in Lancashire. Although it closed in January 2006, it reopened in March. It is now called simply the Central Club, and is owned by Revoe Leisure Ltd, but despite broadening its market by hosting boxing matches and the like, the club failed. The venue was even renamed Blondell Street in 2005, to host a one-off rock and roll show, and in August 2008, it hosted a "Soul Weekender" to attract Northern Soul dancers who yearned for the old days at the Mecca. The club has now been closed for several years.

Planning permission was granted in 2015, for the construction of 12 three-storey terraced houses, but the club was put up for sale in June 2019.

Claremont Conservative Club opened on the 28th of March. It was re-registered on the 13th of March 1965, on Westminster Road.
Claremont Unionist Club was opened by Lord Stanley on the 4th of July.
The Whitegate Brick Company Limited was registered on the 5th of May, working from brickworks on Clifton Road in Marton.

The Savoy Café, Blackpool: A café opened on the promenade on the 16th of June.

In 1916, Arthur Slater, a surgical limb maker working in Church Street, bought a neighbouring shop. In 1917, he put it into an investment venture, which saw the adjoining little café and neighbouring properties become the black and white timbered Savoy Café.

The whole block was demolished between 1933 and 1937, and the new, ultra-modern Savoy Café re-opened on the 4th of June 1938, and its frontage displayed *"some of the nautical imagery fashionable in 1937 when Shaw's supplied the cream faience to designs by Gorst and Crabtree"*. The café then ran through from the Promenade to 29-37 Market Street. Percy Standen and his orchestra would entertain diners.

The Savoy Café closed for good in 1963, re-opening as the Lobster Pot Restaurant on the 16th of December, but the Savoy name lived on, with the Lobster Pot Group naming its new ten-pin bowling alley, the Savoy Bowl in 1966.

Wedgewood's Café opened over H Samuel's original Blackpool store at 7 and 9 Church Street, on the 31st of July. On the opposite side of the road were Shepherd's Café, and Parker's Restaurant at number 32.
Thomas Ball, opened a Drug Store 149 Lytham Road. In 1920, he transferred the business to 139 Lytham Road. In 1978, Burrill's photography shop was at the property. By 2000, the business was owned by David Norton, who then set up another outlet, called West Coast Optics, at the same address.
Mr J Patterson was advertising "The World's Fair" opposite Central Pier, featuring, Blackpool Aviation Week, flights with pilot Harold Blackburn.
Geoffrey Bantock, an educationist, was born at 22 Layton Avenue, Blackpool, on the 12th of October, the only child of Herman Bantock, a musician.

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Weeton Post Office opened by the village green, run by the Threlfall family. Len and Lazarus Threlfall were joiners and undertakers, who operated from a workshop next to the post office. The Post Office was taken over by John and Mary Gillett on the 1st of February 1935. They soon moved the business to Lane Heads, near the windmill, and into a thatched building with a house attached.
John Croft of Cleveleys bought a boat "Agnes", and began to take paying passengers for sails off Cleveleys Beach. In September, he and six passengers were washed away and died.
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Stanway's of Lytham: The Stanway Brothers started business, establishing garage on West Cecil Street in 1929 – their company Stanway Brothers Ltd was formed on the 15th of February that year. They later moved to School Lane in Lytham. The Cecil Street building later became the service centre and from the early 1960s, the garage operated from Preston Road where it opened on the site of the World War 2 munitions factory. Stanway Brothers Ltd went into liquidation on the 10th of April 2015, being dissolved on the 19th of September 2019.
Approximately half of the site was developed for housing, but on the 18th of September 2015, a new company Stanways of Lytham Ltd was formed, operating from the same premises. They opened a new autobodies facility in 2018.

The Elim Gospel Mission Hall, Lytham: This Pentectostal mission opened on Victoria Street on the 16th of January.
The mission was made of corrugated metal, and although it was not an Elim church, it was perhaps his preaching there that inspired George Jeffreys to name the church he founded after it.
Elim Court housing was built on the site in 1988.

Kirkham Baths were opened on Station Road with a bequest by William Hodgson JP. The centenary of what is now named Rural Splash Kirkham, was celebrated on the 20th and 21st of July 2014.

1915

Squires Gate Military Hospital: Clifton Park Racecourse closed and was taken over by the Military. It began as a massive camp of tents.
The RMAC began to build a large Convalescent Hospital for injured soldiers from the Lancashire and Yorkshire Regiments. The hospital was set up under orders of Western Command, for men whose homes were in Lancashire or who belonged to Lancashire regiments from any command.

Construction began in June, and the northern headquarters of the Royal Army Medical Corp (RAMC) - the Lancashire Military Convalescent Hospital - was opened on October the 1st. 2,600 hospital beds were erected in the old racecourse grandstand, under the supervision of Doctor Winder of South Shore, with the camp commander being Lieutenant Colonel Willie Netterville-Barron MVO. Colonel Henry Shea replaced Colonel Barron in 1918.

In November 1915, General EA Sutton took up the post of Surgeon General.

Capacity was gradually increased to 4,600, and by the time of its closure, 5,734 officers and nearly 32,000 had been treated. On the 19th of April 1916, all the cardiac cases from Liverpool Military Hospital were transferred here. It was also a Red Cross hospital and, from June 1918, the Blackpool Neurological hospital for officers.

1916 saw King George V allow the hospital to adopt his name. It then became the King's Lancashire Military Convalescent Hospital. Then, on the 22nd of May, the King also donated £100 towards its upkeep.

The stands of the racecourse were re-designed, and housed a dining room, stores, and a treatment room. The camp kitchen – able to cook 200 dinners at a time – was built behind these rooms. This new central block also contained the nurses' sitting room, the matron's quarters, a surgical ward, and a medical ward, together with the stores, a dispensary, an officers' massage department, and the boiler house. The central

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block overlooked the camp parade ground. The complex also contained an *"Electrical Appliance and Massage Room"*, which provided more revolutionary treatment for patients.
In the centre of the camp's square, seven buildings were constructed. They could each take 20 beds and had hot and cold baths with shower sprays.

The fully-equipped gymnasium had 2 full-size badminton courts marked out upon the floor. The room became the camp cinema in the evenings and seated 1,000. It was occasionally used as a concert hall for the camp band to put on concerts, and on Sundays it became the camp church. The camp also had its own tobacconists and barbers.
The Blackburn YMCA Hut was opened in November, having been built by W Eaves and Company, and a billiards room was constructed by the Church of England Temperance Society.
There was a Welcome Hut – the Lancaster Hut, which provided free tea and coffee for new patients. Here, the wounded soldiers could host visitors. This was run by local female volunteers.

Patients retained their own regimental cap with badge, but the regulation hospital uniform was: blue, single-breasted jacket with white lining, blue trousers, white shirt, and red tie.
During its use, its own journal "The Return" was printed by the Gazette.

Patients who died were buried in Layton Cemetery if they could not be re-united with their families for burial nearer their homes.

A patient later described it as follows: *"Squire's Gate was a camp just for the RAMC. All the RAMC had to go through Blackpool at that time. There were all categories there: some fit men of course, to be drafted into what they called the Field Ambulances. That was right in the front line; the same tough conditions as the infantryman so they had to be fit. There would be the A1 men – as they called them – the very fit, then there'd be the B1, the B2 and the B3. The B3 men well they were terrible, cripples absolutely"*.

For training in medicine, anatomy, and disease – including tropical diseases, a specialist School of Hygiene for officers was opened on Watson Road. This was the London School of Hygiene, which had been transferred from Aldershot. In 1919, Sir William Porter MacArthur became commanding officer and chief instructor at the school, which he had been instrumental in helping to found.

The New Starr Inn was used a dressing station for the RAMC.
Not all patients were cured. A sad example is Private William Riley from Liverpool, who sadly hanged himself from the pole of the hospital tent at Squires Gate in July 1917.

(Francis) Percy Toplis, known as "The Monocled Mutineer", was stationed with the RAMC in Blackpool in 1918. Toplis *"was believed to be the ringleader of a protest by British troops at a training camp at Etaples, France, just before the battle of Passchendaele in 1917"*, but recent investigation seems to place him in India at the time, being treated for malaria!

In August 1919, the complex came under the control of the Ministry of Pensions. The King's Lancashire Convalescent Centre, for the treatment and training of disabled soldiers, was formally opened in February 1920, by the Minister of Pensions, Sir Laming Worthington-Evans". In November 1919, 30 new patients arrived, and this number eventually increased to just over 1,000.

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The camp buildings were auctioned off in parcels, beginning in November 1918. The last of the unneeded buildings were finally demolished in 1924, although several parts were kept, to become parts of the new Squires Gate Airport.

The Loos Trenches: Between September 1915 and May 1916, a two-mile system of training trenches was quickly dug by soldiers from the 55th Battalion of the West Lancashire Division – commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel Grattan, on the Moss near Lytham Road and Watson's Road (now Watson Road Park). The Loos Trenches were dug to help train the troops for conditions they were likely to encounter in France, and plans show names such as Laventie, Guinchy, Canal Avenue, and Oxford Circus marked on parts of the mock trenches. The trenches themselves were built with piles of soil with turfs over the top rather than with sandbags and were named after a vital battle in Northern France. The facility was made up of communications trenches, dugouts, saps, redoubt fortifications, firing trenches, and telephone dugouts. They were used mainly to train troops of the Loyal North Lancashire Regiment, who received their training off Watson Road and at Clifton Park Racecourse.
The trenches were only used for training between September 1915 and May 1916, when the battalions moved to Park Hall Camp at Oswestry in Shropshire, prior to embarkation to the war. The last use "in anger" was for a Military review, held on the 30th of March 1916.

After all the troops had been trained, the Loos system was turned into a tourist attraction. They were opened to the public from March 1916, until the end of the war. Visitors could pay 6 pence to get in, and an extra penny would buy a guide book, and those fees went to support the military hospital at Squires Gate. The first year saw profits of £2,500 from almost 100,000 visitors.

On show were a number of captured German weapons including a 77mm field gun, and a trench mortar. Visitors could enter the complex from Lytham Road, be guided around by blue-uniformed wounded soldiers, and then view the whole site from the redoubt. The trenches even had a working field telephone system and first aid post. Bomb hits were replicated for extra excitement.

The trenches were renamed Arras Trenches in June 1917, after the terrible Battle of Arras in April and May of that year, to keep up with developments on the front.
Only the guides – wounded soldiers – were aware of how different the sunny Blackpool trenches were from the muddy death traps in the real battlefields.

The trenches stayed open until 1918. Remnants of the practice trenches still exist today as the planted flower and tree beds in the park – clearly seen from an aerial view.
In its later days, the Blackpool Motor Club held a "Motor Gymkhana" on the site.
Plans for the Windermere Estate in 1923, proposed building houses on the Loos site. Fortunately, the Council refused this.

Practice trenches were dug in several other parts of the town.

Lord Derby presided over a recruiting drive for the 5th King's Own Loyal Lancaster Regiment on Princess Parade on the 16th of April. He also inspected the 151st and 148th RFA Brigades on Lytham Green.
Another recruiting drive was held on Central Pier for the Inland Water Transport Corps.
At a third recruiting meeting in November, Lord Derby asked for volunteers to appear at the drill hall the next morning – nobody arrived.

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The besieged French village of Neuve Chapelle was adopted by Blackpool, the battle for the village having lasted from the 10th to the 13th of March. After the press release Blackpool adopted the village and sent supplies to help the inhabitants.
At the Station Coffee House, a meeting was held to form the "Dad's Army" of the First War – the Volunteer Training Corps.
Canada donated several shipments of food parcels to the people of Blackpool – including cheese, flour, potatoes, and salmon.
The 2/2nd West Lancashire Field Ambulance, RAMC arrived at Weeton Camp in June, returning in the winter to billets in Blackpool, south of Central Station. By 1916, Blackpool had become the principal RAMC training centre. RAMC soldiers made up a large part of the teams fielded by Blackpool Football Club during the war, replacing those local players who had enlisted.
The 42nd Provisional Battalion of the Loyals was also formed at Blackpool in June, from Home Service personnel.
2/4th and 2/5th (Cumberland and Westmorland) Battalions of the Border Regiment were formed at Kendal in September 1914, as a home service ("second line") unit. They moved to billets in Blackpool on the 4th of March 1915.
The 3/4th and 3/5th Territorial Battalions of the Loyal North Lancashire Regiment were formed at their home bases in May and April 1915 respectively. Their 1,400 men moved to Kirkham in June, and to Blackpool in November, before going on to Oswestry in spring 1916.
9 different battalions of the King's Liverpool Regiment were stationed in Blackpool and Weeton for short periods from 1915.
The 5th Battalion of the South Lancashire regiment were billeted in Blackpool from November.
Blundell Street tram depot was taken over for the making of shell cases and munitions, and over 200,000 shells were made for the War effort mainly by women. The money made from this paid for the Cenotaph War Memorial.
Another munitions factory was in use in Queenstown in the Parkinson's builders' buildings.
Private William Proctor of Layton was awarded the Victoria Cross for valour on the Western Front.

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The Drill Hall and Armoury were opened on the corner of Queen Street and Henry Street in Lytham, on the site of the former depot of the Lytham Territorials, E Company of the 4th Battalion of the Loyal North Lancashire Regiment, built on the bowling green of the Clifton Hotel. Fund raising had begun in 1900. The drill hall first seems to have been used on the 4th of October.
In October, the inaugural meeting of the Lancashire War Agricultural Committee (LWAC) was held, and Mr Windham Hale of Wesham, Lord Derby's land agent, was elected Chairman. Lancashire was divided into 16 Sub-districts, with the Fylde being included in the Preston and District sub-district.

The Savoy Hydro Hotel, Blackpool: This free-standing hotel was opened on the 11th of March by Mr and Mrs Westlake. It had 300 Bedrooms, a large Restaurant, a lounge, the American Bar, and a Ballroom. It is constructed in red brick and red terracotta, and was designed by architect TG Lumb, who also designed the sun lounge (in cream faience) which was added in 1935. The lift shaft was made into a central feature, complete with cupola.
When it was first built, the only other building within 200 yards to the north was The Mount Apartments next door.

The Savoy Hotel had its own Savoy Garage on King George's Avenue, which advertised itself as providing *"motor engineering, cylinder boring, re-cellulosing and repainting, all accessories any make of car supplied with service exchange, cars for hire, battery charging, electric high-pressure washing, tecalemit high-*
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pressure greasing, and a garage for 100 cars". The garage had a car lift and turntable and had parking on both storeys. It was later bought by Spencers and is now simply The Savoy.

The Grundy recreation ground and bowling green was opened on the 3rd of August on Highfield Road.
A Co-op store opened on Westcliffe Drive, in Layton on the 1st of June.
Barton Terrace was constructed on Layton Road.
The Blackpool Weekly newspaper began to be published by A Hewitson of Church Street.
Pollard's butcher's shop was at 81 Whitegate Drive (now Tower Audio).
The Central Advertising Company was at 13 Birley Street, making theatre flyers and curtains.
Several rows of red brick terraces were built on Breck Road.
Thomas Edwin Box bought one of the Seagull Coaches' depots in Hawes Side Lane and started as a funeral director. His "Belgian Black" horses were first seen at many local funerals held this year.

"Local Trains": A tradition of locomotives being named after local towns began this year. The engines to date have been as follows:

1860 – Dock contractor's engine "Fleetwood" was in use.
1908 – Manning-Wardle 0-6-0T engine 1732 "Knott End" was bought by the Garstang and Knott End Railway.
1909 – Manning-Wardle 2-6-0 engine 1747 "Blackpool" was bought by the Garstang and Knott End Railway.
1915 – LNER George V class steam engine 2233 "Blackpool" was named in June.
1964 – BR 45 class diesel engine D60 was named "Lytham St Anne's" in November.
1934 - LMS Patriot class 4-6-0 steam engine 45548 "Lytham St Anne's" was released from the LMS works in Crewe on the 27th of April. It was scrapped at Rugby in 1962.
1933 – LMS Patriot class 4-6-0 steam engine 45546 "Fleetwood" was named on the 29th of March 1933, and met the same fate.
1937 - LMS Patriot Class 4-6-0 steam engine 5524 "Blackpool" was named in March, and was used regularly on the Blackpool and Fylde Express. It was previously called Sir Frederick Harrison.
1949 – Peckett 0-4-0 Saddle Tank 2111 "Lytham St Anne's" was built for use at Blackpool Gasworks.
1973 - Class 45 D60 45022 "Lytham St Anne's" was named on the 31st of December.
2018 – 390013 Pendolino electric engine "Blackpool Belle" first ran on the 21st of May.
2019 – Class 37 407 was christened "Blackpool Tower" on the 29th of May.

There were also many locally run "specials" such as the "Fylde Coast Express" and the "Blackpool Belle".

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Book Corner was on the corner of Victoria Road in Cleveleys, offering both library facilities and book sales. It was run by Mr Bardsley.

The Blackburn and District Convalescent Home for Adults, St Anne's: This large, imposing home was built on Clifton Drive by the Blackburn Charity Organisation Society. It was built entirely from funds raised by the Society, and cost £12,000. It was greatly extended in 1924, to be able to cater for 60 people. Although it was primarily intended for people from Blackburn, convalescent and chronically sick patients were accepted from all over the country until the home was closed on the 27th of September 1976. The Society itself was formally dissolved on the 23rd of October 1982, and the home was replaced by apartments in 2006.
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Ashton Gardens, St Anne's: St George's Gardens were bought by Lord Ashton, and immediately donated to the people of St Anne's. They were then renamed as Ashton Gardens after their donor. The gardens had lost their original purpose as an open space and had been taken over by various market gardeners.
The new gardens had an Old English rose garden – complete with specially-commissioned statues, a bowling green, 13 tennis courts, and an aviary, together with greenhouses. There was originally a kiosk by the new lake, which had been designed and built by Pulhams of London, complete with a large central fountain.
Some of the slightly-sunken tennis courts are now a children's playground.

The Ashton Institute was built at the same time, having been founded as the St Anne's Club in the 1870s, and originally located in Wood Street. In the 1880s, after the gardens had been bought by Oliver Porritt, it was dismantled, rebuilt between the two entrance lodges on St George's Road, and renamed the St George's Institute.

Mr Porritt, whose builder's yard originally filled much of the land, had planned to build houses on the plot. Fortunately, he managed just the few that now comprise St George's Square, before demand disappeared. The gardens again grew wild until being offered to the town Council in 1913. The Council could not afford the purchase, so eventually Lord Ashton bought the land on their behalf.

Ashton Gardens were formally opened on the 1st of July 1916, by Councillor Leigh. By the 22nd of August, the gardens had gained an extra 14 ½ acres, and the Ashton Pavilion was opened at the gates. Porritt's Building Yard had been flattened, along with its caretaker's cottage, which had been demolished in February. At the same time, the Ashton Theatre was built on this site, so the club was moved beforehand, to inside the gardens and renamed the Ashton Institute.

The Ashton Gardens Bowling Club was formed in the early 1920s, and in 1947, the Ladies' Bowls Pavilion was built next to the men's. It was decided, in 2008, to amalgamate the men and women under one umbrella, and in 2009, the Ashton Gardens Bowling and Social Club was formed.

The new Ashton Gardens Pavilion was opened in 1957, having been moved from the gates to the interior, where it had been built originally as a games pavilion, combining tennis and bowls, which could be viewed from both sides of the building. The Pavilion was demolished in 2008 for rebuilding in May 2009. Later it was converted to a café and is still used as such after its relocation in 2011.

The Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) opened in the gatehouse at the gardens in 1976. It closed in June 2006.

Ashton Gardens opened its improved facilities on the 7th of May 2010, and the centrepiece was the re-sited Ashton Institute. It had had been moved 150 yards, and rebuilt between the refurbished East and West Lodges, to form a community centre and a traditional tea room and restaurant. Also, part of the scheme was a new entrance on to St George's Road, new steps to the skate park, repairs to footpaths, and other refurbishments, including to the War Memorial.

At the Shard Inn on the 15th of January, Norman Renshaw's dog, Jack, died. His master had drowned in 1905, trying to save the dog. Jack's ghost is said to haunt the Shard Inn to this day.

Brook Corn Mill, Wrea Green: Bradley's Corn Mill was run by J and B Bradley. When the corn steam mill was sold in December 1859, it comprised engine/boiler houses, warehouses, drying kiln, dwelling house,

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cart house, shippon, and piggeries. It had five pairs of mill stones, three for wheat, and two for corn. Later reduced to a single storey, it is now owned by Wareings.

1916

A government "Continental Ambulance Train" arrived at Central Station in February, on a fund-raiser for troops. Sales of Red Cross dolls were particularly fast. Some of the ambulance coaches from the train finished life as camping coaches at Squires Gate.
In January, compulsory conscription was introduced for all unmarried men between 18 and 41. By 1917 almost 75% of Blackpool's tram drivers had left.
On the 9th of November, the 2/5th battalion of the Yorkshire Regiment (The Green Howards) transferred to 220th Brigade, 73rd Division and moved to Blackpool. The Infantry had been provided by breaking up the 9th Provisional Brigade and the 189th Brigade, 63rd Division.
The 8th Home Service Battalion of the Dorsetshire Regiment transferred to the 219th Brigade in 73rd Division and also moved to Blackpool.
In September, a Cabinet Committee recommended the formation of a Pensions Board to take over the work of the War Office, Chelsea Hospital and the Central Army Pensions Issue Office, and Central Office, Blackpool became the principal centre for awarding pensions.
With the express permission of the King, the Lancashire Military Convalescent Hospital, Clifton Park was retitled the King's Lancashire Military Convalescent Hospital by Lord Derby in April and was used until 1924. A Gym and Theatre opened there on the 7th of June. Concerts were held around the northwest to raise funds for the hospital – one such was held on the 8th of December at Rochdale. Local cars also carried charity boxes with posters asking for contributions.
The newly-built Savoy Hotel was used to house 50 officers from the 5th Young Officers Company and was temporarily renamed the Savoy Hospital.
"On the morning of 18th March 1916 two men of the 1/4th Battalion were honoured with Distinguished Conduct Medals presented by Colonel Gratton on the promenade to the sound of the drums of the 3/4th Battalion band and 300 marching men which was the first ceremony of its kind" – Paul McCormick - in Blackpool.

On the 30th of March, General Pitcairn Campbell, the head of the Western Command inspected the troops at Blackpool. *"20,000 soldiers paraded on the Promenade, and from 8.30 till noon the sea front south from Rigby Rd was closed to traffic and trams. The march past of infantry, artillery, signallers, cycle corps and transport, each with their own band playing, began at Squires Gate, returning to the town via Station Rd and Lytham Rd took a while to complete"*.

In October, the steamer SS Greyhound, run by the Blackpool Passenger Steamboat Company, was requisitioned by the Admiralty for war service. The paddle steamer, SS Queen of the North was then requisitioned in 1916. The Queen of the North was used as a mine sweeper but unfortunately hit a mine laid by a German U-boat and sank in the North Sea on the 20th of July 1917, off Orfordness in the North Sea. All the other requisitioned steamers were released back to their owners in June 2019, when they sailed out of Preston Docks.

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Poulton Vicarage became known as the New Military Hospital.
William Swire, the headmaster of the Testimonial Schools at Fleetwood had a replica tank constructed on a lorry chassis by the Fylde Joinery Co. It was based on the tank "Egbert" and was christened "Fleetwood" "FD1". It travelled around the area raising £250,000 for Tank Week, from the 18th of February.
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The need for more hospital space hit Kirkham, and the Children's Cottage Home, Kirkham and Wesham Council School, and part of the infirmary at the Fylde union Workhouse were commandeered.

Blackpool became a Parliamentary Borough with the merger of Blackpool and Bispham.
Three large municipal housing schemes were announced; "Garden Cities" were to be built around Condor Grove (St John's), Caunce Street and St Anne's Road/Watson's Road.
Blackpool Borough also tried to join with (take over) St Anne's, but the two could not agree on terms. The idea was eventually dropped when Blackpool refused to support the ladies' orchestra on St Anne's Pier, as they were unable to have their own at North Shore.

Woolworth's, Blackpool: The first proper Blackpool store of the expanding discount chain of FW Woolworth and Co Ltd opened at 53-65 Bank Hey Street at the junction with the Promenade in April. They had been trading in the Royal Market nearby, and at number 16 Bank Hey Street, for several years, but without their own premises. The store was a big success and "Woolies" went to great lengths to buy up all the adjacent seafront property next to Blackpool tower to open a spectacular, iconic store - the largest Woolworth's in the world - on the site. The company bought the Royal Hotel at 14 North Promenade in 1921 but leased it instead of rebuilding. This was followed in 1926 by the purchase of the Royal Market. Development work started in the early 1930s, with demolition of a neighbouring builder's yard.

Woolworth's demolished the Royal Bakery and the rest of the Royal Hotel in 1935, to make way for their imposing new store building, with its commanding white Clock Tower. Other shops to be knocked down at the time were J Parr and Company Tricycle Hire (on Heywood Street), Wright and Snaith, Photographers (on the Promenade), and M Speak, Family Grocer (on Bank Hey Street). The store kept the address of the "Royal Market" and next to the building are the remains of Heywood Street – now a blocked–off alleyway.

The store began to be built in 1936 *"by the Woolworth Construction Department employing direct labour. Over a steel frame and a brick cladding, cream faience was used to form a series of fin-like mullions, with dark brown panels imitating lead or copper and forming infills between each storey of windows. The corner tower was decorated with wave patterns and originally had a sign advertising the first-floor café. In 1978 Shaw's were commissioned to supply new faience to make good extensive deterioration; about ten per cent of the store was clad in new material"*. The steel framework was supplied and erected by Bannister Walton of Manchester.

The new store complex was completed by the construction of a substantial six-floor triangular store, with a basement, retailing on the ground and first floors, two floors of self-service diners – one of which first introduced the word "caféteria" to Britain, staff accommodation on the third, storage on the fourth and a bakery on the fifth. It opened in 1937, and was promoted around the world, especially by the parent company in the USA. The massive first floor café/restaurant catered for 2,000 customers in its prime. The store was not fully open until May 1938.

The Woolworth's Museum describes it as follows: "*In 1936 the construction team planned to demolish the successful branch at the junction of Promenade and Bank Hey Street in Blackpool, a popular seaside resort on the North-West coast of England. It was replaced by a huge store with three large trading floors and two floors of restaurants above. The elaborate design included bright bronzework, marble cream 'Darwen' glazed bricks and a landmark clocktower and flagpole. The store was the largest and most modern of 2,000 Woolworth's across the world when it opened in 1938.*

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When it opened in the Spring of 1938, the store on the Promenade at Bank Hey Street in Blackpool was Woolworth's most ambitious building ever. The huge premises dominated the skyline. The icon was visible for miles along the Fylde coast and right out to sea. The resort on England's North West coast had become the country's favourite, attracting millions of tourists each year. The site was triangular and opened into three streets. The building was made of glazed, cream bricks with a marble finish. It had bronze window frames with elaborate bright-work. A clocktower added the finishing touch".

There were three salesfloors, each 15,000 square feet (1,400 m2), and two 2,000 seat restaurants on further levels. The upper facility was mainly reserved for private parties, but gave the capacity required for tourists visiting the town during Wakes Weeks when their local industry all closed at once. Woolworth offered main dishes for sixpence (2½p) and a full meal for two shillings (10p) or less.

The seafront store (then known as store 66) was refurbished at a cost of £0.75m in 1981, renewing the brickwork, replacing all of the brass windows, and installing air conditioning throughout. Its owners, Kingfisher, sold the building to a developer for just £0.3m in 1983, even though it was a profitable store. Despite the developer's initial plans to knock it down, the store still stands and is largely unchanged since its Woolworth's days.
The building was taken over by B&M Bargains, who vacated it on the 23rd of June 2018, in preparation for a move to the old BHS building on Church Street.

South Shore Cricket Club was formed, first playing at Harrowside. Harrowside was named after the flowers that used to grow there when it was called Milkhouse Gate. The flowers were called Onosis – also known as *"Rest Harrow"*.
William Bean, of the Blackpool Pleasure Beach, bought Gloster House on Lytham Road, dying there of pneumonia in 1929.
Public Lavatories were built at the tram shelter in Gynn Square.
Dixon's Boarding Establishment was in business at 58 Charnley Road. The building is now the Bali Hai Hotel.
Day Nurseries were held in Redman's White Café.
Entwistle's Café was on Chapel Street. In addition to the ground floor café, there was a "silver service" restaurant on the first floor. The shop was famous for its "Noted Pies".

Williams Brothers (Blackpool) Ltd: Had a showroom at 307 Whitegate Drive, on the corner of Whitegate Drive and Greenwood Avenue, which was an Armstrong Siddeley and Morris Commercial dealership. They also sold Thorneycroft cars and Starley motorcycles. The premises had started life as the Johnson and Starleys Ford garage. By the 1950s, they also sold Rolls Royce cars from Whitegate Drive.

By 1957, Loxham's Motors owned the site, selling Rolls Royce cars. The company later opened branches in Kingsway in Ansdell (now Lytham Car Centre), in Henry Street, Lytham (which briefly afterwards became the Lytham Carpet Care Centre), and in Queen Street in Lytham. Loxhams Garages (Blackpool) Ltd also had branches on Cherry Tree Road, Kings Road in St Anne's, and on Norbreck Road, and were eventually taken over by Dutton Forshaw.

Thomas Motors later ran the Whitegate Drive garage as their Rally Sports centre, and after many years as a Kwik Save store, the building became a B&M Bargains store in October 2006. Greenwood Avenue, which originally had a stream running down its centre, had originally been called Wilson Avenue, but had been renamed after the Greenwood family who lived on the opposite corner.

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Pool Bodies were in business behind them in later years, in a small pre-fabricated building which has since been demolished. The B&M car park covers that space.

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The Rialto Cinema, Poulton: This small cinema was opened on Vicarage Lane in June, by William Hughes and Sarah Brown of Blackpool. It initially lasted less than one year in face of Blackpool's competition, but the cinema carried on in many guises, including running alongside a VG Supermarket, and finally Club L'Orange. The cinema produced many films of local events, such as the annual Poulton-le-Fylde Festival and Sports in 1951 – it was then known as the Poulton Picture House and was renowned locally for its double seats on the back row.

In the 1960s, it became a Bingo Hall, which was run by Barney's Bingo from the 1970s. From 1992, it was changed into a kitchen shop, followed by Liberty's American Diner. In 1994, it was transformed into an Italian restaurant called Papa's (the address now being 2 Vicarage Road) – this is now titled Bistro Italia.

Wilfred Owen, the famous war poet, lived in Fleetwood, aged of 23. He stayed at 111 Bold Street, whilst he was in charge of the Gunnery Range in Fleetwood (where Fleetwood Golf Club is now) as a Second Lieutenant in the Manchester Regiment. He also lived on Lord Street for a time.
Roger Eaves, a Lytham bricklayer, started his building company on London Street, Fleetwood. By 1916, he had built his own office and works on London Street South.

St Anne's Open-air Baths: were opened on the 10th of June by Wilfred Ashley MP. There was a swimming gala featuring RAMC and army swimming teams from Squires Gate.
There was a café at the entrance, measuring 33 feet by 16 feet, and a genteel ladies' orchestra to entertain the gentlefolk. A contemporary article described it as "*a fine open-air filtered sea water bath, opened in 1916, from a design by Fred Harrison, of Accrington. The bath is 80 yards long by 40 yards wide, and for a width of 12 yards is 7 feet deep throughout its entire length. A width of 17 yards varies in depth from 7 feet to 2 feet 6 inches, and the remaining width of 11 yards slopes from 2 feet 6 inches down to nothing, and is roped off for the use of children*". Its capacity was 820,00 gallons of filtered sea water.
There were individual changing booths in the form of tents, which could be hired for the day at a small charge.

In 1930, sun bathing terraces were added, and a café was built beneath the central viewing gallery in 1937. The baths were often used as a venue for bathing beauty competitions in the 1950s. The baths had a set of three diving boards of differing heights, which at first were by the café, but were later moved further West, towards the entrance.

Often known as the "Roman Baths" (because of the Roman-style columns under the walkways), St Anne's Baths closed in 1988, and were demolished in 1992 after being briefly stocked with fish by the council.

In 1987, a new 25-metre indoor swimming pool was built next to the old baths, and was opened by Les Dawson, who jumped in wearing fancy dress in April 1987. Those baths were closed in 2008, but officially reopened on the 1st of September 2010, with the YMCA taking over its running and adding a new gymnasium. Now called St Anne's Swimming Pool, it was refurbished in January 2014, including a new entrance, a modern spectator area, and a new "changing village"'.

Pleasure Island: Michael Taylor's company Carr Royd Leisure set up a new company known as St Annes Pleasure Island Limited on the 8th of October 1990. The company then bought the baths site in April 1993,
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and the outdoor baths were replaced by the Pleasure Island entertainment complex. Pleasure Island originally comprised a bowling alley, an amusement arcade, and a restaurant.
The complex also opened its 4-screen cinema on the 4th of July 1996 – this continues as the 2-studio Island Cinema.
The main Pleasure Island complex closed on the 28th of September 2009.

A static Steam Train was installed in front of the complex in 1995, with its coaches being converted for use as a café and shops. The engine, a Peckett 737/1899 named "Daphne" was removed in May 2002, although the café remained, as the Station Café Bar – now called the Railway Carriage Tea Rooms. Antonio's At the Island opened in 2003. It was a 60-cover restaurant, and by its entrance was an al fresco area with decking, called Luca's Bar. In 2005, the restaurant was taken over by the Nando's chain of chicken restaurants. The first-floor venue looked out over the Irish Sea.

The bowling alley was later converted into a gambling casino, owned by the BetFred company. By then called the Stanley Casino, that closed on the 31st of March 2007. The site was taken over in 2016 by the Aztex Theatre School, who had been functioning in temporary premises at Hawes Side School for several months. Their new Aztex Venue opened on the 16th of July, offering the space as an entertainment venue as well as a theatre and dance school. Aztex had started at 174 Abbey Road on the 13th of January 2000, before opening their own theatre at 6 Lindale Gardens on the 8th of September 2012. In February 2019, Aztex moved to Unit 8 on Whitehills Business Park.

1917

At the Battle of Cambrai, in France, 25-year-old Blackpool man Frank Heap commanded a Mark IV British tank named "Deborah". The tank was unearthed close to the village of Flesquières in northern France in 1998. Frank was the son of a former Mayor of Blackpool. Taking place between the 20th of November and the 6th of December, the battle was one of the war's hardest-fought battles.
The Blackpool Fire Brigade was reinforced with members of the St John Ambulance Brigade.
The War Office set up the Territorial Force Hospitals in England for despatch to the Western Front, and all Royal Army Medical Corps training centres were transferred to Blackpool. Men were placed in billets and were trained on the seashore or along the promenade. Medical men were sent to Blackpool Training Centre for a short course of instruction, on the completion of which they were dispatched to the forces abroad. All the officers, other than the permanent staff of those temporarily unfit for service abroad, awaited opportunities for shipment. There was no other training centre for Royal Army Medical Corps officers. The 59th General Hospital was formed in Blackpool from the 1st Northern Regiment in April and was then stationed at Amiens on the 6th of May.

The Americans arrived in town in May, and Blackpool Corporation held an Anglo-American Day, centred on a grand procession.
The first contingent had arrived in Britain on the 19th of May, docking at Liverpool and Falmouth, and then being ferried to Blackpool and London by train. Most officers went to London, with the men being sent to the Blackpool's RAMC training centre.
Two units – 800 men - of the US Base Hospital Medical Corps arrived on the 23rd of May, having been drafted from students at from Harvard and Columbia universities. These men were the first contingent of an intended number of 6 base hospitals. Many more men arrived at Blackpool North on the 3rd of June. Once settled at Squires Gate, in the hands of the RAMC trainers, *"instruction was given in sanitation, gas defense, transportation of the sick and wounded, methods of caring for new diseases, such as trench fever, trench foot, etc.; work at Casualty Clearing Stations [CCSs], trench sanitation"*.

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A Soldiers' international football competition was held in Blackpool.

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In February, Lancashire was also allocated two soldier agricultural companies, one stationed at Kirkham. By July, the National Association of Discharged Soldiers and Sailors (NADSS) had been formed, with the aim of securing *"better pensions and greater understanding of the problems of discharged men"* The NADSS had a St Anne's branch with a sub-section established in Kirkham.

Women tram conductors were finally allowed to drive the trams.

The Comrades Club, Blackpool: The Comrades of the Great War Club was formed in Blackpool at a meeting in June, with a Fylde branch being started in the September. The club premises were then founded at 116 Adelaide Street on the site of the original Blackpool Grammar School in July 1919, to be formally opened by Lord Derby on the 24th of January 1920. The official report states that *"a larger building was purchased and refurbished in the November to create 'a lounge and bar and billiard room, Secretary's Office and Committee Room with two rooms to spare for whatever use we might care to make of them".*

In 1967, the Blackpool branch of SOCA (Submariners Old Comrades Association) was formed by Bill Woodhouse and others. They started meeting at the Newton Arms, then the Raikes and on to the Victory pub. In 1972, they decided formally to join the National Association, and met at the Comrades Club. From January 2014, they have met at the Guards Club on Whitegate Drive. Their affiliated submarine is HMS Triumph. Members dedicated a new branch standard on the 9th of October 2015 at St Kentigern's Church.

The Comrades Club went into administration in January 2014 and closed for the last time on the 15th of November. A major fire destroyed parts of the disused building on the 12th of July 2017, and the remains were demolished in February 2019. A three-storey medical centre will then be built, to replace the existing Adelaide Street Surgery and South King Street Surgery. Those buildings will be demolished, and merged into one GP practice. The new surgery will have *"a ground-floor pharmacy, GP consulting rooms, treatment rooms, facilities for trainee consultants, staff offices, and change and meeting rooms"*.

St Joseph's College, Blackpool: Doctor WD Riley began this establishment on Park Road as a small private school.
It briefly moved to larger premises on Whitegate Lane before briefly returning to Park Road in 1918. In that same year, William Lumb's house, Layton Mount, on Newton Drive became available for rent, so the Catholic Education Committee bought Layton Mount, and St Joseph's 40 boys were moved in by Dr Riley. It was named St Joseph's after the husband of St Mary.

In 1923, the Irish Christian Brothers took over the school – by now called St Joseph's College, on the 10th of September. At times it had 400 pupils, including 50 boarders, all of whom travelled to the New Fields on Garstang Road for games. The school motto was "*In Cruce Vita*" – meaning "In the Cross – Life".
The college ceased to be a boarding school on the 4th of November 1926, and the restyled school was opened by Cardinal Bourne, who also opened its major new extension. In 1934, a chapel, gymnasium, and library were constructed. In November 1945, the college was awarded Direct Grant Status. A dining room and kitchen were built in 1948, and a dedicated science block was added in 1953. The school motto was emblazoned on the Science Block wall, and now sits in the garden of Clifton House.

In 1970, the college's junior school was closed, and in 1975, the Christian Brothers left - a farewell ball was held in the Spanish Hall at the Winter Gardens on the 20th of June.
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"In 1975, the Lancaster Diocese issued a directive requiring all Catholic schools to become co-educational. The Christian Brothers were constitutionally forbidden to teach girls and the Jesuits took over as custodians while the school was prepared for merger with Layton Hill Convent.

During that time, there was debate as to what the reformed college should be called and Layton Hill High School was considered. Perhaps to mark the re-unification of what had started as a single institution, its original name of St Mary's was chosen.

St Joseph's continued in all but name from 1977 to 1984, the site becoming the sixth form centre for St Mary's – while the rest of the school operated at Layton Hill. Its administration was placed in the hands of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Lancaster – with Sister Maureen Grimley taking over as head of the re-combined institution, supported by the Sisters of the Holy Child Jesus".

From 1977, the combined schools were called St Mary's Catholic College, soon being renamed St Mary's High School.

The old St Joseph's school buildings were demolished in 1984, and only the boundary wall survives, around the "Cloisters" housing development, opposite the Number 4 Hotel. The stained glass from the school chapel was preserved at the English Martyrs Church at 154 High Cross Road in Poulton. The school had already moved to the Layton Hill Convent, to be temporarily known as Layton Hill Grammar.
A carved stone carved with the school motto lies in the garden of one of the houses in St Clement's Avenue, which now fill the site of the old school.

St Joseph's was known by pupils as *"Holy Joe's Jailhouse"* due to the lower windows being protected from flying footballs by bars. Former pupils include Owen Oyston – the future benefactor of the Blackpool Football Club

The Blackpool United Hebrew congregation held a mass meeting to endorse the reconstitution of Palestine as the homeland of the Jewish people.

The Nation's Conference Centre: The TUC's first annual Conference was held in the town in September. The Conservative Party Conference was first held at the Winter Gardens on the 6th and 7th of October 1931. The Labour Conference had also been held in town that March, as were many union conferences – thirty organisations in total during the year. For over 60 years, Blackpool was THE place to hold annual conferences. In 1994, for example, there were over 110 conferences held in Blackpool.

The town's status as the country's favourite Political Party Conference venue ground to a halt when Labour pulled out in 2000, with its members complaining that Blackpool's rooms were "shabby and small". By the time the Conservatives left in 2007, the preferences of all political parties had changed to what they saw as more "up market" towns. Every Prime Minister since World War 2 had appeared in Blackpool conferences, but by 2015, the only party to choose Blackpool was "The Official Monster Raving Loony Party", which appeared at Uncle Tom's Cabin in September. By September 2017, their 3-day conference had moved to Molloy's on the Promenade, where they developed policies including *"making Morris Dancing an Olympic sport, and making dog food fluorescent so people can avoid poo on the pavements more easily"*.

Mr Brown was running the Savoy Studios on Central Beach (Corner of West Street).

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Watson's Lane railway bridge opened on the 18th of May. Watson's Lane was renamed Watson's Road in 1924, and the apostrophe had been removed by 1930, making it Watson Road. It was originally part of Layton Lane. On top of the embankment to the east of the bridge, the nearby signal cabin was opened in 1903. The original steel girder bridge was demolished in 1984, being immediately rebuilt and strengthened to take the new Yeadon Way.
The Bloomfield Club and Institute was registered on the 3rd of May, at 128 Bloomfield Road.
William Marshall and Son (Blackpool) Ltd at South Shore Garage on the Promenade, received a licence to carry on a motor car and char-à-banc business.
Clarke and Sons, Solicitors, were at Birley Street.
W Banks and Company Solicitors were operating in Birley Street.
Davey's Carpets opened at 18 Queen Street.
Mather Brothers were in business as bookbinders at 16 Marlborough Road.
The Blainscough Colliery Company had a depot at New Road, Blackpool.
Blackpool Flying Service was operating from the beach at Squires Gate. They operated six Silver Service de Havilland DH6A aircraft and provided trips around the Tower for the price of 7s and 6d.
Paula Green was born in Blackpool. She sang with a local band before joining the Joe Loss Orchestra. In 1941, she signed up for Tommy Handley's ITMA. Paula became ITMA's solo singer and later left join ENSA, where she had her own series "Fly Away Paula".
William Jackson was born in Blackpool on the 28th of August, where his father was stationed at the Military Hospital. He was knighted in 1971 and was the Queen's Governor of Gibraltar from 1978 to 1982.
Harry Lauder starred in the silent film "Bunkered at Blackpool". Scenes include Harry Lauder and friends leaving their hotel and climbing into a car, which departs, the sequence taking in exteriors of Blackpool hotels and bars (including the Tower Bar and Little's Oyster Rooms – later known as Robert's) as well as promenaders along the seafront. There is an exterior shot of the Palace, where Harry Lauder appeared on stage. As the car goes along the Promenade, Blackpool Tower, houses, and people are clearly visible.

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The first annual rally of the Fleetwood and District Scout Association was held on the North Euston Football Ground on the 2nd of June.
Goodwin's Garage opened in St Anne's, later becoming Goodwin's Bodyshop on St Albans Road.
The Imperial Laundry was on Stephen Street in St Anne's, collecting dirty laundry in their horse-drawn wagon.

The John Reynolds Home, East Beach, Lytham: The Preston Particular Council of the Society of St Vincent de Paul were left £4,000 from the estate of John Reynolds. The money was used to help "poor children from Preston", and two adjacent semi-detached houses, at 37 and 38 East Beach in Lytham were rented for use as the John Reynolds Home. The home was first run by Sisters of the Cross of Passion, but the duty passed to the Franciscan Missionaries of St Joseph in November 1919.
The Preston Particular Council of the Society of St Vincent de Paul then bought the two houses in 1925 and re-opened it as the St Vincent de Paul Convalescent Home.
At the outbreak of war in 1939, evacuated children were sent to the home, many remaining there until the war was over, and in 1945, the house next door, 39 East Beach, was given to the home by Miss T Crook. A corridor was then built to link it to number 38. For a short time, the Sisters were allowed to house old ladies in 39 East Beach.
By 1959, there were 32 children at the home, but it had closed by the 1970s.

The first Fylde Convention of Baptists was instigated by the minister of Inskip Baptist Chapel.
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1918

All fighting in the war ended on the 11th of November. At 5 o'clock in the morning, just north of Paris in the Forest of Compiegne, representatives from France, Great Britain, and Germany met in a railway car, to secure an end to the hostilities. An armistice was signed, but the great war did not end officially until July 1919.

The Government declared the week of the 18th to the 23rd of February to be the Nation's Tank Week. Each tank would cost £5,000 to make and they were to be the deciding weapon on the front. To mark its beginning in Blackpool, a retired tank named "Julian" was stationed in Talbot Square by the National War Savings Committee. It was called the Tank Bank.
Julian (tank 113) had seen service in Cambrai in France before touring England and had been driven along Talbot Road from the station and had ruined the road surface. The 1st Volunteer Battalion, King's Own Royal Lancaster Regiment provided the military guard for the display.

The Royal Air Force – RAF – was formed on the 1st of April. It would play a massive part in the fortunes of Blackpool in years to come.
Lytham St Anne's Tramways Department built a lightweight electric tank (Albert Number 88), and on the 20th of April it was driven via Squires Gate, where it picked up a military band from the Military Hospital. It then continued to Bannister Street before being parked in Clifton Square. It stayed there for the day selling tickets for the Electricity and Tramways Department Prize Draw, in aid of "Tank Week". Albert appears to have been a converted tram. Fleetwood had its own model tram (Emmy) for the same purpose.
The Imperial Hotel began to be used by the military as "The Atlantic Hospital". It served as such from April 1918 until May 1919.
The Admiralty requisitioned the Empress Ballroom to assemble gas envelopes for R33 airships. The gasbags for the R33 – which first flew in March 1919 – were put together in the ballroom.
The YMCA place a hut for wounded soldiers at Squires Gate. Blackburn Hut was opened on the 4th of May, by Colonel Netherville Barron as part of the military hospital.
The King's Lancashire Military Convalescent Hospital formed a specialist neurological section for officers, operating by June 1918.
Private JRR Tolkein, of the Lancashire Fusiliers, was discharged from the forces' convalescent hospital in Blackpool. Whilst there, suffering from trench fever and gastritis, he had worked upon the "the Book of Lost Tales" – the background to his book, "Lord of the Rings".
The Ypres Bugles are six bugles presented to the Last Post Association by the Royal Corps of Transport at a parade at the Menin Gate Memorial in July 1992. In the 1950s, two of the bugles were presented by the Old Contemptibles Association of Blackpool and Fleetwood, which had been formed in 1939.
The Blackpool Care Committee of the King's Own Royal Lancaster Regiment adopted and dispatched food parcels to the regiment's men who came from the Blackpool neighbourhood, who were held as prisoners of war in Germany.
In February 1918, nearly 600 convalescent army officers marched to the Square to buy war bonds at the tank and nearly £5,000 was raised. On the Friday £127,648 was raised by Blackpool and District divided as follows; Blackpool £91,287; Fleetwood £14,453; Lytham £7,538; St Anne's £7366; Thornton £3,918; and Poulton £988.
In August, two Canadian teams played a baseball match at Bloomfield Road football ground.

In July, *"soldiers from the Convalescent Hospital broke camp and attacked the headquarters of the military police and demanded the release of the convalescent detainees. The windows in the building were smashed but eventually the police"*, *"persuaded them to return to Squires Gate"*.

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Toll Cross and Chaseside at St Anne's were occupied by 7 refugees and 10 wounded soldiers respectively, by February, and in March, 1,400 more soldiers arrived in St Anne's.
Nelson Street School in Kirkham was taken over by the military from March as an extension to the hospital at the Wesham workhouse. The children were allowed back in October 1919.
Street Shrines were erected in many Fylde towns in memory of the local war dead. They were mainly made of wood and had a small shelf underneath for people to place their tributes.

Sir Albert Lindsay Parkinson was elected Conservative MP for Blackpool. He lived at Royal Bank on Preston Old Road (which he had bought from John Bonny in 1889) and died in 1936. Royal Bank Road was named after the house.

Elmslie School, Blackpool: Ellerslie Girls' School was opened in the Baptist chapel on Mere Road, by sisters Elizabeth, Polly, and Peggy Brodie. The school had just 11 pupils and 3 teachers to start with, and Elizabeth Brodie was the first headmistress, lasting until 1952. It would soon grow into Blackpool's best performing independent girls' school.
In 1922, the school moved to the house named The Elms, which had been built for Preston biscuit maker William Powell and his wife, Sarah, in 1895, at 194 Whitegate Drive, to a design by TP Worthington. The Elms had large gardens which held a cottage for the coachman and another for the gardener. Its coach house was said to have been haunted by the spirit of a stable boy who had hung himself from its rafters.

The Elms had been bought before 1910, by James Whittle, a local market gardener, but had lain empty after World War 1. Elmslie School was officially opened on the 20th of June 1922.
The school had few sports facilities, and pupils had to walk down to Stanley Park to take lessons in athletics and hockey. It did however, have its own tennis courts, and in 1984, the school even tried rugby.
In later years, the school Speech day was held in the Holy Trinity church hall in South Shore – the prize giver in 1970 being one Margaret Thatcher.

The Elmslie Preparatory School had been housed at 202 Whitegate Drive, on the corner of nearby Beechfield Avenue, since 1929, and it was soon converted into the Beechcroft (now Rosehaven) Care Home. The new Kindergarten was located within the main school now. The junior school had been held in All Saints Church Hall on Park Road for many years.

By 1945, Emslie had 353 pupils, and in about 1946, new changing and locker rooms, and toilets were added to the main building. Also, in 1946, Elmslie was taken over by the Blackburn Diocesan Board, being designated an Independent Church of England Grammar and Junior School and becoming a day school.
he Diocese of Blackburn's Board of Finance ran the school from 1948. In 1987, it became an associated Woodard School.

Five new classrooms were built in 1952, and a large new chapel and hall was constructed in 1959. In September 1964, the three upper rooms of the main house were made into one to form the library. In July 1965, all the scattered parts of the school were brought back to the Elmslie site when the preparatory school returned. Further extensions were carried out in 1968 – including new purpose-built science laboratories, which were opened in the April. In 1987, the temporary wooden classrooms were demolished, and an extension, including an infant's block was built in 1988.

Elmslie School closed in July 2000, soon to be replaced by the Beeches housing development, which left only the main school building standing.

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Terra Nova School, Blackpool: This "select" school opened on Forest Gate (called Hornby Road East until 1931) off Whitegate Drive within the Baptist Church. A children's preparatory school, it later moved to 135 Hornby Road, and by 1934, it was on Dutton Road off Newton Drive, where it took over the Layton MNC Mission Room (built 1899).
When it moved to Hornby Road it was owned by Mr and Mrs Davies, who expanded it into a secondary school. They then sold it to Mr and Mrs Smith, and it was finally taken over in 1982, by the Whittaker's Dance School.

The Lancashire cotton shortage after the War forced the farmers and gardeners of the inland cities to look to the fertile coastal plains and many moved to the Fylde – the Moss in particular.
In July, Blackpool police clamped down on fortune telling. They found 12 on the beach, 2 in Albert Road, and 2 at the Great Wheel. They were all female gypsies.
In Church Street, South Shore at the time were Williams Deacon's Bank (now the Royal Bank of Scotland), Taylor's Cash Chemist's (now a café) and the Ritz Cinema and Café (now a bingo hall).
Pickering's grocer's shop was at the corner of Talbot Road and Swainson Street.
Blackpool's first "feature" tram was built. Car 18 was turned into a replica tank named "Albert" – named after the Mayor, Albert Lindsay Parkinson, which was displayed for several months.
The General Council of the National Society of Brushmakers held their first conference at the Norbreck Hydro. The Manchester Society of the Brushmakers had been formed in 1747 and was one of the original Trades Unions.
The film "Hindle Wakes" was first filmed in Blackpool. Based on the 1912 play by (William) Stanley Houghton, it was set in the Lancashire cotton town of Hindle. The drama unfolds during "wakes" week, when most of the young workers head for Blackpool, where they are filmed in the Palace Ballroom, at the Tower, on the Big Dipper and the Helter Skelter rides, and of course, among the Illuminations. The film starred Colette O'Neill and Norman McKinnon.

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An Influenza epidemic during the winter caused 40 deaths in Fylde. It was introduced from Blackpool into Carleton and spread quickly.

Charnley's Garage, Poulton: George Charnley's Central Garage was established on Ball Street, and they were soon running a vehicle hire service from Tithebarn Street too. George had started out with a bicycle business in about 1900, at 11 Tithebarn Street. They were soon agents for Triumph, and Rover cars, and BSA motorcycles. In 1939, Charnley's bought an ambulance which they hired out to the local councils. They opened a second outlet on Princess Street in Cleveleys in 1962s, to where they moved. The Poulton site was immediately rebuilt as an EH Booth's supermarket, which opened in 1963.

New housing estates were laid out to the west of Fleetwood.

St Kilda: Fleetwood trawlers began to deliver the mail to the island of St Kilda. For example, the SV Loughrigg posted the following log entry:

> *"27.2.1928: Sailed Fleetwood for St. Kilda with mails (11 bags). Could not locate island due to dense fog, eventually anchored in Village Bay and islanders came out. Very short of flour and other provisions. 8.3.1928: Returned Fleetwood, coaled, and took on provisions. 9.3.1928: Sailed Fleetwood for St. Kilda".*

The last mail delivery was in August 1930, just before the entire population was evacuated on the 29th.
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A brick-built Tram shelter and waiting room was constructed at the corner of St Anne's Road West and Clifton Drive North in St Anne's. This was converted into a Tourist Information Centre in 1949 and extended in 1984 into a double building. After briefly being a Transport office, and once more a Tourist Information Centre, it became the Clockhouse Café in 2010.
In December, King Edward VII School became the first school in the country to install a "kinema", although it was for educational purposes.
Wrea Green Football Club was formally formed at last. The game had been played on the village green for many years, but only now did Ossie and William Aiken formalise the arrangements. The club soon became a member of the Blackpool and District League, and in 1922, they achieved a rare "treble" when the won the League title, the Rawling Shield, and the Blackwell Cup. It folded in the 1960s, was re-formed in 1976, still playing on the village Green. A junior section was established in 1992. Both clubs change for matches in the Grapes Inn.
The St Nicholas Girls' Friendly Society was formed in Wrea Green.
An aircraft factory was built by Dick, Kerr of Preston just east of Lytham. In 1921, a Fairey Atalanta was built and from 1923 it built Kingston Flying Boat aircraft. The building became the E Cookson and Sons Ltd Bakery in 1930, another big local employer for many years.
On the 14th of May, Alexander Eccles consented to the erection of a war memorial on a piece of land he owned in Myerscough, known as Wharf Field. The memorial is a column of Longridge stone, surmounted by a cross, with four steps at the base, and the names of the men who died are carved into panels of Lakeland slate along with the names of eighty-five men from the community who also served and survived to return home. The memorial was unveiled on the 18th of August 1921.

1919

A Victory Ball was held in the Tower in January, and a protest meeting of the National Federation of Discharged and Demobilised Soldiers and Sailors took place in Talbot Square at the same time. When the meeting ended, the protesters massed outside the Tower, demanding fair treatment. A riot was eventually avoided.

According to the Lancashire Daily Post on the 7th of February, the Atlantic Hospital (formerly the Imperial Hotel) and the Imperial Hotel in St Anne's would be vacated by the military on the 8th. All patients were then transferred to other hospitals in the area.
Peace was celebrated in July, and thousands of local children took part in the town's parties.
A temporary war memorial obelisk was unveiled in Princess Parade Gardens, with the inscription "*The Blood of the Heroes is the Seed of Freedom*". It was replaced by the current memorial on the 11th of November 1923. That memorial was the first of 125 known memorials in town.
A war memorial was erected inside the Layton Cemetery.
The King's Lancashire Military Convalescent Hospital at Squires Gate closed. It became a rehabilitation unit in 1920, which closed itself in 1924.
Many ex-soldiers found work around town but had to be versatile. For example, Bill Eardley, who lost his right arm in the war, sold roast potatoes and hot chestnuts outside Central Station, and became a well-known character in Blackpool.
As well as those local people who died and were buried abroad, Layton Cemetery contains 139 scattered burials of the First World War (There are also 39 from the Second World War, plus 26 Polish war graves from that next conflict, together in a group). A stone Cross of Sacrifice stands on the main drive.

To commemorate the official end of the war, by the signing of the Treaty of Versailles, the Government declared the 19th of July to be "Peace Day". The "Blackpool Great Peace Day Demonstration" in Talbot

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Square was attended by thousands of locals, as well as servicemen from the King's Lancashire Hospital at Squires gate.
The Gazette reported that *"Never in all history of the town has there been such a scene in the square. In one solid block, they stood from the sea to Clifton Street and Talbot Road, from the Old Bank to the walls of the Town Hall. And everyone had but one idea – to cheer and let loose the smothered feeling of nearly four-and-a-half years war. How they cheered! In one vast volume, the cheers roared and crashed"*. And *"An impressive minute was when, following upon a deafening volley of cheers, the people stood in silence, at the call of the Mayor and thought of those gallant boys who have fought and died, the heroes whom we will never see again. It was wonderful to see that immense crowd stand silent in thought"*.

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A German submarine, U 1111, was displayed in Fleetwood docks in January.

The first Election was held under the council's Redistribution Scheme for the arrangement of the electoral wards. Ward boundaries had again been altered.
During Wakes Week, 10,000 people from Nelson alone stayed in the town.
The town's bakery workers had a mass strike.
The Lancashire and Cheshire Miners Federation brought 97,000 miners into town for a rally at the football ground on the 21st of June. The Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway and the London and North-western Railway ran 130 special trains into Blackpool for the day.

AV Roe's Daily Air Service, Blackpool: Sir Edwin Alliot Verdon (AV) Roe introduced Britain's first scheduled daily air service, and the first Manchester to Blackpool passenger flight took place. Four Avro 504K biplanes carried seven Blackpool Councillors to a landing at the South Shore Aerodrome on the beach by South Pier (provided free by Alderman Bean of the Pleasure Beach) on the 10th of May. The flight took 25 minutes and went from Manchester's Alexandra Park, via Waterloo Sands and Fleetwood from a sand strip near Southport's Birkdale Palace Hotel. A regular service began on the 26th of May and ceased on the 30th of September.

Flying moved to Squires Gate and the New Park (soon to be called Stanley Park) in 1921, when they were operated at five shillings a time by the Lancashire School of Aviation. They ceased in 1924. Roe based himself and his staff in the Brighton Hydro Hotel, but after the first flight, Sir Alan Cobham recommended Stanley Park as the venue for the town's airport. The Avro Aviation Company also began local pleasure flights from the beach on the 12th of May, and 17,000 people this year flew from their South Shore Aerodrome to Norbreck. The flight from the specially-built air station included a trip round the Tower.

The Golden Eagle Aviation Company Limited opened an "Air Station" at Blowing Sands on Marton Moss. It was run by ex-RAF Major Shields. He gave pleasure flights and ran "an efficient Motor Service" to Squires Gate. He also started giving the town's first flying lessons.

Peeney's Ice Cream, Blackpool: Giovanni and Luisa Pini had arrived in England in 1860, living in London. In this year, they anglicised their name from Pini to Peeney and moved to Blackpool to start their ice cream making business. They bought a house in Swainson Street and in a lean to at the front of the house, the two Peeney Brothers made the ice cream and sold it off a horse and cart.
The couple grew their business, and later bought a café at 30 Adelaide Street, soon acquiring concessions on all piers. They also had stalls on St Anne's beach. The café not only sold ice cream but served hot meals and sold cigarettes.
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In 1936, F Peeney and Sons, unveiled a tea-pot-shaped stall on the promenade and beach. It was a horse-drawn contraption and had been made by HV Burlingham Ltd as a one-off, staying in use until 1960. Giovani Peeney - by then called John Peeney - died in 1940 and is buried in Carleton Cemetery.

Peeney's later opened the Belle Vue Café at 121 the Promenade, also serving ices. By 1950, Peeney's Ice Cream and Rock makers were on Brunswick Street where they had moved from 30 Adelaide Street. There was another outlet on Winifred Street (next to G Hill's Winifred Street garage).

After briefly moving to Plymouth Road, by 1957, they had moved to Mowbray Drive, as E Peeney and Sons Limited. They later opened an ice cream and rock shop at 501 the Promenade. They also sold shellfish in stalls on the beach. The business closed in 1961.

A distant branch of the Peeney family ran the Lucky Star arcade on the Promenade.

F and C Smith's (Frank and Charles) coaches began hiring coaches to Scout Motors of Preston.
The Queen of the North char-à-banc service was in operation from its mews and stables in Bank Street. Its proprietor Johnny Jenkins eventually sold out to Standerwick's in 1937.
The Queen Street and Dickson Road Livery Stables enjoyed their busiest year.
The Blackpool Water Chute Limited was wound up.

Orry's, Blackpool: W H Orry, ladies' and gents' outfitters, opened on the 17th of April at 14-16 Church Street (later to become Foster's Man's Shop and now an Orange mobile phone shop), on the corner of Bank Hey Street, later expanding to 42-44 Market Street.
In March 1962, the store moved to 77 Church Street. Orry's jewellery department was constructed in what had been "The Vaults" underneath the County Hotel, which was demolished in 1961.
The company's motto was *"If it's not right – ORRY makes it right"*.

James Brearley began his stockbroking business at 90-92 Topping Street, later moving to Church Street. The company now controls nine offices from their Burton Road head office.
Taylor's "Stevonia" fish and chip shop opened on Central Drive by Lily Taylor, and is still going strong today, run by the same family. It is Blackpool's oldest family-run chippy.

Arnold Junior School, Blackpool: Ivydene on Horncliffe Road, a boarding and day school for girls, was bought by Arnold School, and the junior school itself moved there in 1920. When the Junior School moved back to Lytham Road in 1984, the site was cleared - it is now an Old Folks Home.

Clark's Removals was established in Marton Drive, moving furniture and coal by horse and cart. Albert (Nobby) Clark, the founder's son, changed its name to Albert's Removals and wound up the company in the 1980s. A branch of the firm remains with the Clark family as Clark and Sons of Palmer Avenue. HJ Clark's Removals – a family offshoot - began in 1909.
On Lee Road in Marton was James ball's thatched, cruck cottage, one of many in that area at the time.

Brown and Mallalieu, Blackpool: John Brown and Edgar Mallalieu were in business next to the Winter Gardens, on Church Street and Leopold Grove. A certain William Lyons was one of their car salesmen (Morris and Austin models). The showrooms originally formed the main entrance through Italian gardens to the Empress Ballroom when it was opened in 1896.

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By April, the company showrooms were in the Metropole Garage at 152 North Promenade – formerly owned by Josiah Street as J Street Ltd, which had its own parking garage for 200 cars. The garage and works were on General Street, and the service depot on Whitegate Drive. The commercial arm was at 11 Station Road, and it sold vehicles to the Council amongst others. Brown and Mallalieu were the sole Blackpool agents for cars made by Belsize Motors Ltd of Manchester.
Later owned by J Street Ltd, and renamed the Claremont Garage, the General Street premises became Lefton's.

The company also owned Collingwood Avenue filling station, which opened Blackpool's first car wash.

In 1926, the partnership was dissolved *"by mutual consent as from the 30th day of June, 1926. The business has since been and will be in future carried on at Blackpool aforesaid by Brown & Mallalieu Limited"*.

In 1930, Nickson's Farm (also known as Co-op Farm) on Vicarage Lane, was demolished to make way for Brown and Mallalieu's Car Showrooms (later taken over by Dutton Forshaw). The farm's outbuildings on other side of the road were demolished to build MFI etc. in the 1980s.
The company also owned Highgate Garage at Clifton for a while in the 1930s.
Brown and Mallalieu Ltd were liquidated in 1981.

The Blackpool Jewish Club and Institute was opened on the 22nd of November in the basement of the Hippodrome on Church Street. The club ran the full length of the theatre and its entrance was in King Street. It later moved to Hornby Road.
The New Kent Hotel and guest house was built at 12 Knowle Avenue.
The "Cosy Toilet Saloon" was in business on Lytham Road, offering shaves for gentlemen.
The Grand Theatre had bioscope projection equipment installed for the showing of moving pictures.
Great Marton Freemason's Lodge 3985 was formed, with John Dixon as the first Master.
Marton St Paul's Tennis Club was founded, playing on the vicarage lawn before moving to Somerset Avenue. In 1929, they began using land on Straits Road (now Preston Old Road). St Paul's Church Tennis Club reopened in April 1944, playing on two freshly-laid courts next to the new burial ground. The club closed in April 1971, to become the houses of Birch Tree Gardens. Another tennis court was where Fredora Avenue now stands.
Old School House Farm and market garden on Division Lane was sold on the 31st of January. Owned by the Webster brothers, it comprised a "farmhouse, stable, shippon, piggeries, barn, and storehouse". There was also an orchard.
Curtis "The While-U-Wait Photographer" was working at the Pleasure Beach.
The Gynn Estate Company acquired portions of estates called Uncle Tom's Cabin Bank and Fanny Hall Estate on the 20th of March.
The Royal Commission into the Coal Industry was presented at Blackpool football ground on the 21st of June. The Royal Commission recommended the nationalisation of the industry.
The song "Blackpool Rag" was first sung, by Sonny Farrar, in the Children's Pantomime. There is a list of famous songs and tunes written about Blackpool at Appendix P.

RG Barlow: Richard Gorton Barlow, Blackpool's most famous cricketer, died on the 31st of July at his home. In 1883, Barlow took seven wickets for 40 in the last innings of the final Test - in the aftermath of the defeat, furious Australian women burned the bails used in the match, and the Ashes series was born.

In 1892, he retired to Blackpool and became the cricket coach at Arnold School. Barlow Terrace (now Barlow Crescent) was later named after him, running in front of the Cricket Club. Barlow had built and

©

moved into Gorton Villa on Raikes Parade, facing the entrance to the gardens in 1891. He later renamed it Alderlea, before moving into Glen May Villa, which he had built in the grounds, in 1895. He carried on a business selling cricket and football equipment, and *"athletic requisites"* from there.
He also wrote a book entitled "Forty seasons of First-Class Cricket", printed by the Blackpool Times.

In 1913, he built the house, Rose Lea, in Woodland Grove and lived there until he died. It was then retitled "Cricket House" in his memory, and the terracotta cricket plaque was moved there from Gorton Villa.
His tombstone in Layton Cemetery reads "Bowled at last", and Barton Crescent remembers him.

Bandleader Jack Hylton came to Blackpool to work as a music publisher. He would write songs in the popular style of the day, print a batch of one thousand, and sell copies on the promenade at sixpence each.
Jan Hurst became the conductor of the Victoria Pier Orchestra, and for eight summer seasons (1919-1926) his orchestra was a popular feature. He returned from 1936 to 1939.
On the 12th of November, Blackpool suffered the unusual phenomenon of a thunderstorm in a snow storm.

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Cullen's Silversides Holiday Camp opened on Slinger Road, Cleveleys. The accommodation comprised ex-World War 1 army huts and bell tents and was run by Mr Cullen, the choirmaster from Sacred Heart Church at Thornton.

Foulds Scrap Metal, Fleetwood: John Foulds established a scrap metal business in Back Mount Street. It moved to Victoria Street in 1925, and in 1951, he bought the former ICI Social Club, calling it the Dome of Discovery. He then established premises in Cop Lane, and then in Styan Street, before returning to Cop Lane. The family bought Robertson's foundry in Siding road in 1980, and Foulds Metals Limited relocated there.
In the 1990s, Foulds' became locally-famous for mounting a scrapped car on the top of the site chimney.

Yeo's electrical and radio shop opened at 77 Blakiston Street West in Fleetwood.
The Discharged and Demobbed Sailors and Soldiers Club opened in Fleetwood.
The Fleetwood Corinthians football team were playing at their ground by the Queen's Hotel on Poulton Road. Other teams included Fleetwood Villa and, by the 1930s, the Sea Wall Swifts.
The Lancashire and Yorkshire Bank opened their Fleetwood branch on the corner of 85 Lord Street and London Street. It became Martins Bank on the 3rd of January 1928 but was closed in 1949. It has since been occupied by various short-lived shops.

WT Aked of St Anne's: WT Aked's garage opened on St George's Road, having moved from St Anne's Motor Garage and Electrical Works on St Andrew's Road North, where they had been for 20 years. The salerooms specialised in Jaguars, Daimlers and Lanchester vehicles, and George Formby was one of the firm's best customers. One of the shops which made way for the new garage was Adam Hunter's stationers at number 61.

During World War 1, Aked's became a munitions factory, and in August 1925, they opened a second showroom in St Anne's Square - this building had been built by Walter Brayshaw, a traveller who had settled in St Anne's just after the turn of the century.

In 1953, the club room for the Lytham St Anne's and District Motor Club, was opened above Woolworths. The building later became Sumner's Furniture Store, and JH Sharp and Son's garage.
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Woolworth's opened a new store in the building at 61 to 63 St Anne's Road West in 1957. Woolworth's closed in January 2009, to be replaced by B&M Bargains.

Jack Aked opened The St Anne's Motor Museum on the 7th of May 1972, on the first floor of Aked's Garage on St George's Road.
At the time, he also owned Jensen House on St Andrew's Road South, selling Jensen and Healey cars, as Jensen House (St Annes) Ltd. Jensen House had originally been called Central Motors, then Bradshaw and Allen's garage, the Hall's furniture store, and later became the Mama's Too Italian restaurant. That closed, to be replaced by Cucino Pazzo, which closed in January 2015.

Aked's became a Volvo dealership in 1975, and in 1988, the business was sold, becoming Dean Smith's Volvos. The building on St George's Road was demolished in 2005, to be replaced by the Ashton View apartment block.

The Sandhills Murder – Kitty Breaks: On Christmas Eve, the body of 26-year-old Katherine Breaks (known as Kitty) was found among the sand dunes at St Anne's by John Gillett, a local farmer. *"A receipt from the previous evening showed that she had booked into the Palatine Hotel and it was learnt that after dining, she asked a waitress for directions to Lytham"*. She had been shot three times by Frederick Holt, her lover, from Lake Road in Fairhaven – he was known locally as Eric Holt. The body was found 200 yards north of the Manchester Convalescent Home, with Holt's Webley service revolver and glove being found by some children nearby. Holt had recently insured her for £5,000. He was sentenced to death and was hanged on the 13th of April 1920.
Many people over the years have claimed to have seen Kitty Breaks' ghost.

Clark's Removals was established on Cross Street, St Anne's.
Edward Shore started his lino, carpet, and curtain shop at 29 St Albans Road in St Anne's.
Keenan and Yates, builders, were established at Lord Street in St Anne's.
Hadley's Garage was at 1 Hove Road, St Anne's. Since 1996, it has been J and M Cars Limited.

Fylde Rugby Club: was born on the 25th of July. *"Manchester businessmen had met at the Ansdell Institute to discuss the formation of either a rugby club or a football club. A coin was tossed and it fell in favour of the sport of rugby"*.
The team plays in claret, gold, and white.

They first played in May 1920, at Worsley Road in St Anne's (LSA High School was later built there), and began to play at Woodlands from the 3rd of September 1920. In 1922, Harold Brooks was elected President and he later funded the present stand. An early favourite was 'Pop' Ogden, possibly the greatest dead ball kicker of the time. Ogden originated 'round-the-corner' style of kicking that is now used by most goal kickers.
In 1934/5 the *"Blackpool Old Boys merged with Fylde. The Old Boys carried out their remaining fixtures under the title of Fylde B.O.B., and played their games at Stanley Park, Blackpool. Next, they played as Fylde Extra 1st at the Greyhound Stadium. Thereafter they were absorbed into Fylde and enormously strengthened the club"*.
A pavilion was built in 1936, designed by Tom Pilkington. Players changed in wooden huts by the woods next door until changing rooms were added in 1954.

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World War 2 saw the ground taken over by the War Department for training etc, but in 1946, the club returned and after the addition of some land bought by GW Parkes, *"the 13 acres of the Woodlands Memorial Ground was purchased (for £7,000!) and named in honour of the members who had given their lives during the six-year period"*.
On the 17th of April 1948, the Mayor of Lytham St Anne's officially unveiled the War Memorial in the pavilion. A dedication was then read by Reverend SMF Woodhouse of Holy Trinity Church, Blackpool. 1950 saw the club purchase more land at the northern end, and a second pitch was opened.

In 1964, the clubhouse extension was opened by Sir Laurie Edwards, the President of the RU. He also presented Fylde with a Rugby Union Shield, which hangs on the pavilion wall.

Of the club's famous players, two stand out:
Malcolm Phillips - a product of Arnold School, he was awarded 25 England caps, playing at centre from 1958 to 1964. In 2004, he became President of the RFU in 2004.
Bill Beaumont joined as a 17-year-old apprentice in 1969, and played until he retired in 1982. *"He earned 34 times England caps, 21 times as Captain. This included leading the side to the Grand Slam in 1980, as well as skippering the British Lions in South Africa"*.

In October 2010, a new clubhouse opened, housing 400 people, summer of 2008 saw the construction of a floodlit 3G all-weather pitch and the installation of floodlights on the main pitch, and the gym was refurbished 2008/9.

In 2010, Fleetwood Town began to use the Woodlands as their training base.

The Lytham Navigation Channel in the River Ribble finally reached the sea.

1920s
Mrs Tipping opened a ladies' clothing shop at 36 North Albert Street in Fleetwood. When the shop was bought by a local solicitor in 1980, a Mrs Blundell became manager. Tippings of Fleetwood then moved to Ken Bee's vacated shop at 8 Albert Square, where she bought it in 1984.

1920
The Blackpool Town Planning Act came into force.
Blackpool Corporation helped to start the amateur bowling handicap of the British Crown Green Association at the Queen Victoria Recreation Ground greens.

Tramway Expansion, Blackpool: Blackpool Corporation took over the Blackpool and Fleetwood Tramroad Company on the 1st of January. The system gained another eight route miles of track (with six on private reservation), with two depots in Fleetwood and one in Bispham. The small Bold Street Depot in Fleetwood was closed, to be taken over first by Fleetwood and Knott End Motors, as a bus garage, and later by Lofthouses, the makers of "Fishermen's Friend" lozenges. It was demolished in 1973, to be replaced with flats.

Rigby Road Tram Depot: The Blundell Street Tram Depot became too small, and a larger site was built on the former Highways yard on Rigby Road and Hopton Road, being fitted out with four corrugated iron ex-World War 1 aircraft hangars, moved from Squires Gate. Having its own foundry and sawmill, it also housed the town's buses. Blackpool began making its own trams at the Rigby Road site in 1923, and the garage was greatly extended in 1926 and 1937.

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In 1929, the Rigby Road depot opened as a summer overflow for Blundell Street, and a repair works was established in the early 1920's, on the former Highways Yard.

In 1932, the word "Tramways" was replaced by "Transport", to better describe the growth in the number of buses in the town fleet. The council devised the new post of "Transport General Manager" to handle the task. In 1933, Walter Luff took over as that general manager, and immediately set about improving the fleet and the depot. As a result, the tram depot began to be extended in 1935, and was opened officially on the 7th of June 1936. The new depot was originally known as Kirby Hall, in recognition of its dual role as an exhibition hall, but soon became simply known as Rigby Road.
The newly-enlarged depot housed 18 "roads" and 108 trams and had been extended at the last minute to house up to 150 buses of the growing fleet.

When Walter Luff took over management of the town's trams and buses, he soon began revolutionising the service by buying 25 new English Electric trams. The new trams were sleek and modern, with a body shell that enclosed both passengers and crew. All corporation vehicles began to be painted cream and green, instead of their original livery of red and white with gold lining.

In 1937, the 3-storey, art deco style Transport Offices were built, and became the home of Blackpool Transport Services Ltd. Alongside, until 1982 was the garage for the Mayor's limousine – FV1. In 1982, on the closure of Blundell Street Depot, Rigby Road became the only depot in town.
In 1938, Rigby Road bus garage was widened to link with the tram depot.
The depot is still in use to house the Heritage fleet, and on the 23rd of March 2012, the old tram depot became host a number of City Sightseeing buses.

An old army tank was displayed in the promenade gardens near the Gynn, where it stayed until being scrapped in 1929. Although numbered as 275, it was one of just 264 war-battered tanks given to towns and cities by the War Office. On the 14th of November 1929, *"Tank 275 was dismantled, after being handed over to the Fylde Ex Officers Association, with the amount raised from selling the scrap to be used to mitigate distress amongst local ex-service men"*.
Blackpool's tram system reached an unsurpassed length of 20 miles.

Blackpool's First Motor Bus Service: The town's first motorbus was demonstrated to the Corporation on the 9th of March, and shortly after, William Smith of Bridge End Farm in Bispham started the town's first motor bus service. This ran, under licence from the Corporation, from Bispham Village to Layton Cemetery – called WM Smith's Motor Services.
Mr Smith soon opened a second route to Poulton via Castle Gardens (where he owned a garage and filling station) and garaged his buses in Warwick Road. He owned Bridge End Farm in Bispham/Carleton which exuded a vile smell from its bone and fat rendering factory for many years. His employees here collected bones from most local butcher's shops and took them to the factory for processing into animal feed.
Smith also owned the infamous "Billy Smith's Scrapyard" next to the abattoir on Talbot Road. The scrapyard had two parts, one for WW2 "collectables", and one for general scrap. The farm housed his Rag and Bone Depot.
W Smith (Metals) Limited was a well-known local spot for rummaging. It was incorporated in September 1943 and went into administration in 1988.

The Hippodrome, the Princess and the Imperial cinemas were taken over by Blackpool Entertainments (1920) Limited.

©

Sanderson's Farm on the corner of Vicarage Lane and Rough Heys Lane (now called Skiddaw Road) was demolished by Robert Leeming, who built a new bungalow. The 3 dwellings named "Sanderson's Cottages" were demolished later and the site eventually became today's B&M Bargain's car park.
Marton Moss Gala was held in June, featuring such groups as the Girls' Friendly Society, St Nicholas Branch.
Welwyn Nurseries were started by John Barrow on Worthington Road on Marton Moss.
Work started on the building of *"Experimental Concrete Housing"* on Lindsay Avenue on the 24th of September. The houses were of what is now known as the *"Lindsay Parkinson"* design, having concrete frames and walls. Other such houses were built nearby – Hereford Avenue and Airedale Avenue, and elsewhere around town – for example, in the area of Piccadilly, now known as Harcourt Road.
Whinney Heys Road appeared when its owner John Watson sold some of his farmland to the Corporation.
Edmund Lumb was building housing on and around Colwyn Avenue.

Airey's Off-licences, Blackpool: Jack Airey opened his first wine stores, with an office in Ibbison Street. He soon had many off-licence shops around town, and by 1933, the company had shops at 119 Whitegate Drive (later Corkers, which closed in March 2015), 12 Waterloo Road, 219 Waterloo Road, 308 Church Street, 23 Westcliffe Drive, and 2a Lindsay Avenue. By 1943, there were others at 101 Bispham Road, 47 Harrowside, 277 Devonshire Road, 45 Holmfield Road, 197 Preston Old Road, 27 Whitegate Drive, 109 Whitegate Drive, 285 Whitegate Drive, 156 Ashfield Road, 7 Red Bank Road, 206 Red Bank Road, 11 Westcliffe Drive, 42 Norbreck Road, and also in St Anne's at 174 Heeley Road, 57 Shepherd Road, and at 131 St Albans Road.

In 1934, there were other members of Jack's family in the same business - Wilfred H Airey "wine and spirit merchant", 119 Whitegate Drive, Wilfred Airey "beer seller, etc", 12 Waterloo rd, and Oswald W Airey "wine and spirit merchant", 219 Waterloo Road. I suspect that they were connected family members.
The company became J Airey's Wine Stores Limited, when owned by AG Peters in July 1938, trading from Bristol Avenue. It is no longer trading but still exists.

Crossley Brothers, timber merchants: Yorkshire brothers Harry and George Crossley moved from Mirfield in Yorkshire to Blackpool, buying Fielding's builder's yard on what is now Holyoake Avenue. They soon constructed Bispham Sawmills, its three massive workshops. Their address was Station Works, Bispham, and the timber works soon became so large that it required its own, dedicated railway siding.
Harry Crossley lived at 384 Lytham Road, while George built a house on Seattle Avenue, which he named The Ridge. Younger brother Fred followed later and lived at Marylands on Bispham Road.
Crossley Brothers were bought out in 1979 by a national timber company, and closed in early 1980.
The mill and workshops were rapidly demolished, with the site of the buildings quickly becoming a B&Q store, and the timber yard becoming the B&Q car park.
The nearby road bridge soon gained the nickname Crossley's Bridge.

Jack Booth and Henry Scott started the Exhibition Rock and Confectionery Company in a small kiosk on Central Beach. They later had a stand at the 1924 Wembley Exhibition. The factory was on Back Lord Street, and was later sold to Ismail's Tea, closing in 1978.
The jeweller's shop of J Wild was at 27 Church Street. The shop was later to become a Vodaphone mobile phone store, and then a hair and beauty shop called the Beauty Spot Warehouse.
JP Wild had a photography studio at 69 Church Street, from where he also published pictorial guide books using his own photographs. The shop site is now a part of the main Blackpool branch of the Halifax Bank.

©

The "Rustic Cottage" at Norbreck was sold to the expanding Hydro Company and was demolished in 1924. It was the Wilson family home, and one of the last local buildings to have been made from driftwood and pebbles from the shore.

Blackpool Dance Festival: The first Blackpool Dance Festival was held in April in the Empress Ballroom. The idea of a Dance Festival came from either Harry Wood, the Musical Director of the Winter Gardens or Nelson Sharples of Sharples and Son Limited, the music publishers of Blackpool, who published all the sheet music for the novelty dances invented by the Masters of Ceremony in the Empress and Tower Ballrooms. Whatever its origins, it was the world's first.

In 1931, the British Professional and Amateur Ballroom Championships were first held in the Winter Gardens, having evolved from the Blackpool Dance Festival. The event is also known as the British Open. The winners were Mr M Stewart and Miss P Sykes – A full list of winners to date is given at Appendix T.

In 1937, the festival introduced the "Skating System" for competitors' marks (9-0 etc.), which is still used today all round the world.

The festival now lasts for 9 days at the end of May each year.

The British Junior Dance Festival started in 1947 and are traditionally held in the Tower Ballroom.

The first British Closed Dance Festival (for professionals only) were held in November 1975. They are held annually and are now called the British National Dance Championships. These are also held at the Winter Gardens Empress ballroom.

The first Blackpool Boys Brigade Display was held in April.
Bloomfield road hosted England versus Ireland in a women's football international, and work began on the ground's East Stand – finished in 1925.
Edward Frank bought Victoria Villa on Jubilee Lane and began building a vegetable nursery.
Waterloo Road Medical Practice was founded Dr Pitt Taylor in a converted farmhouse on Ansdell Road. In 1986, the current premises at 178 Waterloo Road were built, and the Medical Centre was opened there in May 1989.
Alpine House Outfitters opened on the 27th of March, on the corner of Bank Hey Street and Victoria Street.
Neptune's Fish Restaurant opened on Talbot Road on the 27th of March.
Dawson's Dividend Stores were operating at 98 to 104 Church Street, selling ladies clothing. By 1950 it was known as Dawson's Overall shop and was owned and run by the Hunter family, whose main store was on Abingdon Street.
Taylor's Westernware opened at 10-12 Church Street (now Bond Street).
Roland Lumby's general merchants store at 5 Queen's Square closed in July.
Mattocks Tofferies were in business on Central Pier, the Tower Buildings and on Wellington Terrace.
The Radium Cycle Company was in business at 35 Foxhall Road.
Bridgehead Limited was making car silencers at their Bank Hey Works.
The Corporation removed Ward's Park, otherwise known as Sparrow Park, from Devonshire Square in March.

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The Langdale Preparatory School, Blackpool: was opened by Gwendoline Tustin *"who recognised the need for extended holiday care for the children of the local Blackpool hoteliers and boarding house owners. With the help of her daughter, Mrs. Tustin ran the original school from Langdale House in Argyll Road".*
It moved to 95 Warbreck Drive in 1923.
"It soon became apparent that there was huge support for further extending the school's operating hours and offering full-time schooling for those families who wished to opt out of the state education system. Thus, the first 'holiday club' for primary-aged children in the Northwest, if not the first in the whole country, evolved into Langdale Independent Preparatory School".
The school was greatly re-designed and extended in the 1990s and can now take up to 90 children.
The school motto is "*Ad Plene Vivendum Para*" – meaning "Prepare to be fully alive".
On the 5th of September 2013, it re-opened as Langdale Free School – Blackpool's first Free School.

One Ash Cottage on All Hallow's Road in Bispham burnt down – Ivy Cottage was adjoining. The thatched roof was destroyed when an oil lamp was knocked over, but the cottage was soon re-roofed in corrugated tin. It was finally demolished in the 1950s, its last occupant being Miss Caton, a photographer, and its place was later taken by the car park on the corner with Red Bank Road. Further down All Hallow's Road for many decades stood Hermit's Cottage, which later became a branch of the Midland bank.
The Blackpool Choristers (to become the Blackpool Male Voice Choir in 1923) was formed. It originally sang at Raikes Parade Methodist Church, but now meets at Springfield Methodist Church.
Milton Avenue was a rabbit-coursing track.
A strike by catering workers paralysed the town.
Carleton Garage offered a petrol station and repairs, as well as a garage for 50 cars. It was owned by the Ockwell family and was briefly called Carleton Motor Works. A later occupant of the premises was Marshall's Motors (Carleton) Limited, who ceased trading there in 1983. Anchorsholme Car Sales moved to what was now known as Carleton Crossroads Garage from Anchorsholme Lane on the 21st of July 2002, after a brief spell at Hoo Hill estate. Their Anchorsholme Lane premises were demolished.

JC Robinson: (John Charles Robinson) was appointed as the Borough Architect. He went on to design much of the town that we see today, including: *"many of the features of the Promenade, including the open-air baths at South Shore, the lift tower on the cliffs, colonnades and shelters. He also designed Stanley Park Café, Derby Baths, the Technical College, Municipal Offices, St. John's Market, Talbot Road Bus Station, the Collegiate School for Girls, the Crematorium Chapel and many other schools, clinics, shops, houses, and shelters. In the 1920s, he had designed a house for himself on Beaufort Avenue (no. 28) but, during the 1930s, he built another, 50 Newton Drive, where he continued to live after his retirement in 1944"*. He also designed "*Claremont and Marton libraries and Stanley Park Golf Clubhouse".* Thanks to Ted Lightbown.
Robinson lived in a self-designed house at 28 Beaufort Avenue, before designing a larger house at 50 Newton Drive, to which he moved when he retired. He died there in March 1954.

Frederick Quarmby cut the throat of girlfriend Christine Smith at Pendlehurst on Ripon Road on the 3rd of December. He was hanged for the crime in Manchester on the 6th of May 1921.
Arthur Worsley, ventriloquist, was born on the 16th of October in Failsworth. He was educated at Staining Church School before becoming famous with his dummy "Charlie Brown". He married local pantomime star Audrey Hewitt and died at 447 St Anne's Road on the 14th of July 2001.
Eddie Shimwell was born in Derbyshire on the 27th of February. He was a right-back who made his name with Blackpool - so solid and dependable was he, that more than one football journalist fell to the temptation to dub him the "Blackpool Rock". He was transferred to Blackpool in December 1946 and made his name there, leaving in 1957 after 286 League games.

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Sheila Quinn was born in Blackpool on the 16th of September and attended Layton Hill Convent. She later became the President of the Royal College of Nursing and was made a Dame in 1987 for her services to the profession.
Sir Arthur Conan Doyle lectured in the town on spiritualism on the 20th of January.
Famous musical hall artists Florrie Forde appeared at the Palace Theatre in December, in her own pantomime, Robinson Crusoe. She returned in 1930 for another panto, Robin Hood – featuring Flanagan and Allen.

Deck Chairs, Blackpool: John Moore took out the first patent for adjustable and portable folding chairs in 1886, and started manufacturing them in Macclesfield, and the term 'deck chair' was used in the novels of E Nesbit (author of The Railway Children) in the 1880s.

The first successful deckchair business started in Margate in 1890, and Mrs Rose Osborne saw the money to be made in hiring them out to Blackpool tourists. The chairs had occasionally been seen on the beach for several years, but she now offered the Corporation £1,875 over three years for the privilege of renting them out. She made so much money that in 1921, the Corporation bought her out and decided to do it themselves.
The Corporation had finally lifted the ban on deckchairs on the beach in 1914, but at one time had over 27,000 deckchairs of its own, stored and repaired at Harrowside garage, but in June 2014, the last 6,000 were sold off to a private company.
The hangars at the old Stanley Park aerodrome were used for many years to store the council's stock.
In one day in August 1957, 66,580 deckchairs were hired out on Blackpool beach. The council even had a busy deckchair 'hospital' on the promenade for repairs.

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Weeton Village Hall was bought and transported from Haydock Camp. During World War 2 it was used by the Women's Royal Voluntary Service (WRVS) as a canteen to serve many of the soldiers at Weeton Camp. The wooden hall was dismantled from the 28th of July 2014, to be replaced by a brick-built building, which was opened on the 13th of May 2015, by local singer Jodie Prenger.
Arthur Dommett and Thomas Vick opened a general grocery shop at 50 Station Road in Poulton. The shop was later fondly known as the "Village Stores".
Smythe's Auctioneers was established at 174 Victoria Road West, Cleveleys.
The Victoria Maternity Home was on the corner of Rossall Road and Beach Road in Cleveleys. It later became a nursing home and is now a block of flats.
In July, the 1st Fleetwood Brownie Pack was formed, catering for young girls aged 7 to 11. The Pack was registered in October and was attached to the Congregational Church. It was reregistered in 1929, as the 9th Fleetwood and reregistered once more in 1973.
Isaac Spencer (1920) Ltd was incorporated at Fleetwood. Spencer had built the fishmeal works on some land to the south east of the Wyre Fish dock, near to where the original railway from Preston was located. The company ended production in 1998, and the factory was demolished.

Pilling Legion Hall: was built on land given by a local family and money raised by public donations in memory of those killed during the 2nd World War. It was extended in the 1930s, and in 1948 by volunteers, at which time it was known as the Comrades' Hall.
In 1984, the Pilling Memorial Hall was registered as a charity, to be leased from the Royal British Legion at peppercorn rent for 25 years, and there began extensive renovations, with a new kitchen, and a games room which was renovated and incorporated as the Comrades Room.
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St Bernard's Roman Catholic Church, Knott End: St Bernard's Parish was founded.
The current church was built on Hackensall Road in 1922. It was originally a single space, but transepts were added in 1975. It is a wide and low building faced in pebbledash, it has simple Gothic windows with hood moulds, and slate roofs. The 19th century marble altar, which had been moved from another, unknown, church, has *"carvings of the Annunciation etc. The pews in the nave are also reused 19th century items, and modern pews are in the transepts. There are stained glass windows, of 1920s, at the eastern end, and others, from 1978, at the west end. There is a modern sculpture of Our Lady on the south transept gable wall".*

Preesall Urban District Council reported that most of the sewage in the district was still collected in two large septic tanks. There was one at Townfoot in Preesall and the other was on Heald's Farm in Knott End. By 1945, matters had improved, but refuse collection was by hired motor vehicle, with collection from pails and privies done by a trailer tank vehicle. The wagon also collected from 606 bins, 17 ashpits, 45 pail closets, and 23 privies. 48 houses were still too far distant from population centres. The collected refuse was tipped on low-lying land *"distant from inhabited areas, and covered with soil. Liquid refuse and pail contents are spread on arable fields by permission of farmers"*. By 1967, the rubbish etc was tipped into unused by Council lorry.

Beaverbrook's Jewellers: was founded in Belfast, by the three Adlestone brothers with *"a suitcase of silver and hearts full of hope"*. In 1940, they evacuated from Manchester to St Anne's and set up on St Anne's Road West as M Beaver, goldsmiths and silversmiths.
In 1946, M Beaver opened a bigger jeweller's shop at 16 St Anne's Road West. This closed in 1997. The shop was soon to become part of the Beaverbrook's empire, when it merged with the Adlestone's store – named J Payne and Sons and Harlands – in Blackpool. The company moved its head offices to Adele House in Park Road, St Anne's in 1982.
Over the years, they have had several shops in and around Blackpool and nationwide, and from 1982, they have been based at Adele House in Park Road, St Anne's.

Temporary War Memorials were erected on Church Road and Curzon Road in St Anne's.
J Sharp's Garage was at Clifton Drive North, St Anne's.

Entwistles Estate Agents: Joseph Entwistle, a chartered surveyor, founded J Entwistle and Company, Auctioneers, with premises for auction sales on Kings Road (now Kingsway), and offices at 37 The Square, Hydropathic Terraces, St Anne's. Joe Entwistle lived at 15 West Beach in Lytham, and had previously run Owen, Blois, and Owen, in Newcastle-under-Lyme, but had dissolved his partnership with H Bertram Owen in 1919. Joe was a lieutenant in the army at the time, just having been awarded the Military Cross.
By 1948, Entwistle, Frederick Margenson, and Henry Plater were *"carrying on business as Surveyors Valuers Estate Agents and Auctioneers at 39 Adelaide Street, Blackpool"*. Their partnership was dissolved in July.
On his death, his property enterprise became known as Entwistle Green, and the original premises became a Skipton Building Society office. The main office is now known as Kingsway Auction Rooms.
Entwistle's estate agents grew to run many offices around Lancashire and Merseyside, and since October 2004 have traded as Entwistle Green Limited.

E Wilson, "Saddler and Harnessmaker and Portmanteau Repairer", was working from 20 Albert Street in Lytham. It is now a private house.
Wrea Green Women's Institute was founded in February.

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Church Cottage was demolished to extend the church yard in Wrea Green. It had stood between the Grapes and the church.
William Harrison of Freckleton established a poultry club in a barn on Preston Old Road in the village.
RA Tootell and Sons Limited started a bus service from Great Eccleston to Preston. The company changed its name to Viking Motors Ltd in 1924, and in 1929, it took over Royal Blue buses. Ribble Motor Services Ltd bought out the company in November 1952 and began the 180 bus service from Preston to the village.
Catforth Village Memorial Hall was built, to honour the fallen in World War 1. The local bowling green and club also opened there.

1921
Edward, Prince of Wales, visited Blackpool, Cleveleys, and Fleetwood on the 8th of July, and reviewed parades of war veterans. In Cleveleys, he addressed the community at Beanlands Pavilion.

The Regent Picture House, Blackpool: This large, white cinema opened on the 17th of January on the site of James Pablo's scrap yard on the corner of Church Street and what would soon become Regent Road - the address is now 181 to 189 Church Street.

Designed by local architects, Lumb and Watson of Clifton Street, it is made entirely of re-enforced concrete, and had a white faïence tiled façade and a tall Baroque-style domed tower above the entrance foyer. The tiling is Middleton's fireclay ceramo. All the concrete was cast on site by local firm J Fielding and Sons, with the main contractors for the erection of the building being Chadwick Brothers.
The main entrance is on the corner of Regent Road and Church Street, and is through an octagonal vestibule, which has an ornate plaster dome ceiling and quarter pillars, above a marble floor. Access to the rear of the Grand Balcony was from the vestibule, via a sweeping marble staircase. Mahogany doors led to the ground floor stalls.
The Regent had seating for 1092 at opening with 420 seats situated in the Grand Balcony and an additional 42 in a smaller 'private' upper balcony. The roof opened, to allow viewing by starlight – this is now the last working retractable cinema roof in the UK.
The original screen was a revolutionary rubber-based affair, which was attached with 166 small springs, in order to minimise any vibrations. A 5-piece orchestra sat in well beneath the screen until sound came to the Regent in 1939. By 1928, it was advertising itself as *"The House of Good Things"*.

The first film to be shown was "The call of the road" starring Stewart Rowe.
By 1924, when it screened "So they think it's Hollywood", starring Betty Blythe, the Regent was advertising *"Rowlinson's Orchestra at Every Performance"*.
On the 3rd of May 1953, the Regent screened "A day in the country" was screened, and the cinema became the first in the area to show a 3D film. The Regent was also the first cinema in Britain to install Cinemascope, with full 4-track magnetic stereo sound, which was first used on the 11th of July 1954 for "King of the Khyber Rifles".

There was a tiny ice cream and sweet model shop next to the Regent for many years. The model shop later became Regent Films, selling shorts and features on Super 8 film.

In 1969, the Regent Cinema began running bingo on several nights a week, and on the 23rd of October 1971, it showed its last film – "Cromwell", to become a full-time bingo club. For a time in the 1980s, the building ran its own Bogarts night club on the first floor. Coral Bingo bought the business and opened their own Regent Coral Social Club in 1973. This was fully refurbished in 1987, reopening on the 17th of December. The raked floor to the stalls had been levelled, and the building next door had been bought

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and knocked into, to create a new entrance, a licensed bar, and other facilities. In 1993, Regent Bingo was bought by Gala Bingo, who also ran the Coral Island Bingo Club.

In 2007, a suspended ceiling was inserted over the grand balcony level, and it became Riley's American Pool and Snooker Club. This had transferred its 19 snooker tables from beneath the Burton's Buildings on the Promenade. 2013 saw the vacant building auctioned.

It was bought by local entrepreneur Rick Taylor, who began to hold an antiques market on three floors in May 2014. He then re-furbished the cinema and started to show classic films in the restored venue. In February 2016, the building was given a Grade 2 Listing, and on the 29th of July, The Regent Cinema was re-opened. He has now renamed it the People's Cinema.

The Cliffs Hotel, North Promenade, Blackpool: The Bryn Tivy Private Hotel was built on the cliffs at North Shore this year. The hotel is a Neo-Baroque-style building, built in a combination of red brick and yellow terracotta, with cream faience detailing. It advertised hot and cold water in each of its 129 bedrooms, as well as an electric lift. A company – Bryn Tivy Private Hotel (Blackpool) Limited - was formed in 1920, but was struck off in August 1924, despite this, the hotel was almost doubled in size by 1927. By 1934, its address was shown as Queen's Drive, and the proprietor was one Frederick Halton.

In 1937, the building was extended to the North, and trebled in size, with a new North wing and central section, which was designed by local architect Halstead Best. The new Cliffs Hotel opened at 2 -6 King Edward Avenue, after the Bryn Tivy had been renamed.

The front entrance, after this work, was in the middle of the Gazebo windows – now part of the restaurant – and a large cupola was built at the summit of the entrance block. There were tennis courts to the left, where the current main entrance, Promenade Café Bar, and the Victoria Suite now stand. Beneath the building was an underground car park and garage, which was accessed from the side and rear of the Hotel. This now holds the Leisure Club and Adventure Base.

By 1959, the Cliffs had 240 rooms, but by 1971, that number had been decreased to 165. Today, there are 163 rooms, all ensuite.

Abingdon Confectionery Company Limited opened the Don Café and Restaurant on the 16th of June.
Blackpool bought its first motorised street sprinkler and sweeper. Trials of 4 electric vehicles in 1917 had proved that they could replace the 6 horse-drawn vehicles and also save manpower.
The first motor vehicle ice cream stall was used on the beach in June.
Blackpool Electric Power Station changed from coal to oil power.
Thousands watched a Solar eclipse from the Promenade on the 8th of April.
The Zonex company was working from Zonex Works at 123 Talbot Road, with another small workshop in St Anthony's Place. The company made optical and ophthalmic lenses, and used the trade names Zonex, Stanco, Rolls-Luxen, and Nazex. They had demolished the original houses (lived in by Fred Saxon and his family in 1897) to build their works. 1944 saw Zonex change their name to Nazone Ltd. In 1959, Glasdon Signs took over the premises, later being replaced by Glasform Ltd. In 2011, the building was demolished and replaced by an apartment block.

Squires Gate Camp, Blackpool: Work began on the Poor Children's Holiday Camp at Squires Gate, with the first sod being cut on the 1st of October. The "Café in the Sandhills" was the centre point of the tent field,

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and later became the main entrance to Pontins. This café was a popular local venue in its own right. In the early 1930s, it became known as Squires Gate Camping Ground – owned by Stanley (the Squire) Jenkinson - and then as the British Holiday Camp, Squires Gate.

In June 1937, Herbert Pye's 38-acre Squires Gate Holiday Camp was officially opened there by Gracie Fields. Pye at first catered for the old-style tent converts, by building some wooden chalets with canvas roofs, and his camp had its own camp store, a café, and a fish and chip shop, to cater for the campers in their tents. Tennis courts and a large bowling green were soon added.

The camp was run on opening by Mr and Mrs Brown and was soon advertising itself as providing a "Californian" experience. A complete re-build however, soon provided buildings with bright, Californian styling, and 1,400 chalets. *"As it was a full board site all meals were included and were taken in the huge new communal dining room. The chalets were hotel-style and lacked any kitchen or lounge facilities. The original Squires Gate entertainment building was retained, refurbished and enlarged"*.

In 1939, a club bar – the Buccaneer's Cave, a large dining hall, an ultra-modern kitchen (complete with a Belgian chef), a heated swimming pool with 6 fountains (opened in July), and a grand piazza were added. A stalwart at the camp for many years was Terry Wilson "Mr Squires Gate of Blackpool". Staff wore red coats.
It was briefly known as Squires Gate Holiday Beach.

Pontin's: In 1961, Fred Pontin's Ocean Edge Holiday Camp (Happyland) was planned and built on the site of Squires Gate Camp. Staff had to change to the Pontin's branded red coats.
After being extended and improved throughout the 1960s, Pontin's Blackpool finally had over 800 modern chalets, with a Beachcomber Café and Grillroom, the Prince Theatre, the Buccaneer Bar, and the Embassy Ballroom. The original outdoor pool was covered over with an arched, glass roof; it was re-enclosed in the early 1990s, with the old arched building being demolished and the adjoining kiddies' pool being filled in.

The late 1970s saw another 140 chalets built, bringing the camp's total to 749. Then, *"in the early 1980s, a new reception building was built, along with a new sports and recreation hall featuring a snooker room, coffee bar, sauna, solarium, gym and hot tub. By this time the camp could accommodate 2,500 people"*.

In 1998, the camp received a 1,000-seat cabaret bar along with many other improvements.

Pontin's closed on the 6th of October 2009, to be demolished between 2011 and 2014. A large housing estate began to be built on the site in November 2014 by Persimmon Homes. The Coastal Dunes development will consist of 353 houses and 595 car parking spaces. By June 2017, the first road – Fletcher Drive – was opened off Clifton Drive, together with the first 73 homes. Phase two, the building of another 353 homes began in February 2018.
The stretch of land between the two phases will be kept as Green Space.

Gangs of unemployed men were conscripted to widen Devonshire New Road in November.
The first Council House was occupied on the St John's Estate on the 15th of March. *"Before the housing came on St. John's estate a collection of small enterprises was in existence near the "Revoe" hill top, such as poultry enclosures and piggeries. It was a form of animal allotment and cheap into the bargain. One piggery paid £1 a year rent for 25 square yard, and a hen pen paid all of £2 year"*.
Marton War Memorial, in the south-west corner of the grounds of St Paul's Church, was unveiled on the 21st of March. The runic cross, which is shaped in white marble, was donated in memory of Lieutenant

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Colonel FA Dickson CMG by J and P Dickson of The Mount. It features the names of 64 soldiers killed during the 1914-1918 war.
The Blackpool Amateur Symphony Orchestra was founded by Percy Dayman. The word "amateur" was dropped by 1940. By 1922 the orchestra had 50 members, led by Mrs J H Shorrocks. They later changed their name to the Blackpool (Professional) Symphony Orchestra, and was the first orchestra to commence the National Scheme for Unemployed Musicians.
The Liverpool and Yorkshire Bank opened a Branch at 88 to 91 Lytham Street. On the 3rd of January 1928, it became Martins bank and it closed in 1929.
George Senior started his rock factory in George Street.
Roland Darbyshire opened his first electrical shop. He then moved to the current premises at 10-14 Upper Talbot Street (now called Deansgate), running through to 70 Talbot Road, on the 23rd of September 1933. Darbyshire's Electricals later opened a second shop on Victoria Road East in Cleveleys, a third small shop in Lytham in 2009, and a fourth at 6 Blackpool Old Road in Poulton soon after.

The Whittle Springs, Blackpool: this pub was operating at 50 Talbot Road. It was later called the Victoria for many years, and now rejoices in both names. The name came originally from a drink, taken from a spa at Whittle-le-Woods near Chorley, which was advertised on one of its windows.
It is possible, but unproven, that it was originally called the Victoria, but began to be called The Whittle by taxi drivers, to distinguish it from the Little Vic.

Blackpool Council licenced 152 vehicles for use by the 52 members of the Blackpool and District Motor Charabanc Association

Blackpool Corporation's first bus service: This began with two 20-seater Tilling Stevens vehicles running from Cleveleys to Thornton Station on the 2nd of July. The service replaced Pym's service, which used converted Model T Ford vans. A passenger shelter was soon erected at Thornton station, having been transferred from Devonshire Square.
The early buses were painted red and white with gold and red lettering. Since then, Blackpool's buses have had three colour schemes - red and white (1921-1933 - and to some from 1985-1994), green and cream (1933 to 2001), black and yellow (1987 onwards), and now grey and yellow.

William Smith Motor Company started a bus service from Blackpool to Cleveleys. This changed to the Blackpool Number 9 service in June 1926. Smith's buses were garaged in Warwick Road. He started a similar service from Layton Cemetery to Poulton in September.

Halstead Best: started his architect's practice in Blackpool, with a commission for a new Motor Coach Station on Marshall Street. He became one of the most prolific and influential local architects of the inter-war period. He was appointed professional valuer for Blackpool Corporation in the late 1920s, and was the founder President of Blackpool and Fylde Architectural Society and a founder member of South Shore Lodge of Masons in 1942.

I have listed in Appendix II the local buildings that followed his designs.

His addresses whilst living in Blackpool were:
1921 - 1 South King Street, 1922-1924 - 87a Church Street, 1925-1928 - 8 Clifton Street, 1926-1965 - Leeds Chambers, 20 Clifton Street, 1970 - as Halstead Best Burnside and Goodwright, 20 Clifton Street, and 1978-1982 – as Halstead Best, Burnside & Partners, 304 Talbot Road.

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His places of residence were:
1919 - Norwood House, 37 Warbeck Road, 1924 - 46 Reid's Avenue, 1929 - 134 Read's Avenue, 1930-1946 - 23 Park Drive (now North Park Drive)

Halstead Best died on the 5th of May 1966 at Victoria Hospital.

Blackpool Motor Coach Station: This privately-run bus station opened on land bounded by Back Street, Marshall Street (later renamed Princess Street), Middle Street and Lancaster Avenue on the 25th of March, sponsored by Shaw's Depository Limited. It could take up to 500 vehicles and had its own booking office (operated by Shaw's Depositories).
The station had an unloading space, giving access to the café, business offices, 10 lavatories, cloak-rooms, etc. The passenger department was on the left and the mechanics' department, repair shops, inspection pit, and petrol store, on the right. The station was open 24 hours and was the country's first purpose-built coach station, having 2-foot-high platforms to give access to the doors of the char-à-bancs.

By 1928, the town had 12 coach operators running daily, local and distance services. These were: Broadway Motors, Empire Motors, John Jenkings, Hill's Motors Ltd, Landsdowne Motors, M and H Motors Ltd, S and J Wood Ltd, Woods Bros Ltd, Standerwick's Ltd, Spencer's Motors, C Smith, and Salisbury and Sons Ltd.
By the following year, the town had a total of 52 coach operators of various sizes, and at least 48 coach stands around town. There were over 300 local coaches run from Blackpool.

Blackpool Corporation Coach Station: The Corporation duly officially opened its own rival Coach Station and Municipal Garage on the corner of Central Drive and Rigby Road in August (it had opened to traffic on the 29th of March). Its main, and only, building was a converted hut moved from the TNT factory in Lytham.
This station could take 48 vehicles and had a waiting room, cloakroom, lavatories, and repair facilities.
The Bus Garage was re-opened on the 22nd of April 1926, after being extended to take the increased fleet.
The fleet livery was red and cream, until it changed to green and cream in 1933.

Taylor Woodrow: Frank Taylor (aged 16) borrowed £100 to build two houses at 347 and 349 Central Drive in Blackpool. As he was too young to form his own company, his uncle Jack Woodrow lent his name to the business. By 1936, they were building in the USA, and in 1937, the Taylor Woodrow company was born. They delivered the Mulberry Harbours in the 1940s, built the world's first nuclear power station in the 1950s, and more recently transformed King's Cross Station.
They are now multi-national.

Bentley Higgs began as surveyors and estate agents, now located at 49 Whitegate Drive.
There was a Co-op store at 216 Waterloo Road. This, and number 214 – across Dunelt Road - became Watkinson's decorator's suppliers (now a Nisa shop), and Watkinson's Wallpaper Warehouse (later to become the Blackpool DIY Centre) respectively. Watkison's had other outlets on Highfield Road and at 5 Poulton Street in Fleetwood.
Preston and Bedford, chartered surveyors, opened at 18 Clifton Street. In 1953, they were operating from 25 Queen Street. The company was dissolved on the 1st of May 1985, by then, operating from 48 Cookson Street.

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The Blackpool Ramble Club was formed on March the 2nd, with Allen Clarke as President, meeting in the Alexandra Café. They later bought premises on Bethesda Road.
Between now and 1924, all the steelwork in the structure of the Tower was replaced.
Bispham Tram Station bowling green was opened on the 16th of February.
The Lancashire and Yorkshire Bank opened a branch at 388 Lytham Road. On the 3rd of January 1928, it became Martins Bank, and it closed in June 1969. It is now occupied by Eclipse hairdressers. Martins opened another, larger branch at 127 Lytham Road in 1928. It was victim to an armed robbery of the 15th of February 1966, and on the 12th of December 1969, it was downgraded to a sub-branch of Barclay Bank South Shore. It closed in 1971, and until 2016, was a BetFred a betting shop.
Diana Boddington was born on the 30th of July at Lyndhurst, Newton Drive, Blackpool, the daughter of James Boddington, an administrative officer in the Ministry of Labour. She went on to be the youngest stage manager at London's Old Vic theatre.
The population of Blackpool was now 99,639 - half as many again as ten years before.

Noah's Ark at the Pleasure Beach: this walk-through fun house, in the shape of an Ark began to be built by William H Strickler. It was surrounded by mechanical animals and rocking backwards and forwards on a model of Mount Ararat, as if in the sea. The ark's entrance was a whale's head, and a Lilly Pads obstacle, in which visitors tried to navigate their way from one wooden "pad" to another, without stepping in the thigh-high water below them.
The Pleasure Beach opened the Noah's Ark in April 1922, with a small ride called the Twistum next to it – Twistum only lasted for one year, being replaced then by the re-sited Dodgems.

"In 1936, Percy Metcalfe an associate of Joseph Emberton (known in England as a pioneer of modern architecture) was brought it to revamp the ark to the cubist style. The new animals were ready for placing on the Ark in February and March 1936. For the 1937 season a train of animals was also added to the top of the mountain as well as the familiar sight of the policeman, although in the cubist (boxy) style; not the style we see him today. Noah was also given a pet dog at this time. In all, 24 animals were involved in this conversion to cubist style".
"After the1960 season, Metcalf's creations were replaced with more realistic animals made mainly from fibreglas by artist Sheila Robinson".

By 1974, there was small train, on which the animals travelled around the ark.

In 1995, the attraction was completely rebuilt to create a new park entrance. Douglas Sills was hired for the job. He had the train removed, and the animals put them back onto Mount Ararat. Also, the original whale was moved towards the back of the attraction.
The ark is now the last working example in the UK.

The Pleasure Beach opened four more new rides this year:

- The Virginia Reel, which wasn't fully-completed until 1922, operated until 1982 (the reel was named after Luna Virginia Riehl, the daughter of the ride's creator - a Mr Henry Elmer Riehl of New York USA). On this ride, an elevator took passengers to the top in a metal tub. They were then released to hurtle downwards, round a series of hairpin bends, and finally into a series of dark tunnels;
- Their first Dodgems ride;
- The Whip - the oldest "flat" ride in the park and the only Whip in Europe. WF Mangels of Coney Island, USA, had patented the original Whip in 1915. It closed in 2004 to be moved to Dreamland in Margate in 2008, where it was never used. A smaller version, called the Mini Whip was built later nearby.

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The 1921 'Health and Pleasure Resorts Act' was passed, allowing local authorities to fund resort advertising and developments through the hire of deck chairs, beach tents, bathing machines and charges for attractions, providing a revenue stream from cultural investment to fund resort growth investment in the holiday industry which continued between the wars.

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Westbourne House School was on Lockwood Avenue in Poulton. The premises were later used as education offices, now housing the Citizens Advice Bureau.
The Poulton Morris Dancers, trained by George Bibby and his family, appeared at Carleton Gala in June. The group was composed of both boys and girls.
Singleton War Memorial was unveiled at the Parish Church on the 6th of February.
Bebbington's confectioner's and toy store opened at 130 to 132 Victoria Road West in Cleveleys, and by 1964, they were also advertising their own Electrical, TV and Radio, and Public-Address departments. The shop is currently called "@lookintobooks". Bebbington's later opened a garage on The Parade on Victoria Road (next to HA Francis and Sons Ltd's jewellery and gift shop, which was at number 122 Victoria Parade, by 1949), from which their travelling shop ran regularly. The garage later moved to St George's Lane.

Fleetwood Grammar School: Fleetwood Secondary School was opened on the 3rd of October, by Sir Henry Hibbert, although it had begun to accept pupils in May 1921.
It officially became Fleetwood Grammar School in 1944, but had been known as the Grammar for some years previously. It stood on the corner of Poulton Road and Highbury Avenue, and its motto was "*Cogitate Altiora*" meaning "Think on Higher Things". The school had its own magazine, called The Georgian. The original school colours were green and gold, but in 1946, headmaster Doctor Greive had them changed to blue, red, silver, and white.

In 1964, the Old Scholars Union commissioned the window, to depict the horrors of war and the motto *"Cogitate Altiora"*. The window was unveiled on the 31st of May, and dedicated to the Old Scholars who lost their lives. It was designed by Mrs A Howarth, the senior art mistress, and some of the pupils later helped to enlarge her original design to its full size of 10 feet by 6 feet. The window was made by Beaumont and Parkinson Ltd of Blackpool.

Fleetwood Grammar was renamed Fleetwood High School (later Hesketh High) in September 1976, and moved to Broadway in 1977, to replace the Grammar and Bailey schools.
The school buildings and the site were put up for sale in 1988, lying empty until 1993, before being demolished. The lectern that was made in recognition of the World War 1 casualties was moved to the Parish Church.

An Aldi supermarket was built on the Highbury Avenue site in 1994, being doubled in size in July 2014.

Fleetwood folk talked about their very own *"Klondyke"*, when the regular "scouring" of Wyre Dock revealed 50 tons of coal that had been lost by boats "coaling-up" before voyages. The skipper of the town dredger lazily dumped the newly-discovered coal on the mussel beds, instead of into the Lune Deep, and the people of Fleetwood raided the free cache en masse.
Ansdell Hydro was at 3 to 5 Riversleigh Avenue.
Frank Kay set up his electrical appliance business at 40 Clifton Street in Lytham.
Harold Bridges set up a haulage company, working from a hangar at the old Dick Kerr's airfield on Dock Road, Lytham until 1927, when he moved to Victoria Street. The company (by now Limited) moved to Preston in 1938 and lasted until 1950.
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Wesham War Memorial was unveiled by Captain Challoner on Weeton Road on the 27th of February. The east panel of the pedestal bears the lettering *"IN MEMORY OF THE MEDLAR AND WESHAM HEROES WHO FELL IN THE WORLD WARS 1914-1918 AND 1939-1945 THEIR NAMES SHALL LIVE FOR EVER"*. The other three panels are inscribed with the names of the fallen.
Eric Laithwaite was born in Atherton on the 14th of June. His father was a farmer and the family soon moved to the Fylde. Eric was educated at Kirkham Grammar School. He became a world-renowned scientist and electrical engineer, and for his development of the linear induction motor and maglev rail system, he became known as the "Father of Maglev".

1922
Records show that rent for the pitches on the sands this year raised £4,549 for the Corporation.
William Smith's Motor Service began running a Leyland bus across the Moss.
S Owen and Sons were operating char-à-bancs along the sea front.
Ribble Motor Services Limited (formed in 1919) began running a bus service to Preston, via Whitegate Drive, starting from Talbot Mews traffic park, opposite North Station. They soon opened a booking office at 4 Cookson Street.
Blackpool's first town centre bus route opened on the 21st of December, and the Corporation introduced larger and open-topped double-decker buses, using conductors for the first time. They had bought out a small fleet of omnibuses.

The Blackpool Biscuit Company: was formed and began making brandy snaps and biscuits in a disused chapel near Buchanan Street, selling them in kiosks at the Pleasure Beach and on the promenade. In 1924, they moved to a larger factory on the corner of Buchanan Street and Sutherland Road making their famous Gold Medal Brandy Snaps. It was then renamed Bee Bee Biscuits and moved to a new factory. Bee Bee Biscuits used Bonnie and Bright, the Bee Bee Twins, in their adverts. They were known as the Bonny Bairns.
In 1931, Bee Bee was were taken over by Lesme Ltd of Willesden.

Bee Bee's most renowned product was their Bee Bee Symbol Wheaten biscuit, which were advertised as the *"perfect biscuits, coated on one side with perfect chocolate"*. They were wrapped in the "Bonny Bairns' Airtight Pack"

Eight and a half acres of land was purchased in 1932, a new factory building was erected in Devonshire Road, Blackpool, to which production transferred two years later. Lyons Ltd bought out Lesme in 1938, and from 1944, the factory was called The Northern Symbol Biscuit Factory and Lyons changed Bee Bee Biscuits' name to Symbol Biscuits, beginning to sell biscuits under the Symbol and Lyons brand names. This changed back to Bee Bee Biscuits on the 1st of April 1950, but was back as Symbol by the early 1960s.
In 1990 it became Lyons Biscuits, and after a few years of disarray, it became Horizon Biscuits in 1994, then Premier Biscuits. It is now a part of Burtons Foods Ltd, still employing over 600 staff.

John Rawcliffe of School Lane Farm – behind the Clifton Arms at Little Marton - bought the manorial rights to Marton from the Clifton Estates and subsequently conveyed them to Blackpool Borough.
Marton Brewery closed when Royal Bank Road was remade. The site is now occupied by an unused Best Plate Factory.
Moon's Laundry off Royal Bank was changed into a mineral water plant. This meant that the only Marton laundry was the Johnson Road Laundry (behind number 18 Johnson Road), off Newhouse Road.
Hartley's Palatine Pharmacy was at 65 Whitegate Drive, on the corner of Palatine Road.
Crossroads Garage was on the south west corner of the junction of Waterloo Road and St Anne's Road.

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Swallow Side Cars, Blackpool: The Swallow Side Car and Coachbuilding Company was formed by William Lyons and William Walmsley, opening for business on the 4th of September on the 1st and 2nd floors of number 5 Bloomfield Road – later to be part of the site of the Number 1 Club. They had 8 employees. Both men lived opposite each other on King Edward Avenue at the time and in 1921, Bill Lyons had bought an aluminium Swallow sidecar made by neighbour William Walmsley to add to his own Norton motorcycle. They set up in business together and began by converting ex-army motor cycles into civilian use and making sidecars. Space soon became a problem and two other factory buildings were acquired, one in Woodfield Road, and another in John Street.

Swallow moved to number 41 Cocker Street on the corner of Exchange Street (now Ismail's tea and coffee) in November 1926. Walmsley's father had just sold his coal business, and bought the vacant factory, to rent to his son's new company for £35 per year.
In 1927, the company changed its name slightly, to the Swallow Sidecar and Coachbuilding Company and moved into the car coachwork business. They soon produced Blackpool's first locally-made car - the Austin Seven Swallow, a 2-seater 747 cc vehicle. After receiving an order for 500 cars, and only being able to produce two a day, the decision was taken to move to a larger factory in order to expand production.
The company moved to Coventry in 1928, soon changing its name to the Swallow Coachbuilding Company (1935) Ltd. That firm became Jaguar Cars in 1945. Around 500 Swallows were built there, and the later Jaguar SS type cars were named after the Seven Swallow.

Hawtin's, Blackpool: The four Hawtin brothers (Frank, Albert, Percy, and Ernie) opened their factory at the corner of Chiswick Grove, making jukeboxes and slot machines for funfairs. One of their most famous slots was the Clown game, where punters had to toss a ball into the wide-open mouth of the model clown. The idea was to score 32 to win a prize, but the secret was that the clowns were all geared to ensure that 32 could not be scored.

In 1939, the Hawtin Brothers bought Cheswick and Wright (who had begun in Back Gladstone Street) and began to make rings for aircraft gun turrets. Frank Hawtin had moved from 19 Argyle Road to 17 Livingstone Road, and in 1939, he invented the grab type vending machine that tempts the player to win a soft toy or trinket with a mechanical grab arm.

In 1946, at their Blackpool and Kirkham factories, they made the first jukebox to be made in Britain. US Military transport planes carried the Wurlitzer Symplex mechanisms to their UK bases, and then transported them to the Hawtin's factory on Preston New Road in Blackpool. Officials of the US State Department then supervised the manufacture of the jukeboxes in that factory.

Also, in 1946, Frank Hawtin formed the Anglo-American Tooth Corporation in 1946, making the UK's first plastic false teeth. The Hawtin brothers then bought the Dental Manufacturing Company (DMC) in 1947, to make plastic false teeth etc.

Frank became a common sight around the town in the 1960s, particularly after buying his Bentley SS on the 4th of May 1962 – Registration Number FH 17. He sold the DMC in 1968, and on his death, left the "Hawtin Scholarship", a legacy to provide scholarships to enable high ability students from the Northwest of England to obtain professional qualifications in electrical, electronic, manufacturing, or related engineering. He lived at Birks Farm on Ballam Road – once the Dower House to the Clifton Estate. He kept a herd of highland cattle and another of deer.

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The Hawtin headquarters in later years were in Metropolitan House on Preston New Road. Frank Hawtin Limited had been formed on the 7th of September 1938 and ceased trading in 1983. The site of the HQ is now filled by a Wickes DIY store.

The Bloomfield Hotel, Blackpool: This three-storey hostelry opened to customers on the 15th of February, at the South-eastern corner of Main Road (Now Ansdell Road) and Bloomfield Road. It was officially opened on the 19th of March. It soon became the favourite watering hole for many of Blackpool Football Club's fans, and the landlord of the hotel by 1934, was David Rollo. The pub contains a large and now-famous mural of Sir Stanley Matthews.
The address is now 47 Ansdell Road.

After many years in the financial doldrums, it was purchased in 2015, by the Dorbiere Pub Group, who fully refurbished it, and re-opened it as the Bloomfield Brewhouse on the 21st of August that year.
The addition of canopied external seating areas to the North and West sides has made the venue more attractive to passing trade, and its fortunes have improved greatly.
The new pub has its own micro-brewery.

Harold Kay started his solicitor's practice on Queen Street, before moving to 10 Cedar Street (now Cedar Square). He became partners with Henry Pickup in August 1923, and they moved to 20 Edward Street in the December.
HP May and Hamer (James Hamer), solicitors, were in business at 35 Queen Street. By 1934, the building was occupied by Mellelieu and Son, boot deliverers. It has since been home to many eating places, including Spice of India – advertising that they were "*Open until 2.30am during the week and until 3am at weekends, Spice of India attracts both Blackpool's late-night revellers as well as those wanting to eat at a more civilized hour*", Queen Priscilla's restaurant, and since the 15th of March 2016, it has been Buckingham's Bar.
Marton Plumbers started business at 322 Waterloo Road near Spen Corner. They later moved to number 25 Newhouse Road.
Harry Bedford became the first Blackpool Football Club player to be capped for England, when he played against Sweden.
Black's Dairies in Bela Grove and Cumberland Avenue supplied central Blackpool.
There was a Chinese Restaurant on Dale Street – probably Blackpool's first.
The District Bank was at 100 Central Drive. The bank's original title was the Manchester and Liverpool District Bank, and its motto was "*Decus Prudentiae Merces*". By the 1930s, there were also branches at 26 Talbot Road, 29-31 Bond Street (became Johnson's of Bond Street, a wool and haberdashery shop, in 1974), 497 Lytham Road, 35 Warley Road (demolished in December 2013 to make way for a Morrison's supermarket, which opened on the 19th of May 2014 – replaced on the 17th of August 2016 by a Co-op Local store), Westcliffe Drive in Layton, 13 Whitegate Drive (closed in July 2013), 52 Red Bank Road, and at Cleveleys, Thornton and Poulton. These all later became NatWest branches.
Wray's Auction Rooms and Salerooms were based at Bethesda Square.
E Butterworth and Sons' horse-drawn wagonettes were operated from their central depository at the Prince of Wales Stables on York Street.
Percival Bailey *"Blackpool's most popular auctioneer"* was holding auctions twice a week in the Masonic Hall on Waterloo Road.
Blackpool Rotary Club was formed, meeting in EH Booth's Café.
Sutcliff and Talbot, estate agents, were at 1a Dickson Road, owned by J Cunliffe.

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Queen Street Shopping centre was officially opened on the 27th of April. By 1980, its occupants included "select" shops such as:

- Blaiwals''s furriers at 5 Queen's Square (now the Fish-U-Like chip shop),
- Camille ladies' fashions at 20a Queen Street (owned by Wendy Ashworth).
- Capodimonte Centre at 25 Queen Street,
- Cave's Corner at 41 Queen Street,
- Continental Boutique at 4 Queen Street,
- Continental Glass and china Centre, 25 Queen Street,
- D Forsyth lighting at 31/33 Queen Street,
- Finlay's Tobacconists at 1 Queen's Square (later the Corner Café, now vacant),
- Flair leather goods and handbags at 7 Queen Street,
- Jeanne Stuart ladies' coats and clothing at 13 and 23 Queen Street,
- Madam Louise ladies clothing and millinery, Queen's Square,
- Parkinson and Turner French polishers at 16 Queen Street, and
- Phil Lewis Continental Fashions at 5 Queen Street,
- Queen's Eating House at 37 Queen Street,
- Raymonde, men's fashions at 7 Queen's Square (now the HN Off Licence),
- Romany Barbeque at 27 Queen Street (later to become Jagger's Wine Bar and Grill, where steaks and kebabs were cooked over hot coals),
- Sandra Jaffa fashions at 7 Queen Street, with Malcolm Jaffa Furs at Gladys Whittaker,
- September Hair Studio at 15-17 Queen Street,
- Speak's Antiques, 9 Queen's Square (now Feast About café),
- Standerwick's China and Glass Ltd at 19 Queen Street,
- The Blackpool Fabric Centre at 35 Queen Street,
- The Card Shop at 29 Queen Street,
- The Corset Salon at 2a Queen Street,
- The Curio Shop at 3 Queen's Square (currently vacant),
- The Town and Country Restaurant at 4 Queen's Square,
- Upstairs Downstairs licensed restaurant at 2 Queen Street,
- Vogue Bambini Boutique children's clothes at 21 Queen Street,

Jackson's Florists was opened on Dickson Road.
The Blackpool Model Engineering Co Ltd was at 18 Dickson Chambers, designing and selling scale models.
George Tonner organised his first "Skee Ball" arcade game competition at the Pleasure Beach, with a motorcycle as first prize.
Thomas Fairclough started his roofing business on Dover Road, with his depot at the rear of 9 Preston Old Road. The company now works from Rear Olive Grove.
Sunnybank terrace of houses was built on Layton Road.
The Palm Court Hotel was built on the Promenade at Bispham and was later run by Methodist Holiday Homes Limited.
Work began on Watson's Lane Council Estate. Layton House, on the north-eastern corner of Lytham Road and Watson's Lane had been demolished.
Batty's Baby Cars were in business at 21 Station Road, South Shore.
Singer Paul Robeson performed in Blackpool, later stating that he first realised that he was a singer whilst performing here in the play "Voodoo" at the Opera House. He returned to appear at Feldman's Theatre on the 4th of August 1935, and again at the Odeon Theatre on the 21st of September 1958.

©

Allan Prior was born in Newcastle. He grew up in Blackpool and became a respected novelist and TV producer, making several films and radio plays about the town.

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Poulton War Memorial was officially unveiled on the 15th of July in Queens Square. When the one-way traffic system was proposed, the memorial was moved on the 1st of August 1979 to its present location in Market Place. It holds 43 names from World War 1 and 45 from World War 2. Relatives of the local dead each laid a white pebble at the base of the memorial.

The Lancashire and Yorkshire Bank opened their Cleveleys branch on Victoria Road. On the 3rd of January 1928, it became Martins Bank. Between 1967 and 1968, it was closed, and the business transferred to the new building at 2a Crescent East.

Cleveleys Holiday Camp was last held in summer after it was wound up in July.

The UK's first automatic telephone exchange, Fleetwood: was opened on the 15th of July, by the Relay Automatic Telephone Company, on the corner of North Albert and Victoria Streets. *"The system was an entirely different concept from electro-mechanical type such as Strowger which involved the moving of a brush on a wiper over a number of contacts. In principle, the relay system, with its use of markers and relay cross point matrix and link trunking, foreshadowed the later crossbar and reed-electronic exchanges"*.
Shirley's Cycles later occupied the building, and the library now stands there.
The exchange was in use until 1955, when the current exchange was opened on Poulton Road.

Horsley's Removals began operating from Maritime Street in Fleetwood. Then, as EH Horsley and Co, the company soon became auctioneers and valuers too, and opened retail premises at 179 Lord Street, later moving to 188 to 195 Lord Street, which was a large store, with ground, first and basement floors. They opened a second outlet at 4 St George' Avenue in Cleveleys, together with a warehouse on Station Road. Horsley Brothers Ltd was formed in 1993 but was dissolved on the 27th of July 2012. The later shop on Lord street is now Mike Sanderson's Electricals.

Fleetwood Catholic Club was opened on Hesketh Place on the 24th of February. In 1997, Harlequin's nightclub opened at 26 Kemp Street in Fleetwood in the Catholic Club buildings. It closed in 2006, to be replaced by flats.

The trawler "Good Luck" caught a 20-stone sturgeon, which sold for 5 pounds and 15 shillings.

The King's Own Old Comrades Club was at 40 Ash Street in Fleetwood.

The Merger of Lytham and St Anne's: The Charter of Incorporation for the Borough of Lytham St Anne's was granted on the 28th of March, and the Urban Districts of Lytham and St-Annes-On-The-Sea amalgamated into a Municipal Corporation on the 1st of May (Charter Day), in the face of Blackpool's expansion.

The coat of arms was granted on the 9th of November as:

> ARMS: Barry wavy of six Argent and Azure a Lymphad Or the sail Sable thereon a Bend of the first charged with three Mullets Gules on a Chief wavy of the second a Cross flory between two Lions rampant Argent".
> MOTTO: "*Salus populi suprema lex est*", meaning, "The welfare of the people is the highest law".

To ease into the amalgamation, several street names were changed, for example:

> Alexandra Road East (western end) to Hove Road
> Ball's Road to Highbury Road
> Cambridge Road to Carlton Road
> Clifton Street to Curzon Road
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Destructor Cottages, changed to "off Kilnhouse Lane"
Kensington Road to Caryl Road
Lyne Street to "off St Albans Road"
Lytham Road to become part of Heyhouses Lane
Nelson Street to Holmfield Road
North Drive to Clifton Drive North
Sidney Street to Sydney Street, off Hove Road
South Drive to Clifton Drive South

St Anne's War Memorial Hospital: The large local hospital was opened by Lord Derby in Banastre Holme on the 1st of May, to provide additional beds for the coast's sick.

The house Banastre Holme had been built in 1897, by Thomas Banastre, a wealthy bazaar owner, for himself and his family. Mr Bannister had opened his bazaar in 1879, after buying the Blackpool Borough Bazaar in Bank Hey Street.
The house was later bought by Lord Ashton with the stated intention of turning it into a hospital for St Anne's. He had therefore gifted it to the local community in honour of the local war dead, on the 29th of March 1920. The cottage hospital was built between 1918 and 1925. It originally had a rectangular administration block with wards added to the north-west, and its own operating theatre. The first patients were admitted on the 14th of May, and it had 45 rooms, 41 beds, and 61 staff.

A new maternity ward was added in 1926, to designs by Gunson and Son, to take cases from Lytham before Lytham Cottage Hospital opened its own Maternity Ward in 1930. An X-Ray Department was also opened in 1926.
Originally supported by public subscription, the hospital was taken over by the National Health Service in 1948, closed in 1991, and was demolished in 1996, to make way for the houses of Bannistre Close (wrongly spelled by the builders).

St Anne's Indoor Market: was opened on St Davids Road South on the 24th of July. Faced with an impressive terracotta frontage, the indoor market hall measured 160 square yards and contained 100 stalls – in 5 rows of 20 each. There were also 16 lock-up shops on the two outward sides. Every unit was in use by August 1922. The building also had a side entrance on Alexandra Road West. Unusually, there were no outdoor stalls, and the market was open 7 days a week from 9 am to 8 pm. It sold local fruit, vegetables, meat, and fish, as well as clothing and household goods.
The architect was Arnold England, and the builders were Keenan, Parker, and Yates Ltd.

In later years, the market building became Moore's Bus Garage, Fames supermarket, then a Co-operative store, and finally a Kwik Save store. Kwik Save closed the store in March 2006, and the whole edifice was demolished in 2008, to be replaced by a block of apartments.

St Anne's Ex-Servicemen's Club: was opened on the 11th of February, in an old army hut on Alexandra Road West, with J Batty as the club secretary.
The new – and current – club was formally opened on the 2nd of October 1929, by Earl Jellicoe, Admiral of the Fleet. It is on the corner of 22 Alexandra Road and Holmefield road. The club has a Member's lounge bar, a games room, and a concert room for functions. There is also a large bowling green at the rear.

Clifton Tennis Courts were opened in St Anne's on the 17th of June.

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Soper's of St Anne's: A drapery shop named The Sheet Company opened at 35 Wood Street. After World War 2, an ex-serviceman from the Northeast, Ronald Soper, was employed as an assistant at the shop. He became the manager and eventually the owner and moved to the Saunder's Dress Shop on the corner of St Andrew's Road in 1982, renaming it R Soper (Drapers) Limited. That building had been briefly Mellings drapers until this take-over and had started life as the home of WE Russell's and Co Ltd, electricians. Soper's was later renamed Sandown and Bourne.

Ribble buses started running between Preston and St Anne's.
The Lytham War Memorial cenotaph was unveiled on the 14th of January, in the Market Square. It had replaced the temporary wooden memorial. The Clifton Memorial Fountain had been moved to Sparrow Park on Ballam Road for other reasons in July 1909, thus leaving room.

Mount Olivet Pentecostal Church, Lytham: opened at 10 Preston Road. The original church had two main rooms: the main sanctuary, and a back room where prayer meetings were held. There was a gallery, a vestry, and a kitchen, with outdoor toilets. Its first pastor was James Hawkins, and it was built by Eli Berry of Warton Street Lytham.
In 1938, Eli's son, Harold Berry, became its first and only full-time missionary, going to the Belgian Congo. Pastor Alan Hocking added the new foyer and side rooms in about 1975.

LS Lowry and the Fylde and Wyre: Lancashire's most renowned painter painted a picture entitled "Regent Street, Lytham". It remains one of his most famous works.

"Lowry first visited Lytham on the Fylde coast as a small child and came back many times during his life. He was fascinated by the sea and often drew and painted the yachts he saw at Lytham. His family holidayed there and his parents even chose it as their honeymoon destination. Yet away from the water, he loved to wander in the countryside around Lytham and produced a whole series of rural landscape paintings and drawings with clumped trees, fields with haystacks and scattered dwellings".

He painted pictures of boats at Fleetwood, Knott End, and Lytham – he liked to holiday on all three promenades. In total, he is known to have painted or sketched several local views: "Yachts" (his first-known sketch, painted in Lytham) in 1902, St Anne's and Hardhorn near Blackpool – in several paintings of the Fylde landscape of 1918, "Landscape, Lytham St Annes" in 1916, "Lytham St Annes" again, in 1918, "Regent Avenue in Heyhouses, Lytham" in 1922, "Lytham" of 1923, "Church Street in Kirkham" in 1925, "A Lancashire Village" (same scene in Kirkham) of 1935, "Fylde Farm" in 1943, "Boats on the beach at Lytham", "Yachts at Lytham St Anne's" in 1951, "Figures on a jetty, Knott End-on-sea" in 1954, "St Anns on Sea" in 1957, "Jetty at Knott End" also in 1957, "Pier at Lytham" of 1960, and "Old farm house at Lytham" in 1963. "Yachts at Lytham St Anne's" sold in 2012, for £136,949.
His paintings also include several studies of young girls on the beach at Lytham, and a few of girls playing tennis.

During the 1950s, Lowry would regularly visit his young protégé Carol Lowry and her mother Mattie who were holidaying in Margaret Blackwell's guesthouse on the Esplanade at Knott End. *"Lowry would regularly arrive unannounced and as well as day trips travelling around the area Carol and 'Uncle Laurie' would walk down the half mile long stretch of sea front road with its view out over Morecambe Bay. They would walk to end of the road and the concrete jetty, and look over the brief stretch of water to the sandy beach at Fleetwood with the North Euston hotel and monument in easy view"*.

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A 5-foot-tall statue of Lowry and his dog, in stainless steel, was unveiled on Knott End Esplanade on the 11th of September 2015. It was placed on the exact spot where Lowry used to love to sketch.

Note: Rumours of Lowry living at 44 Poulton Street in Kirkham are unproven.

RH Millner and Company were running a garage on Station Road in Wesham. By 1934, they were advertising themselves as *"haulage contractors and general carriers, funeral undertakers and motor hearse proprietors, taxis and private cars for hire (open day and night)"*. This building became Kirkham Tyre Services' depot in 1988.

Freckleton Playing Fields: In May, Freckleton Parish Council bought Long Ends Field for use as public playing fields and decreed that it be *"thrown open for recreation and that the pot be fenced at once with chestnut paling"*. This was the only public open space in the village until in July 1927, the council decided to buy 2 plots of land behind Holy Trinity Church. On the 21st of July 1928, a bowling green was opened, and that was followed in 1929, by the opening of tennis courts, and cricket and football pitches.
After the air crash of 1944, the American services worked to redesign the fields as the Memorial Playing Fields.

1954 saw Long Ends Field redeveloped as the new home of both the Football Club and the Cricket Club.

Freckleton Women's Institute was formed in April.
Catforth and District Summer Football League was formed. Its first trophy, the Tom Barron Cup was won by Gresford Juniors, and in 1929, White Horse won the league and cup double. The league was suspended in 1931 and did not restart fully until 1947. Teams' grounds were in various strange places; Out Rawcliffe played *"Behind Moss Edge Garage"*, Eagland Hill at Upper Birk's Farm, and Catforth in a field behind Jenkinson's garage.
Treales AFC came into being.

1923

The first Blackpool Grand Carnival: was held from June the 9th to the 16th, and twelve million visitors attended, brought in by 200 extra trains and 51,000 vehicles. Based on the world-famous carnival in Nice, it was an attempt to replace the Illuminations. The Carnival King was Doodles, the clown from the Tower Circus, who arrived by aeroplane onto the beach (the plane turned over after it landed). His Carnival Queen was Fred Walmsley, a "dame" from the South Pier show. They led a procession including people wearing papier-mâché heads made at the tram works by craftsmen from Nice in France.
As part of the celebrations, an aeroplane flew over the procession to herald the arrival of the carnival King and Queen. Sadly, the plane turned turtle, and landed on its roof on the beach.
Local music hall singer Florence Stevenson, was picked to be the face of the carnival. She was the daughter of councillor Edward Stevenson, who became mayor in 1939, and her face adorned thousands of commemorative pin brooches and badges at the time.
An estimated 2 million people attended the event, swelling the town's collective coffers, and the decision was taken to make it an annual event.
The event also incorporated the Blackpool Children's Carnival, which had been held since 1897.

South Shore Open Air Baths, Blackpool: The South Shore Swimming Coliseum and Open-Air Baths opened on the 9th of June, to coincide with carnival week. It held its first swimming gala, and was the world's largest), and had been modelled on Rome's Coliseum. Costing over £75,000 to build, its official title was

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originally, South Promenade Bathing Pool. It was sometimes known as South Shore Lido, although the official opening souvenir booklet titles them the South Shore, Blackpool Open Air Baths, and The Bath, South Promenade. The first Superintendent was Mr RL Swarbrick.

Touted as the *"largest and finest Open-air Natatorium in the world"*, the pool was modelled in a D shape, and accommodation was provided for 8,000 spectators (5,000 seated) and 1,500 bathers, using cubicle space for 3,000. The building, which formed an amphitheatre, contained cubicles for dressing, coffee bars in each wing, three cafés - all under cover, offices, cloak rooms, rooms for staff and orchestra, and two private slipper baths were provided for first-aid purposes. The facility was open between 7 am and 9pm on week days, and 8am and 8.30pm on Sundays.
The pool itself was approximately 376 feet long by 170 feet wide, and was D-shaped, with an oval perimeter, with its own concaved pageant platform. It was surrounded by Romanesque pillars. The pool's D shape necessitated a swimming events area, which was partitioned when necessary.
There was a "cut out" for the diving boards at one end, where the depth of the water was 15 feet. The diving board area had 7 boards, including 2 x 3 metre springboards, 2 x 7.5 metre firm boards, and a 10-metre-high-board (which swayed on windy days). There were also three water chute slides at the Southern end.
The sea water supplied for the baths was filtered with an apparatus which was also used for pumping water from the sea and filling the bath at the rate of 75,000 gallons per hour. The holding capacity was 1,600,000 gallons.
The whole of the outside was clad in white *"faïence"* brick supplied by Shaw's of Bolton.
A watch tower was soon built in the baths, for the safety of bathers. Attendants posted on the tower had access to a small motor boat to aid them in the rescue of bathers in trouble.

The British Olympic swimming trials were held at the baths in 1924.
By 1929, nearly 94,000 people had visited the baths, and a large open-air sun terrace was added in 1935. Many stars of the cinema took time out to bathe in its beautiful surroundings, and in 1934 Associated Talking Pictures used the pool for scenes in the Gracie Fields musical "Sing as We Go". By the end of 1930s, the number of visitors had totalled over nine million. It was the home for many Beauty Queen competitions during its lifetime. Some of the very early ones featured contestants wearing paper bags over their heads, so that they were judged solely upon their figures. The baths also staged many Water Polo matches.

In later years, the baths had to be entered via a stone bridge, as the car park had been extended around it.

Popularly known as South Shore Baths, they were closed to the public in 1981, and demolished in February 1983, to make way for the construction of Sandcastle Centre, a novel indoor swimming experience, which opened in 1986.

South Shore Promenade extension opened, and when the land was reclaimed from the sea, the Pleasure Beach was no longer on the shore. Part of the promenade was put aside for the building of a Model Yacht pond opposite Harrowside recreation ground.
Around now, cast iron mile marker posts were erected along the Promenade. Some believe these to mark the Golden Mile itself, but the actual purpose is no longer known.
One of the popular stalls on the promenade was Madame Hilton, Character Expert. She offered *"advice on all matters"*, if customers paid her 6d or a shilling to *"show her your left hand"*.

©

North Shore Boating Pool, Blackpool: was opened. It was to be open-air baths like South Shore, but funds ran out and this never materialised. It was never used as baths but hosted many amusements.
The pool was run by the Maxwell family from the 1920s to the 1970s, and there is a tale that they were the first to introduce "paddle boats" to England. The attraction originally built as one complete pool, but in the mid-1930s, motor boats were introduced and the pool was divided into two halves. Both pools were 18 inches deep.
As well as the boating pool, the Maxwells introduced children's attractions, such as the Fairy Cycles, the Wendy Glide, and the Peter Pan Railway. There was also the Jigsaw Train, in which *"the train travelled around a winding track which was sunk below ground level. Instead of sitting in carriages passengers climbed into tubs. Once the ride started these tubs would spin round"*.
The pool was completely refurbished in 1984 and given the grand title of the North Shore Leisure and Boating Centre. It has been used latterly as a Go-Kart track.

Note: The first motor boat was invented and designed by FW Ofeldt in 1885, in the USA, but their popularity only blossomed in this country after a national association was formed in 1928.

Nearby, a stretch of 100-foot-high false cliffs was built between the sunken gardens and the new promenade. These were made of *"Pulhamite"*, a cement-like artificial render used to cover real stones.

Talbot Road Bus Station, Blackpool: Talbot Mews was bought by William Smith, who began to stop his buses there. The company started a bus service from Talbot Mews via Newton Drive to the Plough Inn at Staining from October. Talbot Mews had a 100-car garage and a cloak room, and after being bought by the Corporation on the 19th of April 1926, bus shelters and conveniences were built there. It was an open-air Bus Station (or its official title - Transport Centre) and was renamed Talbot Road Bus Station after it had been extended in 1929, when the buildings on Talbot Mews and as far as Cookson Street were demolished to make room. Its first cast iron bus shelters were built.

The other town centre terminus was Adelaide Place, with another starting on Corporation Street in 1940.

In September 1938, the bus station, complete with a five-storey indoor car park was opened for use. Its tiles were green and white to match the livery of the trams and buses, and the Talbot Road frontage sported a frieze decorated with carved transport motifs – they were covered by the Corporation in 1963, with corrugated steel.

The car park provided space for 800 cars on its four upper levels plus mezzanines and the roof, and the vehicle entrance was on Deansgate. The ground floor level was specially designed to house Blackpool's bus station, and its ceiling height could accommodate double-decker buses – it was open on three sides; Talbot Road, Cookson Street and Deansgate (the sides were bricked in during the war). There were also two passenger lifts, and a basement, which houses public toilets.
It was officially opened in July 1939 and was the UK's first true multi-storey car park. English Heritage has declared *"The combined car park and bus station erected on Talbot Road, Blackpool (1936-7), was the first multi-storey municipal garage, and the first to be integrated with the public transport infrastructure"*. The bus station was not actually completed until late 1939, by Atherton Brothers, and boasted a café (The Pandora), a news stand, and an office.
A second bus entrance was opened on Deansgate in 1979, when traffic was taken eastwards due to the new railway station. A small café and takeaway soon opened opposite the entrance, offering left luggage facilities. This is currently called Sizzlers.

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Buses stopped using the station in 2002, and variously terminated on town centre streets instead. The only users of the station were Stagecoach Ltd.
The car park was extensively refurbished and opened again in November 2013, but the ground floor was then enclosed and converted into retail units by July 2014.
The building is now the oldest multi-storey car park in the UK.

In October 2019, a new Bus Hub was opened on Market Street, to provide a central point once more. The Council built an extra bus lane, widened the road for safer access for taxis and buses, put in new bus stops, and improved the road and pavement surfaces. The changes then meshed with the Customer Centre on Market Street which now provides timetable, wayfinding, and ticketing information to customers.

LUT (Lancashire United Transport) started their Blackpool bus service from Manchester in August.

The Cenotaph War Memorial, Blackpool: Designed by Ernest Prestwich, at a cost of £17,000, this was unveiled on the 11th of November in the Promenade Park, and replaced the temporary memorial. The new inscription was "*In Memory of Our Glorious Dead, 1914-1918*" (1939-1945 was added later), and the plaques were sculpted by Gilbert Ledward.

The design was by Ernest Prestwich of Leigh. *"The cenotaph was to be erected in Princess Parade at a cost of £15,000 (monies to be 'defrayed' from the profits of the munitions works in the town). It would be an obelisk, 90-foot-high and would be a representation of Cleopatra's Needle, though taller than it by 5 feet. It would have a lion at each corner and sculptured panels on each side at the base. The names of the dead would be engraved on bronze plates placed on two large stones at the base to represent the stones of the graves in France. On the east and west fronts would be carved laurel wreaths with the Blackpool coat of arms. It was proposed that the construction of the monument would provide work for the unemployed"*.

The stone was to have been Denby Dale white but was later changed to Cornish granite. Brigadier General Topping unveiled the monument, and the two base stones were unveiled by the mothers of the two Blackpool Victoria Cross recipients, Mrs Boughey and Mrs Smith.

At 98 feet, it is Britain's **second** tallest - Chatham Naval Memorial is 110 feet high.

The Midland Bank had a branch at 8-10 Whitegate Drive, and had several other branches around the area by the end of the 1920s. They were at Talbot Square, 74 Foxhall Road, 253 Dickson Road, 36 Pleasant Street, 28 Red Bank Road, 21 Westcliffe Drive, 46 Bond Street, Highfield Road, 148 Lytham Road (later to become Ziggys, the Manhattanz Café, and more recently Roosters), 10-12 St Anne's Road East, Waterloo Road, Common Edge Road, Newhouse Road, 22-24 Bethesda Road (now Terry's Carpets), 142 Church Street, and at the Market Place in Poulton.
Devonshire Square Post Office was in operation next to the bank. It moved to the corner of Bryan Road in the late 1940s (into the vacated Cooper's bakery) and closed in 2015, to move across the road. For many years until its closure, the post office sign stretched round both sides of the building, and was painted with the words *"Whitegate Drive Post Office"* together with paintings of the York to London Royal mail coach circa 1820.

Clottu's Chocolates, Blackpool: Hermann Clottu, a Swiss pastry chef and chocolatier, moved to Blackpool and opened a shop at 38 Bond Street, soon followed by a small shop on Church Street, near the Grand Theatre. The Church Street venture soon closed and he moved it to 33 Corporation Street.

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Then, in 1933, he opened his biggest shop at 48 Whitegate Drive. He then had a stall inside the Winter Gardens and supplied his chocolates to the resort's biggest hotels including The Savoy. Hermann died in 1968, and his daughters ran the shop until the mid-1970s, since when the premises have had several tenants. It is currently the Circle of Life charity shop.

Bunnock Hall in Hoo Hill was demolished to make way for the construction of Garstang Road.
Marks and Spencer opened their store at 47-58 Church Street; it was known as a bazaar.
The Hippodrome was extensively altered.
Claremont Recreation Ground was opened in June, complete with bowling greens.
The Poor Children's Camp at Squires Gate was opened by the Mayoress of Manchester on the 17th of April.
All Saints Victoria School closed, as the Church was unable to fund its upkeep.
The Northern Cross-Country Association annual cross-country championships were held at Whitegate Park on the 17th of February.
Fylde Wireless Society opened their headquarters at the Hippodrome on the 1st of February.
The Bank of Liverpool and Martins opened at 10-12 Clifton Street on the 31st of May.

Number 22 Clifton Street, Blackpool: The Bank of Liverpool and Martins built their main Blackpool branch at 22 Clifton Street this year. The Gazette described it as follows: *"A valuable site has been acquired by the Bank of Liverpool and Martins Ltd., on which a handsome and commodious bank, of which we give an illustration, is being erected to the designs of Mr Walter Wade Lic. R.I.B.A., architect of St Annes, the contractors being Messrs J Parkinson and Sons, Ltd., Blackpool. The site is Nos 10 and 12, Clifton Street, Blackpool, where stands at present a company house and a shop, both of which are being entirely cleared away. The front, in the classic style, is in Nelson Stone and consists of a heavy rusticated base, carrying four Corinthian columns supporting the pediment, in which the Bank coat-of-arms is carved. The entrance door is cased in solid bronze, as also are the windows to the front. The whole of the ground floor will be occupied by the Bank proper, the first and second floors consisting of suites of offices. The interior of the Bank is carried out in Marble and fibrous plaster, the style of architecture being in the Doric order. The fittings, panelling etc., will be in mahogany. The building is fireproof, and is equipped with every modern convenience, centrally heated, well ventilated, and will undoubtedly prove one of the finest-equipped buildings for its purpose in Blackpool"*. The bank was opened on the 6th of October.

On the 3rd of January 1928, it became simply Martins Bank. Martins merged with Barclay's Bank on the 15th of December 1969 and the Martins branch was taken over by the Barclay's branch on Clifton Street. Both banks then worked from the building that had been renumbered as 22 to 28 Clifton Street. The bank finally closed on the 12th of November 1982.

The building became licensed premises in August 1983, and then a bar called the Mint in late 1985. St Martin's Tavern, then Never on a Sunday from 1994, Bar:Me in 2000, and the Boomerang Bar followed. Lionel's Bar was opened there on the 20th of December 2002, by DJ Lionel Vinyl (Ian Davenport). It then became the Green Dragon, Green Parrot (in 2009), and the Lime Bar.
Rouge burlesque bar opened in the building on the 25th of November 2011, and on the 14th of December 2012, Rouge turned into a weekend-only Strip and Lap Dancing Club. This venue closed in late 2013, and the building once more became Lionel's Bar, which closed in 2015.

In business on Albert Terrace, near to EH Booth's, was Hall, Higham, and Company, UCP (United Cow Products) – running through to the Strand, UCP's popular Strand Restaurant, and Nutbrown's Kitchen Products, with its Nutbrown Arcade also running to the Strand. Thomas M Nutbrown Limited made and

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sold kitchen products throughout the UK, from their 4-storey premises in Atlantic Buildings on Walker Street. After the company moved to Bristol Avenue in 1966 (into the building which is now the Bulldog Gym), the factory was taken over, between 1973 and 1978 by Lancastrian Pottery, and then by Lefton's furnishers in 1978. Atlantic Buildings were sold in 2016.
Abraham Preston, an inventor, lived at 28/30 Wood Street, also running a joinery works in Cunliffe Road.
The Blackpool Argus newspaper was first published on the 1st of December.
Blackpool's first Telephone Kiosks were erected in Talbot Square, Manchester Square, and Gynn Square on the 21st of April.
Pod's Farm, at Pod's Nook, Division Lane was demolished. Its tenant "Jack o' the Pod" had been a gamekeeper for the nearby Clifton Estate. The other gamekeeper lived at the recently-demolished keeper's cottage on Division Lane. Division Lane itself had run from Pod's to Cross Slack for many years, and at one time, Pod's was actually considered important enough to feature in a school atlas.
The houses known as Midgeland Terrace were already built at the junction of Jubilee Lane and School Road. The area was known as *"Little Midgeland".*
Scausby Villa was on the corner of Watson's Lane and Hawes Side Lane, with Daggers Hall itself nearby, opposite Daggers Hall Lane, to the west of Vicarage Lane, and surrounded by brick works and clay pits.
The Windermere Estate began to be constructed between Lytham Road and Watson's Lane. Based upon designs by surveyor AAC Moore of 3 Birley Street, it would comprise exclusive houses on Windermere, Coniston, Grasmere, Thirlmere, and Ullswater Roads. The original plan included tennis courts and homes where Watson's Road Park now sits.
Sewage pumping stations were built at the site of Harrowside Bridge and its slade. There are now 23 pumping stations which transfer the waste, via the Coastal Transfer Main (built in 1996), to a treatment works at Jameson Road in Fleetwood.
Blackpool Council bought its first batch of 9 electric powered refuse vehicles. By 1936 the fleet numbered 26 – the remainder being mechanically-propelled. Their duties comprised refuse collection, gully-emptying, sewer flushing, street sweeping and collecting, and a small proportion of general work.
Joseph Seddon set up his ice cream factory in Sep Avenue (later called Dover Road).
British Silk Screen (1923) Limited founded their advertising printers in Warwick Road.
L Goldstein opened his pinafore and overall works at Back 47 Dean Street.
The Saxon Radio Company was operating from the Henry Street Works, in Faraday House at 38 Henry Street in South Shore, manufacturing valve radiograms. This was later owned by Leonard Heys Limited. Behind the works, on Back Henry Street, a strip club called the Blinkin Owl was in operation during the 1960s.
Ramsell Ltd were in operation on Harley Road, manufacturing rubber grip mats for the motor trade.

Windsor Woollies: was established at 9 Brown Street in Colne by Benjamin Windsor. They soon moved to Skipton Road in Colne, and in 1923, they stopped the retail side of their business to concentrate on manufacturing only. They also moved to the first floor of a new factory in Buchanan Street, later opening an outlet shop off Cornford Road.
1926 saw the company incorporated as B Windsor and Son Limited.
They moved to their new, purpose-built premises "Castle Works" on Station Road in Poulton in 1928, and in 1932, they began to make their now-famous woollen swimwear – which they called Windsor Water Woolies. They also had a factory on Windsor Road in Garstang, which was opened in 1966 by TV star Michael Crawford. The trade names were Windsor Woollies and Windsorlee.
In their prime, the company also had London Showrooms at 216 Upper Chambers, Regent Street.
The company limped on for many years, with various attempts at diversification failing due to appalling management. There was a small outlet at 150 Preston Old Road for several years. This closed in the 1980s

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and is now the premises of West Coast Motor Services. Windsor stayed at Castle Works until their ignominious demise in 1992, with the last incarnation being B Windsor and Sons Ltd (Design Signs). The company of B Windsor and Sons was dissolved on the 22nd of January 2019.

Martin's Bank opened their Bispham branch at 71 Red Bank Road, on the corner of England Road. It was closed in 1987. The building now houses the offices of Black Tax Ltd.

Seniors Fish and Chips: A fish and chip shop opened at 106 Normoss Road, and in 2000, the Horabin family bought the business after their father Richard retired as a fish merchant. Originally a simple end-terraced property, they quickly took over some of the adjacent car park and created a new two-storey shop. It is a 100-seat restaurant and takeaway.
In 2004, it became the year's winner of best fish and chip shop in the Northwest, and then in January 2012, it was crowned the UK's Best Fish and Chip Takeaway by Seafish, the industry body.
The chain now runs 4 licensed restaurants with takeaway counters. They are: Normoss, Lytham at 97-99 Clifton Street, opened on the 27th of June 2009, Thornton at 91 Fleetwood Road North, opened in 2006, and Poulton, opened in the Teanlowe Centre on the 15th of February 2018.

On the 23rd of August 2012, they opened a dedicated takeaway at Seniors Xpress Bispham at 2 All Hallow's Road, and on the 3rd of June 2016, they opened a second takeaway, Seniors St Anne's at 2 Cross Street.

Blackpool Ladies' Subscription Bowling Club opened on the 10th of May on Somerset Avenue.
Future Poet Laureate John Masefield gave a Blackpool lecture on poetry on the 29th of November.
Geraldo (Gerald Bright) formed his first band to play at the Metropole Hotel, and for the next five years, he was musical director at the Hotel Majestic, St Anne's. His band broadcast from the hotel three times a week and became the most popular dance orchestra in the north of England.
Author, Desmond Bagley was born in Kendal on the 29th of October, and moved to Blackpool in the summer of 1935, where his parents ran a theatrical boarding house. He worked on the Golden Mile and at the Pleasure Beach, mending arcade machines, and then in the Pleasure Beach Spitfire parts works.
Entertainer Roy Barbour came to Blackpool to join Fred Walmsley's Tonics at South Pier. The stilt-walker then joined the North Pier's "On with The Pier" company in 1931 and became its star when Walmsley retired in 1934. Roy then created his own revue, "Highlights of Blackpool", which he toured during winter (Little Jimmy Clitheroe got his first break in this show). His family first lived in Bournemouth Road, but moved to a larger house in the adjacent Boscombe Road in 1939.

Ronnie Clayton: was born in Blackpool on the 9th of February. He was one of three brothers all became boxers. They all once boxed on the same boxing show The Tower. Ronnie became a professional boxer in 1941, managed by George Dingley, being trained by his brother, Jackie at their local gym in Princess Street. He won the British Featherweight boxing championship in 1947, and then, in the same year, the British Empire Featherweight title. Finally, in that year, he also became European featherweight champion. He won two Lonsdale belts outright and died in Blackpool in 2007.

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The Metalastene Company were manufacturing sealants from Breck Road in Poulton.
Ernest Smith began to operate his Pilgrim Motors bus service from Garstang to Blackpool, from his garage in Elswick. Ribble Motors took over Pilgrim in July 1927.
Singleton Parochial Hall was opened on the 8th of November. It was demolished and replaced by a new Village Hall, which opened in October 2013.
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Thornton War Memorial: was unveiled at Four Lane Ends on the 11th of November. Its statue was sculpted by Albert Toft. The memorial replaced a temporary edifice which had stood on Fleetwood Road North at the end of Woodlands Avenue since 1919. The First World War memorial contains 84 names whilst the Second World War Memorial contains 75 names. When ICI closed down and was demolished, it was necessary to find a place in which to relocate the ICI War Memorial commemorating company employees who died in both World Wars, and in 2011, the memorial was placed within the confines of the Thornton Cleveleys War Memorial. It contains 50 names from the First World War and 9 names from the Second World War and was re-opened after restoration and correction on the 10th of October 2015. I have listed other local sculptures and statues at Appendix Q.

The Boston Deep-Sea Fishing and Ice Company Limited: was partly moved to Fleetwood from Boston, Lincolnshire, by Fred Parkes (knighted in 1958 for services to fishing).
The company became one of the largest operators of trawlers out of Fleetwood as well as Hull, Grimsby, Lowestoft, and Aberdeen. Over many years, Boston operated as many as 82 boats from Fleetwood, as well as a large number of other vessels jointly owned with other companies. The company works were on Copse Road, and it stopped operating in 1979 after the effects of the imposition of 200-mile fishing limits and EEC quotas.

Fleetwood steamers began to be controlled by the LMS Railway. The LMS's first job was to triple the old slipway by the lock-pit of the Wyre Dock, allowing it to work on three 600-ton ships at a time. The new traversing slip was ready for use by the 4th of January 1929, later being used for shipbreaking.
Fleetwood's First National Spiritualist Church and Lyceum opened at 5 Oak Street on the 13th of September. Designed by Frank Roberts of Fleetwood, it was built by the Leyland Construction Company Ltd.

Stella Maris Convent School, Fleetwood: The house West Holme" at 45 Mount Road was bought and converted into the Stella Maris Convent High School by the Sisters of the Cross and Passion, for the education of local Catholic children. It opened on the 23rd of September. Under the guidance of the first true headmistress, Sister Calasanctius O'Sullivan, the school grew.
At first pupils had been accommodated in two large rooms on the ground floor, in the garage and in the garden, but it soon had to cope with the overflow from St Mary's Primary School, becoming an all-age school boasting navy and gold uniforms. Then, in 1932 the nuns bought number 43 next door and the school expanded.
It closed in 1966 and is now a private house.

Ash Street tram shelter was erected in Fleetwood. It had a waiting room, toilets, Inspector's office, and a clock tower - its "erratic" clock led to it being known as the *"four-faced liar"* by locals. The building was demolished in 1966.
Tennis courts and bowling greens were opened on the foreshore at Fleetwood.
Knott End telephone exchange was opened on the 23rd of June.
The Bank of Liverpool and Martins built their St Anne's branch at 37 St Anne's Road West. When Martins Bank was created on the 3rd of January 1928 (from the merger of the Lancashire and Yorkshire Bank with the Bank of Liverpool and Martins), the branch of the Lancashire and Yorkshire Bank at 54 St Anne's Road West, was inherited. Martins Bank decided to close 37 St Anne's Road West by the end of 1928, and by 1934, J Entwistle had bought the building as an estate agent's office.

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Squires Gate Bus Depot: Lytham St Anne's Corporation started a regular bus service between St Anne's Pier and Lytham Square on the 4th of August and opened their bus garage on Squires Gate Lane on the 1st of November. It was later taken over by Blackpool Corporation, but the depot was finally closed in April 1999, and was sold for housing development in 2001.
Newfield Jones Homes soon built the Coach Houses development of apartments on the site.

The tram shelter on Marine Drive and Clifton Drive in Ansdell was built. In 2008, it was restored to house an informative exhibition about the history of the Lytham St Anne's tramway.

The Co-operative Cinema in Kirkham: The Co-operative Hall, above the store on Poulton Street, was converted into a cinema, the Co-operative Picture Hall. The cinema produced a film of the unveiling of the Kirkham War Memorial.
The Society later spent £3,000 on alterations and apparatus to convert it to sound operation, and by 1934, it was known as the Co-operative Picture House. It had 475 seats.
The Co-op Cinema survived until 1962, and A and M Bargains now stands on the site
The Fylde Industrial Co-operative Society also had a shop on Moor Street, as well as in Wrea Green, Weeton, Freckleton, and Wesham.

The football team "Mighty Blackpool" was founded in Sierra Leone.
Catforth Village Hall was opened. It had been mooted in 1919, but funds were slow in coming. Firstly, "a parcel of land was offered by Mr Tom Cornall of "Fair View" in the Village". This was a site "by the side of the road and in the middle of the village, and his offer was accepted. Work began immediately on the Bowling Green", and the Bowling Club opened in 1920. Mr Rainford was its first President. The Village Hall finally opened in 1923.

1924
The second Blackpool Carnival was held from the 11th to the 21st of June. It proved to be the last. The Council decided to have several event-free days during its time, and many visitors simply got very drunk. Much near-rioting ensued, so the Council decided that the carnival would be abandoned in favour of a festival of lights that would be held from 1925 instead. That became the world-famous Illuminations.
Sir Albert Lindsay Parkinson, chairman of the Blackpool Parliamentary Borough Conservative and Unionist Association, wrote to Winston Churchill on the 26th of March, inviting him to stand for the constituency. Unfortunately, the great man declined.
The Lodging-House Keepers Association was renamed the Hotel and Apartments Association. They later opened their social club on the corner of Coronation Street and Palatine Road. Later, it became known as the H and A Club.
Improvement work on the Promenade included the famous Colonnades, built above two broad parades below the Metropole Hotel. *"The Gynn entrance to these impressive colonnades was signalled by the presence of four massive pillars with urns, lids and finials. They made a bold statement about promenading and Blackpool's unrivalled natural assets. The four pillars framed an entrance to steps leading down to Lower Walk's solitary, smaller colonnade. This entrance had its own smaller four pillars with finials. All four of the smaller pillars are extant, though they have lost their finials, while only two of the massive pillars survive; they too have lost their finials together with the urns"*. "Each colonnade has twenty-four, well-proportioned Tuscan columns, the end columns being coupled with a pillar of a different design. The same type of pillar is to be found integrated with the very substantial supporting structures flanking the colonnades. These tall structures have a Greek Key decorative border that echoes the colonnades'

Classical allusions". By 1925, the widening of the Promenade had been completed, and this meant that the tram tracks could be taken off the road and put onto their own reservation.
Lindsay Parkinson donated the Cricket Ground to the Corporation.

The New Park, Blackpool: opened for use by the public. It was not renamed Stanley Park until the official opening on the 2nd of October 1926 and had been built in four stages since 1922.
The New Park Rose Gardens opened on the 15th of July.
The park had begun to be built on land that had been bought for the purpose by Lindsay Parkinson and included two former brickworks and a large area of agricultural land described by E Prentice Mawson as "*the most heterogeneous collection of hen runs, pig sties, stagnant ponds, caravan dwellings, and stables we have ever come across. The buildings were of temporary nature, margarine boxes, tea chests, biscuit tins, and petrol cans being pressed into service for walls and roofing material*".
The funding for its construction was raised by selling, by the Corporation, of plots around the perimeter for the building of "luxury" houses. Its original cost was to be £110,000, but this escalated to £250,000.

The land, on which the park was built, was initially problematic. Firstly, it was occupied by a community who had built a shantytown without sanitation, on heavy clay. Secondly, they were unwilling to leave their homes. Many references were made to the numerous chicken sheds and pig houses which had to be dismantled.
Layton Brook was impounded by an earth embankment in order to form the park lake, which was dug out from a natural depression. The original depth was to be 2 feet 6 inches. However, the discovery of reams of peat at the site meant that it ended up at 5 feet deep. It contains 28,000 gallons of water, mainly supplied by the watercourses around Whinney Heys.
The park offices, gate lodges (for the park superintendents), gardener's cottage, and the Cricket Club were also built.
The remainder of the New Park opened to the public in 1925, and its bowling greens and putting green were opened to the public on the 29th of May.

The two Medici Lions were placed in the park on the 14th of November. The lead/bronze statues stood on large stone pedestals - copies of the originals marble ones in Florence. John Magee of the brewers Magee Marshall and Company Limited donated them. The lions are believed to have been commissioned by Earl Temple during remodelling of the front of Stowe House in Buckinghamshire in 1773 – 1775 and were sold at auction in 1921. The lions were replaced with glass fibre copies in 2012 in case of metal theft. In 1926, Mr Magee also donated the marble fountain and four marble statues used as the centre piece for the lily pool in the Italian Garden.

Stanley Park was officially opened by Earl Edward Stanley of Derby, after whom the park was named, on October the 2nd 1926. He opened the main park gates using a golden key.
The 256-acre park included a 22-acre lake, tennis courts (then by the south gates), and bowling greens – 4 crown greens, and 2 flat green (completed in 1927). It was designed by Thomas Mawson and cost £250,000. The lake had opened for public boating on the 22nd of May and had been formed by the impounding of Layton Brook.
Blackpool Flat Green Bowling Club was formed in 1929, playing from the new facilities, as was the Blackpool Schools Sports Association.

From the first, the park required its own bus terminus. As John Woodman says *"At the Park's main gates a generous road layout allowed buses to park up to await the tea time returning crowds wishing to get back to their "digs". Built in to the Park's outer walls was what was generously called a "Bus Station" but in fact*

this consisted of nothing more than a boxed in space utilising cast iron panels". The panels still exist in the undergrowth.

A large, wooden, public greenhouse and conservatory was also opened. This was somewhat rebuilt in the 1930s, and these were themselves replaced with aluminium ones in 1975. They were framed by intricate lattice girders. The glazing was made from a mix of glass and polycarbonate panels, and internally, there were three compartments depicting plants and trees from temperate and tropical climes, as well as pot plants. In their heyday, the conservatories featured goldfish and a chatty mynah bird. The second versions were demolished in 2011 and the area grassed over for use as a temporary car park. The rest of the glasshouses and conservatory were demolished in January 2012, following the fire damaged gardener's cottage next door. In February 2015, work began on constructing a giant Zip Slide on the site, and the Stanley Park High Ropes Course duly opened in May 2015. The High Ropes Course operates two levels: The "low ropes" course is 4 metres off the ground, and the "high ropes" course is eight metres high. Both courses provide a range of activities and challenges for participants to cross including swinging tyres, zip wire onto a cargo net, plank bridges, wobbly logs, and more. The three-storey tower also features a zip line, and a rock-climbing wall.

Sir Lindsay Parkinson presented the motor launch "Lady Parkinson" to the park, and Sir Walter de Freece presented the "Lady de Freece" at the same time.
An Italian marble fountain with four spouting seahorses was erected in the centre of Stanley Park's Italian Garden pond in October, also donated by John Magee. Four lead figurines were erected around it.
The two bridges over the lake were built between 1926 and 1933, and the boathouses were built by the Lake in 1935 – including an ice cream kiosk. A rank of bird cages was soon built next door, housing peacocks and other exotic birds until the 1960s.
Stanley Park toilet block was built in 1927, by the tennis courts, as were the car park kiosks and the lake terrace and landing stage. The works depot, top yard and the bowling pavilions were built at the same time. The 6 hard tennis courts and 6 grass courts were only completed just before the opening ceremony.
The Bandstand opened in Stanley Park on the 24th of March 1930, with its first concert on the 29th of April, given by the Culcheth Military Band. It had been completed in 1929 to hold 3,000 people. It was built next to the lake to optimise the acoustics of sound travelling across the water. Its design was similar to the Temple of Aphrodite at Versailles, and it was 25 feet in diameter and can hold a 32-piece band. The domed roof with finial is supported by Corinthian columns. Contractors for the erection of the bandstand were HH Vickers and Son of Whitegate Drive.
Also, in 1930, the ex-lifeboat "Samuel Fletcher" (the 2nd bot, first launched in 1896) was bought by the Council in October, for use as a cruiser on Stanley Park Lake. It was moved from there in November 2009 and taken to the Sea Cadets base at Bispham for restoration, and currently resides in the Illuminations Depot off Squires Gate Lane.
The two shelters at the park bowling greens were built in 1933, as was the pavilion on Mawson Drive.
Fishing was allowed in the lake for the first time on the 20th of October 1934.
The Park Café opened on the 19th of June 1937.

The Children's Playground was laid out in the 1940s, complete with its own boating pool – converted to a playground for younger children in the 1980s. The park was equipped with various metal play pieces, such as swings, slides, climbing frames etc. There was a local-renowned drinking giraffe made of concrete, and a concrete dinosaur to climb on, as well as a large "witch's hat" swinging frame.

Stanley Park Athletics Ground (known as the Oval) was built in 1959. It originally had an oval of running track made of cinders, and in 1961, the track was greatly improved, and the venue had a sloping stadium,

toilets and offices added. Australian Olympic middle-distance champion runner Herb Elliot performed the opening ceremony.
In 1987, the 2 all-weather Sports Pitches were opened, and at the same time, the track at the Oval was upgraded to a synthetic surface, with floodlights and a pavilion. The Stanley Park International Sports Complex was opened on the 2nd of May 1988, by athlete Peter Elliot, and the re-built Stanley Park Sports Centre opened to the public on the 21st of November 1994. The site was previously home to the park's nurseries.

The Mayor opened the charity Wishing Well in the park on the 3rd of September 1966, in aid of various local charities. It was removed in March 2014 after being badly damaged during recent storms.
The BBC's Relay Station and the Meteorological Office's Weather Monitoring Centre by the park's Rose Gardens closed in 1983. It was demolished in 1995, along with other buildings in the nearby Ramsden's Yard.

The main entrance drive at Stanley Park was named "Mawson Drive" in 1994, in memory of Thomas H Mawson, whose firm of landscape architects had designed the Park in the 1920s. The original Elm trees lining the drive were all replaced in 2008 by Oaks, due to Dutch elm disease.
In 1995, Stanley Park had the first sections of its new cast iron perimeter fencing erected to replace the original wire. The mammoth project was finally completed in 2004.
Planet X-treme roller-skate facility opened officially in the park on June the 13th 1997, for use by local skaters and BMX bikers. It was built on a redundant tennis court out of aluminium and timber by Blackpool firm Bri-Met and had already been used for several weeks.
The Stanley Park Visitor Centre was opened on the 24th of August 2005, by the 19th Earl of Derby, adjacent to the fully refurbished Park Café. The building used to be the park's carpenter's workshops.

Myerscough College opened their Stanley Park Centre on the 12th of September 2005, offering learning facilities for their local students. In April 2006, they opened a commercial garden centre "Plant World" alongside. It closed in 2010 due to lack of customers, and the site was levelled in 2012.

Police Community Support Officers moved into a new base on the first floor of the Tennis Pavilion in September 2007. As part of the changes, monitoring of the park's new CCTV system was transferred from Bonny Street police station to the new community support centre, which would be operated on a part-time basis. The pavilion had originally been built as a tea room and tennis hire facility. Within a week, the unit had been broken into and police equipment stolen.

In 2008, a Stanley Park Ranger was introduced to lead on community projects such as the Junior Rangers Club. Blackpool schoolchildren planted 20 English oak trees in Stanley Park on the 25th of April 2008 – one tree for each conflict since the Second World War. Each memorial tree is linked to a local school, representing conflicts from Palestine to Iraq. Pupils from Stanley Primary School went to the park to unveil a memorial plaque by their tree.

The squirrels that now populate the park were mainly born from his own pets (named Bubble and Squeak) released there by the *"Squirrel Man",* Walter Darling.
East, West, and North Drives were built, with their "superior" houses. South Park Drive was constructed to link the Park with Preston New Road, crossing Preston Old Road at the Sawmill in Marton Village. The Sawmill had been built in the 19th century on Sandhole Field. Only a few years later, the three Drives were re-named East, West, and North Park Drive.

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In 2012, a flotilla of 32 electric boats was launched on the lake, replacing the rowing boats and motorboats which were used on the lake since the 1960s.

The Salisbury Woodland Gardens site was acquired by Blackpool Corporation as a wind break or shelter belt for the adjacent Stanley Park Golf Course. The gardens were later developed in the 1940s as an arboretum and public open space for all to enjoy. In 1967, Parks Director Norman Leach appointed gardener Pete Perry and his gardeners to plant up the gardens. What we now know as Woodside Drive was originally called Aerodrome Road.
The Racecourse and Military Convalescent Hospital site at Squires Gate was given back to Clifton Estates and demolished.
The body of tramcar number 3 was taken to the Tramways Football Ground at Squires Gate to be used as a dressing room.
The second bus route began. This became the number three and until it was ended in 2006, it was the oldest surviving route in Blackpool.
Arnold School bought Division Farm on Division Lane to grow and supply its own food and teach its pupils about nature. The 70-acre dairy farm had been run by the Cartmell family for many generations, but was now to be farmed by Kenneth Humber, in order to supply milk to both the school, and to the Blackpool Sanatorium.
"My Valet" dyers and cleaners were at 58 Whitegate Drive.
Ingham's Stationers stood on the corner of Onslow Road and Westcliffe Drive. It is now Layton Post Office and Grocers.
Smith's Farm on Layton Road was demolished. Its cobble-built barn survives as part of Old Farm Garage. The farm had belonged to the Elston family in the 18th and 19th Centuries, before passing to the Fishers of Layton Lodge – which was demolished itself before 1938.
Blackpool Customs and Excise office opened on the corner of Carter Street and Coronation Street – there was another at the Post Office Buildings at 7 Edward Street in 1934, where they worked alongside HM Inspector of Taxes and the Pensions service. The assessor of Taxes was at 46 Victoria Street.
The Lancashire and Yorkshire Bank opened a branch at 313 Dickson Road. It became a branch of Martins Bank in 1928, and closed in June 1969. Since 2015, the building has been occupied by an events management and artist management company called Out The Park.
The Empire Café was in Bickerstaffe's Buildings on Foxhall Road. Offering seated eating for 1000 people, it was run by Mr Yates Whittaker, and also advertised a "*Grand Billiard Lounge with ten tables*". It was later the headquarters of the Blackpool Rambling Club.
Palatine Books were at 42 Gorse Road.
The new garage of Tom Clarkson and Son, on the corner of Whitegate Drive and Kirkham Avenue, was specialising in selling and repairing Vulcan cars and lorries. By the 1960s Burgess's haberdashery was trading there, soon to become Norman Parker's carpet store (later bought out by Peter Jones Carpets), and in 1994, Blockbuster Video, which closed in March 2013, to be replaced by a Morrison's store which opened on the 21st of October 2013, and closed in 2015.
In 1924 there was a grocer's shop at 28-30 Bank Road, run by EA Clay. It was at the junction of Johnson Road and Newhouse Road, opposite the Cottage chippy. By the 1950s, the front room had been converted into an off licence and run by Olive and John Simpson. The off licence was sold in 1977.
Work began on Claremont Council Estate.
George Lewis and Co Ltd, auctioneers and valuers, were at 61 Talbot Road and 39 The Square in St Anne's.
The Sporting Spirit motor races were held on the Queen's Promenade.
The British Music Society's Blackpool branch held a song recital.

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Lawrence Wright, Blackpool: had just moved to Blackpool. He launched his "On with the Show" on North Pier in 1926, in direct competition with his rival Bert Feldman. It was Blackpool's longest running show when it finally closed in 1956.
He was known at various times, as Horatio Nicholls, Everett Lynton, and Gene Williams, and founded the music periodical Melody Maker.
Wright also ran several local arcades, including one at 66 Bank Hey Street and one next door to Collinson's café, where he installed pianists and singers, such as Roberta Dexter, to lead customers in singing his songs, and sold his own sheet music. He eventually operated 20 song booths along the Promenade and had others in Scarborough.
He lived at the Castle at North Shore until 1941, then briefly in a flat at 13 King George Avenue, before moving to 13 Carlin Gate until his death on the 16th of May 1964.

Police Constable Hartley Wilkinson died on the 28th of April from the effects of exposure after he rescued someone from the sea at Blackpool in 1923.

Gary Miller: Neville Williams was born in Blackpool. He moved to London after the War and, as singer Gary Miller, he had several hits in the 1950s, making headlines because he appeared on the London Stage in blue jeans! He became famous for singing the theme tunes to TV shows Robin Hood and Stingray, as well as voicing Troy Tempest in that show. He died of a heart attack in 1968.

Brian Bevan was born in Sydney, Australia on the 24th of June. During his Rugby League career ending in 1964, he scored more tries than anyone else - 796 - for Warrington and Blackpool Borough.
In November, 31 Blackpool streets were renamed. They included; Layton Lane to Layton Road (in Layton only), New Road to Talbot Road, Central Road to Grasmere Road, and Church Street, South Shore to Bond Street – to avoid having two Church Streets in one town.

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Carleton Crossing signal box was opened, replacing the original 1840s box. It was a London and North Western Railway Type 5 design, built by the London Midland and Scottish Railway. Originally fitted with a 16 lever Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway Tappet frame, the frame was later reduced to 12 levers. The level crossing gates were replaced by lifting barriers in November 1977. The box and barriers were demolished in December 2017, to be replaced by new barriers, remotely controlled from Manchester.
Singleton church hall was erected on land given by Mrs Isette Miller, Thomas Horrocks Miller's second wife. She also gave the bowling green adjoining the hall. The Village Hall "*has accommodated many concerts, plays and dances as well as being a regular meeting place for village groups. In 2013, the old hall was demolished and a new hall was built in the same style as the old with monies raised locally and a grant from the Lottery fund*".
William Brimelow's Garage was opened on the site of Highfield House on Hardhorn Road in Poulton. The garage replaced the house and its trotting track and was greatly expanded in the 1950s and 1970s.
William Smith ran Fleetwood's first bus service in November.
The Dinas Steam Trawler Company was formed in Fleetwood.
The Mercantile Marine office was at 124 Dock Street, Fleetwood.

Heald's: opened their first grocery and butchers' shop at 23/25 North Albert Street in Fleetwood, soon opening a café next door in what had been previously been Heald's Grand Restaurant. The shop later became Prospers store, and in 2009, it was expanded into by the Crafty Company. They had moved into numbers 21/23 after starting out in the market in 1999.
The Heald family had started in their own Heald's Farm in Knott End.
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The Salvation Army, Fleetwood: The barracks were at number 11 North Albert Street in Fleetwood. The Salvation Army moved their Fleetwood headquarters to 1 London Street on the 10th of August 1989, being officially opened on the 22nd of January 1990. It included a worship hall, a training house, known as Venture House (opened in January 1992), and their own "Bangers and Bonnets" café. The corps closed down in 2005.

The Log Cabin Café was opened at 11 Princes Way in Fleetwood.
The New Docks Curing Company was in business on Sidings Road in Fleetwood.
Beauclerk Gardens were opened on St Anne's Road East in St Anne's on the 1st of July, the land having been donated by the Clifton family.

St Anne's War Memorial: was unveiled in Ashton Gardens on the 12th of October by Alderman CF Critchley JP. The Architect was Thomas Smith Tait, and the memorial was constructed in a modernist style, in white ashlar granite. The statues around the base were sculpted by Walter Marsden, and the whole edifice had been paid for by Lord Ashton, at a cost of £10,000, and a bronze tablet at the base is inscribed with the names of the 170 men local who died in World War 1.
The memorial is Grade 2* Listed because of the *"extremely rare depictions of a shell-shocked soldier, a grieving widow, wounded and gassed soldiers and women both on active service and on the Home Front"*.

JL Schofield was in business at 28 St Albans Road in St Anne's selling "all-electric radio sets". By 1953, in association with R Darbyshire Ltd, at 28 St Albans Road, Sumner's were an English Electric TV retailer.
Cloverley College, a boarding and day school for girls was at St Anne's Road East, St Anne's.
The Playshoe Company Ltd, slipper manufacturers, were in business in Stanley Road, St Anne's. The company was first liquidated in 1936, and restarted, being finally liquidated in March 1972. In 1929, they patented a design for an insole made of asbestos!

The Mission Church of St Margaret of Antioch, St Anne's: was founded on the 1st of April on St Leonard's Road West. The original foundation stone - displayed in the current entrance - was dedicated by Atherton G Rawsthorne, the first and only, bishop of Whalley. St Margaret's was founded as a "daughter" church of the parish church of St Anne's, and was a single-storey, whitewashed building, with a red slate roof and a small belfry.

The present church was built in 1959 and cost £20,000. It is a modern church but built on a traditional design - the low Sarum altar being a unique feature of St Margaret's. The rebuilt church was consecrated on the 24th of September 1960 and dedicated on the 10th of February 1966. The original Mission Church became the Sunday school.
In 1974, the Chapel of the Sisters of the Church at the Abraham Ormerod Home was decommissioned, and much of the contents given to St Margaret's. These included the reredos and altar (from the nun's chapel), the statue of Our Lady and pricket stand, various vestments, and altar linen.

J Hardman was running his butcher's and greengrocer's shop at 30 Woodlands Road in Ansdell, specialising in freshly-caught poultry. This shop is now the Ansdell Fisherie – a fish and chip shop.
The Lytham St Anne's and Fylde YMCA Fylde and District Sunday School League side was formed, playing football at their own ground on Moorland Road, St Anne's.

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The Lytham train crash: The derailment of a passenger train at Lytham occurred when the front tyre of the locomotive fractured and led to the loss of 14 lives.
The accident happened on November the 3rd, to the 4.40 pm Liverpool express travelling to Blackpool at 5.46 pm. When the tyre failed, the train was moving at about 50 mph, and the train derailed at a crossing, hit a bridge, and finally the Warton signal box.

The dead, according to the Times newspaper, were:

Annie Greenwood, weaver, sister of Isa;
Commander Charles Greame, of Lincoln Road, Blackpool *;
Ernest Pickup, goods clerk at Kirkham Station, of 11 Hall Avenue, Blackpool.
Ernest Tonge, Advertising contractor, of 40 Leamington Road, Blackpool;
Ethel Cox, weaver, of 151 Ccentral Ddrive, Blackpool;
Isa Greenwood, weaver, of 30 Thames Road, Blackpool;
Leslie Dawson, 104 Church Road, Blackpool; and
Mary Morrison, weaver, of 47 Watson's Lane, Blackpool;
Miss Emma Pickup, a weaver, of 4 Park Road, Lytham;
Miss Margaret Pickup, from the same address;
Thomas Hartley, of 10 Montrose Avenue, Blackpool (identified from papers in his possession);
William Crookes, the engine driver, of Buchanan Street, Blackpool;
William Walsh, weaver, of 42 St Chad's Road, Blackpool;

* Charles Greame was incredibly unlucky. He had escaped death on the Titanic, as his train had arrived late at Southampton, making him miss his berth. At the time of the train crash, he was travelling back to Blackpool from Liverpool, where he had been attending a Board of Trade enquiry into the sinking.

A new electricity substation was built into the promenade opposite Denford Avenue by Fairhaven Lake, to supply the growing local area.
Lytham telephone exchange was located at 7 Queen Street. It was later subsumed by the new exchanges on Cambridge Road, Ansdell and at 56 St Davids Road South in St Anne's.
Harry Sallows had a grocer's shop and post office at 41 Church Road in Lytham. By 1979, JN and V Greaney's grocery shop was in the premises. The shop is now occupied by an interior furnishings store called Interiors.

The Empire Theatre, Kirkham: This tiny theatre, later to become a cinema, was opened on Birley Street, operated by the Kirkham Picture Company. In 1926, by then called the Rialto Cinema, it went into receivership in September, when its owner Arthur Nicholson of Blackpool was declared bankrupt.

By 1947, it had become the Empire Cinema (with 416 seats). The Empire was closed in the early 1980s, but after a strong public campaign, it was soon re-opened. It was eventually knocked down after a fire in 1994, to enable Kirkham Community Centre built on the adjacent Mill Street. The last film shown was Police Academy 6.
The building had been used briefly as a roller-skating rink.

Freckleton War memorial was erected. It was supplied by Cookson's of Blackpool at a cost of £255 and was made from Glencoe Granite with the inscription: "*In Grateful Memory of the men of Freckleton who fought and fell in the Great War 1914-1918*", and on the other side: "*Lest we forget*". It was unveiled on

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November the 11th by Colonel Berthon OBE, the senior officer at Preston Barracks. The adjacent Memorial Gardens were dedicated and opened on the 14th of November 1926.
Knott End Working Men's Club and Institute was opened on Salisbury Avenue. It is equipped with a bar lounge/restaurant, games room, function room, and concert room.

1925

Blackpool Illuminations: The first true Illuminations were lit on the 25th of September, running until December, and stretching from the Manchester to Cocker Square.
South Shore Baths joined in, with a "Venice in Blackpool" illuminated display, the Pleasure Beach lit up every large ride, and the Illuminated trams "the Venetian Gondola" (Car 28) and "Progress" (Car 68) first ran, on the 26th of September.

The Illuminations stretched all along the Promenade for the first time in 1926 – from the Pleasure Beach to the Gynn. Because of the General Strike, the Illuminations were stopped after just four days, but in 1927, they were extended again, from Squires Gate to Red Bank Road.

Blackpool Illuminations Welcome Arches: The first Illuminated "Welcome Arches" were erected at Manchester Square and the Pleasure Beach in 1928.

In 1938, other illuminated Welcome Arches were erected on the approaches to the town. There was one on Preston New Road, between Rosemede and Rosedale Avenues, with others at Lytham Road, Central Drive, and Poulton Road. Each arch had 3,000 lights.

The main Illuminations Welcome Arch at Starr Gate was re-built in 1955. It was demolished in 1969 and replaced in 1970, originally being painted pink. It was repainted blue after a fire in 1983, and removed in August 1998, being replaced once more in September 2008. Another Welcome Arch, at the Star Hotel was removed in 1988.

Smaller arches have appeared in the midst of the displays over the years, but the ones above are the truly Welcoming examples.

In 1929, all three piers were lit up by the Illuminations for the first time, and the illuminated windmill was first used at Manchester Square. This was a false windmill, fronted by Dutch gardens and surmounting two lavatories and a sewage ventilation shaft. Electrical animation was also first used in 1929.

The first Illuminations Switch On: The Illuminations were officially "Switched On" for the first time, by Lord Derby, on the 15th of September 1934. The Tower was fully illuminated for the first time, and the Promenade was made "One Way" - north to south.
A charity showing of Gracie Fields' recently-completed film "Sing as We Go" accompanied the illuminations switch-on. In the film, shot in Blackpool, Gracie played a working-class girl who seeks work in Blackpool when the mill closes in her hometown. The film also reveals the secret behind the Golden Mile's "Spider Woman".
Gracie made all her Blackpool Variety appearances from 1932 to 1938 at the Grand Theatre.
Blackpool's open-air trams, the oldest public service vehicles still in permanent regular service today, were unveiled at the switch-on ceremony.

I have provided a full list of the stars that have switched on the Illuminations at Appendix O.

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The tram tracks in the town centre were doubled and several streets were widened accordingly.
Daggers Hall Lane Post Office opened.
Council housing *"typical of its time"* began to be built, near to Royal Bank, by J Parkinson and Sons Limited. As part of this development, the Parkinson-frame houses in Harewood Avenue (changed to Hereford Avenue in 1928), Airedale Avenue, and Royal Bank Avenue were built.

Stanley Park Golf Club, Blackpool: The new park's own golf club opened, with its 96-acre course being designed by Dr Alister Mackenzie, the man who made his name by designing the Augusta National course in the USA.
The first annual meeting of the club was held in 1926. The Clubhouse and Golf professional's shop were built in 1933, but the clubhouse was not officially opened until the 14th of September 1935. The club is now known as Blackpool Park Golf Club, and they call their course the Stanley Park Golf Course.
In 2006, the club began to replace all its sand bunkers with recycled glass. Glass from businesses along the Fylde coast was collected and taken to Eco Aggregates in Fleetwood, which converted it to sand – making the golf club the first place in the northwest to do so.
2010 saw Blackpool Council lease the club's greens to a company called Mack Trading on a 10-year lease. That company went into voluntary liquidation in October 2018, and the Council regained control.

The Rendezvous Cinema, Blackpool: This small cinema was opened at 57 Bond Street on the 8th of June showing "The Go-Getter". The entrance to the cinema was through a shop, and the auditorium was built at the back. Seating for 500 was provided in stalls and circle, and it had a café for customers.
It was sold to the Emery Circuit in 1946, who ran it until 1972, when Classic Cinemas bought it. Bingo was already being played there on several nights a week, and by 1973, it had been converted into a full-time Mecca Bingo Club (later Walker's Bingo and Social Club). Next door at number 61, for many years, was the "Wonder Shoe Store", a shoe shop run by Joseph Marcinko (known locally as Polish Joe's, and later to become Mac's Discount Centre). Joe also had a small household goods shop at number 27.

The Rendezvous soon closed, and by 2011, the auditorium had been demolished with the land being used as a car park. The front of the building is still there and is now an electrical shop.

In a winter with the severest frost for years, there was skating on Marton Mere.
The one hundred-house "Marton Garden City Estate" took shape to the south of the Oxford. It was an extension of the "Garden City Estate" that was begun in 1915 around Bank Road, which offered plots for *"Houses with large gardens from £300 to £450"*.
The 11th Blackpool Scout Group was formed on the 23rd of December.

Central Drive Independent Methodist Church, Blackpool: opened on the 24th of June on the corner of Palmer Avenue and 16-20 Central Drive. James Higginson was the first Minister. Its Sunday school is adjoining it on Palmer Avenue.

Bispham Conservative Club opened in the house called "Pooldhooie" on Red Bank Road in August, with its bowling green on the site of the gardens of the family home of John Cameron.
In football, the inaugural competition for the Victoria Hospital Cup was held on the 9th of May, and First Division Everton was defeated by two goals to one. The directors of the Savoy Café had presented the handsome silver cup for an annual competition.
The first person to fall to his death from the Tower was killed on the 25th of October. "Stick Man" Harry McMinn fell over 300 feet after missing his grip whilst securing a tarpaulin.

©

Blackpool Tower was the turning point in the Round Britain Air Race on the 9th of June, and the aeroplanes called at Squires Gate to refuel.
On one day in July, 473 Special Trains were recorded in the town.
Public lavatories were opened in the centre of the Pleasure Beach, and the "Jack and Jill Slide" was built just inland of the Flying Machines.
Blackpool Pleasure Beach Carousel was built by Savage's of King's Lynn but stayed unused for many years.
Devonshire Road Gardens were opened at the top of Knowle Hill, designed by George McKenna. They had been a local attraction for over twenty years beforehand, and previously had been an open hillside with a flagstaff at the summit. There were also allotments on Peapod Lane nearby. The adjacent Rock Gardens formerly belonged to a private house (possibly Knowle Farm), and were opened on the 27th of June 1938, after being donated to the town in 1923, and refurbished. In 2002, the "Friends of the Rock Gardens" was formed to improve community access and use of the park, and also to restore the park's amenities.
Layton Council depot started, with its buildings – including Lee House – being built from 1933, and a dedicated railway siding in 1934.
Riley and Sons, Drapers, were in business on Lytham Street, next to the Town Hall.
C Crabtree and Sons were operating their florists and fruiters shop at 191 Church Street, supplied from their own nursery in Marton. The shop was later taken over by the Regent Cinema for expansion.
The Leeds Building Society was built at 20 Clifton Street (now a Subway take away). The Leeds Permanent Building Society later opened a second branch at 50 Waterloo Road (this later became Grandpa Lee's café, then Dawson's chip shop, and is now Harrold Rigby's chip shop). A branch at 12 St Anne's Road West in St Anne's followed.
Dores Signs, a screen printing and sign making company, was established by Isidore Cohen - Dores = Isidore's - at 78-80 Elizabeth Street. The building next door was later owned by Bennett Fielding, who were wholesale electrical suppliers. Dores Signs became a Limited company on the 16th of August 1962 and was dissolved in 2011.
The Lancashire Ferrotype Company was working at 2 Adelaide Place, making photography plates.
Bispham Branch Library opened in the converted electricity generating station on Red Bank Road on the 23rd of May, staying there until 1938. The library also had a clinic and gardens. Red Bank was the old name for the cliffs, north of the Gynn.
The Corner House Café was at the corner of 1 Abingdon Street and 48 Talbot Road, with branches at 111 Lytham Road and 61 Waterloo Road. The cafés offered a *"Business Men's Luncheon for 1s and 6d"*. The building later became a bus and coach booking office.

Waller and Hartley/Milady Toffee, Blackpool: Waller and Hartley began operating in Back Peter Street, making Paige's Silver Mints in winter, and rock in summer. Their enormous wall advert at Foxhall Square was a familiar sight. Their "Milady" toffee started to be made in 1922 and the name was finally registered as a trade mark in April 1952.
After becoming Waller and Hartley (1927) Limited, they were wound up in June 1928, but started up again in a converted warehouse on George Street/Boothley Road in the mid-1930s, from what they now called their Milady Toffee Works. They soon opened a small shop at 14 Birley Street. Amongst other famous sweets made there were Hacks and Victory V.

In 1972, Barker and Dobson of Liverpool bought out the company, and opened a sweetshop in Talbot Square.
The town's biggest toffee factory was closed down in 1974. Barker and Dobson were later taken over by Toms of Holland, who were themselves bought by Tangerine Confectionery of Blackpool. The Boothley Road factory was taken over by Delgado Cards (formerly Raphael Tuck).

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Blackpool Deaf and Dumb Society: was founded, moving into the vacant club house of North Shore Golf Club in 1929. They then opened their Blackpool Deaf Sports and Social Club at 64 Cornwall Avenue.
In September, for many years, the club hosted the Blackpool Deaf Rally for the British Deaf Association, based in the Winter Gardens.
They opened Wynfield House Home for the Deaf, for elderly local deaf people at 115 Newton Drive in 1961. The home has 7 twin bedrooms, with 5 rooms for single occupancy, 2 lounges and a dining room on the ground floor, with a passenger lift between the ground and first floor. The society formed a company, Prodeaf Blackpool Ltd in 1997, but it was dissolved on the 17th of May 2016. Currently housing 12 residents, the home is scheduled to close in April 2020.

The first British Advertising Convention was held in Blackpool during May.

First Blackpool Greyhound Stadium: The British Greyhounds Sports Club (Blackpool) Limited bought a plot of land to the east of St Annes Road, and built a greyhound track and stadium. On the 30th of July, they held their first meeting in front of 5,000 spectators. The first race of 6 was won by Carrow Boy. In 1929, the track began to operate as an independent venue, and the operating company became Blackpool Greyhound racing and Sports Company Limited. The original company was wound up on the 7th of January 1932.

> St Anne's Road Speedway: This track was opened on the 21st of April 1928 between St Anne's Road, Ivy Avenue, and Lindale Gardens. The opening meeting at the St Anne's Road speedway track was then held on the 11th of September, organised by the British Dirt Track Racing Association. 2,000 spectators attended this meet. The track was considered to be a grass track. Over the next two years, 6 meetings of open licence racing were held here.
> As this track began to operate at the same time as the nearby Highfield Road Speedway Track, there were speedway races at two nearby Blackpool arenas simultaneously.

In 1933, Blackpool and West Coast Air Services subleased the track - another part of their land - to build a Greyhound Stadium, which the Blackpool Greyhound Racing and Sports Company Limited opened as the new Super Greyhound Track on the 7th of April. The venue also had its own bowling green. It was advertised in the local press as "The World's Finest Greyhound Racing Stadium".

Preston Wheelers and Fylde Racing Club organized a Grass Track League for local clubs at what soon became known as Blackpool Greyhound Stadium, which was successful for one season only. Greyhound "Beef Cutlet" ran over a specially constructed course for the Hunt Cup at Blackpool in May 1933. He won by eight lengths and covered 500 yards in 26.13 seconds. That time stands as the fastest ever for 500 yards, and one that gave him an average speed of over 40 mph.
As an added attraction, Sylvester's two-ring Modern Hippodrome Circus appeared at the new stadium from June until the 8th of July, when the stadium closed due to financial problems.

The stadium even hosted a couple of baseball matches, between the Blackpool Seagulls and visiting teams such as "Silkimac's". Another match was between the Hurst Hawks and the Hyde Grasshoppers.

By August 1943, the stadium hosted 8 races per meeting each Saturday.

1946 saw the stadium re-open under its original rules, and the Hunt Cup was held. The new stadium boasted *"Covered Accommodation, Licensed Bar, Multi-speed Totalisator, and Tea Rooms".*

©

By 1947, the track was losing money rapidly, and it was forced to sell off adjoining land. Lindale Gardens was built directly behind the terracing on the back straights. Ivy Avenue was then built directly next to the main stand and the home straight. The stadium finally closed right after the last meet on the 30th of October 1964, and Stadium Avenue, built in 1966, is all the evidence that remains.

Second Blackpool Greyhound Stadium: The Greyhound Club moved to Princess Street/Rigby Road in 1964, to share the ground with Blackpool Borough Rugby League Club. The circumference of the Borough Park Greyhound Track was 363 metres, and sprint races were run over 250 metres, standard races over 593 metres, and distance races over 765 metres. There were three meetings per week - Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. The Blue Riband race was the annual Blackpool Derby.
The venue was officially named the Blackpool Greyhound Stadium on the 28th of April 1967, when the Blackpool Derby was first held under the auspices of the National greyhound racing Club once more.

"The track had an "Outside Sumner" hare system and fourteen bookmakers on course. In 1968 new American type lighting was installed at a cost of £5,000 and one year later a new totalisator was installed".

Attached to the racing facilities were such delights as The Bugsy Greyhound Club (in the old Borough Park Social Club), and Bugsy's Butty Bar. There was also a sportsman's bar under the stand, opening onto Princess Street. That became the Stix night club in the late 1980s, before moving to bigger premises in the Mecca buildings on Central Drive until 1994. Stix closed in 1997, after briefly being known as New Caesar's. Racing continued at the track until the 1988, but the actual stadium remained open until 1994.

The stadium was demolished in 2010, and the Odeon Cinema and the Swift Hound public house were built on the site of the stadium. The Swift Hound was itself demolished in February 2020, to be replaced by a bingo hall and a drive-through restaurant.

Blackpool and Fylde Motor Club: At a meeting in September, president Jacob Parkinson announced the summer season's races and the plans for the autumn trials. The new Club House had just been opened, and made it "*a great attraction to visiting motorists, and special subscriptions have been adopted so that the visitor can make the Club House a real home from home where a pleasant company is always to be found and plenty of recreation can be found amongst brother motorists"*.
One famous rider was Jimmy Riley (who died 1972). He *"won many cups and medals in motorcycle time trials and competitions. He was in a Blackpool team of motorcyclists captained by William Lyons (Of Swallow Sidecars and Jaguar Fame) who unusually played games of Football on their motorcycles on Devonshire Road. Jimmy was a despatch rider in WWI ".*
For a few years during the 1950s, the club had its headquarters at the Castle on North Promenade.
Then, the Blackpool South Shore Motor Club (BSSMC) was founded on the 1st of September 1950. The club originally formed part of the Fylde Motor Sports Group, which was an amalgamation of several motor clubs throughout the Fylde Coast area – including Blackpool Motor Club from Station Road, where it had met in their own building The South Shore Motor and Social Club. It now meets at the Clarence Public House.

The Blackpool Free Church Council scheme for tired mothers was started.
The South Shore Lawn Tennis Club was founded on Squires Gate Lane on the 2nd of May.
Number 46 Midgeland Road was built at the Northwest corner of Highfield Road by John and Nancy Smith. It became a local point of interest as it was a shack constructed entirely of wood. It had a living room, a kitchen, and one bedroom. The shack was lived in until 1994, and was demolished in 1996, to be replaced by a modern detached house on the Highfield Road side, and a detached house on Midgeland Road.

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St Chad's Church Hall was built in Poulton. It had to be closed in January 2013 but began to be re-furbished as the new Vicarage Park Community Centre in mid-2015.
Frederick Ravensdale established Ravensdale Insurance Brokers, at Cleveleys. The brokerage later moved to Morecambe and is now in Devon.

St John the Evangelist's Church, Thornton: The foundation stone-laying ceremony of St John's Mission Church Sunday school, Stanah Road, Little Thornton, took place on the 26th of October. Stones were laid by Mr J Preston and Mrs Stansfield.
The new church of St John opened in 1961 and was consecrated in February that year. It had been built next to the original mission hall, which was turned into the church hall of today.
The vicarage is on Station Road.

Cleveleys Working Men's Club (the Top Club) was opened on Slinger Road on the 18th of July.
Thornton Gate tram permanent way yard and mineral sidings were constructed, as required by the original agreement to carry goods and minerals from Fleetwood to the developing town of Cleveleys.

Fleetwood Baths: Fleetwood Open Air Baths were opened on the Promenade, having been designed by B Drummond.
The pool contained a central fountain, a floating platform, and a large floating ball for people to climb onto.
The baths gained a wooden set of low and high diving boards in 1947, and for most of its life, the centre of the pool also boasted a large buoy advertising Burton's bathing suits.

Since 1935, during the summer, various weekly bathing beauty contests were held at the outdoor baths and the Marine Hall. These were gradually formalised, and the first Miss Fleetwood Beauty contest was held by the council in 1951, with the final in September. Winners are listed at Appendix Y.
Local tales are that a young John Lennon learned to swim there.
By 1970, there was a large blue sign facing the road, saying "Marine Pool".

The baths were demolished in 1974 to be replaced by the Fleetwood Swimming Baths and Leisure Centre. The new swimming pools were opened on the 27th of March 1974, but the Leisure Centre's sports hall was not opened until the 12th of May 1984. Fleetwood and district Amateur Swimming Club based themselves at the new baths. Their members include 1984 Olympic competitor Debbie Gore, and ex-England team captain Maria Scott. The new baths had its own small outdoor paddling pool, which was removed and replaced in 2015.

The new Fleetwood ferry terminus was opened, together with its own arcade of shops and amusements. A dedicated loop was built from the tramway, and a special tram ran from Blackpool's North Pier to meet the ferry. The arcade was extended in 1983.
At Fleetwood Fish Market, a photograph was taken of some packers, and when it was developed, it showed the image of a Mr Haig – he had died one year before.

Fleetwood Bus companies: Lawrence Motor Services Ltd started business from Birch Street Garage in November. Their office was at 10 Albert Street and they were taken over by Ribble on the 10th of January 1931.
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The only other bus service running in Fleetwood was maintained by Fleetwood and Knott End Motors Ltd, who operated two 20-seaters (a Vulcan and a Guy) running at 15-minute intervals. They also ran two Ford tanners, converted to carry 20-seater toast-rack bodies, for a promenade service, which ran from the ferry to Laidley's Walk, via the Marine Gardens, every 20 minutes (10 at busy periods). They also operated a service to Pilling from Knott End.

From Knott End, Mr A Parkinson operated buses under the title of the Knott End and District Motor Service, using two Vulcan 14-seaters. Parkinsons also ran a service to Pilling, using an open coach.

By March 1929, Lawrence had taken over both Fleetwood and Knott End Motors, and the operations of M Kay of Poulton Road, who had run two buses along the promenade after the 1914-18 War - known by the locals as *"Rest and be thankful"* and *"Stop and step in".* On the 10th of January 1931, the whole company was taken over by Ribble Motor Services Ltd.

Fleetwood Baptist Church: opened on the 7th of July. A wooden building bought, from Ansdell Baptist Church, was erected on the corner of Poulton Road and Dronsfield Road. In the late 1930's the church building began to deteriorate and the church began to make plans for a replacement two-storey building. Plans were drawn up and money set aside, but World War 2 intervened.
Not until 1982 did the first phase replace the wooden building. The remainder was added in 1989, and the church today is made up of a worship area, hall, Sunday school rooms, three small meeting rooms, a vestry, and a kitchen.
The church is now known as the Trinity Baptist Church.

The Warren Estate was built in Fleetwood. It had been designed by Sir Patrick Abercrombie, who also designed the Warrenhurst Park. By the 1950s, the shops on Manor Road included *"Co-op butchers, bakers, chemist, dairy, hardware shop, sweet shop, general grocers and fish & chip shop"*.
Fleetwood School Clinic was opened in Orient Buildings.
Fleetwood's first concrete road was built. Originally called Cemetery Road because of its location, it was later renamed Beach Road.
Staining Institute was opened on the 18th of March, by Mr Potts.
St Anne's Buildings were erected in St Anne's Square. Woolworth's took them over in 1957.
N Beaumont ran his grocers and provisions shop from 19 St Albans Road in St Anne's.
The Westmorland Hotel (aka Hotel Westmorland) was at 29-31 Orchard Road in St Anne's, being demolished in 1973 to make way for Westmorland House, the home of the DHSS and Inland Revenue. In 2004, the town Job Centre moved there, from Anthony House on St George's Road.
The Lindum Private Hotel was at 65 to 76 South Promenade in St Anne's. It could accommodate 100 guests and had its own ballroom and a billiard room. In 1952, it was purchased by Mr A Rowley, whose family ran it for 50 years, until it was bought in December 2017. The purchaser of the Lindum Hotel Limited was the HY Hotels group, owned by Dan Yates. It now has 80 rooms and its own restaurant.
The promenade road from Fairhaven to Ansdell was opened on the 29th of May and was extended from Ansdell to St Anne's Pier on the 19th of August.
A bungalow called Kismet was built on the corner of Croyde Road and Clifton Drive South. It was designed by local architect Walter Wade.
The Mayor's Trophy for crown green bowls was launched, for Fylde bowlers. Apart from during World War 2, when it was *"temporarily suspended"* it has taken place every year and is presented by the Mayor of Fylde.
The Lytham St Anne's Art Collection began when John Booth, son of EH Booth who founded the local grocery business, presented to St Anne's Town Council a painting by Richard Ansdell, entitled "The Herd

©

Lassie". Booth intended it to be *"a nucleus for the formation of an art gallery"*. The collection is regularly featured in Booth's Lytham store.
Fylde Rugby Club hosted its first County game and Lancashire's opponents were Northumberland.

Lytham Park Cemetery and Crematorium: The cemetery was established on Regent Street at Heyhouses, opening for use in 1926. The official opening took place on the 9th of April 1927. Regent Street had been originally called Regent Road but was renamed when the road was extended to serve the new cemetery. It was changed to Regent Avenue in the late 1930s, to suit the type of exclusive houses that began to be built upon it.
A crematorium was opened inside the cemetery on the 10th of March 1958, replacing the original cemetery chapel.
Also, in n1958, a purpose-built mortuary was constructed at the western end of the cemetery. It replaced the unsatisfactory mortuary that had been in the Corporation highways yard at Lytham for many years.
A new building to house the Book of Remembrance was officially opened on the 20th of December 2006, built on the site of a former disused bus shelter. *"The Book of Remembrance details the anniversaries of those who are buried at the Crematorium, and the new building offers a sanctum to friends and relatives who wish to remember a loved one".*
The mortuary building was let to a funeral director in 2010.

Freckleton council put up a cast iron fence around the village green. It had been a popular play place for local children, but the amount of new traffic was becoming a hazard.
Nickson's Farm on Sandy Lane at Preesall had its own licenced slaughterhouse.

1926
This was Blackpool Corporation's "Jubilee Year" and the Civic Flag was hoisted over the Town Hall for the first time on the 9th of March.
The Earl of Derby opened the New South Promenade on the 2nd of October, from Victoria Pier to Squires Gate. It had a children's yachting pond at Harrowside, and several sunken gardens, in front of its Bourne Crescent of hotels - named after Maude Bourne whose idea it was to build medium-sized, select hotels instead of boarding houses.
The final Tramway extension was opened when the line was extended along the new South Promenade from the Pleasure Beach to Clifton Drive (today known as Starr Gate) where a connection was built to the Lytham St Anne's tracks.
The General Strike was held from the 4th to the 13th of May. No trams at all could run for nine days.
A Tram Terminus was built outside the Pleasure Beach.
The North-western Road Car Company Limited inaugurated its first express service from Northwich to Blackpool in June.
Blackpool's motorbuses carried 2,754,750 passengers during the year to June.
The Pleasure Beach opened its Children's Playground around the Jack and Jill Slide, with the Caterpillar, the Brownie Coaster, and the 1001 Troubles hall of mirrors.
Marton Green Farm was knocked down to make way for Honister Avenue and its houses. The farmhouse itself stood on the site of the current Oxford allotments.
The 16th Blackpool Guides, based in Marton, were registered as a unit on the 2nd of February. Miss Joan Hamer was the Guide Captain.
The Sisters of the Convent bought Whinney Heys on the 20th of May, for one year only, for use as a private day school. The sisters also ran a day school in Braeside, a bungalow opposite the Layton Hill Convent.
The Blackpool Welfare Centre for Revoe Children was opened by the Rotary Club on the 24th of November.

©

The National Fire Brigade Association's Annual Camp and Tournament took place in Stanley Park on the 13th of July.
South Shore Cricket Club played in Stanley Road (Squires Gate Lane). Their ground was taken over in 1939 for the aircraft factories to be built, and the Cricket Club moved to their present site on Common Edge Road in 1948.
The Waterloo Hand Laundry was based at 104 Saville Road. The property now holds two flats.

The Blackpool Central Bowling and Social Club: opened at 9 Bloomfield Road on the 21st of June.

The club had a basement games room with 2 full-sized snooker tables, card tables, domino tables, and 2 televisions. The ground floor held the main bar/lounge and the Jaguar Lounge, which also housed the dart boards and was so named because *"our premises were the original home of Swallow side cars who later became Jaguar cars"*. The first floor housed a smaller function room which could hold up to 100 people. There was also lift.

In 2010 the Number 1 Club, at 74 Bloomfield Road, was bought out by the Paris Casino and obliged to merge with the Central Bowling Club at 9 to 17 Bloomfield Road. The merged club opened on the 26th of January 2010.
On the 26th of August 2016, a new company, Ad Inns (Blackpool) Ltd, took over and changed its name to the Number 1 Bar – aka Bar 1, but the venue is currently closed once more.

Francis, Day, and Hunter Ltd were selling gramophones, records, pianos, grafonolas, and sheet music from 30 Abingdon Street (then two doors from the Post Office).
CH Turver had a pharmacy at 45 Abingdon Street. This later became the Chapter and Verse Christian bookshop (now called CLC).
C Partington and Son Ltd, working from "Partington House" on Exchange Street, declared themselves *"the cheapest business house in Blackpool"*, selling all varieties of hardware and building equipment.
The Talbot Social Club opened at 46 Milbourne Street.
Wilde and Row, stockbrokers, were at 34 Birley Street.
Handel Wilde, auctioneer, was at Adelphi Chambers at 92 Church Street.
Kemp's Cottage Furniture was at 56 Cookson Street, with a 2nd outlet at 3 St Peter's Place in Fleetwood.
Blackpool Borough bought North Shore Golf Club to coincide with the extension of Devonshire Road to the Knowle – which had been a country house belonging to the Singleton family in the 17th century.
Work began on Council estates in Lindale Gardens, Marton Drive, Watson's Road, Park Road, Revoe, Devonshire Road, Caunce Street, and many other areas.

Watson's Road Park, Blackpool: Private housing was developed on Watson's Road (named after the old local farm), and Watson's Road Recreation Ground was laid out. The land for the new park was acquired in two parts; the largest area was acquired on the 13th of October 1924 from Thomas Fenton, under the public health act 1875 for £6,433 and 4 shillings, and a smaller part was then acquired on the 29th of November 1934 from Thomas Fenton under the Blackpool improvement act £750.
During the First World War, the land was used as mock trenches to give soldiers, from the King's Lancashire Military Hospital at Squires Gate, the opportunity to get over their fears of trench warfare.

The Victoria Schools in Foxhall Road were sold to the Office of Works for use as a Labour Exchange. The building later became the town's Job Centre.
The Poor Children's Holiday Home opened in Marton in May.

©

The 16th Blackpool Guides were formed on the 2nd of February.
E Whiteley was operating his Laundry in Laundry Road on Marton Moss.
Tootal's dye works was in operation at 65 Condor Grove.
Leslie Harris Solicitors and Advocates was founded in Adelaide Street.
The Berkeley Hotel was built on Queen's Promenade. The Mount Hotel was built shortly beforehand and was the first hotel on Queen's Promenade (now number 8). It is now called the Maples Hotel.
The Banjo Centre was at 48-50 Topping Street, run by Kenneth Stavordale. It had moved from Lytham Street. The shop later became Tower Music in the 1960s, which closed in June 2013 after supplying most of Blackpool's musicians since opening. The parent company, Tower Keyboards Limited, had been registered on the 2nd of September 1983 and the shop had started life on Tower Street, owned by Norman Heap and George Gill.
The Burnley Building Society opened its local headquarters at 35 Clifton Street on the 23rd of March.

Cheswick and Wright: George Cheswick and Tom Wright set up a company to make motor vehicle exhausts in Gladstone Street. Their earlier customers included Swallow Sidecars. The company later moved to Clifton Road in Marton and opened a second factory on Dock Road in Lytham. They patented their own silencer on the 5th of October 1933, and were bought out by Hawtin's in 1939.

On the 16th of September 1941, the company of Cheswick and Wright was incorporated.
By 1953, AS Hawtin was its managing director, and the company had 300 employees. In 1969, they acquired the disused aircraft factory at Squires Gate, to make silencers for cars, adding to the existing 5 factories. Then, in 1970, Hawtin Industries sold its interests in Cheswick and Wright to Tube Investments, who took over its running. The name was changed formally to TI Cheswick Silencers Ltd on the 17th of February 1977. It was changed slightly on the 3rd of January 1989 to TI Cheswick Silencers (1988) Ltd, and then changed almost immediately, to Cheswick UK 1988 Ltd on the 8th of June 1989. Despite being ordered to wind-up in 2001, the company name was restored on the 5th of December 2014.

Comedians Flanagan and Allen appeared at the Palace Theatre and the Opera House.
A "Professional Pedestrian Gala" was held at Bloomfield Road on the 4th and 5th of August.
The School Medical and Dental Clinic opened on Whitegate Drive, on the 17th of April. By 1963, there were 3 dental clinics in town – the Central Dental Clinic at 16 Bennett Avenue (inside the Central School Clinic), and two open branch clinics, at 350 Lytham Road, and on Ashburton Road. In February 1964, these were all centralised at the Municipal Health Centre.
Blackpool Silver Prize Band was formed in March, as the Blackpool Special Constabulary Silver Prize Band. The Blackpool Excelsior Band was also formed, and the Blackpool Public Band was also active at the time.
Dutch Maid ice cream was founded in Back Reads Avenue. In 1949, by then in Back Palmer Avenue, it was sold to the Bennett family, and in March 1997 the Bancroft family took over, trading from 1a Back Palmer Avenue as Dutch Maid Ices (Blackpool) Ltd until they moved to 17 Palmer Avenue in 2012.
Rawcliffe's Accountants began. They established a sister company, 2x2 Bookkeeping in 1985, when both companies began operating from Wilkinson Avenue. Rawcliffe and Co moved to Unit 1, Barons Court on Whitehills Business Park in July 2016.
Jayseepee Radio was at 1 Chapel Street, selling and installing wireless sets.

Gledhill's, Blackpool: Norman and Joe Gledhill started up in business manufacturing domestic copper cylinders in small premises in Blackpool. As the cylinder business grew, they moved to larger premises until the outbreak of World War 2, when copper supplies dried up so manufacture ceased. After the war,

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Norman and his wife Louise set up Norman Gledhill and Co Ltd, manufacturing cylinders for plumbers' merchants, and in n1965, they pioneered insulated hot water cylinders.
In 1972 Gledhill brothers, Keith, and Houghton, moved their plumbing factory next to the airport.

The North-western Roadcar Company Limited began an express coach service from Northwich to Blackpool.
A and E Cook's "Premier Gramophone Establishment" was at 54 Bank Hey Street, with a second outlet at 37 Abingdon Street. The also opened a shop in Blackburn.
Ashworth's drapers and clothiers were at 43 Cookson Street and 6 St Ann's Street.
W Warren had his grocer's shop at 58 Hawes Side Lane, calling himself *"The Marton Express".*
The Blackpool and Fylde Bulldog Club was formed, being registered by the Kennel Club in 1946.
Joe Hall's bicycle shop was at 64 Coronation Street, also selling gramophones and records.
The Caramonde Café was on South Promenade.
Wilkie Bard last appeared at the Palace Theatre, singing his comedy songs, such as "She sells sea shells on the sea shore".
The film "Hindle Wakes" was filmed partly at the Pleasure Beach and starred Estelle Brody and Peggy Carlisle, being released in 1927. It was remade three times for the cinema and once for television. The Blackpool scenes are one of the highlights of this second film. In the Tower Ballroom, they filmed an ambitious dance sequence, which led to the film being advertised in Blackpool as *"starring Estelle Brody and 5,000 local artistes"*.

Frank McKenna: This local lad became the first policeman to transport a prisoner by air, when he flew to the Isle of Man. He was not ordered to do so but was saving time as he did not want to miss the kick-off of the Blackpool football match!
Frank also achieved fame when he became the leader of the hunt for the killers of the British officers murdered by the Nazis after they escaped from Stalag Luft 3 in 1944 (as featured in the film "The Great Escape"). He personally arrested 20 of the Gestapo officers concerned, the largest single total out of 69 secret police thugs brought to justice. In 1948, he was awarded an OBE for his services there, and in November 2019, a plaque in his honour was unveiled at Blackpool Police HQ.

(William) Brian Howard was born in Blackpool on July the 16th. He was brought up by three aunts who ran a boarding house and a tailoring and dressmaking enterprise - an environment which gave him an instinctive feel for the food and clothing trades in later life. He then won a scholarship to Blackpool Grammar School, and later became Chairman of Marks and Spencer.
Keith Marsh was born in Blackpool. He became an actor who played an elderly northern English pub regular named Jacko in the Thames Television sitcom Love Thy Neighbour, with the famous catchphrase *"I'll have half!"*

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Carleton Bowling Club was established on Mayfield Avenue.

The Jean Stansfield Memorial Park, Poulton: was opened on the 17th of June. Mr and Mrs SF Stansfield had given two acres of land to the people of Poulton for a park in memory of their daughter, Jean, who had died in 1923, aged 10.
Later the couple agreed that the original deeds could be changed so that a public bowling green could be created within the park. This opened in June 1938.

The main road from Poulton to Singleton was opened to traffic on the 9th of June.
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ICI, Thornton: The United Alkali chemical works at Burn Naze became known as ICI (Imperial Chemicals Industries) – but was known locally as the "*Chemic*". It had been developed to manufacture PVC - Poly-Vinyl-Chloride - from the chlorine that was produced as a by-product of the brine from Preesall.

In 1940, the Ministry of Supply built two chemical defence factories, one at the southern end of the ICI Hillhouse works, and the other a new facility at Burn Hall, which takes its name from the nearby Burn Hall Farm. The farm had been purchased, together with some of the farmland. The Burn Hall facility produced various substances for the Ministry and, after the war the site was expanded and produced chemicals to manufacture a range of goods. The ICI site was first developed as a "carbonite plant" manufacturing ethyl and carbonyl chloride gas, and ethyl chloroformate liquid for photographic film manufacture for companies such as Ilford and Kodak.
ICI became agents for the Ministry of Supply in 1941 and started the manufacture of chemicals at the Hillhouse Works for materials required for the war effort. Under great secrecy, chlorine and phosgene chemicals were produced, ready to make attack gases for the army. New process plants, buildings offices, and laboratories were constructed in the 1950s and 1960s manufacturing Toluene Diamine for use in the production of isocyanate chemicals.

Hillhouse farm itself was demolished by ICI in 1958. It had been built in 1852 on the site of Higher House. The Power Station began to be built at the ICI Hillhouse plant in 1953, opening at Bourne Way in 1957. It was closed in 1992 and demolished in 2009 - the chimney being dynamited on the 7th of November.

In 1964, ICI General Chemicals and Alkali Divisions merged to become ICI Mond Division. Mond Division took over the running of Burn Hall plants, under contracts to various business groups. ICI's Alkali Division closed its plant at Hillhouse, and the coasters were sent to the ICI soda ash plant at Winnington on the river Weaver (Calcium and Sodium) or were chartered and sold (Thorium and Cerium). The trade bringing limestone from North Wales to Fleetwood which began in the 19th century came to an end.

In 1988, ICI Chemical and Polymers Ltd was formed.

In 1993, Victrex (formerly ICI's PEEK Polymer business) at Hillhouse was bought out by management. It was first listed on the London Stock Exchange in 1995 and in 2005 it invested in the expansion of its existing facility. In December 2017, Victrex opened a £10m research site, to house its Polymer Innovation Centre which aims to come up with new plastics and uses including developing polymers for 3D printing.

All ICI production stopped in 1997, The last surviving ICI plant was Fluon, at Hillhouse and that was sold in 1999. ICI remained a large local employer until 2008.

Thornton and Cleveleys changed over from gas street lighting, when an electricity supply was installed. Thornton Conservative Club was opened in Royal Buildings.

Ashley Hall, Thornton: This spacious residence was built by TB Silcock off the western side of Skippool Road on the site of Arnfield House. It was stayed in by many film and theatre stars over the years.
Since 2007, the hall has been home to the Children's Hospice Play and Holiday Centre.

The Boston Deep Sea Fishing and Ice Company move their headquarters to Fleetwood.

©

St Wulstan's Roman Catholic Church, Fleetwood: was opened on Poulton Road on the 7th of February. It has the distinction of being the first newly set up parish in the Diocese of Lancaster (formed 1925).

The current church was opened by Bishop Flynn of Lancaster on the 4th of March 1961, and the Lady Altar in the old St Wulstan's was gifted to the new parish of St Edmunds to be an altar of repose. The original church became the Church Hall. On the 8th of September 2010, the parish merged with the nearby St Edmund's, which was an independent parish formed in 1952.

Fleetwood Dog Show was first held.
Spencer's Oil Works burned down in Fleetwood.
JW Fish was running his ironmonger's shop at 62 Lord Street.
Ye Olde Cabinet Maker's shop was on Lord Street in Fleetwood.

St Anne's Christian Scientist Church: was opened on the 27th of June on the corner of St Davids Road North and Knowles Road. The site had been purchased in 1921 in anticipation. The church closed in 1992 and was soon demolished and was replaced with the apartments of "Noel Jones Court".

The Stonework was added around the Rose Garden on Fleetwood Promenade.
Moore's Cash China Stores Ltd was at 21 Orchard Road in St Anne's, supplying cafés, boarding houses, and hotels around the area with china at *"rock bottom prices"*.
The Alicia School of Dancing was opened at 44 Wood Street in St Anne's by Alicia Cottrell. In 1945, the school moved to studio the corner of St Thomas's Road and St Andrew's Road South. An annexe was built on the side of the house for the purpose.
Edward Medcalf ran a bootmaker's shop from 12 Market Square in Lytham.
The tram track from Lytham Square to Lytham Hospital was closed in July, with the service being replaced by an extended bus service.
Kirkham Memorial Gardens were opened on Birley Street on the 17th of November, by Lieutenant-General Sir Richard Butler. 105 trees had been planted in honour of those local people who died in the Great War. The cenotaph, designed by T Mawson, was unveiled at the same time. The Co-operative Picture House at Kirkham filmed and showed the event.
It is believed that Wrea Green Field Day was first held. The village's first Rose Queen was actually crowned in a garden at the rear of Park Terrace, in 1924, after 7 local girls had watched the Lytham fair procession. The next year they walked around the village green, collecting money for Dr Barnardo's. Then, in 1926, local parents formed an organising committee, and the official Field Day began.

Peel police station: The Police House at Peel was built on the corner of what were then called Peel Lane and High Road. The first constable was Albert Walsh, followed by Doug Sanderson, and the last, from 1963, was Charlie Moore, my father.

A small beat Police station was added to the rear in the late 1930s, and from the early 1950s, the station also had one cell and an adjacent toilet. It was used to hold prisoners overnight prior to transfer to Kirkham, and the station/cell roof was made of 6-inch-thick concrete slabs to prevent escape. The cell was changed into a coal shed in the 1960s.
This is now MY home once more.

Preston New Road was opened in Freckleton.

©

Cockerham Garage was established by TE Cookson. It soon became a petrol station, selling ROP (Russian Oil Products) fuel. In 1935, the business was purchased by JB Slinger, who, in the 1950s, became a Raleigh cycles main agent. When Mr Slinger died in 1986, the business was bought Jim Cross, and in 1993, a new workshop was built. In the 1960s, Mr Slinger bought himself a new Ford Anglia, registration 7990TD, which later found fame as the flying car in the Harry Potter films.
The willows tea Rooms were at West End in Great Eccleston.

1927
A crowd of 150,000 flocked to the Promenade to witness a total Solar Eclipse on the 29th of June.

RHO Hill's, Blackpool: Hill's Bazaar opened at 50-68 Bank Hey Street on the 28th of May. Owned by the Viener family, it was built on the site of the St John's Infants School, the Clifton Livery Stables, and the Clifton Palace Pictures. Hill's original bazaar had been in Church Street on the site of the Clifton Picture Palace. Next door was Parr's Bargain Stores.
RHO Hill was Roland Hugh Oldham Hill, of the Paddock in Marton (he died in 1941).

Hill's Bazaar burnt to the ground in the town's greatest fire, on the 13th of January 1932, but reopened on the 3rd of December, now being numbered 54-64. They also had outlets on Ansdell Road and at 13 Market Street. The new store was managed by Mr Viener, a man made in the tradition of Blackpool's great entrepreneurs. He soon bought a "job lot" of left-footed shoes and took over the whole of the top floor to sell them. Disabled people came from all over and bought them all, making the shop a massive profit. Another first for him was the opening of Britain's first in-store Beauty Bar.

Hill's became a Limited Company in 1962, having been originally called Pikeworth Ltd, which was changed to RHO Hills in 1964. The company was bought by Hide and Company Ltd in 1965.

RHO Hill's (by then at numbers 50 to 70) was once more destroyed by fire on the 7th of May 1967. The fire had started at 1220 am, being discovered by night watchman Owen Davey. By 0300, the 5-storey building was a burned-out shell. 60 firemen tackled the blaze, assisted by almost 40 police officers.
On the 4th of March, TV personality Cathy McGowan had opened the store's new teenage boutique. The store was quickly rebuilt, and the new version – with 100 departments on 5 floors - was reopened on the 25th of September 1968, by the Countess of Derby. Its new Tartan Tray café on the third floor was very popular amongst local shoppers.

Hide and Company Ltd was then bought by House of Fraser Plc in 1975. Hills also had a smaller shop on the south-east corner of Albert Road and Bank Hey Street, which was demolished in the 1970s, to be replaced by a wide pavement. That shop had earlier been a Burton's cake shop.

From 1978, House of Fraser traded the store as Binns Ltd until its closure in 1987 (Binns was a trading name acquired by the House of Fraser in 1953). The store was replaced in 1995, by the various large stores that now occupy the site, including Primark (originally Littlewood's), and HMV. HMV had moved from Victoria Street.

Next door, at number 70, in the late 1970s, were Ames Records and Tapes, which was replaced by Virgin stores, and is now HMV. Also, in an adjacent basement, was the Angus Grill, later to become the Silver City Chinese restaurant.

©

Coronation Rock, Blackpool: The Coronation Rock Company was started by Alex Bolton and opened a shop in Coronation Street near to the Big Wheel - hence the name. It later moved to its current location in Bank Hey Street. In 1937, Coronation Rock opened a factory on Cherry Tree Road North. This closed in the 1990s, remaining derelict for many years until becoming a workwear store in March 2012. Coronation Rock had moved into a newly-built factory on Amy Johnson Way.
On the 6th of December 2000, Coronation Rock set the world record for the largest stick of rock, weighing 64 Stone or 424.5kg and measuring 4.5m long. The company changed its name to Coronation Candy in February 2017.

Abingdon Street Market, Blackpool: Blackpool Market was opened in the old Jackson Brothers' garage building on Abingdon Street on the 4th of June. The site had originally been the town's first major police station and courts. The market building originally included offices, four shops and a builder's yard to the rear (off Edward Street). Thomas Holdsworth had bought the Abingdon Street building in January 1893 for development, and in that October, TH Smith moved his joinery business to there from Temple Street and Cedar Street.
On the 9th of December 1893, R Riley's Blackpool Motor Garage moved from Rigby Road to Abingdon Street. The garage was an agent for Humber, Sunbeam, and Clyde motor cars and cycles. This became Jackson Brothers Car Showrooms – later called the Central Motor Garage – and then became Abingdon Street Market this year.

A second floor was added to the old police station buildings in 1896, but it was not until 1928, with the construction of the main hall with its Belfast truss roof, that the building became a true market hall, which soon became known as Abingdon Street Market. Then, in the early 1930s, the shops and offices built onto the front of Blackpool's first police station, behind the main block, were partly demolished to build the market hall. Also, above the market, was the Veranda Café.

The market now has 53 stalls and separate sales units, along with 1st-floor offices. The premises were placed on sale by auction in March 2020.

Moor's Markets, Blackpool: Tom and Joseph Moor opened the first of their Moor's Markets at 8-10 Abingdon Street and soon opened another at 21 Birley Street, before opening a third on Lytham Road in about 1958 (now the site of Tesco Express).
There was another in Bispham Village.
Moor's Markets all closed suddenly in 1974.

The South Shore Rock and Confectionery Company was operating in Bath Street.

Ismail's Coffee, Blackpool: Somali man Ismail Gibrail (born in September 1900) had arrived in London in 1920, demobbed from the Royal Navy after serving alongside Lawrence of Arabia in the First World War. After brewing coffee at the Metropole Hotel for a few years, he now opened his café in Cocker Street, and a warehouse at 12 – 26 Back Lord Street (off Springfield Road).
By 1938 his company, Ismail and Company was so famous, that he personally blended and brewed coffee and tea for the Duke of Kent at the Imperial Hotel. The company had a coffee shop at 31 Birley Street from the 1930s to the late 1960s. It is now called Via Venitos. Ismail soon had coffee and tea shops at 141 Church Street, Preston and in Morecambe too. Another company, F. Speak and Company (1938) Limited, was established by him at the same time. In 1965 there was an Ismail's coffee shop at 21 Waterloo Road.

©

Ismail himself lived at 23 Antrim Road with his wife Georgina Henrietta - affectionately known as Peggy and became a naturalised British Citizen on the 14th of August 1961. On the 5th of December 1967, he was made a Director of Blackpool Football Club.
His son Raschid took over the company in the 1960s, and Ismail died in June 1993, after which the company was taken over by Clifton Catering Supplies. *"That company closed in 1998 with the loss of 24 jobs and debts of 400,000, but the Ismail name continued, the firm having merged in 1991 with Big T based in Newtown, Wales"*.
Rashid set up a new company, Ismail Coffee and Tea Limited, on the 8th of November 2006, and soon opened a Coffee and Tea House in Tunbridge Wells. The company was declared insolvent in August 2016 and went into liquidation.

Thomas Motors, Blackpool: The Oxford Garage and Motor Mart opened on Waterloo Road, owned by Samuel Thomas Motors. Mr Thomas was known fondly as *"Old Square Dealin' Sam"*.
Jointly occupying the site were Hartenfeld and Bridge Ltd, used car dealers, who had another outlet at Harrowside, and went bankrupt in July 1950. The building had previously been Premier Garage, and then, briefly, King's Road Garage Ltd.

Thomas Motors extended their Car Showroom at the Oxford (434 Waterloo Road) and became a Limited company on the 29th of October 1936. The Oxford Cinema opened above and beside it in 1938, and when the cinema closed in 1960, Thomas Motors bought the entire site, to build a petrol station on the Park Road aspect. They had added a brick-built first floor to the building in the 1950s, leaving the original faïence-tiled ground floor as a well-known local feature. The company was by then owned by the Dennison family.
Thomas Motors became famous locally in the 1960s, when it displayed the original Aston Martin DB5 car used in the James Bond film Goldfinger.

In September 1989, after a 60-year partnership, Ford withdrew its franchise from the company, due to the site being too small for their needs. Thomas Motors then sold the freehold property interest to Renault sold in December 1990 for £800,000 although completion of the sale did not take place until the 28th of January 1991.

In the late 1990s, Thomas Motors left, and it was acquired as an investment venture. The site was split up; CSL Lounge Suites moved into the old car showrooms, and the petrol station was bought by Autoglass, who constructed a new building. The dentistry group Ivory Dental Care acquired the building from Autoglass in December 2008, as their second outlet. It was then re-structure inside to accommodate 4 dental surgeries and also the offices for the group.
The CSL store inside the Thomas Motors main building was closed on the 18th of March 2015. It was replaced by a new Aldi supermarket, which opened on the 19th of November. The whole building had been demolished, except for the original stone frontage, which was re-constructed, to house an outlet for Gregg's bakers.

Thomas Motors also had a showroom on Cleveleys Avenue off Victoria Road in Cleveleys (now Kwik Fit), a saleroom and filling station on Whitegate Drive (now Tesco), a car store on Chiswick Grove, and briefly held the soon-to-become Aked's Garage on St George's Road in St Anne's. They also ran Singleton Garage, Clock Garage at Peel, and a body shop on Back Henry Street in Lytham.

The Stanley Park circular tour tram route was inaugurated on the 15th of April.

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The Century Club, Blackpool: This club was opened for just 100 chosen local worthies at 37e Whitegate Drive.
In 1953, the Household Division Association (Blackpool), affectionately known as the Guards Club, was formed by former members of the Household Brigade who lived in Blackpool. They officially took over the Whitegate Drive premises, which they used for some years, in 1972.
The club comprised a ground-floor open plan lounge with bar, table seating, and a snooker table. There is also a rear bar area, and a second lounge area with alcove seating, a storeroom, disabled toilet, and ladies' and gents' toilets. The first floor comprises the living quarters.
The premises were put up for sale in 2020.

The Weights and Measures Inspector's office was on Charnley Road.
The Corporation asked Sir Alan Cobham, who ran an air circus and was also holder of several air records, to recommend a site for Blackpool Municipal Aerodrome. Cobham selected land to the east of Stanley Park apparently because the site was available for purchase, unlike Squires Gate.

The Miners' Home, Blackpool: The Lancashire and Cheshire Miners' Convalescent Home on North Promenade was opened by the Prince of Wales on the 28th of June. The Lancashire and Cheshire Coal Association negotiated reduced rail fares with the Railway Company, to enable up to 30,000 people to attend the event.

The home was built by Sir Lindsay Parkinson and Co, for the Lancashire Miner's Welfare Fund, and eventually had beds for 132 male miners. It had been designed by Bradshaw, Gass, and Hope between 1925 and 1927, and originally consisted of 110 bedrooms which the management boasted of offering *"hotel standards, with each room having its own washing facilities plus good food and cheerful company"*.

Initially the home was for men only, so if they brought their wives with them, the wives stopped in the local boarding houses and then met at the gates daily. Much later, bungalows were built in the grounds so that the wives could come and stay with their husbands. Those bungalows were demolished in 2003 making way for Admiral View and Admiral Heights. The home had its own two bowling greens and bowling hut, and there was also a skittle alley (now the underground car park) and a billiard room with three tables. It merged in 1977 to become the Lancashire and North Staffordshire Home.

The Miners' Home was closed to patients in 1987, and work began on rebuilding the home as private luxury apartments in 2004 – these are called Admiral Point.

The Cocker Memorial Clock Tower, Blackpool: This tall, white clock tower was opened in Stanley Park by Sir John Bickerstaffe on the 29th of June (he had been knighted on the 3rd of July 1926). The tower was built in honour of William Henry Cocker, the first Mayor and gave rise to the local saying *"The time according to Cocker is…"*
The inscription on the tower reads:
"This Tower was erected in the year 1926, the Jubilee of the Corporation of the Borough of Blackpool, in honour of William Henry Cocker, Esq., J.P., M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.S.A., Honorary Freeman of the Borough. A man of ideals, wide vision, and sterling ability, Dr. Cocker rendered eminent service to the municipality. He was elected Mayor on six occasions, and was a member of the Council for 35 years. During a long career of unselfish devotion to public duty, it was his constant endeavour to increase the popularity of Blackpool as a health and pleasure resort".

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The structure measures 85 feet in height and is constructed from Portland Stone. It has lion's head drinking fountains, and the entrance doors are sheathed in bronze and emphasised by the stone pediment, bearing the oval arms of Blackpool. The 7-foot-tall clock dials are framed in bronze, surrounded by rays which project from the periphery and are backlit at night. The mechanism was made by W Potts of Leeds. Public access was originally allowed for a small fee.

New railway bridges were built at Squires Gate and Layton.

Midget Town at Blackpool Tower: opened in the Tower's Roof Gardens. The town included a sports club, town hall, post office, and garage. It was "populated" by a troupe of midgets - Lester's Midgets, who appeared there for three years and then at the Tower Circus for many years afterwards. Lester's Midgets had originally been called Chaffer's Wonderful Midgets, but when John Lester took over their management, he claimed the name too, and moved them from the Winter Gardens. Chaffer's midgets featured 30 *"talented midget artistes"* directed by Ernest Woolf, who was 7 feet 6 inches tall. Many of them lived in a house on Lytham Road.
A Midget Museum was soon opened next door, housing over 3,000 miniature items. Most of the performers lived off Central Drive.
Midget Town closed in 1930, to be replaced for 2 years by the Indian Village, but it returned in 1933 as Tiny Town – complete with its own official Post Office.

By 1938, Tiny Town had moved to back the Winter Gardens.
Midget acts were a popular attraction in Blackpool for many years, with the Tower Circus regularly hiring troupes such as the "World-famed Piccolo Company", "Les Colibris – Troupe Royal de Liliput" (in 1904), and Willy Panzer and his wonderful Midgets.

People with dwarfism now consider the term midget to be insulting. They prefer to be called Little People.

The Williams Deacon and Manchester and Salford Bank opened their branch at 1 Red Bank Road on the 26th of April. This is now a branch of the RBS.

Blackpool Trotting Track, Highfield Road: A total of 20 ½ acres of land on Highfield Road was sold to Charles Smith, who was keen to revive the trotting business in Blackpool. A track was made outside the large field with a stand to the west side and was dually known as the Blackpool Trotting Track (operated by the Blackpool Trotting and Sports Grounds Ltd) and Highfield Road Sports Ground.
Contrary to some writing, the Trotting Track held its opening meeting on Good Friday 1928 and carried on until August Bank Holiday. The meets then stopped until October due to the small number of entrants, and after just another six sporadic meets, the track closed for good at Easter 1930. Proprietor Charles Smith then sold his entire string of trotting horses.

A combination of the North Manchester Motor Club and the Blackpool and Fylde Motor and Aero Club began holding speedway races at what was by then called the Highfield Road Sports Ground in 1928, and did so until it closed in 1930.

Blackpool Highfield Road Speedway Track: In 1928, a speedway track was laid down inside the existing trotting circuit, which had been given a paddock area with space for over 100 horse boxes. These facilities had been considered to be just right for dirt-track racing, and the virtually-unused horse boxes were used as changing rooms. Local rider Chris Tattersall, who built his bikes on Smith Lane in St Anne's, competed in

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the first event on the 21st of April 1928. It was attended by 4,000 people. This first meet was unique in being raced the "wrong way round – clockwise". The second meet attracted 10,000 spectators, and there was a total of 11 meetings held there. All races had six laps, and in September 1928, Arthur Wilcock became the Blackpool Track Champion. The venue also hosted one motor car race.

The Motor Cycle Magazine said in April 1928 "*This track was constructed for trotting events, but before it was put into use the proprietors decided to convert it for motor cycle dirt track racing and the hard surface has been covered with a mixture of loam and sand which will not become hard under any weather conditions. The track is a half-mile oval and it has been tested by several experienced riders and very high speeds have been attained on it, the surface permitting of proper broadside skids*".

During 1929, a further 4 meetings were held, this time sponsored by the Blackpool Motor Cycle and Light Car Club.

Boxer Teddy Baldock beat Harry Lake to retain his British bantamweight crown, in front of 15,000 people, at Highfield Racecourse on August Bank Holiday Monday.

The venue proved unpopular and the last official meet – the only one to be held in that final year - was on the 30th of April 1930. The land was then sold to Blackpool Corporation on April the 10th 1931 for the building of Highfield School.
Sporadic, and unofficial, speedway meetings were held there up to May 1932, and briefly at Poulton.

William and Annie Green opened a campsite on Stanley Road (now Squires Gate Lane). By 1954, Green's Campsite was holding 40 caravans. This became Newlyn Caravan Site, and when Bill and Valerie Oldham sold their next-door market garden, they redeveloped both sites and reopened in 1990.
The first Blackpool Show was held in Stanley Park on the 19th of July.
Robert Moulton Printing began operating from his living room in Gadsby Street, before later moving to 132 Highfield Road, sharing the old Highfield Laundry building.
Harry Wilson closed his shoe shop at 5 Highfield Road.
Cave's Corner was opened at 41 Queen Street by Mr Thomas Cave, and despite closing briefly in the 1980s, it continued to trade under the same name until 2016, when the business began to fail. The shop closed in 2018 and remains vacant.
Stan Stewart's Radio opened on Alfred Street, later moving to the old Coppock's wholesale newspaper outlet at 4 Caunce Street.
Eegee Trading opened their Gifts Galore shop at 86 Central Promenade – it is still trading. The building was built by the Tower Company as a restaurant.
Frankitt's Ice Cream started business in a converted garage in Henry Street, owned by Giovanni Franchiti. At times, they had up to 40 ice cream stands on the beach. The company lasted until 1955, and the factory became the Picador Club in 1959. The Frankitt family opened the San Marco's Italian restaurant in 2002, on Highfield Road, but moved to bigger premises in the former Booths supermarket site at 513 – 515 Lytham Road in 2008. The company San Marcos Restaurant Ltd was registered on the 13th of July 2011, but was dissolved in September 2015. The restaurant remains open.
Express Launderers began trading, moving to new premises on Brunel Way, Marton in 1989.
Sam Taylor opened his bicycle shop on Vicarage Lane, later trading in motorcycles too.
Blackpool Scouts were split into three districts.
An express bus service between Manchester and Blackpool began on the 26th of November, and a new depot and terminus on Marsham Corner at the junction of Central Drive and 1/5 Westmorland Avenue was opened on the same date by Holt's Yelloway Services (of Rochdale), on the site of the old Catholic

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Apostolic Church. The building later became a National Tyre Services depot, then ESA automotive services, and now Westmorland Garage.
Buses began a scheduled service from Blackpool to Poulton (the Number 2 route) in September.
Blackpool had over coach operators by this time, including Standerwick's Ltd, G Whittaker and Sons, Ellsworth's, W Salisbury and Son, William Marshall and Son Blackpool Ltd, S and J Wood Ltd, A Whiteside, John Hodge, Broadway Motors, John Jenkings, Hills Motors, Leavesley Brothers, Leamington Motor Tours, Lansdowne Motors (North Promenade and Victoria Road, Cleveleys), M and H Motors, Woods Bros Ltd (trading as John Bull Coaches), Black and White Motor Coach Tours, Queen of the North Tours, Armitage and Sons (of Dickson Road), William Taylor and Son, and Empire De Luxe Motor Tours.
The Hall of Mirrors was built at the Pleasure Beach on the site of the House of Nonsense.
The Pleasure Beach opened Bingle and Bob's Children's Amusement Park, including the Custer Car Track, the Fairy Whip (later the Junior Whip), Autoskooters, a mini Ferris Wheel, the brownie coaster, the fairy Whip, and a merry-go-round. In 1934, Bingle and Bob's was replaced by the Kiddies' Park. Other new features for this year included 1001 Troubles, the Indian Temple of Mystery, and "Gorgeous Electrical Illuminations".
A "Great Liberal Bazaar" was held in the Winter Gardens between the 16th and 19th of November.
Jack Hylton took his band in an Imperial Airways biplane from Croydon to Blackpool on the 4th of September, circling the tower and playing a new song "Me and Jane in a Plane" so that holidaymakers could hear it.
The Blackpool Hospital Cup was won by Everton.
Dr James Longworth started a General Medical Practice in Airedale Villas on Whitegate Drive, before moving to the corner of Glastonbury Avenue after the War. In 1946/7, what came to be today's Marton Medical Centre was built in the house and in a new building constructed in its garden. The practice was rebuilt in 1990 and moved into the Whitegate Health Centre in 2010.
The last survivor of the Charge of the Light Brigade, Troop Sergeant Major Edwin Hughes (Balaclava Ned), died at 64 Egerton Road in Blackpool on the 18th of May.
Ian Christie was born in Blackpool on the 24th of June, later becoming a world-famous jazz clarinettist.
May Sanderson was born in Blackpool, becoming lead soprano with the D'Oyly Carte Opera.
Basil Kirchin was born in Blackpool on the 8th of August. He went on to be a famous "Avant Garde" composer, writing the soundtrack to the film "The Abominable Dr Phibes" in 1971.
School milk began to be provided by the Lancashire Education Authority.
The Westminster Gazette's "Lobby Lud" was giving holidaymakers the run-around in Blackpool in August.
The Blackpool Mail was first published. It became the Blackpool and Fylde Illustrated Mail in 1928, and only lasted until 1929.
The Besses O' Th' Barn brass band gave a grand concert in Stanley Park on the 27th of May.

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Edward, Prince of Wales had opened the new Miners' Home on Blackpool promenade, but on his way home, he stopped at Poulton. He had arranged to meet soldiers and members of the British Legion at Poulton. This duly took place in the Market Place.
The towns of Thornton and Cleveleys amalgamated in May.
The new Promenade was opened at Cleveleys on the 17th of September. A time capsule was placed inside the foundation stone by Councillor Rowbotham. It was a small monument at the top of Kingsway, which was about 4 feet high. The lead-lined, sealed oak casket contained posters, town planning maps, and newspapers, and unfortunately, it was opened and emptied in the 1980s, before the monument was moved to the Blackpool boundary. The shelter (and its clock) at the western end of Victoria Road was added in 1928, together with electric lighting.
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Thornton-Cleveleys Rugby Union Football Club: was established, opening at their School Road ground of the 21st of September. In 1928, they moved to Fleetwood Road North, a new clubhouse was opened on the 10th of October 1961, and since August 2003, they have played at Thornton Sports Centre. The Fleetwood Road building was destroyed by fire in November 2003.

Captain KH Shankland's "Shankland Sports Club" was flooded in October. It was a half-thatched building which stood near the later site of the Post Office on the Crescent in Cleveleys.
Cleveleys Electric Laundry was on Anchorsholme Lane East.

The Floods of 1927: Fleetwood was devastated by floods on the night of the 28th and 29th of October. A force 12 wind combined with a high tide of 33 feet 6 inches to create a 2,000-acre lake around the town, cutting it off for five days.
The North Lancashire Oil and Rubber Company premises were partly submerged, the homes of 10,000 people were flooded out, and two miles of the railway track was under 6 feet of seawater.
Many logs from the Copse Road Sawmills were washed in Lord Street.
The electricity works were flooded and stopped working.
The doorway of the Strawberry Gardens Hotel still bears an engraved line marking the height reached by the water. It reads *"Height of Flood 29th Oct 1927"*.
29 tons of fish was sent to Knott End by ferry and dispatched from there by train before it could spoil.
Twelve police officers were sent by Darwen district to help.
The Mayor of Leeds sent a convoy of trucks with emergency supplies.
Blackpool Council sent all the small rowing boats from Stanley Park lake to help in the evacuation.
The Ormerod Home in the dunes at St Anne's had water up to the ground floor windows.
Tram number 28 was blown over, opposite Richmond Place, North Shore.
Six people drowned in the Fylde area – including five in Fleetwood alone – 3 of whom were gypsies living in caravans in the *"Peel Road colony"*.

Fleetwood British Legion Club was opened on Elm Street (now Copse Road). The club closed on the 1st of May 2014 and is currently being restored in order to become a fitness centre – on the first floor – and a children's play centre and café – on the ground floor.
Fleetwood's trams began to run off power supplied from side poles at Easter.
Warren Farm on the corner of Beach Road and Laidley's Walk in Fleetwood was demolished from the 1st of March, ready for the construction of 8 new houses – the start of the Shakespeare Road Housing Estate.
Fred Michelbach's butcher's shop was at 110 Lord Street. He had taken over Williams' Pork Butchers. In 2012, the company took over the Crescent Confectioners bakery in Cleveleys.
On the 5th of July, the top of a 400-year-old village cross was found in the River Wyre at Fleetwood.
The 1st Carleton Boy Scout Group was registered on the 10th of January.
Thistleton Village Hall was opened on the 8th of June.
Bowyer's were operating their tailors, clothiers, and boy's outfitters at 24 Wood Street in St Anne's.
Dorothy Clarke was selling *"millinery and hosiery of taste"* at 7 St Andrew's Road South in St Anne's.
Hepworth and Wright (formerly T Challinor) were auctioneers and valuers operating from 21 St Albans Road in St Anne's.

Edgar Sumner, St Anne's: was running his bicycle shops at 12 and 18 St Andrew's Road South in St Anne's, selling Raleigh and BSA bikes and Silver Cross prams. By 1935, he was selling BSA motorcycles and had opened another shop at 87 Poulton Street in Kirkham. Sumner also sold Raleigh motor cycles from number

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12 and had a pram shop at number 18. He also ran a gent's business, sports, and evening wear shop from 12 Orchard Road.
By 1939, his shop at number 8 was selling Marconi radios, and by 1953, as Edgar Sumner Ltd, the business had developed into a full-blown car dealership, for the Rootes Group, selling Humber, Hillman, Sunbeam, and Talbot cars, and Commer trucks – all at a single unit covering 8 to 12 St Andrew's Road.
The premises are now divided into a private house and the Pink Thangka Buddhist gift shop.
However, also in 1953, Sumner's were showing off the brand new 12-inch Bush TV set at their shop at 13 St Andrew's Road South. They were also agents for Murphy, Ekco, Pye, KB, and Ferranti.

Goddard's Pianos were running their "Great Piano House" at 7 West Crescent in St Anne's, and another shop on Clifton Street in Lytham. They soon opened a third outlet at 81 Fishergate in Preston. The St Anne's shop is currently occupied by the book shop Storytellers, Inc, which was opened in December 2010 by Carolyn Clapham and her daughter Katie. In 2012, Katie was named Young Bookseller of the Year, and in 2013, the shop was named Vintage Independent Bookshop of the Year.
Considerable work was carried out on the River Ribble defences outside Freckleton, including the paddle tug Douglas being sunk in the mud! Two of the companies went bankrupt before the work was finally completed.

St Hilda's Church, Bilsborrow: was built and consecrated on Bilsborrow Lane. It is thought to be the last stone-built Anglican church in England.
The church was designed by Henry Paley of Lancaster architects Austin and Paley at a cost of £11,640. The foundation stone had been laid by Reverend William Temple, Bishop of Manchester (later the Archbishop of Canterbury).
The church is built of stone with a slate roof, in the Free Perpendicular style. It has a low tower at the crossing, with a stair turret at its southeast corner. The two-manual pipe organ was built in 1938 by Wilkinson of Kendal. There is a ring of eight bells, all cast in 1949 by Mears and Stainbank of the Whitechapel Bell Foundry.

1928

Blackpool Air Pageant: The first such pageant was staged on the 6th and 7th of July at Squires Gate and was organised jointly by the Corporation, the Lancashire Aero Club, and the RAF. It was advertised as "The Great Air Pageant of the North" and included Leslie Irvin's first demonstration of the modern parachute, where the current Miss June was dropped from a record low height. 73 aircraft from the newly-formed Royal Air Force took part, and faced a barrage from the Blackpool Battery of Artillery, above a staged fight starring Arnold House pupils, who had been "blacked up" as Dervishes. Whilst the officers were accommodated at the Queens Hydro hotel, the airmen slept under the grandstands!
The town has hosted an air show of some kind in most of the following years. By 1947, it stretched from the 2nd of July, until the 23rd, and featured weekly flying displays organised by the Air League of the British Empire.

The Palladium Super Cinema, Blackpool: This large cinema opened on Waterloo Road on the 16th of April with Ramon Navaro in "Ben Hur". It had 1,449 seats, a 28-foot proscenium, and a screen measuring 23 feet nine inches by 18 feet 8. Initially an orchestra accompanied the silent films, and in 1930, it was fitted with a Christie organ which was opened by organist George Tootell. Seating was divided between stalls and balcony, with fibrous plasterwork on the side walls, balcony front and barrel-vaulted ceiling.
A café was at first floor level running along the Waterloo Road frontage, and a foyer runs the full width of the building with entrances on each of the roads.

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By 1943, it had been renamed The Palladium Theatre.
The Christie organ was removed in the early 1950's, when the cinema was under the control of South Shore Theatres Ltd.

In 1959, the Palladium held the provincial premiere of the film "Gigi", starring Leslie Caron. In later years, the Palladium attracted and specialised in showing long-running blockbuster films – for example, "The Sound of Music" ran for 46 weeks in 1965.
The Copa Cobana coffee bar was just inside the main doors, at 1 Palladium Buildings.
The Palladium Cinema was closed at the end of 1976 and was later renamed Apollo Bingo until the building closed in 2008. The cinema circle is intact but disused, and the former stage area is now a small car park, despite plans in 2014 to re-open it as a comedy club and restaurant.

The venue was attached to the Royal Oak Hotel and was constructed with room for seven separate independent shops to the east of the entrance doors. The occupants of these changed several times over the years. In the 1940s, they included Doris Walker's dress shop and Steel's spelt shop. The Palladium Bingo Shop was next door in the 1970s, with Regent Films next, and the Lonsdale Bargain Box further west, selling old toys. In place of those shops, a Pizza Hut outlet opened in November 2015.

The Pleasure Beach constructed the popular Boating Pool underneath the Big Dipper. The original boats were large swans.
Scenic tableaux were introduced into the Illuminations, on the North Cliffs.
The Plaza Dance Hall was at 38a Station Road.
The Blackpool South Shore telephone exchange was opened for use on Waterloo Road on the 7th of February. It had been built by W Eaves and Co Ltd as part of the new Post Office.
The paddle steamer "Bickerstaffe" was sold for scrap on the 22nd of November.
The Westminster Bank opened in the Town Hall buildings on the 18th of February. The bank later opened branches at 293 Whitegate Drive and at 70-72 Bond Street (on the 31st of May 1930). They changed their name to the National Westminster when they merged with the National Provincial Bank in 1968.
A Darbyshire's bread and cakes shop was in business at number 2 Preston Old Road.

Daintee, Blackpool: Stanley, Roy, and Fred Kitt opened the Daintee Chocolate Confectionery Company in Crystal Road, with a factory at 22a Lune Grove. The company had begun selling sweets to stallholders on the Golden Mile from a handcart, and now adopted its famous ballerina logo.

Daintee moved to Clifton Road in 1938, taking over the old Vickers-Armstrong (later TI Cheswick Silencers) factory and building on the site of the adjoining brickworks belonging to the Whitegate Brick Company. The company, then known as the Daintee Chocolate Confectionery Company (Blackpool) Ltd, was incorporated on the 31st of October. The factory also opened the Daintee Cash and Carry shop, from where one could buy the confectionery made at the factory. This included Mars Bars, Milky Way, Marathon, Cadbury's Milk, Craven's Mints, and Fry's Bars.

Next door, Stansfield's Joinery opened at the same time, making Nissen Huts, and repairing ammunition boxes. A drop-hammer shop was built nearby, to supply the aircraft factories. This factory was later taken over by the Hawtin family, who made dental products. The Nissen huts were used in various places around the Fylde as cheap housing, particularly after the war – there was even a Nissen Crescent off Bosworth Place (demolished in 1954).
In 1948, Fred Kitt allowed the Children's Pantomime to store their costumes upstairs in the factory.

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The former TI Cheswick Factory on Clifton Road was taken over, by the expanding Daintee, in 1993.

The company was sold to Toms UK in 1997, but in January 2006, Tangerine Confectionery bought out the Toms factory on Clifton Road. In August 2006, they also bought the confectionery arm of Burton's Foods, on Vicarage Lane.

The Clifton Road complex comprises *"several warehouse/industrial buildings which combine to provide a food production unit, staff canteen and over 8,300 sq ft of office accommodation"*.

The factory closed on the 31st of March 2015 with the loss of 110 jobs, and the core production was switched to the Vicarage Lane site.
In May 2016, the building was stripped out, re-built, and re-opened by double glazing company 21st Century Windows.

Burlingham's Coaches, Blackpool: Herbert Victor Burlingham started his coach building business in Bloomfield Road, and soon in Bond Street, making their "Seagull" bodies.
Output in the early years kept outgrowing factory space, and in 1929 the original sites were relinquished in favour of a workshop in Bank Road, Marton, which was used until 1931, together with a Paint Shop on Bloomfield Road and Henry Street; the company was then known as Burlingham and Richardson.
A factory was constructed at Preston New Road in late 1929. After the Marton workshop was sold, further premises were bought in Newhouse Road, these being used both to build components and to repair and recondition bodies.

Burlingham sold the business to Richard Eaves and Harry Lowcock, who set up HV Burlingham Limited on the 25th of November 1930. Herbert then moved to Garstang and set up Burlingham Caravans. In 1931, further premises were acquired by HV Burlingham, on Vicarage Lane. This meant that bodies were built at Vicarage lane, painted and finished at Preston New Road, and repaired at Newhouse Road.
The Newhouse Road factory has now been replaced by Red Rose Lodge.

The Manchester Square Sewage pumping station, Blackpool: was re-furbished and somewhat enlarged, and again enlarged in 1937, giving it 9 pumps in total. It was also better protected from the sea by the thickening of the concrete wall to 7 feet. The screened effluent residue was then taken in 2 tank wagons from the Rigby Road pumping station to farmland in Marton, for use by farmers as fertiliser. The 1937 work was described at the time as *"In the Central Area a complete new Pumping Station and screening plant situated on the south side of the present chamber at Manchester Square has been constructed. This Station has screens of the latest pattern and is capable of dealing with 330 cubic feet of sewage per second and should be in operation shortly"*.

The re-building of the sewage pumping station was begun in January 1962, finishing in November 1966. At the same time, the Illuminated windmill (actually a 20-foot plywood model built in 1931 to hide the vent) was moved from Manchester Square and re-sited at the Promenade end of Waterloo Road (on the site of an 18th century watchtower). The windmill was removed to storage in 2005.

Ribble, North-western, and Lancashire United Transport (LUT) were all first licenced to run the X60 bus service from Manchester to Blackpool and back. The service started on the 8th of July, leaving every 30 minutes. The journey took 4 hours at first, due to a 12.5 mph speed limit, and cost 4s and 3d single and 6s

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day return. The X61 service to Liverpool followed shortly after. By 1955, the X60 bus service was running at a peak rate of every 15 minutes during the summer.
Scout Motors began operating coaches from Foxhall Garage in Blackpool, moving to Preston by 1930.

Yelloway Coaches: Holt Brothers of Rochdale began an express coach service from Blackpool to London on the 1st of October from the Yelloway Coach Station which stood on the corner of Bloomfield Road and Central Drive. Many famous entertainers used this service when they were appearing in the summer shows at Blackpool and during the journey it was usual for the passengers to be entertained by artists such as: Gracie Fields, Max Miller, Flanagan and Allen, Max Wall, George Formby (Senior and Junior), Hilda Baker and Jimmy Jewel.

A bus garage was built on the site of the New Road Mission Hall on Talbot Road for Ribble Motor Services and became the main overnight and maintenance garage for Blackpool's Ribble buses. When Ribble pulled out of the town, the garage was taken over by Abbott's Coaches Ltd. In 2002, Preston-based Savoy Timber Limited transformed the former coachworks into a timber yard.
Percy Markson was operating his gentlemen's outfitters 70a Central Drive. He later changed to trade as a wholesaler and retailer of photographic goods, such as calendars, and moved to a new shop, which he named "Marksonia House" at 20 Queen Street.

Carley's / Diana Warren, Blackpool: Carl Harris opened a tailor's shop on Carter Street. In 1940, he moved to 10/12 Birley Street – then called Carley's. In 1959 Carley's opened a new fashion shop next to their store in Birley Street, which was opened in November by comedian Bruce Forsyth (this is currently a Thomas Cook travel agent). Carley's also ran a hire shop at 21 South King Street.

Diana Warren's American Dress Shop moved next door at numbers 20-22 Birley Street in the 1960s, after starting out in Burton's buildings on the Promenade in the 1950s. Diana Warren (Blackpool) Limited had been formed in February 1964 and was dissolved in January 1996. They had been taken over by the owners of Boston Man's Shop on Church Street, who briefly resurrected the Diana Warren brand (as Birley House) in the 1990s, before closing in 2001. The shop later became a branch of the HSBC bank, which closed in June 2017. It was revealed in April 2019, that the ground floor of the bank will become a hot food takeaway and the restaurant will occupy the first floor with sating for more than 40 people.

The adjacent Diana Warren and Boston Man were distinguishable from nearby shops by the four green, round, canopies over their frontages.
The American Dress shop was also on Abingdon Street in the 1960s, next door but one to the Market.

Reliance Garage was on Waterloo Road, operated by SE McGowan and Company Limited. They were automobile engineers, garage proprietors, a petrol filling station, and kept all kinds of accessories in stock. They were also agents for Dennis, Croft, commercial cars, and all leading makes.

Roseacre School, Blackpool: Roseacre Junior Mixed Council School opened on the 1st of September on Stonycroft Avenue. It had been built to ease the overcrowding in nearby Thames Road School, but in a few years, it too was overflowing with pupils. Highfield Methodist Church was then urgently pressed into service as a temporary annexe.

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In 1936, work began on a new infants' school at a cost of 12,400. Its new facilities included a large assembly hall, two inner courtyards for open air lessons, and a row of classrooms. Roseacre Infants' School opened on the 1st of October 1937.
In 1955, the southern branch School Dental Clinic was transferred from the Hawes Side Clinic to spare accommodation at Roseacre Infants' School. This was christened the Roseacre Medical Clinic.
On the 1st of September 1992, both schools reopened as Roseacre County Primary School.

The Midland Bank opened on the 4th of August, on the corner of St Anne's Road and Waterloo Road. This later became shop – currently Carol's Corner Shop.
Waterloo Road Market Hall opened on the 9th of February.
The Welcome cottages stood next door to the Welcome and Railway Inn, in front of its bowling green. The original inn was built on the site of one of the cottages, which incorporated an Ale House.
Traffic for south Blackpool had to leave Preston New Road at Peel Corner and cross the Moss via the Red Bridge at the corner of Cropper Road and Wildings Lane. That bridge was removed in the 1950s, when the junction was improved. A roundabout was installed there in 2000, with the newly-built Lytham St Anne's Way joining it to the A583. The junction is now notable for its adjacent multi-sailed wind turbine.
Refuse from houses on the Moss was removed by private contractors, and *"tipped but not covered, at Stockydale"*. As this included household refuse and the contents of privvies, it was highly unsanitary and a health hazard.
A waterspout was seen in the sea offshore on the 29th of August.
The Lees Saxon butcher's shop was at 170 Warbreck Road.

North Shore Working Men's Club and Institute: opened at number 1 Cross Street, having been registered on the 26th of September. In 2010, it re-opened as The North Shore Club, having been fully refurbished by husband and wife team Kevin and Carol Reaney.

The Talbot Conservative Club was opened on Buchanan Street on the 21st of January 1928, now being called simply the Talbot Club.
Tyldesley Conservative Club opened in Bloomfield Avenue on the 23rd of June, later moving to its current position on Palmer Avenue.
Blackpool and Fylde Athletic Club changed its name to the Blackpool and Fylde Harriers.
There was a branch of the Manchester Bank on Red Bank Road, and Deacon's Bank had a branch nearby, on the corner with the Promenade – Handy's Café was next door. Handy's also operated Ivy Cottage tearooms at this time.
The British Animated Photo Company was in operation on Central Beach.
Gamble and Wright were running a fish shop and carts from 59 Chapel Street.
The Scotch Dress Warehouse was in business at 50 Victoria Street.
St Margaret's Home for Friendless Girls opened on the 20th of August.
Harrowside railway bridge opened to traffic on the 28th of June. Next door, on the corner with Clifton Drive, was an underground municipal car park and garage for 500 cars, part of which was later used as a Corporation deck chair store. On the 26th of July 2017, the bridge was subject to an emergency closure notice due to structural problems but was opened again on the 2nd of February 2018.
Five miles of new sewers were laid to the south of Talbot Road. These comprised a 48-inch storm overflow from Whitegate drive to its discharge point at Marton Mere, a 30-inch sewer from Whitegate Drive to Queen Victoria Road, a 43-inch sewer from Crossland Road to Rigby Road (where effluent was discharged on the ebb tide), and a new storm overflow sewer from Hawes Side Lane to a new pumping station and sea outfall at Harrowside.

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The "Empire Bazaar" was held at the Winter Gardens between November the 7th and 10th.
The musical "Mr Cinders" was first performed in Blackpool in September. The music was by Vivian Ellis and Richard Myers, and the libretto by Clifford Grey and Greatorex Newman.
On South Pier, the Summer Show was the "White Black-Birds", starring Norman Savage.
Lytham Street and St Anne's Street were both renamed Corporation Street. Another 78 Blackpool streets were renamed in March, by Act of Parliament. In Marton, under the Blackpool Improvement Act, 1925, Section 56, several streets were renamed. The changes came into effect on the 1st of February 1929:

Bank Road - Newhouse Road
Green Lane - Wren Grove
Harewood Ave - Hereford Ave
Henrietta Street - Briercliffe Ave
Jackson Ave - Canterbury Ave
Oxford Ave - Sedbergh Ave
Wilson Ave - Greenwood Ave
Rothsay Road - Westmorland Ave
St George's Ave - St Ives Ave

Earlier name changes had included:

Flag Causeway - Bank Road (named after Marton Bank Farm where Elaine Ave is now)
Preston Road - Preston Old Road
Whitegate Lane - Whitegate Drive

What is now Penrose Avenue was to have been Marlborough Avenue, but the name was changed before houses were built. In the early 1950s, the street signs at the corner of Winton Ave read Penrose Avenue, and the words "formerly Ruth Avenue" were written beneath.
The 16th Blackpool Brownies were formed at St John Vianney's church.

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Poulton Conservative Club: opened on the 4th of February, in the old Ship Inn building. It closed in 2001 and moved to 28A Breck Road, which then became Cube Bar.
In 2009, this changed into the Breck Social Club (known as the Breck Club), leased by Peter Flynn. Flynn bought the freehold in 2013, but by July 2018, the building was scheduled for demolition, to be replaced by housing.

The Fylde Cricket League was formed, meeting in Poulton until it closed down at the end of the summer 2014 season. The league hosted its own Close Cup from the start, the Stuart Trophy (now for T20) since 1929, the President's Cup since 1967, and the Wareing Trophy (40 overs) since 1987.
A Williams Deacon's Bank was opened on the southeast corner of Victoria Square at Cleveleys in November, having moved from the Parade. After World War 2 the District Bank branch on the southwest corner was replaced by the existing shop, which was opened as a Gas Showroom at 1 Crescent West and closed in 1989. This currently enjoys a new life as a British Heart Foundation charity shop. The roundabout in the centre of Victoria Square was built in the mid-1930s, with the tram tracks crossing its centre. It was removed in the late-1960s.
"Fourlands" had recently been built at Four Lane Ends in Thornton, soon being renamed "Rushlands". It was constructed for Doctor Frederick Rhodes and later became an old-folks home and then a Bed and Breakfast establishment. Dr Rhodes had moved from Hope Villa (built 1893) at 18 Woodlands Road.
At Poolside Farm, Skippool, in the middle of a creek behind the Illawalla, antlers, animal bones, and flint implements were found.
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ICI Social Club, Thornton: began to meet in May, in the old plant Manager's House on Peace Place, off Fleetwood Road, Burn Naze.
In later years, it was known as the International Club, hosting Harvey's Restaurant, the Europa Restaurant and then Murphy's Restaurants upstairs, and briefly, a bar called Steptoe's and Smiffy's nightspot. The Rainbow Room was added to the rear of the building.
The club closed in 2000 after being run by a consortium of ICI workers since 1995. It was soon demolished, to be replaced by houses built by Barrett Homes Ltd.
Playing fields behind the club had housed several local football teams.

Broadway, Fleetwood: began to be constructed between Rossall School and Poulton Road. Glazed pipes were bought from Rainhill Potteries, and Alex Keay's Sawmills provided fencing timber. The new road was opened between Cleveleys and Fleetwood in August 1929, prompting the beginning of the Broadway Estate. The new estate was planned as a new Garden City.
The complete length of Broadway was officially opened by Lord Derby in September 1930.

The Fleetwood Steam Laundry was on Poulton Road (opposite the barracks).
The last sailing on the original LMS Railway Fleetwood to Belfast ferry route was by the "Duke of Cumberland" on the 28th of April. The service was transferred to Heysham instead.
Fleetwood's Sea Wall was completed.
Riley's Furnishers started trading at 28 to 30 Church Street in Fleetwood, moving to the disused Mullard's factory on Warrenhurst Road in 1981. It closed in 2007 and was demolished in April 2009.
Rowlands furniture store was on Adelaide Street in Fleetwood.
Brande's Radio was off Abbotts Walk in Fleetwood, advertising itself as "Fleetwood's Accumulator Service".

The Elm Street Wesleyan Mission Hall, Fleetwood: opened this year at the junction with Warrenhurst Road. Local Wesleyans had worshipped in each other's houses from at least 1905 and performing baptisms since 1910. The church was constructed from red/brown brick and is surmounted by a leaded dome with a cupola at the pinnacle.
On the 25th of August 1930, it was solemnised for marriages.
The mission closed in 1965, and on the 18th of January 1969, after considerable expansion, it changed to the Emmanuel Church (Evangelical).

The Eprane Company was on Albert Terrace in Fleetwood, selling ladies', gents', and children's fashions.
Bradock's men's outfitter's shop was at 7 and 9 Church Street in Fleetwood.
The Lytham St Anne's Tramway Corporation began a service along Blackpool's South Promenade on the 17th of September, after the Lytham-bound tracks which ended at Starr Gate were connected to Blackpool's South Shore terminus in July.

Headroomgate Preparatory School, St Anne's: Mrs M Evans set up her first school in the Parish Rooms, on Headroomgate Road, with just five pupils. Those parish rooms had been built on the site of the guardroom and entrance for the militia camping field.
At the end of the War, what had become the Headroomgate Preparatory School for Boys had moved into a Miss Coventry's 1912 house on the corner of 1 Oxford and Headroomgate Roads, and soon, girls also began to be accepted. In 1959, Betty Soper, Mrs Evans' daughter took over as headmistress, and 1963, a nursery department opened. Mrs Soper retired in 1986, and despite having about 140 pupils, the school closed. It had used the playing fields on Clarendon Road for its sports events and training, and the uniform was brown and yellow.

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The school building is now the Headroomgate Nursing Home.

Lois Hindle had her glass and china shop at 33 the square in St Anne's.
Hoyle's Hosiery and woollen shop was at 13 St Andrew's Road North in St Anne's.
Northern Cobblers Ltd had a shop at 2 St Andrew's Road in St Anne's, with their receiving depot at 20 Warton Street in Lytham (next to St John's playground).
H Rowlay began his glazing business, now operating from Allenby Road in St Anne's.
Robinson's Belfast Linen Warehouse Ltd was operating at 1 and 3 Orchard Road in St Anne's.
Henry de Vere Talbot Clifton (known as Harry Clifton) travelled to Egypt, the Far East and to America, buying racehorses and even wild animals for a menagerie at Squires Gate, but then changed his mind. In 1935, he sold that land for the building of Blackpool Airport.
Beatrice Fothergill had a millinery and gown shop at 50 Clifton Street in Lytham, Newbrook's *"high class"* game and poultry shop was at number 38.
Martin's Bank opened on the corner of Park Road and The Square in St Anne's. It remained theirs until 1969, and is now a branch of Barclay's Bank.

The Casino Cinema, Knott End: The Casino opened for use on Lancaster Road, being formally opened on the 2nd of July 1930 by the chairman of the council. It seated 400 people.

Films in the town were later shown at the Verona Café, and by 1937, the cinema had been renamed the Verona Cinema; run by Mr and Mrs Miller. This became the town library until the end of 1971.
It had been turned into a squash club by the end of the 20th century and is now a café called Squash.

Southport Flower Show was first held, with twenty-eight trains bringing visitors. Rapidly organised attempts by Blackpool to stage a similar event in Stanley Park ended in failure.

1929
Prince Paul of Greece saw a High Diving competition at South Shore Baths on the 27th of July and visited the Mayor.
Luke Gannon had the Great Sacco sealed inside a glass case at 76 Church Street. Ricardo Sacco stayed there for 65 days from July the 13th to the 15th of September and drew huge crowds. He died soon afterwards.

Chard's Theatre, Blackpool: The Montmartre Theatre - later known as Chard's - showed nude girls. It had been built by Bob Chard on the site of the British Workmen's Coffee Palace and Dining Rooms at number 25 Central Promenade. Its new number was 23 Central Promenade.
The theatre was later called the Latin Quarter, and in 1951, the owners were fined by the courts for showing fully naked women. In the words of Lawrence Chard *"the girly show models were G-strings and stickies, and were never naked. I did hear many old stories from my grandparents. One recounted that the girls were not permitted to move during the "performance", only to pose. Some audiences would try to make them laugh and move. The police kept a watchful eye for such acts of indecency".*
Chard's presented its last show – Lottie the "Girl in a Goldfish Bowl" in 1972 and was demolished at the end of the holiday season.

Lieutenant Chard (Ted) and his Performing Dogs (a monkey was also part of the act) also appeared at the Pleasure Beach - it was "the fairground" in those days, and Billy Butlin had a stall there.

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Llewellyn Pritchard – then known as Leslie Chard - and his wife, Alberta Paige – known as D'Alba the Australian Television Girl (a second sight act) - came to Blackpool in 1939, appearing at Feldman's Theatre and on the Golden Mile.
In 1947, Lou made a deal with Eric Heap of the Tower company which allowed him to revitalise the area's attractions and begin a return to its heyday. The first job was to refurbish the Funlandia Theatre on the first floor of the Funlandia Arcade, and in 1948, D'Alba's mindreading act opened there. In 1952, Chard built an elaborate façade outside the face of the Funland building, and the couple performed their act until Dalba's death in 1957. D'Alba had lived in a caravan on the Ivy House site.
Chard changed his name from Llewellyn Pritchard to Lou Chard by deed poll in 1948.

In 1956, when D'Alba was forced to retire due to ill health, Chard converted the Funlandia Theatre into "The All-American Ghost Show". This featured a naturally ugly little man called Harold Standerwick, who was suspended on a wire, covered in a white sheet, flying over the top of the audience. During one performance, the wire snapped, resulting in Harold falling on top of the crowd and breaking a few bones. There was also "Anita - the Smallest Woman in the World" – 3-foot tall Jenny from Gorton Street, and glass enclosure where tourists could have their photographs taken with real lion cubs.

In the later 1950s, Chard had a large house built at Staining, but later years saw him gamble away most of his fortune in a small betting shop on Bonny Street, owned by "Fat Jack" Payne.
After living for several years at Whitegate Manor, an NHS retirement home, Chard developed a heart condition and was moved to Wesham park hospital, where he died on the 26th of December 1981.

The Labour government set up training centres for unemployed men, and the first of the Labour Camps was opened at Blackpool in April. Another 25 camps were built in the most remote areas of England and more than 200,000 unemployed men were sent to them and put to work at hard labour. When they arrived, the men were issued with hob-nailed boots and a pair of corduroy trousers before being assigned to a wooden hut dormitory. Men who refused to go to the camps were told their benefit would be stopped once and for all – the policy was called the "New Deal". In 1934, new legislation provided for temporary summer camps in tented accommodation but attached to the permanent centres.
The Catholic Club opened in Queen Street. The rebuilt Catholic Club opened in Queen Street on the 25th of May 1950.

The Blackpool Municipal Aerodrome: The new airfield opened for use opposite Stanley Park on the 22nd of August. Sir John Bickerstaff had sold the land, and so, the first Blackpool Aerodrome opened in Marton rather than at Squires Gate, which would have been leased.

A riot occurred at the Stanley Park Aerodrome in 1930, when angry local unemployed men set upon 200 ex-miners drafted in by the Government to help with its construction.

Also, in 1930, the Blackpool Flying Club was formed. Motor Sport magazine reported in September that *"The management of the aerodrome and the flying organisation of the club will be undertaken by National Flying Services, Ltd., who have been granted a seven years' lease of the aerodrome by the Corporation. The Blackpool Flying Club will be the sixth to enter the National Flying Services group, and its members will be able to fly at the sister clubs at Hanworth (London), Leeds, Hull, Reading and Nottingham. Members of these associated clubs will likewise have flying rights at Blackpool.*

A Desoutter air taxi and a "Cirrus" Moth training machine have already been stationed at the aerodrome, and Captain F. C. Crossley has been appointed chief instructor and pilot-in-charge of the aerodrome. More

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machines and a second instructor will be added as soon as they are required to meet the demands of members. The Desoutter has already been booked to carry holiday-makers to and from the town and is in great demand for short passenger flights and cruises around Blackpool.

People who wish to take a course of flying while spending a holiday at Blackpool will be specially catered for. It is quite possible in fine weather for a keen, apt pupil to qualify for an "A" Licence in the spare hours of a fortnight's holiday".

Stanley Park Aerodrome: After much discussion, prompted by Sir Alan Cobham's report, this new £39,000 facility was officially opened as Blackpool's municipal airport on the 2nd of June 1931 by Prime Minister Ramsey McDonald, with its operation leased to National Flying Services Limited. Scheduled flights from Blackpool began, to Leeds/Bradford Airport, and in 1932 the British Amphibious Aircraft Company began popular (14-seater) trips to the Isle of Man, booked from their offices at 22 Birley Street (now the HSBC Bank) at a cost of 36 shillings for the 40-minutes trip.
The all-grass airfield was small, and the longest possible landing run was 2,100 feet long. The main runway ran from West to East and a second, smaller runway crossed it at right angles.

The site had begun to be used for flying in August 1929, and had four grass landing strips on its 120 acres, with 1 Blister hangar, designed to accommodate 120 light aircraft (and 4 Bellmann hangars later). For the first 2 years, it was used only for private planes and excursion flights.

In 1931, a club house, with offices, and a top floor control tower were opened. The clubhouse had an arched roof with the control tower on the top. Beneath this were tiers of seating for spectators, and the main offices. To each side of the main building was a rectangular brick building with a large bay window. After two years of work to drain the ground, it was now a fully operational and licensed aerodrome, the first Municipal Aerodrome in the country, and it had its own Customs facilities. A journal of the time described it thus: *"As regards accommodation, the hangar contains offices, store rooms, and a workshop on the north-east side, and can store twenty light aeroplanes. Built of brick and artificial stone, the hangar is fitted with sliding doors 90 feet long and 20 feet high, and has a steel roof with a bituminous surface. A concrete apron has been laid down at the entrance. Two hundred yards away on the north-west side is the club-house, also built of brick. It has an observation tower in the centre and comprises a separate large dining room and clubroom, bathroom, kitchen, bar on the ground floor, steward's room, offices, and three bedrooms on the first floor.*
There is an approach road, 40 feet wide, leading from the town. National Flying Services, Ltd, manage the aerodrome under lease from the Corporation, and the Blackpool and Fylde Aero Club, which has over forty flying members, has its headquarters at the club-house. So, there are facilities for instruction, joy-riding and air transport".
The club house was *"enclosed with concrete palisading, surrounded by lawns, and had a tiered veranda. Inside, there was a lounge with panelled walls, and a spacious dining room with curtained windows and tasteful decorations. Other accommodation included a bar, cloakrooms, and kitchen, quarters for pilots, and a steward and stewardess. There was also a glass-sided look-out tower"*.
The final cost by 1931, was actually £88,000.

On the 2nd of June 1931, Amelia Earhart completed the first ever cross-Atlantic flight by a woman, and landed in Ireland. *"The next day she was flown in a Paramount News aeroplane from Londonderry to Stanley Park Aerodrome, Blackpool, and from there to Hanworth Air Park, Middlesex"*.

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The first Blackpool Air Pageant was held at Stanley Park Aerodrome in July 1931, with demonstrations by an Autogyro, an aerial ambulance and parachute descents being popular. Again, Motor Sport magazine announced that *"ON the 8th of this month the Blackpool Aero Club will hold a flying meeting and display at the new municipal airport of Blackpool, Stanley Park aerodrome. The occasion promises to be a good one, and National Flying Services, Ltd., who are organising it, have arranged an open handicap race from Hanworth to Stanley Park for private owners of aircraft. This event will be the chief feature of the programme.*
The prizes, too, are extremely attractive and well worth trying and flying for; there is a gold trophy, and the first prize will carry with it £30, the second £30, and the third £20".

1932 was a busy year. Flight Lieutenant RHC Monk set up British Amphibious Air Lines on the 16th of January, to operate a regular scheduled service from Blackpool foreshore to the Isle of Man. This was first scheduled internal air service anywhere in the British Isles. He used a Cutty Sark boatplane, named '"Progress 1" after the Blackpool motto, and it could make the 60-mile crossing from Blackpool in 40 minutes. The first trip was made on March the 18th. The aircraft was based at Stanley Park Aerodrome, but picked up passengers on the foreshore and alighted in Douglas harbour on the Isle of Man.
A public air pageant was held at Stanley Park on the 26th of June.
Captain Neville Stack flew his Spartan Cruiser Mailplane (G-ABLI) from Stanley Park Aerodrome to Karachi in India on the 15th of June, returning some days later to a deserted aerodrome – a sign of things to come. The flight took 5 days 23 hours 50 minutes and the plane was christened "Blackpool" for the flight.
Another air pageant took place at Stanley Park on the 27th of September. Amy Johnson lectured at the pageant, about her flights to Australia. She stayed with her sister, Molly Jones, who lived on Newton Drive.

The operation of the Aerodrome passed from National Flying Services to Midland and Scottish Air Ferries and Hillman's Airways in July 1933, and they were followed as tenants in 1935 by Spartan Air Lines.

In 1934, Blackpool and West Coast Airways won the first contract for flying newspapers and the Royal Mail to the Isle of Man. They then officially opened Ronaldsway aerodrome on the Isle of Man, for flying to Stanley Park Aerodrome, Squires Gate, and Liverpool. De Havilland Dragon aircraft were used.
Midland and Scottish Air Ferries took over running the Stanley Park Aerodrome, but only lasted a year. The Corporation, seeing the better possibilities of the Squires Gate site, bought that land from Clifton Estates.

May 1935, saw 50 local school children given a celebratory Jubilee flight from Stanley Park.

Jersey Airways formed United Airways on the 4th of April 1935, to fly services from London-Heston to Blackpool, Isle of Man, Liverpool, Leeds, and Morecambe. The service began on the 30th of April, again using de Havilland Dragons, and the London to Blackpool fares were 48s single and 72s return; there were two services daily each way. United ran the Stanley Park Aerodrome, using their Spartan Cruisers, Dragons and Rapides for a daily service to the Isle of Man. United also flew an ex-Imperial Airways Armstrong Whitworth Argosy – number G-AACJ - on pleasure flights from the aerodrome. They amalgamated with other airlines on the 30th of September, to form Allied British Airways, and flights to the Isle of Man continued until RAS took over in 1937.

The Isle of Man flight crashed at Stanley Park Aerodrome on the 20th of November 1936. A Northern and Scottish Airlines' Spartan Cruiser came down at the aerodrome, when it tried to take off in fog and crashed into the hangar, promptly destroying itself, both people on board, the hangar and three other aircraft.
Also, in 1936, Armstrong Whitworth aircraft AW 154 Argosy G-AACJ "City of Manchester" was bought by United Airways to be used during the summer, for giving joy rides from Stanley Park.

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In 1936, Stanley Park Aerodrome was closed and all pleasure flights were stopped, when its lease was not renewed.
Utility Airways Limited flew from there, using a Monostar ST12 aircraft. From July 1936, a Hooton to Blackpool service began, but the operation was suspended on the 1st of October.

Railway Air Services (RAS) who had operated from Squires Gate from April 1935, moved back to Stanley park on the 1st of June 1937. From the 26th of September 1937, RAS operations from Blackpool were transferred to Isle of Man Air Services (IoMAS) and these continued until the outbreak of war. RAS/IoMAS schedules from Stanley Park served Ronaldsway Airport, Isle of Man, and continued on to Speke Airport in Liverpool and Manchester's Barton Aerodrome. The scheduled services through Stanley Park were not resumed after the war, the now larger Squires Gate airfield again being used.

In June 1937, airline operations were transferred back to Stanley Park from Squires Gate. Work on enlarging and improving the airfield and facilities began in late 1937, but the aerodrome was requisitioned by the Air Ministry in 1938. Moveable floodlighting equipment was first installed.

In early 1939, the RAF staged its last Empire Day at Stanley Park Aerodrome.

Stanley Park Aerodrome stayed in use for mainly military purposes until the end of World War 2, with parachute training being done by the RAF, and aircraft repairs being undertaken by both the RAF and the Lancashire Aircraft Corporation. A limited amount of charter flying was performed from Stanley Park during early 1946 by Lancashire Aircraft Corporation, but they transferred to the better facilities at Squires Gate, and all flying from Stanley Park ceased in 1947. The airfield was still used for aircraft scrapping until at least 1952, and the buildings were used by the Council to store Illuminations displays and deckchairs.
Woodside Drive was the original approach road to the airfield.
The Corporation bought the land on East Park Drive in 1969 to build a Zoo and a Safari Park. They then sold all but the 32 acres on which the zoo stands, and Blackpool Golf Club and the De Vere Hotel now occupy the land that was originally intended for the safari park. Several football pitches were sacrificed for the proposal. The airport Control Tower was used for offices and later a children's nursery, and the three hangars - one of which was used as the elephant house until October 2017 - remain.

The Empire Cinema, Marton: This red brick cinema was opened at 177 to 179 Hawes Side Lane by James Harrison, on the site of Rawcliffe's Farm. The cinema originally had 800 seats. This was soon increased to 1,094 seats but was later reduced to 1,068. It had a 24-foot proscenium. The Disabled Ex-Servicemen's Association Social Club was upstairs from 1932.

The Empire (affectionately known as the *"Bug House"*) closed for movies on the 10th of October 1959, and became the Sands Casino Club, managed by ex-wrestler, Jimmy Green. The casino – which had no gambling at first – had a restaurant on the first floor and served beer by Howcroft's of Bolton. It soon became one of the first gambling casinos in Blackpool, known as Howcroft's Casino Club, and offering roulette and poker. It was also called the Sands Theatre Club at times.

Comedian Jimmy Tarbuck made his Blackpool debut there in 1963, and in its early years, it hosted bands such as Arthur Brown's Kingdom Come, Sweet, Grooveyard, Life 'n' Soul, the Factotems, the Cymerons, Second City Sound, and The Remo Four (with Tony Ashton). In 1967 Jayne Mansfield appeared for a week's season. It briefly hosted up-and-coming groups in the early 1970s – such as Medicine Head, Hawkwind etc.

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Jimmy Green later reopened the upstairs club as the Jack of Diamonds but was declared bankrupt on the 30th of May 1973.

It became the Empire Bingo Hall in 1974, when bought by Elaine and John Bottomley, who already had several other clubs: The Palladium in Waterloo Road; Marton Bingo Club at Oxford Square; Talbot Bingo Club in Lytham Road; Exchange Bingo Club in Talbot Road; and the Ashton Bingo Club in St Annes Square. Empire Bingo is now Blackpool's longest surviving bingo club.

For just this year, Harold Hall of the Tower Company presented Karl Cossmy's Circus on the Winter Gardens Big Wheel site. It was held in a "Penrose" circus tent that measured 185 feet by 170 feet.
A young Joe Loss began playing the violin at the Chinese Restaurant in the Tower, before going on to start his famous band.
The Blackpool Corporation Gas Showrooms opened at the Princess Street Works on the 7th of December.
Work started on Rawcliffe Council Estate.
A Gospel Mission Hall was operating at 163a Church Street.
J Iddon's Elizabeth Street Motor Garage was at 1 Elizabeth Street. This is now the Beaumont Court apartments.

St Joseph's Roman Catholic Church, Blackpool: had just been built on Levens Grove, as a Chapel of ease to St Cuthbert's. The presbytery was in Bela Grove, and adjoined the church from the rear.
The church closed in 1988, and worshippers were transferred to St John Vianney nearby.
It was quickly demolished and was replaced in 1989 by the St Joseph's Court apartments.

Claremont Branch Library opened in Claremont Park, by the corporation tennis courts and bowling green.
The Blackpool Discharged Soldiers and Sailors Club Limited opened in Talbot Road. There was another club at 42 Bond Street.
The National and Provincial Bank opened at the corner of Clifton Street and Corporation Street on the 23rd of November. In 1981, this was demolished, and rebuilt as the Tourist Information Centre, which closed several years later. In July 2017, the building was changed into HealthWorks. This is home *"to support services including employment and self-employment advice, careers advice, online job search, work placements, benefits checks, debt and money advice, talking therapy and access to health coaches"*. The centre also *"includes a £2m Mental Health and Employment Trailblazer, one of only three in the country"*.
The Preston Savings Bank opened on the 14th of March, on Birley Street.
Martins Bank opened a branch at 35 Whitegate Drive, on the corner of Hornby Road. On the 15th of December 1969, it changed to Barclays Bank, which was closed on the 25th of September 2015.
The Co-op's rebuilt Central Premises, on a block of land between Albert Road, Coronation Street, and Shepherd Street, were opened on the 3rd of October.
The Co-op opened a new shop at 32 Harrowside. It later became Parr's Dancing School (in the first-floor ballroom), the Feather and Three Ballroom, and then a Swatchbox fabric/curtain store, which had moved from 374 Talbot Road, where it had started in 1998: this is now Chard's goldsmiths. There was another Co-op store not far away at 265 Highfield Road – this is now Check-Point Motor Accessories Ltd, who moved from Central Drive.
The Corporation employed six agents in the major cities to sell "Holiday Club" savings schemes in an attempt to attract more trade.
The Wigan Coal Corporation Limited, colliery owners and coal merchants, were at 4 Queen Street, and at Talbot Road Sidings. They also had an outlet on Lytham road.

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EA and MA Smith had a large café at 277 Lytham Road. Catering for 100 patrons, it also sold cakes. It is now the Lido Royal Café and coffee bar.
The Isle of Man Steam Packet Company tried the elderly paddle steamer "Tynwald" on a service from Blackpool, but she did not return, being laid up the following year.
The Open Brethren's Gospel Hall opened on Salthouse Avenue on the 26th of February. The hall was converted into a nursery in the 1990s. In 2006, it became Play Days Nursery.

Westwood Convalescent Home: was at 209 Whitegate Drive. It later became the home of Frank Randle, and then the Robinson family lived there for many years. They owned a café at 11 Clifton Street and a confectioner's shop at 30 Market Street.
Westwood was demolished in 1986, as was Wisbech on the corner of Somerset Avenue - built for Jane Talbot in the 1930s. Both properties made way for the flats of Homefylde House. On the southwestern corner of Somerset Avenue, the only remaining piece of meadow land along the course of Whitegate Drive was built over at the same time.

George Forbes Builders were in operation on Henry Street. They were later taken over by John and C Lowes of the works at the corner of 1 Collingwood Place and Caunce Street in Layton, becoming Lowes-Forbes Limited, working from Field Street and Collingwood. That company was taken over by Firwood in 1999, having been on Caunce Street in Lowes Buildings since JC Lowes (Holdings) Ltd was formed on the 25th of August 1934.
Elaine Avenue and surrounding streets were built between Newhouse Road and Penrose Avenue, which were at the time still called Marlborough Road and Ruth Avenue – a pond was between the two roads. Stodham Farm stood at the bottom of Elaine Avenue.
The Victoria Café was next door to the South Shore Post Office on Waterloo Road.
The inaugural Show of the Marton, Blackpool and District Agricultural and Horticultural Society was held at Blackpool Racecourse, off Highfield Road.
A thatched cottage was demolished on Preston New Road, near Marton Cemetery. It was rumoured to have sheltered Oliver Cromwell!
Ramsell Ltd, motor equipment manufacturers of Harley Road, were struck off.
The houses on Hawes Side were re-numbered to allow for new development. Odd numbers 15 -139 became even numbers 10-132 and even numbers 2-342 became odd numbers 15 -377.
The Blackpool Carnival Sports were held at Bloomfield Road Ground on the 13th of June.
Beaumont and Parkinson Limited opened their new Elizabeth Street Glassworks. Its place is now taken by the flats of Beaumont Close.
The GPO laid the first telephone trunk cable from Norbreck to Port Grenaugh on the Isle of Man, opening it for use on the 17th of January. Sir Claude Hill, the Governor, and the Postmaster General, Leese Smith made the official opening call on June the 28th.
Warbreck Hill Road telephone exchange opened on the 7th of September.
Watson's Road Post Office opened for business on the 26th of September.
Robert Leeson had his optician's shop at 80 Station Road.
Imperial Studios were at 159 Wellington Terrace on the Promenade. At the time, Ernest H Cooper was their principal photographer.
Princess Road, off Queen's Promenade was renamed to Madison Avenue on the 18th of February.
The world's biggest airship, the R101 circled around the tower at 4 am one autumn morning, before crossing the Irish Sea during a 31-hour endurance test.
Fred Royle conducted the Besses O' The Barn Brass Band in Stanley Park on September the 1st, to a record audience of 6,000.
Comedian Max Miller played the Palace Theatre in June.

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The film "The Three Kings" was made in the Tower Circus Blackpool. John Hamilton, Warwick Ward, and Henry Edwards were the three kings (clowns!) and Evelyn Holt was the female lead. Many films have since been filmed in Blackpool and the best known are shown at Appendix S.
In order to sell sheet music on the Promenade, a 29-year-old Thora Hird was singing the songs to the public. She was soon discovered by a theatrical agent.

Professor Aubrey Winston Grey: began performing on Bank Hey Street, just behind the Tower. He had his own altar, seven candles, and a wooden pointer. His "act" consisted of polishing a metal statue of Buddha, selling envelopes holding "lucky" football pools numbers, and randomly bursting out with the "magical" phrase *"Ish tulla kushti bok"* – Hindi slang for *"good luck to you all"*. For some reason, he also groomed guinea pigs.
The Professor lived at 15 Mere Road in Marton, and also performed for many years on Fleetwood promenade, where he had an "office" at the corner of The Esplanade and Bold Street. He advertised himself as a "Psychologist and Adviser".

Lester Bidston wrote the Sexton Blake story "The Blackpool Mystery".

George Carman: was born in Blackpool on the 6th of October. His parents lived at 20 Breck Road, Poulton and his father owned a Blackpool furniture shop. He lived on North Park Drive and later went to kindergarten at Layton Hill Convent before becoming a world-famous barrister and QC. His *"clients included Jeremy Thorpe, Ken Dodd, Imran Khan. Sir Elton John, Sir Ian Botham, Tom Cruise, The News of the World, Len Fairclough, The Guildford Four"*. Nicknamed "Gorgeous George", he died on the 2nd of January 2001.

Geoffrey Marshall was born on the 22nd of April in Chesterfield, but soon after his birth, the family moved to Blackpool, where his mother kept a boarding-house. Educated at Arnold School, Marshall became a renowned political scientist.

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The Woodlands, Poulton: this private house called the Woodlands on Lodge Lane, dating from the 18th century was rebuilt. The Amalgamated Weavers' Association had begun extending the *"existing building in 1928, following John Thornley's' architectural design, after acquiring around 4 acres of surrounding land".*

The Joseph Cross Home at Poulton: Amalgamated Weavers opened their Joseph Cross Convalescent Home in March 1929, a mock-Tudor building, providing care for retired mill workers from east Lancashire. It was also known as the "Joseph Cross Memorial Home" and had its own very large communal dining room with vaulted ceiling.

It was used as an emergency infectious diseases hospital from November 1939 until 1940 when it was pressed into use for injured soldiers from Dunkirk. It was de-requisitioned on the 29th of September 1945. On the 21st of May 1947, by then numbered 46 Breck Road, it was renamed the Cotton Industry Convalescent Home. Its gate was under the "Jubilee Arch" built in 1897 by Judge Parry.

In 1962, it was bought and closed by Lancashire County Council, and its patients were moved to Morecambe.
In September 1963, the buildings opened for use as the local Teacher-training College, with up to 500 students. The Poulton Teacher Training College was officially opened there on the 24th of April 1964. The ceremony was performed by the Minister of Education, Sir Edward Boyle. The Fylde Academy for Young
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Musicians was also housed at the college. The college moved to Preston in 1983, the last teacher having graduated in 1981.

In 1974, most of the old college building became the home of Wyre Borough Council Civic Centre, and from the 4th of January 1988, took over the remaining sections to become the Wyre Borough Council offices. The building is now known as the Wyre Civic Centre.

Fletcher's riverside campsite was at 30 Mains Lane at Singleton, later being renamed the River Wyre Holiday Camp Ltd.

Cleveleys Baptist Church: In December 22 Baptists met in the Savoy Cinema and Café and agreed to start services on January the 5th 1930. The first formal meeting of the church was on the 17th of November 1930, in November 1934, they opened their new school chapel in their newly-bought on St George's Avenue. The first baptism took place in January 1935.
In 1964, an army hut was added, and turned into the Sunday school. In 1990 another building was added, to house the present 400-seat Sanctuary. It has several ancillary rooms and a dedicated car park.

Following modernisation of the western end of Victoria Road and the promenade in Cleveleys, the Cleveleys Arena was opened. It was the only permanent open-air arena in the Northwest, and hosted many outdoor shows, including the Arena Follies. On the 7th of April 1961, 'Monte Carlo' electrically driven rally cars were introduced, and in 1966, it was turned in Children's Corner.
Alexandra Road in Cleveleys was renamed Northcliffe Road in February.
The Oralite Company Ltd was founded on Occupation Road in Thornton (this is now called Hawthorne Road, as was Tea Pot Row). They were manufacturers of false teeth, and other dental devices. The company *"was one of the early marketers of Perspex (Plexiglass) as a dental appliance material. Plexiglass was discovered in 1928, and first marketed in 1933 by Rohm and Haas. An advertising postcard from 1937 states: ''Oralite: The Premiere Denture Material!'"* The company was put into liquidation on the 6th of January 1967.

The Verona Cinema, Thornton: Thornton Cinema was opened at 124 Fleetwood Road North by Mr A Duckworth.
By then known as the Verona Cinema, the 300-seater cinema closed on the 6th of September 1958. Within weeks, it was turned into a pensioners' social club known as Verona Hall, run by the Verona Association. Locals had known it as the *"Bug Hut".*

ST Commandant Bultinck: was wrecked off Rossall in October. The survivors were helped to shore by a human chain of the boys at the school and were cared for at Fleetwood Seamen's Mission.

The ship had been bought by Hesketh Trawlers Ltd of Fleetwood in May 1919, when still called ST Marloes. She was renamed in 1926, as the Commandant Bultinck, but was soon sold to Société Anonyme Pêcheries à Vapeur, of Ostend.

On the 3rd of October, she was bound for Ostend *"after fishing off Isle of Man, in a hail storm gusting 70mph, rain, thunder and lightning, decided to run for Fleetwood, driven off course stranded on Rossall Beach in the early hours".* Three of the crew members were lost whilst trying to get to shore for help. They were Celestinus-Franciscus Tratsaert, the mate, Pierre-Michel Luyens, a deckhand, and Willie Walter Ernest Van Yper, the deck boy. The wreck was broken up where she lay.

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Rossall School opened its Beacham Music School.
The development of the 500-acre Larkholme Estate at Fleetwood started. It was named after the old Larkham Farm. By 1937, work was still ongoing, and the town's Flakefleet Estate was still being built, by Cryer's Builders.

The Victoria Cinema, Fleetwood: The Victoria Picture House opened on Poulton Road in December, having been constructed on the site of Forshaw's Farm. The proscenium was 32 feet wide, and it had a 15-foot-deep stage and three dressing rooms. It had 1124 seats. By 1937, in had been renamed the Victoria Cinema Fleetwood Ltd. It closed in March 1967.

The building reopened as Barneys Bingo Club in September 1967, with Tanya the elephant from Blackpool Tower Circus appearing In Person. Barneys was run by Bernard Killoran, who also had bingo halls at The Rialto in Poulton and on Foxhall Road in Blackpool. The Top Ten Bingo Club took over in 2001, until April 2009, and the venue closed completely on the 26th of April 2011.

Fleetwood Model Yacht and Power Boat Club: was formed by a group of model yachtsmen who sailed their boats on a piece of water near the shore. That pond was known locally as *"The Navvied Pond"*.
From 1932, when Fleetwood Boating Lake opened, they began to use what was then Europe's largest model yacht lake, and the lake we know today, was officially opened by Earl Bettie. At the time, the club had 100 members and wooden clubhouse in which members could store their boats. In that opening year, the club held its first National Championship for 6 Metre model Yachts, and in 1933, the British Open "A" Class Championship was held there for the first time. The Fleetwood Model Yacht Club had actually existed as early as 1897, when they gave a display on Jubilee Day.
The boating lake is home to the Northwest's largest winter colony of Mute Swans – over 200 annually.

The Hewitt Fishing Company was established at Fleetwood.
J Johnson was running Shaw, Sturgess and Co at 10 Orchard Road in St Anne's.

Queen Mary Girls' School, Fairhaven: In 1924, 32 acres of the King Edward school grounds had been given over for the building of a new girls' school. An extra 7 ½ acres were also bought.
The Foundation Stone of the new school was laid on the 5th of June, on land bought from the Fairhaven Golf Club. Built by local builder John Sutcliffe and Sons, at a cost of £80,473, the school was opened by Lord Derby, on the 23rd of September 1930. Its official opening by Lord Derby was in the November. There were originally 153 girls on the roll, and the first headmistress was Doris Bailey.
Its motto was "*Semper Fidelis, Semper Parata*" – meaning "Always Faithful, Always Prepared".
Many local private girls' schools were quickly closed.
A new tram stop was built, outside the two new schools.
In 1936, 35 girls and the headmistress were invited to attend the launch of the liner Queen Mary, to present the celebratory flag that they had been asked to make.

In 1949, a new joint dining hall was opened, serving both Queen Mary and King Edward's pupils. *"The new building marked the loss of part of the huge sand-hill system, much loved by the boys. They had been used as grandstands to view the exciting finishes of the steeple chase races (or cross country runs, as we now call them), they had been used as the location for air raid shelters and had also provided cover for the 'bun runs' during morning break to the Boulevard, when hungry boys had taken cover through the hills to stuff their pockets at the nearby shop. All the sand-hills to the rear of Queen Mary's were removed in the 1950s to produce the current playing fields"*.

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In 1997, King Edward VII and Queen Mary Schools merged, and the new King Edward and Queen Mary School was housed in and around the old King Edward VII building. It consisted of a Kindergarten, Infant, Junior and Senior School, plus a Sixth Form. The Queen Mary site was sold in order to raise money for the continuing development of the new school, and in September 2004, Queen Mary joined with and then moved to the King Edward VII site, with the Queens Manor apartments being built on the girls' school land, and the school buildings also being converted.

The 6th Lytham St Anne's Boy Scout Troop first met on the 27th of September.
Rhodes and Dugdale Ltd were operating their gown, coat, and millinery shop at 4 Clifton Square in Lytham.
The mayor of Lytham St Anne's officially switched on Freckleton's electricity supply on the 18th of June.
Freckleton Chrysanthemum Society was formed, and funds raised supported various local charities. The society held an annual flower show until 1945.
Electricity arrived in Kirkham on the 28th of November, and the Electricity Board showrooms were opened on Preston Street.
The Kirkham By-pass began to be built to ease traffic congestion in the town, opening in May 1933. The road later became a part of the A583 trunk road.
Rowe's Cheese Factory was opened on Carrs Green in Inskip by Preston Cheese Factors. It was finally demolished in 1991.

Dishdolls, Out Rawcliffe: Wyresdale View on the northern side of the Wyre at Cartford was bought by Henry and Margaret Hewitson, who soon turned it into Dishdolls tea rooms and restaurant. *"The name Dishdolls comes from a local tale of a lady called Dolly who collected tolls from travellers crossing Cartford Bridge, she would rattle a wooden butter dish for them to put the money in and became known as Dish Dolly".* The Poacher's Pocket licensed restaurant opened in the building on Rawcliffe Road in 1984, and it is now a house once more.

The 1930s
In a decade of great development and expansion, more houses were constructed. Many of those in the town centre were soon converted into hotels. For example, a row of red brick town houses from numbers 55 to 61 Albert Road were changed into the Ruskin Hotel and the Grasmere View Guest House. The Ruskin now occupies most of that row and has 400 bedrooms. After being owned by local group Carriages Leisure for many years, it was bought in June 2017, by Tony banks of Blackpool Promotions. The group also owns The Royal Carlton, The Royal Seabank, The Boston and Southbank.
The Knoll Estate was constructed, centred around a new road between Vicarage Lane and Waterloo Road, that would be called Rectory Road. It would have many, very similar red brick, terraced houses, several shops at the Vicarage Lane end (where there would be a new roundabout) and 7 shops on Rectory Road itself. It would cover 37,381 square yards.
Walter Westoby began flying passenger trips from Stanley Park Aerodrome. After the war, operating out of a disused VR2 hangar at Squires Gate, his company, Westair, began operating pleasure flights in 10-seater De Havilland Rapides giving tourists the opportunity to see the Tower from the air. The company later started its own flying school, and in 2019, will move into a larger hangar at the western end of the airport.

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The Cumberland Hotel / Marine View, Fleetwood: was constructed on the Promenade, being built of red brick and stone, in the Art-deco style, and was the third-biggest hotel in the town. It later became a Lancashire County Council home for the elderly for a long period. In 1994, LCC decided conditions at the
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home were outmoded and that it should be closed. Wyre Council chose to use it as a hostel for homeless people instead, but the plan never went ahead. LCC instead sold the building in 1996, to the Wyre Housing Association – now Regenda. The building had 55 individual apartments, but in 2019, a new building, designed by architects Paddock Johnson of Liverpool, was designed. It will retain many of the art deco features of the original but with more modern amenities. The finished complex will have 16 one and two-bed affordable apartments for the over 55s. Demolition of the old building began in January 2020.

Lawrence and Mildred Longstaff built their Longstaff's Model Dairy on Don Street in St Anne's. It was an addition to the rear of the confectioner's shop owned by both Longstaff brothers at 9 St Davids Road South. That shop is now Chicco's Pizza parlour.

1930

Marton church hall was opened on Preston Old Road on the 8th of October, by Archdeacon Hornby of Lancaster. It was built, by Atherton Brothers of Peter Street, on the site of the former infant school (demolished in 1929).
Marton Parish Church Amateur Choral and Operatic Society was formed, performing in the new church hall. It was officially constituted on the 5th of January 1931.
Vicarage Lane Park and Gardens opened. It is now known as Crossland Road Park.
The Blackpool "Pageant of Progress" was held on the 16th of June.
The Blackpool Marathon began. It was run eight times, and Harold Woods of Makerfield Harriers, won four of the races. It was restarted in 1989.
Marton telephone exchange was opened at Richmond Villa, 253 Whitegate Drive, with Thomas Dedman as the operator. Cornelius Bagot had leased the house to the Corporation. When the new exchange opened on Preston Old Road in 1957, the house became vacant until the lease was bought in 1959 to build apartments. The Ashcroft Residential Home for unmarried mothers occupied the building between 1970 and 1998.
Mr Patterson was running his Cobbler's wooden hut on Hawes Side Lane by this time. It was later taken over by Joe Morris.
The Waterloo Laundry was at 30 St Anne's Road. This site is now the home of Wolstenholme Signs.
AV Barker and Son had grocer's shops at 2 Tyldesley Road, 83 Whitegate Drive, 8 Bairstow Street, and 9a Bank Street.
Starr Hills at Squires Gate was being used as a Holiday campsite.
In January, the Tower Company bought some cottages and land at Staining from the Palatine Ice and Cold Storage Company. The buildings included the Queen's Brewery and its bottling plant. The site was then used as a practice arena and for parking for artists' caravans, replacing their previous site near St Mary's Church on Lytham Road. The Tower's animal hospital was also sited there, as were the greenhouses in which the flowers used in shows were cultivated. The hospital closed in 1960. The Tower's facility had its own knacker's yard *"for the purpose of providing food for circus animals and animals in the zoo"*.

The Ghost Train at the Pleasure Beach: They had seen the ride in London and were decided to build their own "Pretzel" ride (named after the Pretzel companies, which built them in the USA). The Pretzel Ride was duly opened this year. As the name, Pretzel, was unknown in the UK and did not give much of a clue as to the ride itself, in 1931, the park rapidly changed the name to The Ghost Train - taken from the hit film of that name, starring Jack Hulbert.
It was the first Ghost Train in the UK.

In 1936, the second Ghost Train was built. Architect Joseph Emberton (the man behind the Casino building, Grand National Station, and Fun House) was commissioned to design a much larger, two-level

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Ghost Train. It had an impressive frontage, complete with model skeletons, skulls, and ghosts. It opened up into a giant set, with a roller coaster-style drop in the centre, and balconies on either side. The ride had two levels, and riders were housed in 2-person cars, which were secured to the moving track. It took just under 4 minutes from start to finish. Tony O'Keefe recalls that *"I remember the Pleasure Beach Ghost Train before it's 'castle' theming in the early 70s. It was unusual to see no theming on a ghost train and was very minimalist, with plain, dark blue walls, tiny spotlights on the ceiling and bright pink cars with a single skull on the front (later painted lilac on theming of the ride). It was a plain grey, concrete proscenium with just a small castleation (sic) across the roof"*.

The ride was completely re-built in 1957, by new designer-in residence Jack Ratcliffe, and its new frontage was far plainer. The cars were all painted pink.
In 1976, it had another re-vamp, and the frontage gained castle-style battlements and a massive skeleton.

The Ghost Train actually has a "real" ghost - the footsteps of Cloggy (or Mr Cloggs), a clog-wearing ride operator who died around 1980, have been heard. The Pleasure Beach has a few other uninvited guests – see Appendix D.

The Seven Royal Hindustans, acrobats and equilibrists, were appearing at the Tower Circus.
Blackpool Corporation began running Illuminations tours by bus. They went one-way from Squires Gate, returning via Devonshire Road and Whitegate Drive.

Holy Family Catholic Church, Blackpool: opened on March the 30th, in Links Road, North Shore. Work had started on the church in 1929, at the time of the centenary of Catholic Emancipation. It was built at the personal expense of the parish priest, Canon Vaughan, and cost £1,222.
The church is of red brick with stone dressings, in a loosely Transitional style. *"The east side to the road is the most decorative, presenting three gables with windows of the spherical triangular type, those to the chapels with plate tracery. Other windows are generally lancets with trefoil heads. The west end has a bellcote and a statue above the entrance".*

North Shore Cliff Elevator, Blackpool: opened. It was known as the Cabin Lift, and its associated toilets and upper promenade wall were built to a design by the Borough Architect JC Robinson. A waiting room stood on the top of the cliffs but was demolished in the 1960s.
The lift stopped being used in 1979 but is a Listed Building. The original lift was replaced in 1991, but worked for just two years until it was closed again, due to cliff subsidence.
The Cabin Lift was Grade 2 listed on the 8th of March 2010.

Warbreck Farm was demolished. It had stood for many decades at the junction of Devonshire Road, Leys Road, and Warbreck Hill Road.
Squires Gate railway bridge was built, constructed from the remains of Stony Hill Bridge, as was Clifton Drive, South Shore.

St Annes Road Working Men's Club, Blackpool: was in business at 3 to 5 St Annes Road. In the late-2000s, the venue became The Tangerine Tavern. This continued in business until October 2014, when the licensee, Peter Flynn, lost his drinks licence. Although the licence was transferred, the venue remained closed.
The accommodation comprises: on the ground floor, a bar lounge, bar, a separate snooker area and pool area, ladies' and gentlemen's toilets, a rear kitchenette, and an alcohol storage room. The first floor has a

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function room with central stage area, and an additional bar, and more toilets. There is also a 2-bedroomed apartment for the club steward.

Crossley's Bridge, Layton: The railway bridge that became known as "Crossley's Bridge" was built over Bispham Road, replacing the original level crossing at Bispham Station (now called Layton Station). Its nickname came because it was directly opposite Crossley's Sawmills. The mill and its three massive workshops were demolished in 1980, with the site of the buildings becoming the B&Q store itself and the timber yard being replaced by the B&Q car park.

By then known officially as Bispham Railway Bridge, it was officially opened on the 10th of June 1932, by the Earl of Plymouth, after whom Plymouth Road was then named. In June 2016, work began on the demolishment of the bridge, ready for its replacement by Easter 2017. The bridge was partially re-opened to traffic on the 7th of April 2017. Sadly, the original stonework had to be replaced with brick. The Official Re-opening took place on the 14th of July, with a time capsule being buried

The B and Q store closed in January 2017, and the building opened on the 13th of February 2017 as a new outlet of the Poundstretcher discount chain, and their own pet shop brand, Pet Hut.

Highfurlong Special School, Blackpool: This year, the Farnworth Open Air School became the "Widnes Open Air School for Physically Defectives" on the 1st of September. It was evacuated to Blackpool in September 1939, being first housed in Stanley Park Café.
It then moved to Blackpool Cricket Club's Ladies Pavilion in July 1940, where the first pupil from Blackpool was admitted. It was re-named "Blackpool Open-Air School" on the 5th of January, 1942, and its first headmistress was Miss Isherwood, who died in 1955.
Then called the Blackpool Open-Air Remedial School for Handicapped Children, it moved to the Bispham Sports Pavilion on All Hallow's Road in Bispham, where it was opened on the 8th of September 1951. At the end of 1954, there were *"44 children on the roll at the end of the year (18 delicate and 26 physically handicapped). This special school remains filled to capacity. It has a very happy atmosphere"*.

The school finally moved its 74 children to purpose-built accommodation on Blackpool Old Road at Highfurlong on the 6th of September 1964, and it was christened the Highfurlong Special School. The Medical Officer of Health described it at the time as *"It is a most pleasant and spacious school, specially designed for physically handicapped children; with a fine physiotherapy department, medical room, sound-proofed speech-therapy room and full of carefully planned details, and with a fully-trained nurse on the staff"*. Designed for up to 100 children, it was officially opened in March 1965.
Under new headmaster Colin Roberts, it developed from an open-air school, a forerunner of special schools in 1969, to a specialist school for children with physical disabilities.

The school was completely re-built from 2014 – in the same block as Aspire Academy - and is now called simply Highfurlong School. It opened on the 9th of November 2015.

More cast-iron bus shelters were erected around town.
The Cenotaph was provided with floodlights.
Queen Victoria recreation ground was built on Central Drive, known locally as *"Revoe Rec"*.
A branch of Lloyds Bank opened at 44 Waterloo Road on the 1st of February.
The Westminster Bank opened at 70-72 Bond Street on the 31st of May.
On the South-west corner of Waterloo Road was Renwick's shoe repair shop. Now a charity shop.

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Timothy Whites, Blackpool: Were in business on the corner of Talbot Road and Abingdon Street, and on the 14th of September 1962, they moved to a brand-new store on the corner of Birley Street and 17-19 Abingdon Street. The original corner site was soon rebuilt, opening in 1968 as a branch of the Stone Dry rain wear company. It later became a bargain books and fancy goods store and is currently the PDSA charity shop.

Timothy White had his pharmacy company incorporated as Timothy Whites Ltd in 1904, and in 1935, Timothy Whites merged with Taylors Drug Co Ltd to form Timothy Whites and Taylors. This was taken over by Boots Pure Drug Co in 1968. The shops themselves were named either "Timothy Whites" or "Timothy Whites and Taylors" and were unique in selling hardware as well as pharmaceuticals.
The site had previously housed GE Wilcock's ladies' outfitters, who had a gents' branch at 160-182 Church Street by the 1930s.

Timothy Whites was taken over by Boots Chemist's in 1968, and after Boots moved to Bank Hey Street in 1978, the store was bought and converted in Babington's – a store holding various traders. It later became Wade's Furnishers and was then Harvey's furniture store, which closed in May 2008, when the company moved to Blackpool retail Park on Squires Gate Lane.

The building then became the headquarters of Blackpool Coastal Housing, with a Co-operative supermarket on the ground floor. Next door at the time was the Refuge Lending Society Limited. At this time, Abingdon Street and Church Street made up Blackpool's shopping centre.

HMS "Tiger", a naval battle cruiser, paid a courtesy visit to Blackpool in July.
Messrs Leeming and Cardwell opened Lynwood Nurseries on Cropper Road, delivering their produce around the Moss by horse and cart.
George J Mason Limited had grocer's shops at Bond Street, 75 Whitegate Drive, Central Drive, 6 Abingdon Street, and 41 Market Street.
Bernard Hope and Company was operating from 14-16 Queen Street, selling LC Smith office typewriters and Corona portable typewriters, and office equipment.
Thomas Rainford ran butcher's shops on Devonshire Road, opposite the Devonshire Arms Pub, and at the junction of Market Street and Cheapside. The Devonshire Road shop still operates.
The Victory Labour Club was open on Victory Road.
Whitegate Working Men's Club was on Lever Street off Gorse Road. The building is now industrial units.
A national Great Rally of Scouts was held at Squires Gate on the 20th of June.
Wilkinson's Motor Services Limited started a new express service to Blackpool from Durham.
The Scholastic Souvenir Company Limited was operating as photographers at 19 Selbourne Street.
George Bennie developed his "Railplane", a high-level monorail system. In 1929, he had built a prototype at Burnbrae, near Glasgow, but he was unable to get the financial backing to develop the idea further. The proposed Blackpool to Southport line was never built, but it was planned to run a 2 ½ mile long bridge from a station at Guide's House in Warton, to Hesketh Bank. The bridge would carry not only Bennie's torpedo-shaped railplanes but would have a normal roadway running above it.
Huddart's Chemists was in business at the corner of Airedale Avenue and Whitegate Drive. The shop was later a launderette, a DIY shop, Longfellow's Office Supplies (who moved across the road), an insurance agent and a Leeds – and then a Halifax - Building Society branch, before becoming Unique Interiors and then, in 2011, Papa John's pizza parlour. By 1938, Huddart's also had another shop on Station Road.
A Cass and Sons were selling coal from 20 Preston Old Road.
Marsden Tyre Stores Limited was working from Field Street.

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Goodwin's Commercial Hotel and restaurant was built on Bloomfield Road by Reginald Goodwin. It offered a night porter, garages, free parking, dog kennels, and Bed and Breakfast for 14s 6d. By 1942, their adverts were crying *"GOODWIN is with you from Soup to Savoury – but watch the artists"*. The hotel also ran The Georgian Restaurant inside.
The public conveniences were opened on Waterloo Road railway bridge. A small tram shelter was included between the Ladies' and the Gents'. In later years, the building was used as small shops.
The first finals of the "Cotton Queen" of Britain competition took place in the Tower Ballroom, won by Miss Glossop – Frances Lockett. The contest was a major event held annually to promote the cotton industry. It was organised by the Daily Dispatch and held in Blackpool over a three-week period. To be eligible, the contestants had to work in the cotton industry and be aged between 16 and 26. The competition ended in 1939. All winners are listed in Appendix Y.
The Layton Brownie pack was formed, as the 19th Blackpool. They now meet at St Mark's Church.
Carmo's Circus appeared on Waterloo Road in "Tent Town" this year and in 1931 and 1932.
The Queendeans Association was formed at a meeting in the Queens Hydro Hotel. It was formally established as a charity on the 27th of November 1967. It is a charity supporting other local charities.

Reginald Dixon: Mr Dixon played the Tower Ballroom's Wurlitzer organ every year, from his audition in March, until his retirement in 1970, except for his time in the RAF during World War 2, when he was replaced by Ena Baga.

He first played his most famous tune "I do like to be beside the Seaside" in 1931. This was not written about Blackpool, but by John H Glover-Kind in 1907, about holidays in general.

Dixon had been born in Sheffield in 1904 but lived in a house called "Eyam" on Staining Road before moving to Normoss Road, then to 7 Highcross Avenue off Blackpool Old Road, 60 Moorland Road, and finally to his last house at 3 Orchard Avenue.

"Mr Blackpool" - played his farewell concert in the Tower Ballroom on the 29th of March 1970, his last seasonal appearance having been on the 26th of October 1969. He was replaced by Ernest Broadbent, who played there until 1977.
Reginald Dixon died in his sleep, from a chest infection on the 9th of May 1985. He was buried at Carleton Cemetery, and had made over 2,000 broadcasts from Blackpool Tower.

Jimmy Clitheroe: Feldman's Theatre saw the first appearance of Little Jimmy Clitheroe. His real name was James Robinson, and he was later known as the "Clitheroe Kid".
The 4' 2" comic lived with his mother Emma at 118 Bispham Road, owned a bookmaker's shop on Springfield Road. He regularly appeared on Blackpool stages and the BBC for 40 years afterwards. His catchphrase of *"Some mothers do 'ave 'em"* has gone down in history.
Jimmy's local pub was the nearby Squirrel, and he drove a large Mercedes with blocks on the pedals so his feet would be able to reach.
He later bought the Fernhill Hotel at Preesall, which he had fully renovated, intending to move there with his new girlfriend Sally. Allegedly, *"He had a bed that dropped down out of the ceiling. The mechanism and pulleys are still in place in the attic"*. Sadly, Sally died in car crash
His last Blackpool appearance was in 1971, and he died in June 1973, of an overdose of barbiturates and alcohol, on the day of his mother's funeral.

©

Lola Hunt, a famous silent movie star, appeared in Blackpool, in stage shows such as "New Moon" and "The Girlfriend".
The Christmas Day show at the Winter Gardens Pavilion featured internationally-famous singer Jeanette McDonald in the musical The Vagabond King.
The film "No Lady" was the first British musical and was filmed in Blackpool. It starred and was directed by stage comedian Lupino Lane.
The Bispham United football club were playing in the Sunday League.

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Cleveleys Tram Station was demolished, leaving just a small office and 5 cast iron passenger shelters. The Victoria Café stood behind it, and the old office building now houses the Cleveleys Tourist Information Centre.

Cleveleys Pleasure Beach: Happy Valley was in full swing on Cleveleys Promenade, being christened Cleveleys Pleasure Beach by owner Fred Thompson's in 1945. The Pleasure beach began earlier, with just the Auto-Scooter Speedway and a pedal boat pool, with a couple of small sideshows.
Manor Park caravan site was behind it. The fair featured a large Helter Skelter (or slip) which was visible from afar.
The fair's site used to house a windmill in years gone by.

The Pleasure Beach closed in 1951, and its big dipper was relocated – described as follows by the Evening Gazette on the 27th of January: "*15 men started dismantling operations here last week and are hoping to finish the job this weekend. Nearly half a dozen loads of timber have been sent daily to Thornton Goods Station at Hillylaid where every day several loaded wagons are being sent to Poulton. There, a special train of between 50 and 60 wagons is being assembled by British Railways and the Cleveleys Big Dipper – about 200 tons of it altogether – will start on the long journey to Battersea, and it is hoped to earn dollars and other coveted currencies. Thornton station master, Mr W Hiddon, has been spending a good deal of his time at the goods station this week. "Of its kind, this is probably the biggest job we've ever tackled here*".
The rest of the complex was dismantled in January 1955.

The Babs Dawson Dance School, Cleveleys: was started by Babs Dawson (Barbara Shann), a local dancing teacher. Babs also produced the annual Cleveleys Children's Pantomime at the Queens and had taught Roy Castle to dance in his youth. In 1950, the school was then taken over by Jean Preston and renamed the Blackpool and Fylde Stage Academy. Ms Dawson taught dance at Anchorsholme until 1992.
The dance school is now called the Sylvia Conway Dance Academy.

Kenyon Gardens, Stanah: Joseph Kenyon died this year, and established a foundation to enable a formal garden to be laid out in his memory and to provide land for 'leisure purposes'. His will provided that 21 years from his death his appointed Trustee would use the residue of his estate and accumulated income to enable Thornton Urban District Council or its successors to purchase a suitable piece of land not exceeding 20 acres as a site for a public park or recreation ground to be called 'Kenyon Gardens' and to apply the income from the remaining balance of his estate towards the maintenance and upkeep of the park.
Today's Kenyon Gardens is a 9-acre area of open space in Thornton, at the corner of Stanah Road and Lambs Road.

Fleetwood began to attract more trawler companies, including larger companies such as the Boston Deep Sea Fishing Company, J N Ward and Son, Iago Steam Trawling Company, and the Hewett Fishing Company.
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Riley's North Lancashire Electric Sawmills in Copse Road, Fleetwood were sold by auction. The ironmonger's shop on North Albert Street stayed open.
Fleetwood Cricket Club moved to Broadwaters on Fleetwood Road.
Fleetwood's new Promenade was officially opened by Lord Derby on the 1st of January. Groynes had been erected in 1876, to try and stop the erosion of the shoreline.
The Memorial Park children's playground was opened in Fleetwood in June.
The Territorial Army Drill Hall was erected on Preston Street in Fleetwood, becoming the home of B Company of the 5th Battalion, King's Own Royal Regiment (Lancaster). This later became the Fleetwood Learner Pool for local swimmers and has since been demolished, to be replaced by a block of 10 flats in 1999, for the North British Housing Association.
The Iago Company moved their fishing fleet from Milford Haven to Fleetwood. The then owner, Captain Ted Lawford, sold the company to the Boston Deep Sea Company in 1962.
Lune Industries were making footwear on Siding Road in Fleetwood. They were incorporated in 1949 and dissolved formally on the 16th of November 2006. The factory was locally known as the *"Slipper Factory"*.
Salt Mining ended at Preesall, and the jetty was demolished in 1934. Land collapses followed however, and many small lakes have since been formed in the area – some are 600 feet wide and 150 feet deep.
The Westminster Bank opened a branch at 12 St Anne's Road West. Its first manager was Humphrey Openshaw. At number 11 for many years was Haworth's butchers' shop. The bank later became a branch of Mac Fisheries, then the Leeds Building Society, and is currently a Salvation Army charity shop.
The Lytham St Anne's Review was published from 5 St Andrew's Road South in St Anne's.
John Chadwick's hairdresser's salon was at 47 the Square in St Anne's, also selling smoking requisites.
Hunt and Co was at 16 Park Road in St Anne's, selling maid's wear and hosiery.
Harrison's Caterers were at 3 West Crescent in St Anne's and at 20 York Road Ansdell.

The Civil Service at Moorland Road, St Anne's: Prefabricated government buildings were constructed on Moorland Road this year, running right through to Heyhouses Lane. They initially housed a field hospital for evacuation servicemen, but government departments soon started moving in. On Moorland Road, Sampson's Farm and "Owd Pey Bob's" cottage were eventually cleared away to provide more space for the complex.

HM Customs and Excise opened a little-known headquarters branch (GO 12/30 Deposits) there, which provided employment for many local Civil Servants until 1995. This moved to St George's Road in 1968, when Anthony House was built.
After the war, over 3,000 staff worked at Moorland Road. The Department of Social Security had a long-time presence on the site, with the CSA being a large part.

The Moorland Road complex of offices was finally closed on the 21st of April 2008, when the last 800 civil servants left. ERNIE, the original Premium Bonds computer, was moved from Moorland Road, to the Science Museum in London, where Ernie 1 was installed in the "History of Computing" gallery on the 26th of June 2008, along with photographs of the 1956 launch, and cards and poems sent to the machine by the British public. The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) base there had closed in March. The complex had provided employment for Fylde Civil Servants since the 1940s.
Hewlett Packard moved into the site in 2009, but its demolition began in November 2013. It has now been replaced by a large housing estate – built by Morris Homes Ltd, incorporating a new Morrison's supermarket, and a new pub, The Water's Edge.
The housing estate also has its own children's play area with ERNIE having its own spot in the landscaping.

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The Palace Cinema, Lytham: The stylish new Palace Cinema was opened by the Blackpool Tower Company on Clifton Street on the 21st of April, showing the film "Gold Diggers of Broadway". It was also billed as the Luxor Talkie Theatre because of its interior's Egyptian theme. Accommodating 1293 people and having the Foyer Café attached, its proscenium was 32 feet wide.

It was closed in 1958, and was demolished in 1959, to be replaced by the Arndale House shops. These included the Chattery Café and Boots Chemist (Boots had moved from the corner of 3 to 5 The Square and 1 to 3 Park Street, where it had been replaced by Atkinson's hardware shop - Stones the Jewellers since 2009). Woolworth's soon opened a store in the Arndale, and this is now a Tesco Express shop. The Chattery closed on the 1st of October 2016.

Cookson's Bakery, Lytham: E Cookson and Sons Ltd opened their brand-new Exhibition Bakery on Preston Road. They had been relocated to Lytham from Preston, where they had been formed in 1886.
The company had completely rebuilt the hangers of the former flying boat factory and turned them into a state-of-the-art modern bakery complex.
Cookson's was reopened in 1938, and in 1946, their famous yellow delivery vans were fitted with hand basins to ensure drivers had clean hands. The bakery was taken over by Allied Bakeries in 1954, after being bought by Sunblest.
Cookson's Bakery closed in January 2001 and was demolished in August 2003, along with the adjacent former Sadler's Engineering factory. The Lytham Quays housing estate was opened in July 2007 on the former bakery site.

Madame Higginson Ltd was running a ladies' tailor, dressmaker, and furrier at 89 Clifton Street in Lytham. They also had a shop at 46 the square in St Anne's. The Lytham shop had been James Hill's tailor's shop in the 1880s, before becoming an antiques shop. By 1960, it was titled Colin Higginson "Practical Ladies' Tailors, Dressmakers and Furriers", which by 1979, was calling itself Elita Barrow. It is now a Barnardo's charity shop.
From now, Spartina grass (*Spartina Townsendii*) began to be planted on the banks of the Ribble towards Preston, to reclaim land for farming. It spread up the coast, to Lytham and Fairhaven beaches, which are now covered by the grass.
Belgrave College was at 19 Beach Street at West Beach in Lytham, which in 1907 had been a private house owned by the Aspinall family.
The houses and shops next to Wrea Green School were built on Station Road. The first to move in were Mr and Mrs Holt who opened a bakery next to the school. This shop (which they briefly named "The pinfold") was owned by the three Dobson brothers - George, Bill, and Adrian - in later years. The houses of Elms Drive were built immediately afterwards and were the first in the village to have electricity. The Dobson brothers' shop won the award for the UK Shopkeepers of the Year in 1981; it closed in 1994, to reopen as Dizzy Duck's café in 2002.
A mineral spring was discovered by John Burrows to the north of Dow Brook in Kirkham. His analysis states that the water is *"of value as a tonic laxative with important remedial properties"*. In order to set up a company to sell it, and to build the required tearooms, and exhibition centre, a Limited Company was proposed, but only £400 of the £3,000 needed was raised. A chance missed?

Freckleton Cricket Club: was founded, playing on the recreation ground. The team was made up of several young men such as Marsden Rigby, George Lonsdale, Will Coulton, and Tom Burch, as well as some older men, Taylor Woods and Tom Parker. It is known that cricket was played on Freckleton Marsh before 1900, and there had been an unofficial club since at least 1910.

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In 1956, a new ground was opened on Bush Lane and, as the club became stronger, they joined the Fylde cricket League in 1961, and then joined the Palace Shield in 1962.

They now play at the Rawstorne Sports Centre, on Bush Lane. As well as changing rooms for both the cricket club and the football club, the centre has a bar, a TV lounge, and several rooms for party hire. It underwent massive refurbishment in 2016, being opened for use on the 18th of June by Councillor Tommy Threlfall.
It was established with money from the Robert Rawstorne Trust, which was set up from his will on the 6th of May 1975, to fund projects for "recreational and religious purposes" in Freckleton.

Blackpool Tower's position as the World's tallest building was taken when the Chrysler building opened in New York.

1931
The Blackpool Gliding Club bought a Dickson glider in February. It arrived in May, and was displayed, rigged, in front of Aked's garage in St Anne's, before flying from a Thornton field.
The Town fair appeared in Stanley Park on the 22nd of July.

The News Theatre, Blackpool: The Pleasure Beach employed an architect from Philadelphia named Edward Schoeppe to conceive a new frontage to the park. It included the 600-seat News Theatre, the front of the Velvet Coaster, and a new façade for Howell's Photographic Studio, designed to resemble a camera. The bronze fountain in front of it still remains today. The News Theatre opened for use in 1932.

It was renamed the Novelty Theatre in 1933, briefly the Novelty Cinema, and then the Odditorium in 1935, finally changing to the Cresta Café in 1937, before being converted into a Ripley's Odditorium in 1970.
For many years, there was a putting green on the beach side of the venue (at its back).
In 1982, it was changed again, into Bean Street, an open plan hall containing several fast food outlets.

CF Rickards opened the Headlands Hotel at the end of Bourne Crescent on New South Promenade in July. The new hotel boasted its own seawater baths, 57 bedrooms, a 110-seater dining room, and a private garage. Mr Rickards campaigned long and hard for more development around Harrowside.

The Cedar Tavern, Blackpool: The Liverpool, London, and Globe Insurance Company opened an office at 15 Cedar Square. This later became Royal Insurance and then White's Bar, before settling as the Cedar Tavern. It had been designed by JC Derham, who had also designed the Olympia buildings.
The Cedar Tavern closed in 2008, but in January 2019, planning consent was given for it to have major re-structuring, to include a rooftop drinking terrace.

Dutton's Arms Hotel, Blackpool: The 1890s, two-storey Commercial Hotel on Waterloo Road was demolished and was then replaced by the nearby Dutton's Arms on the 10th of October – this pub was named after its owners, Dutton's Limited of Blackburn.
The Dutton's Arms is now called the Dutton Arms, having dropped its apostrophe after a refurbishment in 2010, following a fire on the 25th of January. It reopened on the 4th of August. Commercial Street is named after the original hostelry.
Dutton's houses sold their famous "OBJ" – meaning Oh Be Joyful. This was their Old Ben ale, a strong, dark ale of 6% alcohol by volume. Several of their local pubs have these initials around the premises.

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The Victoria Working Men's Club opened at 32-34 Station Road and 94-100 Bond Street on the 4th of July, becoming the Duple Social Club in the 1960s. On the ground floor was a branch of Boots the Chemist. South Shore Tradesmen's Club was at 4 Waterloo Road.
Squires Gate Railway Station opened for business on September the 14th, replacing the old Stony Hill Station and railway sidings, and a single long siding served the adjacent airport. A branch of the District Bank shared the new premises.
The Ribble Bus Company, the Majestic Bus Company, and Scout Motor Services were all running buses along Preston New Road.
Charles Crewe Wine Shippers were operating from Poolnoire House on the corner of Gorton Street and Talbot Road, having been started by Charles Crewe several years before. Now called Crewe Johns (1984) Ltd, the company trades from 1 Mitcham Road in Preston.
North Pier Promenade Garage opened for business on the 4th of July, at 176-178 the Promenade, on the corner of Springfield Road, boasting the *"Latest American Machinery"*. By 1948, the business had been renamed as the North Promenade Garage and Engineering Co Ltd, and by 1953, it was simply known as the Promenade Garage. The Golden Age Furniture store was opposite, next to the Metropole Bar. The garage was soon purchased, to become North Shore Motors, then becoming Fairbuys Discount Store and later, Springfield Market.
Bispham North End Tennis Club was opened on the 30th of May.
The Argenta Meat Company Limited ran 10 butcher's shops in Blackpool, including at Moon Street, 36 Church Street, 105 Church Street, 199 Lytham Road, 107 Bond Street, 16a Grasmere Road, and 28a Caunce Street.
Newsome's Mineral Water factory moved from Preston Old Road to Dover Road (then called Sep Avenue), after having been originally in East Warbrick Street. The original company, EL Newsome's Mineral Water Company (Blackpool) Limited, had been wound up in February 1906.
South Shore Garage was at 329 Lytham Road. They were automobile engineers, garage proprietors and a petrol filling station, as well as being agents for Hillman cars and dealers in second-hand cars. By 1978, the premises were occupied by Marklynn Motors, repairers and used car dealers. The premises have since been used by Autofix, Queen Vic Motors, and now Ocean Tyres.
Blackpool Temperance Lodge was consecrated at Marton Institute on the 16th of September.
Arnott Road was constructed to join Vicarage Lane with Waterloo Road.
Many houses were built in Marton – for example many two-up-two-down terraced dwellings on Joyce Avenue and surrounding streets.
Clifton Drive North was opened, from Squires Gate to the Pleasure Beach. Initially sand screens were installed to the west side of the road. The road from St Anne's to Squires Gate had been finished in 1878.
The Number 6 Bus Service was extended to run to the Welcome Inn from Adelaide Street.

Blackwood's Rock: William Addy started his rock factory at 32a Elizabeth Street and opened a shop and a stall in Abingdon Street Market. It was bought in 1944 by Robert Blackwood.
Blackwood's rock factory moved to 1 Cowley Road, Marton in 1969, and before long they had a shop at 38 to 42 Coronation Street and a stall at the Pleasure Beach. The Coronation Street store was later bought by Geoffrey and Margaret Race, but it closed in 2018, to be replaced by a restaurant with an aparthotel above.

Stanley's Café was at 32 Victoria Street and 17 Abingdon Street, owned by Stanley Jenkinson. He opened his Stanley's Restaurant there on the 1st of June 1935. Underneath, in later years, was Roland's Bar. This was owned by Roland Catlow, the then owner of Stanley's Restaurant, who also ran ice cream vans from his works on Back Reads Avenue.

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Percy Clarke started his accountancy practice in Leopold Grove, above the retail premises of Ernest Flowers, who was a gentleman's outfitter – his red Fez became famous when worn by comedian Tommy Cooper. After moves to South King Street and Cookson Street, the current practice of Clarke, Broome, and Fleming is based in 223 Church Street.
Grundy's (Blackpool) Limited, tobacconists, hairdressers, and fancy goods dealers, were at 1 Palatine Buildings, 23 Church Street, 2 Talbot Square, 13 Olympia Buildings on Coronation Street, 35 Abingdon Street, 8 North Promenade, Bank Hey Street, 40 Lytham Road, and 34 Bond Street, with their warehouse on Back Church Street.
Jimmy Walton opened the Pure Rock Company in Bath Street. It is now called Palace Rock and is based on Lytham Road.
Premier Garage opened on Bolton Street, operated by Queensborough Motor Company Limited. They were the sole distributors of Riley and Vauxhall cars and Bedford commercial vehicles. Premier garage later moved into the old stables building at the Oxford. It was owned by Harold Smith.
Wren Rovers Football Club was formed, taking their name from Wren Grove near the Boars Head. They now play at Bruce Park on School Road, Blackpool. They changed their name to Blackpool Rovers in 1990, before changing back and becoming Blackpool Wren Rovers Football Club in 1998.
The Anglo-American Oil Company opened a depot on Devonshire Road on the 30th of January.
Blackpool Biscuits moved from Sutherland Road and the first sod for the, soon to be called Bee-Bee Biscuits factory, was cut on Devonshire Road on the 1st of October.
The Insurance Institute of Blackpool was founded, as the Blackpool Centre of the Insurance Institute of North Lancashire. Dissolved in 2001, its members transferred to Preston, and that institute was renamed as Preston and Blackpool in 2002.
The Film "Hindle Wakes" was shot, partly on location at the Blackpool funfair. The cast included Belle Chrystall, Edmund Gwenn, Sybil Thorndike, and Mary Clare.
Another film "City of Pleasure" was filmed partly in town and at the Pleasure Beach, based on Arnold Bennett's story.
Author, Edgar Wallace stood as an unsuccessful Liberal candidate in Blackpool, just before he went to Hollywood to work as a scriptwriter. He delivered his election address from the Metropole Hotel. In England in the 1920s, Wallace was said to be the second biggest seller after the Bible.
A young girl from Blackpool, known in the files of the Society for Psychical Research as "Rosemary", had begun in 1927 to speak in ancient Egyptian. In tests by Egyptologist Howard Hume, she also wrote 66 phrases in hieroglyphics. The test results were later "rubbished".
Elizabeth Larner was born in Wigan, and shortly moved to Blackpool, where she was educated at Tyldesley School before becoming a musical and comic actress. Perhaps her best role was as Ammonia in the TV series "Up Pompeii".
Christopher Wiggins was born in Blackpool on the 13th of January. He became an actor, starring as Jack Marshak in the TV horror show "Friday the 13th", which ran from 1987 to 1990.
Keith Christie was born in Blackpool on the 6th of January. He went on to be a jazz trombonist, becoming a key member of great orchestras such as those of Humphrey Lyttelton, Benny Goodman, and Ted heath.

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Rossall Hospital: The Chronicle Cinderella Sunshine Home was built by Allied Newspapers Limited, from public subscriptions, and was opened on the 4th of May by the 17th Earl of Derby; it was known as the Cinderella Club House. The purpose of the premises was to provide free holidays for the poor children of Manchester and Salford, which continued (May to September only) until 1939.
In 1940, the home was taken over by the Ministry of Health and was renamed the County Special Hospital in 1941, to house the sick and injured who had been hurt on the battlefields. It was renamed Rossall Hospital in 1946 and taken over by the NHS in 1948, being later used as a hospital for the elderly.
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The Rossall Hospital Rehabilitation Unit was built in 1999 to replace Rossall Hospital, which was demolished in September 2001.

Cleveleys Library was opened on West Drive West by Councillor Catterall. The first Librarian was Miss Edith Ashworth. During the war, there was an air raid shelter on the site, used by children from Manchester hospitals convalescing in Cleveleys. The library was greatly extended to the rear in the mid-1960s and was closed on the 19th of November 2016 due to budget cuts by Labour-controlled Lancashire County Council. In March 2019, however, the library was re-opened with local community support, as a library and community hub.
The Cleveleys Lodge of the RAOB was founded on the 5th of November.

Fleetwood Bailey Senior (Secondary) School: This large red-brick school was opened to pupils on the 5th of November on Beach Road. Its official opening was performed the Earl of Crawford on the 5th of December. Boys and girls were separate until 1971. It was fondly known by pupils as *"Bailey Borstal"*.
The school colours were royal blue, light blue, and white, and the school motto was *"Bonaventure"*, meaning lucky.
Bailey School merged with Fleetwood Grammar in 1975, to become part of Fleetwood Hesketh High – using both sites; years 1 to 3 at Poulton Road, and the rest at Beach Road.
Bailey closed in 2002, when called Fleetwood Grammar.

An Air Pageant was held on the beach in Fleetwood, with several aeroplanes taking off and landing on the beach to the west of the pier.
Great Eccleston Women's Institute was formed in January, meeting in the Methodist Church, before opening their own hall on Chapel Street in 1939.

Sykes Pickavant: John Sykes began importing and distributing motor and engineering tools from his Warwick Works on St Leonard's Road in St Anne's. In 1968, his company, JF Sykes (St Annes) Ltd, merged with JW Pickavant and Company of Birmingham, to create the new firm of Sykes-Pickavant, which began operating on 1 January 1969. In the 1970s, they built a large new factory and office block – again called Warwick Works, which was a major local employer on Kilnhouse Lane until it moved to Burntwood in Staffordshire in 1994.

Comedian Dave Morris moved to St Patrick's Road North, St Anne's, later moving to Duchess Drive, North Shore, Blackpool.
The St Anne's Bridge Club was formed in September.
SP Farnworth had his optician's shop at 38 the Square in St Anne's.
St Anne's Square was widened to allow more traffic through.
Worden's (Toyland) was at 9a Park Road in St Anne's, selling Hornby trains, and the new favourite "Mickey Mouse and his sweetheart, Minnie".
The St Anne's branch of the Catholic Women's League was formed in October.
Lanigan's of Lytham opened their first shop at 4 Park Street. They became a Limited Company in 1949, selling fish, game, and poultry from 72-74 Clifton Street. For a short period in the 1980s, they ran their own fish restaurant, called Lanigan's Aloft, on the first floor.
Porritt and Sons were operating their brick and tile works at Moss Side.
The Albert Mill Company was operating from Aero Mill in Kirkham.
Work on the Kirkham by-pass was abandoned and not restarted until August 1933.

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Townsend's Garage was opened on Preston Road at Warton, replacing the village smithy. Nearby was Brook Corner Garage.

Fylde Glasshouses: From about now, the "glasshouse industry" developed in Warton and the whole of the Fylde, as the area's climate and conditions were found to be particularly suitable growing "Blackpool" tomatoes and lettuce.
Unfortunately, in the 1960s-70s, the increasing price of glasshouse heating, foreign competition, and freak gales and hailstorms brought this industry to a close.
The only area to survive in numbers was on Marton Moss. However, even there, there were 35 glasshouses closed between 1960 and 2008.

Clock Garage, Peel: Clock Garage had recently opened near Peel Corner. Sunning Lea Nurseries soon opened to the east of the new garage, as did a Council storage depot between the two.
Clock Garage was re-built in the 1950s and then became a Shell service station. Buildings at the rear were later used by Thomas Motors of Blackpool for surplus vehicle storage. Those storage facilities were then operated by Northwest Car Movements Ltd from 1991 until its insolvency in October 1994.
Lytham Window Company demolished Clock Garage and opened a new double-glazing showroom in 2004. Planning permission is currently being sought to build 14 new houses on the site.

1932
The German airship Graf Zeppelin flew over Blackpool on the 3rd of July.
West Coast Air Services took out a lease on the old flying field and racecourse at Squires Gate, soon becoming a stop-off point for short flights between Liverpool and the Isle of Man.

Blackpool Squires Gate Greyhound Stadium: At the same time, the Blackpool Greyhound and Racecourse Company Limited bought a small plot of land at Squires gate. Next to the old grandstand of the Blackpool Racecourse, they began to build their own greyhound track.
An oval track and a "sporting arena" were built inside the space that used to be the racecourse itself, with its grandstand being adapted from the old one. Offices and refreshment facilities were also built, back-to-back with those of the re-furbished Aero Club.
The first race was held on the 7th of April 1933 and was a handicap race for £550, which was won by Curious Mickey. The first race on the unusual 500-yard straight in front of the grandstand was won by Heswall Warrior. It was won in a later meet, in a world record time of 26.37 seconds, by Beef Cutlet – possibly the most famous greyhound in the world at the time.

Competition with the Blackpool Greyhound Stadium off St Annes Road proved too much, and the venue closed in 1937. The track was where the future terminal building would stand, and the grandstand was roughly where the main car park stands today.

On Easter Weekend, the AA officially named the main Preston to Blackpool road as the busiest in the country - 28,000 vehicles entered Blackpool. At times, notices were erected at the side of the main roads, saying "Town Full".
The 200-space indoor Car Park was opened at the Winter Gardens off Leopold Grove. The car park was closed in 2015, and then demolished by March 2016, along with the row of small shops beneath.
At the Pleasure beach, the Grotto opened. It was rebuilt in the Children's Amusement Park, by the Roller Coaster, when the Alice in Wonderland dark ride arrived in 1961. *"Its various titles include Grotto La Paz, the Fairy Grotto, and the Magic Mountain. The indoor train ride travelled past a number of tableaux, which*

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changed over the years. But in their time riders have been able to marvel at the delights of The Wizard's Kitchen, The Penguin's Playground, The Bottom of the Sea and The Depths of Equatorial Africa. Along with a Sleeping Beauty tableau and smiling animals playing musical instruments and dancing".

Animated tableaux in the Illuminations: these were erected for the first time on the cliffs linking North Shore and Bispham. The tableaux included such children's favourites as Cinderella's coach, and nursery rhymes such as the Cow jumped over the Moon.
The length of the lights was extended to its present length - just less than six miles - starting at Squires Gate and finishing at Red Bank Road. The power drain was such that the electricity supply needed to be supplemented from Penwortham Power Station.

The Ice Works were on Harewood Street.
The Corporation Laundry and Sewage Pumping Station were in Rigby Road, as was the Army Drill Hall.
Holdsworth's fish and chip shop was on the corner of Briercliffe Avenue and Preston Old Road.

The Brunswick Club, Blackpool: Was registered on the 29th of March 1910, starting off in the White House Café on Brunswick Street. It soon moved to an impressive building at 80A Central Beach.
By 1952, the club was located above Revoe Post Office at 61 Chapel Street.
It later moved to a new building 21 to 27 Bethesda Road, on the site of "Mac's Palais De Dance" (thought to be Blackpool's first disco). The dance hall had been built on the site of several terraced houses, one of which had been Agnes Bamber's ladies' hairdressers at number 27.
The Brunswick Club went into liquidation on the 22nd of September 2014, but re-opened, as the New Brunswick Club, in January 2015, after a buy-out by members.
The Azy Showbar opened above the club in March 2006, but the Brunswick Gym is now in operation on the first floor of the building.

Westlands Private School was at 4 Abbeyville, South Shore.
The Dental Repair Service was at 93 Central Drive, run by JW Booth. The building is currently home to the Blackpool Pet Shop.
The Maine Poultry Farm on Common Edge Lane was a popular outing for tourists alighting at Central Station. It was the equivalent of today's working farms attractions.
Numbers 33 and 35 Ilford Road were both shops.

Victory Baptist Church, St Anne's Road, Blackpool: A church on St Anne's Road was built on the site of earlier tented meetings. It was known as the Bethel Evangelical Fellowship, and was built by the brother of George Jefferies, who had also built the Elim Church on Waterloo Road. Later the building was a Moravian Church, and then a Church of the Nazarene.

In 1987, the building became the St Anne's Road or Victory Baptist Church. The Victory Baptists had started with a Sunday school, in rented meeting rooms above the Guest House Association headquarters in Blackpool. They then rented facilities above a Barber's Shop on Alfred Street.
The Victory Christian School, based there, closed on the 19th of July 1997.

The Theosophical Society Rooms were at 7 Clifton Street, having moved from Church Street.
Abingdon Confectioners Limited was running the Don Café at 38 Abingdon Street. They had other cafés at 4-6 Dickson Road, 3 Cheltenham Road, and 76 Caunce Street. Also, at 38 Abingdon Street in the 1980s were the premises of Ronald Tye Furrier.

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C Smith's Coaches began a daily service to London, leaving from Vance Road, where the Barinda Coach House hotel at number 3 was later named after the station.

The Rector of Stiffkey: Luke Gannon displayed the "Starving Brides" in glass cases and the Rector of Stiffkey (pronounced stewkey) in a barrel, on the corner of Brunswick Street on the Golden Mile. The Rector (Harold Davidson) – otherwise known as the *"prostitutes' padre"* - died two years later, in the jaws of Freddie the circus lion in Skegness, whilst playing the part of Daniel. Gannon soon felt that Blackpool was too staid for his acts and in 1937, he diverted to Cleveleys instead. He died in 1939.
The site of Gannon's venue is now covered by the Pyramid Plaza Shopping Centre and Brunswick Street remains as a mere alley between the Promenade and Bonny Street.

The first Blackpool Drama Festival was held at the Opera House on the 14th of November.
The Carlton Café was at number 12 Foxhall Road.
JA Steer Limited, golf club makers, golf course architects, athletic and sports outfitters (, had their head office and showrooms at 4 Palladium buildings, on Waterloo Road. They were the sole makers of the world-famous "JA Steer" golf clubs.
The first Maze was opened at the Pleasure Beach.
The Victoria Billiard Hall was running on Waterloo Road.
The Tram Station at Bispham was first used on the 7th of May, and the adjacent Little Bispham tram loop was built. The Little Bispham loop gained its own Tram Station in 1935.
A new Norbreck to Anchorsholme Road was opened, joining onto both Devonshire Road and the recently opened Broadway. This made a through road from Blackpool to Fleetwood for the first time and provided serious competition for the trams.
Queen's Promenade was extended from Norbreck to Anchorsholme.
Norbreck Bowling and Tennis Club was formed, playing from Clovelly Avenue. The club had previously been known as the Mossom Bowling and Tennis Club.
The Earl of Plymouth opened the Squires Gate railway bridge on the 11th of June.
The Walter Hardy Pavilion was opened at South Shore Cricket Club on Squires Gate Lane.
Work began on the Highfield Road Housing Estate.
Marton Branch Library was opened on Waterloo Road, replacing the Institute Reading Room. It was built on land bought from the Whitegate Brick Company.

The Oxford Bank, Blackpool: The District Bank opened at 369 Whitegate Drive on the 9th of April. This became a branch of the National Westminster and after that closed, Melrose Construction Limited moved into the building in 1996. They moved out in 2007, to be replaced by the R-Group of companies, who were themselves replaced in 2014 by Farmgen, an energy company, who only lasted until mid-2015.
A veterinary practice called Rowan opened in the building in June 2016, having moved from much smaller premises at 6 Newhouse Road. Rowan Vets also run a second veterinary centre which opened on Hillock Lane at Freckleton in September 2010.

The semi-detached houses on Lawson Road were built. Lawson Road was named after its original owner, William Lawson, who sold the land to the council. The open land opposite can never be built upon.
Bloomfield Road's one and only full international match took place on the 17th of October, when England beat Ireland 1-0 in the 50th anniversary of matches between them.
In November, Stanley Terrace at King's Square, at the divergence of Church Street and Caunce Street, was demolished to make way for more shops, offices, and underground public conveniences. Stanley terrace had been built as a row of houses by Edward Lomax and bought by the council for demolition. The new

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build is known as Stanley Buildings, and was completed in 1935, being clad in cream faience with a frieze of Viking ships. The Midland Bank branch on the tip of the corner, was retained, but was sold in 1986. It is now Popeye's take away shop.
There were two Discharged Soldiers' and Sailors' Social Clubs in operation – one at 42 Bond Street, and the other on Talbot Road.
On Cecil Street at the time were the Corporation Store Yard, a Printing Works, and a Mission Hall - which later was changed into a bus garage.
Watmough's Original Biscuit Stall opened in Abingdon Street Market.
The Blackpool Bedding Company Ltd, wholesale bedding manufacturers, were at Back Regent Road. They were also *"specialists in cleaning, rewillowing, and renovating bedding of every description, wire mattress manufacturers, etc".* They were wound up in 1962.
Singer Gracie Fields made her first Blackpool appearance at the Grand Theatre.
Sunray Studio, Photographers was in business at 26 Central Drive.
Fox Brothers was established by brothers Jack and Clarence on Garstang Road, as a simple haulage company. After becoming limited on the 24th of December 1956, and assisting in the construction of Preston New Road, they now specialise in heavy plant hire.
Vincent Waring and Co, Solicitors was founded at 32 Edward Street, moving to Cedar Square in 2008.
Eastwood and Bailey had an Auction Market at 235-237 Lytham Road.
Heatherlea florists were established at their nursery on Common Edge Road in Marton, before moving to a shop at number 15 in the 21st century. In 2016, they opened a second shop on Woodlands Road in Ansdell.
Marton Square Fruit Stores on Hawes Side Lane closed.
Sunnyhurst Holiday Camp, on Sunnyhurst Avenue off Highfield Road, was in full swing. It had its own wooden dining room and a large pavilion for gatherings and entertainment, together with a large number of pre-erected bell tents with wooden floors. Each tent had four camp beds and there was a free wash house, with "Water Tap at each basin, and all the Sanitary arrangements are on the latest principle (Water Carriage)".
The Marton Village Homing Society was formed, soon opening a wooden hut on Hawes Side Lane, next to Stanley Working Mens' Club. The society sold their hut in 2015, for redevelopment as 2 detached homes.
The first RAC Rally and Coachwork Competition started from the Promenade in March, supported by the Lancashire Automobile Club. The rally actually started from several points and ended in Torquay.

Laurel and Hardy: The world-famous comedy duo briefly appeared at the Winter Gardens on the 1st of August. After a banquet in the Baronial Hall, they did a short comedy routine in the Empress Ballroom and went on to do the same routine at the Palace Theatre, before going on to the Tower Ballroom to repeat the performance once more. They stayed at the Metropole Hotel and made a public appearance on the Palace balcony.

Stan and Ollie returned to town on the 2nd of June 1947, appearing at the Palace for a week and staying at the Clifton Arms at Lytham. A unique 78 rpm recording of them from that visit was discovered in 2005. Whilst here, on the 5th of June, Stan and "Babe" (Stan's nickname for Ollie) acted as hosts when they invited the local Water Rats for pre-dinner cocktails at the Fleece Hotel, before moving on to Hill's Restaurant for a luncheon. Most of the leading entertainers in Blackpool turned up, including Josef Locke, Nat Jackley, and Frank Randal.
Before they left, they gave an interview in which Oliver Hardy is quoted as saying: *"Stanley, you remember Blackpool"? "Will we ever forget it, Ollie?" "Never", said Ollie, "we were lucky to leave the town in one piece". He was referring to the ecstatic reception they had enjoyed 15 years earlier, when they came to the resort on an MGM promotional tour".*

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A deal for a summer season in 1954 fell through when Hardy became ill.

Harold Doggett won the Blackpool Marathon in a time of 2:42:20 on the 11th of June.
The Anonymous Players Dramatic Society was founded in September. The first production was the Young Idea by Noel Coward, in the Jubilee Theatre. Later shows were at the Memorial Hall, Dean Street, and the Baptist church hall, Station Road. The group then moved to St Anne's Pier Pavilion, Lytham Baths and since 1984, the Lowther Pavilion.
The "While U Wait" Promenade Portrait Studios were at 117, 165 and 187 Wellington Terrace.
The Blackpool Challenge Shield was won for the third time in a row by the Halifax Chamber Choir.
Derek Thomas (Tom) Whiteside was born in Blacow Street off Talbot Road on the 23rd of July. He attended St John's School and then Blackpool Grammar, before going on to be one of the world's most renowned Mathematics Historians and a leading authority on Sir Isaac Newton.

Michael Smith: was born on April the 26th at 65 St Heliers Road. He went to Marton Moss School from the age of five and became Blackpool's only Nobel Prize winner when he won it for work in Chemistry in 1993.

Peter Hall was born in Hampstead, London, moving to Blackpool in 1940, when his father was dispersed to the town by the Pensions Ministry. He attended Blackpool Grammar and later became a famous author and planner, being knighted in 1998.

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Hodgson School, Poulton: William Hodgson officially opened his Hodgson Senior School on the 12th of November, after it had opened for pupils on the 5th of September. The school held and Open Day on the 13th of April 1932, to show itself off to prospective pupils. The new teaching staff and governors gave talks and showed the families around. The first headmaster was John Farrand.
The original school consisted of a hall (on the site of the present hall, but smaller), and had six classrooms. There was also a woodwork room, science lab, gardening room, epidiascope (large projector) room, library, domestic science room, and art room. The land between the old school and the railway was the playing field, accommodating football, hockey, and athletics. The school also had an orchard, vegetable gardens, and separate boys' and girls' yards. On opening, there were seven members of staff and 193 pupils, which compares with 107 and 1,125 respectively, today.

By 1949, the numbers had grown to 370, mainly due to the expansion promoted by the headmaster.

In the mid to late 1960s, a large extension to the main teaching block was built. This is now called B Block. It included a new school hall and a sports hall. Also, some classrooms were turned into laboratories.

The 1970s saw another building, to cope with the extra pupils joining after the school leaving age was raised to 16.

Hodgson became a Comprehensive School in 1976.

In 2010, a new Sports Hall was opened by Blackpool footballer Charlie Adam, and in 2011, the school changed its name to Hodgson Academy.

Singleton Railway Station closed.
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The Barras Nursing Home was on Victoria Road West in Cleveleys - as the birth records of the Lord baby show. Many local children were born there. When the home closed, the building was converted into the two semi-detached houses we see today.
Ye Olde Inn Café was on Rough Lea Road in Cleveleys.
The children's outdoor swimming pool was opened on Gamble Road in Thornton on the 26th of August. It had been built with bricks from a demolished building near Bourne Hall, and joined a scout hut, bowling greens, and squash and tennis courts. Gamble Road had been named after Sir Christopher Gamble (full name Josia Christopher Gamble) who had started the United Alkali Company.
Fleetwood Marine Lake and Boating Pond were opened by Earl Beattie.

Fleetwood Rugby Club: was formed, as Fleetwood Old Boys (of Fleetwood Grammar School).
For the first few years, the club used a number of grounds, but in 1945, the team began playing from the present location on Melbourne Avenue. There was just one pitch, and they also had a small clubhouse - by arrangement with the landlord, Fleetwood Cricket Club.
In 1962, a new clubhouse was built, using its own entrance to the ground, but continuing to use the pitch as before. The clubhouse was extended during the next ten years using, old RAF huts from a local camp.
In 1976, a 60-year lease was drawn up with the Cricket Club and Wyre Borough, allowing the main pitch to be re-sited, and a second pitch and training area introduced. Then, the old clubhouse was replaced with brick building.
The club has a memorial in the members' entrance, commemorating players who lost their lives in World War 2.

Joseph Armour opened a garage in Dock Street, Fleetwood, and later also traded from 236-238 Fleetwood Road, Bispham. The company went into receivership and closed in March 2009.
N Parkinson's grocer's and Italian warehouse was in Albert Square in Fleetwood.
John Lawrenson was born in Fleetwood on the 5th of March. Living on Littlewood, off Broadway, he soon started singing, and became the youngest winner of the Blackpool Rosebowl in 1953, later becoming a world-famous baritone.
The Fylde Box Company was on St Andrew's Road North in St Anne's, later moving to Cavendish Road. The factory later became Aked's Garage.
Lytham St Anne's Methodist Circuit was formed, when the local Wesleyan and Primitive circuits merged. In the early 19th century, the Wesleyans in the area had connections with Preston but were part of Garstang Circuit before 1845. The Lytham district was transferred to Blackpool Circuit on its formation in 1866, and it was not until 1883 that a separate Lytham Wesleyan Methodist Circuit was formed (covering Lytham, St Anne's, and Warton). Its name was changed to Lytham St Anne's Wesleyan Methodist Circuit in 1921.
The Lytham Cherrywood Pipesmokers Club was formed in March, with CD Sharman as its chairman. The club was re-formed in September 2016.
Molloy's of Lytham was established in Southport, selling furniture. In 1973, the company opened a second store at 79 Clifton Street in Lytham. The premises had previously been occupied by the Lytham Television and Radio Mart, which had gone into liquidation that May. In 1924, engineer Robert Twist was the occupier.
The Holt Jackson Book Company opened on Preston Road in Lytham, moving to Preston in 2008. The firm became one of the major library book suppliers in the UK. In 2011, a Lidl supermarket was built on the site.
RH Millner Ltd, haulage contractors and general carriers, funeral undertakers and motor hearse proprietors, taxis, and private cars for hire (open day and night) was at Station Garages, Wesham, and Station Road in Kirkham.
Great Eccleston first received electricity on the 18th of December, supplied by Preston Corporation.

©

1933

By January, only Feldman's produced a live show. This included *"live nude girls"* who were forbidden from moving. The unrulier customers spiced up the show by the judicious use of peashooters!
Blackpool Council introduced a "Guest Week" during June, to try and encourage more overnight visitors by offering them half price tickets for attractions.

The new Victoria Hospital, Blackpool: A competition was held in order to find the best design for the new hospital, with finalists being featured in the 1927 issues of the Builder periodical.

In 1930, the chairman of the Board of Hospital Management, Lionel Franceys, had decided that the new hospital was to be built on the Whinney Heys estate. This had recently been bought by Blackpool Corporation for a planned housing development, and despite facing constant opposition, he forced his idea through the system and into fruition.

After the lifting of covenant on the Whinney Heys land, which prevented the erection of any public building thereon, the Earl of Derby laid the foundation stone of the new out-of-town hospital at Whinney Heys on the 9th of June 1933, and a time capsule was buried underneath, containing a copy of the Evening Gazette. An impressive Clock Tower and Glass Dome were erected over the main entrance. The construction work was carried out by Fieldings of Blackpool. In 2018, the original blueprints were presented back to the hospital – local singer Joe Longthorne had found them in the attic of his Blackpool home – which was built by Fieldings.

The new hospital began taking patients on the 29th of September 1936, when 68 patients were transferred in. It was not opened officially until the 21st of October 1937, when the Duke of Kent unlocked the main door with a golden key. The first patient was Violet Jarvis of Cunliffe Road. The old building on Whitegate Drive became a health centre and was demolished in 2001 to make way for – a health centre!

Whinney Heys Hall became a Nurses' Home serving The Vic (as the new hospital came to be fondly known), after being bought back by the Corporation in 1930. There were tales of it being haunted by a "figure in grey". It was demolished in 1969, and was replaced in 1972 by the boiler house, kitchens, staff dining room, and stores. Buses first ran from the hospital in 1936 when the 15a service terminated there.

The hospital was officially opened by the Duke of Kent on the 21st of October 1937. The first matron was Elsie MacLean, and the first trainee nurse to be taken on was Jill Horan. Miss Maclean had served at the old site for a year. She was awarded the Coronation medal by the Queen in 1953.

The new hospital could handle up to 350 patients and was divided into the following departments: Casualty, Radiography, Physiotherapy, and Pathology. There were several Operating Theatres, which, by 1940, were dealing with over 3,700 operations per year. All patients arrived via the small Casualty Department and were then dealt with according to need. There were originally 10 wards, containing 182 beds, and the hospital had its own mortuary in a small building by the gates on Whinney Heys Road – nicknamed "Rose Cottage" by staff. The mortuary closed in 2011 when a modern, better equipped facility was opened on the main hospital corridor.

On the 7th of June 1939, the foundation stone for a new Outpatients' Department was laid by the Mayor, Alderman Rostron Duckworth. The complex was designed by architects JS Gibson and WSA Gordon and built by J and R Fenton (Blackpool) Ltd. The new department was duly opened, pushing the hospital into the nation's top tier – it was granted Top Grade status by the Government of the day. A few Annexe

©

Wards were built in the same year behind the hospital in temporary hutments, being constructed to care for sick and wounded servicemen during World War 2 – sometimes dealing with up to 100 per night. The annexes originally had a life span of 10 years but were still in use as wards 19 to 26 until their demolition in 2002.

During 1941, *"An Artificial Pneumothorax Clinic for the better treatment of tuberculous patients was inaugurated a little over half-way through the year (11th July) and 20 patients were treated"*. From the 12th of November 1945, some of the cases at The Vic began to be treated in Annexe A.

In 1943, the number of Tuberculosis patients had increased so dramatically, that *"one of the Emergency Hospital Huts, Annexe A at the Victoria Hospital was put at the disposal of the Local Authority for Tuberculosis patients. This gave accommodation for 22 patients. The Victoria Hospital Board provide staff and feeding but the patients are looked after clinically by the Tuberculosis Officer. The ward was opened for female patients on 23rd August"*. In 1944, still more TB beds were made available at The Vic, and on the 8th of June 1945, Annexe D at the hospital was opened as another TB ward, with 22 more beds.

The Psychiatric Clinic opened at The Vic on the 25th of January 1947, later being replaced by the Parkwood centre. Unfortunately, Parkwood was intended as extra ward space, and was never a totally successful mental health unit.

In 1948, the newly created National Health Service formed the Blackpool and Fylde Hospital Management Committee to run all the area's hospitals. They took over The Vic and disbanded the old Hospital Board. Previously, patients had to pay to belong to a doctor's panel – paying up to a shilling per visit. In 1950, Elsie MacLean was appointed by the committee as the first Matron of the hospital on its present site, and he was also the first Group Matron to be appointed in the Fylde. The Blackpool Victoria Hospital NHS Trust took over the control of the hospital on the 19th of December 1994, until the Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust was established on 1st December 2007. The Trust then gained teaching hospital status and became Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust in 2010.

In 1954, the hospital's League of Friends was formed to raise extra money for local health facilities, and to provide a bedside trolley service for patients. Their last donation was £123,000 towards a new children's unit on Whitegate Drive, to replace the one at Blenheim House. The group then closed in January 2014, to be replaced by orange-shirted helpers.

In 1961, Norman Fragle, after seeing his son suffer from heart problems, built an innovative blood pump machine to be used in heart, lung, and bypass surgery at The Vic. The heart pump he created helped take blood from the body and oxygenate it, before putting it back into the body, and thus helped surgeons to operate for longer. Fragle's Café in the Cardiac Unit is named after Mr Fragle, who was senior engineer at BAC in Preston.
Also, in 1971, the new Pathology Department was opened on the 10th of November, by Sir Toby Low.

1967 saw The Vic open its Accident and Emergency Department, which had been designed and purpose-built to cater for around 37,000 patients a year. Also, in 1967, the hospital opened a Day Case Theatre and an Outpatients' Department, together with new Orthopaedic, Rehabilitation, and Traumatic Departments. The "Farage" Cardiac Investigation Unit opened in 1969, as did new Nurses' accommodation to replace Whinney Heys (demolished in this year), a nurse training school, new laundry, new kitchens, boiler rooms, and stores.

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"In 1974, the Manchester Region's Blackpool and Fylde School of Nursing (Lancashire) was based at the Victoria Hospital, Blackpool FY3 8NR. This school had training places for 72 General student nurses and 45 SEN pupil nurses per year".
On the 1st of April 1974, a Post-Graduate Centre was opened on the site of the original dining hall, and the Hospital Club – otherwise known as the Nurses' Club was opened in the October.
In the following few years, the NHS built several new facilities at the hospital, including a Maternity department (1975), Gastroenterology Unit and Intensive Care Unit (both 1981), Cardiology Laboratory (1983). A Cardiac Intensive Care unit was opened on the 8th of December 1982, by Mr Ramesh Gandhi and Mr M Khan. Its first Nursing Officer was Anne Parmley, and the first Sister was Gloria Hall.
The Red Cross started a Therapeutic Care Service at the hospital in 1984.

The Macmillan Windmill Appeal was kicked off by Coronation Street star Roy Barraclough in September 1999. The Evening Gazette's Millennium Walkway was opened at The Vic, on the 23rd of April 2002, to raise funds towards the new Cancer Unit. Thanks to a successful campaign, the MacMillan Windmill Unit cancer centre was opened on the 20th of January 2003 by the Duke of Westminster. The first patient was Annette Smith.
The appeal also funded a dedicated research and development centre for oncology and haematology trials, a Haematology Department which received the highest level of accreditation, opening a £600,000 Breast Care Centre for same day diagnostic tests, setting up a haematology tertiary unit providing intensive chemotherapy and blood stem cell treatment, and opening Duncan House.

On the 8th of January 2008, the fully-refurbished gastroenterology unit was opened by Lord Shuttleworth.

Duncan House was officially opened on the 21st of March 2011, by Blackpool-based singer Joe Longthorne who had been treated at Victoria Hospital for leukaemia. Designed to give accommodation to relatives of inpatients, it has a shared living and dining area, shared kitchen, shared bathroom, three twin rooms, and one single room. The house at 28 Whinney Heys Road was named in memory of Graham Duncan from Barrow, a former patient whose family had to make the 160-mile round trip daily.

A dedicated police station was opened outside the Accident and Emergency department in November 2001. It had become necessary due to increased violent behaviour by patients.

On the 1st of February 2002, Health Minister, John Hutton, officially opened "Phase V" - a £30m hospital wing at The Vic. The hospital's rebuilt chapel was dedicated on the same day. He opened Bispham Hospital on Kincraig Road, on the same day.

The first baby was born in Blackpool Maternity Unit's new Birthing Pool - Hannah Serena Rasheed arrived on October the 22nd 2004.

The Lancashire Cardiac Centre unit was opened for its first operation on the 11th of July 2006. The £52 million complex has 80 specialist beds and state-of-the-art operating theatres and is now the most renowned cardiac unit in the Northwest of England. Next, a new, dedicated, 10-theatre Day Surgery Unit was officially opened by football manager Sir Alex Ferguson on the 20th of October, having opened for use in April. The Victoria Hospital Ring Road opened in March 2006, to provide a link between Whinney Heys Road and East Park Drive. Registrars began to work at The Vic in 2008, recording births and deaths on site for the first time.

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In 2010, a new Urgent Care Centre was opened on the 28th of June, setting up a Primary Care Service which brought together the existing Accident and Emergency department with the GP-led out-of-hours-service, which was moved from Whitegate Drive. The original clock tower was re-sited in front of the new unit.
A Breast Care Unit was officially opened on the 4th of November 2010, by popular local entertainer, and fellow cancer sufferer, Linda Nolan.
A £40 million Surgical Unit was opened in March 2012, and the new Children's Unit was officially opened on the 27th of April. A Lloyd's pharmacy was opened at the Vic on the 28th of September 2012. The new Haematology and Oncology units were then opened on the 25th of April 2013, by local paralympian Shelly Woods.

A new multi-storey car park was opened at the hospital on the 2nd of January 2014, with space for 1,122 cars. The new, covered, main entrance, leading from the car park, was unveiled. It led to a large open reception, complete with shops, and direct access to the main hospital.

In 2014, the hospital received a revolutionary way of helping the recovery of patients with dementia, when the UK's largest hospital "memory corridor" was officially opened on the 27th of May, by Jimmy Armfield CBE. The innovative, 72-metre corridor was designed to be a major boost for the patients, by showing a series of memory triggering scenes.

The hospital now has 612 beds and employs over 3,000 staff. It treats more than 80,000 day-case and inpatients and more than 200,000 outpatients from across Blackpool, Fylde, and Wyre every year.

The District Bank opened branches on Central Drive and on Whitegate Drive on the 11th of February, and another on Talbot Road on the 24th of June.

Highfield School, Blackpool: Highfield Elementary School opened on April the 24th, with the purpose to serve the Marton Moss area. It was constructed on the site of the Highfield Sports Ground. The original plans for the school were for two separate schools, one to accommodate 400 boys, and one to accommodate 400 girls. However, due to financial restrictions only half the scheme was completed, so the school opened as a mixed school for boys and girls. The school was built surrounding an inner courtyard in the form of a quadrangle. It opened its doors with 280 pupils.

By 1938, it was known as the Highfield Road East Council School, but later, the school divided into separate schools for boys and girls, with separate entrances - Highfield Girls' School was to the west and Highfield Boys' School to the east of the central cloisters. During the War, pupils here grew potatoes, onions, and cabbages as part of the "Dig for Victory" campaign. It was not until 1960 that the schools were amalgamated, with 900 pupils on the roll.

The Sports hall was opened in 1969.

Highfield Humanities College opened in September 2012. Its £24 million rebuild replaced all the original Highfield School buildings, which were completely demolished in October and November.
In late 2015, the school was forced to become an Academy, due to falling standards, and on the 1st of April 2016, its name was changed to the Highfield Leadership Academy, to recognise its changing course under the guidance of the Tauheedul Education Trust. Then, in September 2017, GCSE results were 12% better than before – a sign of the improvement.

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The Lido Swimming Baths, Blackpool: were built, opening for use in 1934, and advertising *"Warm, luxurious, indoor using sea water"*. Medical baths on offer were, foam baths, brine baths, pine baths (now called saunas), and ordinary hot baths, together with ultra violet ray and radiant heat treatments, and massages. The main pool was 35 metres long by 12 metres wide, and was separated into 6 lanes.
The Lido Ballroom opened above the baths on the 25th of August, and offered cabaret, with three-course supper and spot prizes. By 1943, the Fred Gibson Orchestra played to dancing sessions every evening.
The Lido Swimming Pool (Blackpool) Limited was declared bankrupt in September 1957, and the Lido Baths complex was taken over by the Corporation. The Lido Pool was closed by the Council on the 24th of June 2005, to be turned into an "Enterprise Centre" for local business development.

Annie Taylor's Bazaar was at 23 Corporation Street.
The Chequers Hotel was opened on the Promenade on the 3rd of June.
Twelve flat-roofed houses were built on Devonshire Road, just north of Red Bank Road. Built by W Haslam, they are excellent examples of the modern style of the time.
The Hazel Hotel was at 23 Queen Street. By the 1950s, Jeanne Stuart clothing was there (and in number 13), and the mids-1970s saw Hart's silversmiths in the building, before they sold out to a catering equipment company. In 2000, the building was transformed into Faye's Café Bar by new owners In the Pink Leisure, and 2003, it became Roxy's bar.
Stanley Park Lake froze over in a cold winter, allowing skating.
Work began on the Ladies Pavilion at the Blackpool Cricket Ground.

Burgons Ltd, Blackpool: had grocer's shops at 89 Bond Street (now the Star Shop, on the corner of Dean Street), 16 West Street, Church Street in South Shore, 99 Whitegate Drive – a future manager was Albert Stafford (this shop is now BestOne - Whitegate Food and Wine), and on Preston Old Road.
Burgons Ltd were *"High Class Grocers, Provision Merchants, Tea and Coffee Specialists"* of Manchester. In 1839, Isaac Burgon and William Hindley founded Burgon and Hindley in Sheffield, and when that company was liquidated in 1877, Burgon moved to Manchester and set himself up alone. The company went into liquidation on the 4th of May 1976.

Leonard Thompson joined with the Lusse Brothers Company of the USA, setting up a new company to design and make rides at the Pleasure Beach. They went on to make many of the world's finest fairground rides. Leonard had a "Golden Key" to Disneyland, allowing him to use it as a holiday home. Also, this year, Thompson hired Joseph Emberton to give the Pleasure Beach a unified appearance. He had initially taken on architect Edward Schoeppe to design a new frontage but had soon changed his mind.

The Pleasure Beach Miniature Railway: The Pleasure Beach opened its own new Miniature Railway, with three new engines pulling up to 200 passengers round a track including a miniature Forth railway bridge. The railway, a 21-inch narrow gauge layout, was staffed by dwarves for many years, the best-known being Ted Askey.
In 1934, a fire at the Pleasure Beach destroyed the Chinese Electric Theatre and the Miniature Railway station. A chip stall behind the theatre had caught fire. It spread, causing destruction to the new station and its rolling stock but the railway was quickly reconstructed, with interior decorations, murals, by Margaret Blundell. The size of this fire forced the Borough Corporation to make its firemen professional for the first time. The ruined station was redesigned by architect Joseph Emberton, and rebuilt in 1935, being replaced in 1970 by the present Victorian-style building. A second station, called Star Halt, was opened shortly after.
The line boasts two stations, a signal box, a metal footbridge, a water tower, and tunnels.

©

The railway has three locomotives in its collection, all being one third scale replicas of originals. The first two were named after Leonard Thompson's daughters, and the third was originally named "Princess Royal". They all work on diesel oil, and are called:

Carol Jean, a green 4-6-4 Baltic type engine (number 4472), made by Hudswell Clarke and Co of Leeds in 1933;

Mary Louise, a 26-horse-power green 4-6-2 LNER Pacific express (number 4473), also made by Hudswell Clarke in 1933; and

Princess Royal (renamed Geoffrey Thompson), a maroon 4-6-2 Pacific express (number 6200), again by Hudswell Clarke in 1936.

Bond Street was lengthened southwards, taking over space vacated by the Velvet Coaster.
Imperial Airways began to use Squires Gate in preference to Stanley Park Aerodrome.
John Higgins, an instructor with the Liverpool Aero Club, started Blackpool and West Coast Air Services. The company leased part of the racecourse at Squires Gate and began passenger flights to Liverpool (18 shillings return using Fox Moth aircraft) and the Isle of Man on the 8th of April (using Dragon aircraft).
A Liverpool to Blackpool to Liverpool air race was held on the 1st of July, to celebrate the opening of Liverpool's Speke Airport, which was also used by Blackpool and West Coast Air Services for flights to Ronaldsway.

Inter-War building expansion, Blackpool: A frenzy of house building was still in full swing, and the Harlow Estate was being built off St Anne's Road (Belvere Avenue etc.), as was the Marsden Road Estate off Waterloo Road – both by Charles Harding and Sons of Tewkesbury Avenue, South Shore.
Other building areas where plots were being advertised included the Marton Garden City, Preston New Road, Norcross Estate, Beechwood Estate, Clifton Bank Estate, Newton Drive, Norbreck Garden City, North Park Drive, West Park Drive, and Waterloo Road. There were also the Mains Hall Estate and Wyrehaven Garden City near Poulton.
The Hall Estate Building Co Ltd was also busily building "exclusive" new homes at Normoss and around Stanley Park.
The Ramsden Brothers (Blackpool) Ltd of 25 Cookson Street were constructing the Greenheys Estate on Blackpool Road at Carleton.

Abbott's Coaches, Blackpool: J Abbott and Sons started out this year, with two char-à-bancs. They built themselves up until eventually they ran 20 vehicles and launched its own travel agency on Albert Road. Based at 66 Bond Street, with outlets on Dickson Road, Talbot Road, and Cocker Street, they became a Limited Company on the 8th of January 1945. By that time, they were also at Albert Road, 26 General Street, Nutter Road in Cleveleys, 65 Victoria Road in Cleveleys, and 27 Poulton Street in Fleetwood. Their bus garage was off Red Bank Road – now a Funeral office for D Hollowell and Sons Ltd.

Abbott's Coaches opened their travel agency and coach stop at 42 Albert Road on the 17th of June 1965. The building was previously Blackhurst's Motor Coach office, which had a 4-coach garage adjoining. Richard Blackhurst had out started 60 years before at the Post Office Royal Livery Stables in Coronation Street, becoming motorised in 1911 and renaming the premises as the Post Office Royal Garage. Abbott's went into liquidation in November 2000, selling the name to a Yorkshire company in 2001. The company was finally dissolved on the 2nd of March 2004. Abbott's Coach Holidays Limited started up in 2001 at the 235 Dickson Road premises.

©

Pat's Pantry became famous at "the Cliff" near Bispham Tram stop. This large house had previously been the home of "Sylvanus" - a Mr Worden, who dispensed *"remedies"* on the beach.

Pelham Mount Club and Institute, Blackpool: This fine club and its bowling greens (for Blackpool Corporation Transport and electrical workers) were opened in the old Pelham Mount house.
The house was an exclusive villa in 6 acres of land, originally accessed only by a small track leading from Great Marton Road (now Central Drive), and had been built for Jabez Kay.
On Kay's death, the property passed to his son Tom, who made a proper entry to the property *"polite access to the Mount was by Park Avenue on its north"*. Tom Wylie Kay was a lawyer and, together with his brother Frederick, was a founder of the firm of local solicitors called Wylie Kay. He died in January 1931, and two years later, the house was finally put up for sale, being bought on the 18th of April 1933. Its address was now 102 Park Road.

Pelham Mount Club opened in the original building soon afterwards. The club was *"fitted with billiard room, and a large concert and dance hall, in addition of course, to bowling greens and other similar social activities"*. By the 1990s, this had become *"a doubles bar upstairs and a big concert room lounge and games room down stairs and a great bowling green"*. Pelham Mount was demolished in 1998.

Busy Bees Kindergarten opened on the site in 1998, having moved from Raikes Parade, and costing £1 million. The centre replaced the Pelham Mount Club and bowling greens.
The Pelham Mount Club itself was finally dissolved in December 2001 by the Blackpool Transport workers.

The Unity Progressive Spiritual Church opened on the first floor of 9 Portland Road on the 14th of October.
The Philadelphia Hotel opened at 238 Queen's Promenade.
Naylor's Fireplaces opened a shop at 28 Topping Street on the 25th of February. It was the first time green and cream terracotta had been used in Blackpool, and the building had been designed by local man John Durham. Naylor's became a limited company in 1945 and moved to 6b Milbourne Street (now Marlborough Court Developments Ltd and Whittaker's of Blackpool Ltd). The Topping Street shop later became an outlet for Tiffmans Textiles and is currently a Card Market shop.
Jennings smallwear dealers were at 48 Church Street, with the Café Rex on their first floor. Next door at number 52 were Southworth's the tailors, who had a second shop at 38 Corporation Street. By 1953 Jennings had become a shop called "Weaver to Wearer" at 48-53 Church Street. Until 2013 the shop was and Anne Harvey fashion outlet.
Mickey's Market was established, later having other shops around Blackpool, and another clothes shop on Lord Street in Fleetwood. It was opened by Mickey Singh. The Mickey's Store at 19 Victoria Road West in Cleveleys has nothing to do with any store with a similar name. That particular shop opened there in 1946 after moving from the nearby Victoria Arcade.
John Whittaker and Son (Shop-fitters) Ltd had an office and showrooms at 56-58 Topping Street. Their joinery works were at 75 Victory Road, and the scale department was on Back Hornby road.
T Murgatroyd's shoe shop opened at 49-51 Red bank Road in Bispham on the 22nd of April, specialising in Clark's footwear.

UCP (United Cattle Products), Blackpool: had just opened a tripe shop, which was flourishing in Bank Hey Street. Their 3-storey Mason's Café, above 31-33 Church Street (owned by Ralph Mason), was the number one venue for millions of day-trippers. Its entrance was later used by a K Shoe Shop – with K Bargains on the first floor, then a Clarke's Shoe Shop, and now Nando's chicken restaurant.

©

UCP originally had a shop on Albert Terrace on the Promenade, soon opening a second at 6 Cookson Street, and later also opening a small shop on Topping Street. Their staple trade was in tripe, elder, black pudding, ox tail, and cow heel. In the mid-1950s, the chain had 146 shops in the Northwest.
The UCP warehouse was at 10/11 Back Church Street, in a building which later became the Mojo Bar, and the Mr Thapa Gurkha Champagne and Buffet Bar, and then Scoffs Diner.
Next to their shop on the Promenade they ran their own Strand Restaurant.
Several local butchers sold UCP products on licence – for example E Cansell of 58 Whitegate Drive.

Sharples Pianos Limited was at 77 Church Street (on the site of the old Trinity College of Music - the eastern corner of Adelphi Street), also selling records, and music. Various shops have occupied the prime corner site next to the Winter Gardens over the years, including Orry's Outfitter's, and Ponden Mill, and it is now a Deep Pan Pizza restaurant, having expanded to cover numbers 77 to 84.
The Arcadia Club was in operation at 67 Station Road, South Shore.
Bloomfield Chip Shop opened at 144 Lytham Road, having seating room inside for 45. It closed in 2014.
Photographer Ernest Cooper of 159 Wellington Terrace was famously taking pictures of tourists behind a cardboard image of a Wolseley Hornet car.
Radio Relays wireless shop and exchange was at number 10 Caunce Street.
Blackpool Pleasure Steamers operated the pleasure steamers "SS Minden" and "SS Protea/Queen of the Bay" from now until 1937.
Blackpool North End FC was formed, playing Sunday League football.

Hylda Baker: The pint-sized comedienne first appearing in town. She became Blackpool's most popular female star.

After staying in a chalet at Squires Gate Holiday Camp for many seasons, in 1955, she bought a 1930s' house, which she called West Point (now called Ashbourne House, at 40 Thornton Gate). She flew a blue and gold flag to show fans when she was at home. The flag caused many run-ins with the local council as it carried her catchphrase *"She knows you know"* and was unauthorised. She had a black and gold American Packard car which she proudly drove up and down the Golden Mile, taking her two pet monkeys out for exercise. All her cars had her catchphrases stencilled on the sides.

She left town in 1981 when she was moved into a home for Alzheimer's disease sufferers, where she died in 1986. Hylda's father Harold had died in Whittingham asylum on the 19th of December 1963.

Marriott Edgar, a Scottish poet and writer of monologues, wrote "Albert and the Lion", the tale set in the Tower Zoo which was made famous by actor Stanley Holloway's recording in 1933. Blackpool Tower Zoo put up a commemorative plaque in 1977.
The Blackpool Zenith Amateur Club Grand Swimming Gala was held on the 7th of November at Cocker Street Baths.
Duke Ellington and his Jazz Band appeared at the Tower Ballroom.
At the Tower, the Bank Hey Street Offices were replaced by the Old English Bar, the Oriental Lounge cloakroom became the Oriental Bar, and passenger lifts were installed inside the main building.
Jack McCormick and the Ambassadors band made their first recording, for the "Majestic" record label (based in Blackpool).
Comedian Jimmy Jewel appeared in the "Royal Follies" at the Central Pier.

©

Harry Korris: The famous comedian built a house on Dunes Avenue, before later moving to Lytham Road. Born on the Isle of Man in 1890, Harry had come to Blackpool as a Pierrot entertainer in 1931, to join the Arcadian Follies at the South Pier.
In 1939, he was signed, by producer Tom Arnold, to star in variety tours, pantomimes, and a 1940 summer revue in Douglas on the Isle of Man. World War 2 forced Arnold to
switched the show to the Grand Theatre, which opened it with the clever title Blackpool One (the theatre's telephone number). 3 days later, the Censor ordered the name to be changed, as using Blackpool in the title would have given German infiltrators their location. The title was changed to "It's A Funny Thing", and Harry was billed as Blackpool's Other Tower.
Harry Korris died in Victoria Hospital on the 4th of June 1971.

Tommy Green won the Manchester to Blackpool Walking Race on the 19th of June, for the 5th year in succession. The walk ended in Talbot Square.
Colin Bradbury was born in Blackpool. He went on to become the Principal Clarinettist with the BBC Symphony Orchestra for over thirty years.
Tom Whiteside was born in Blacow Street. After attending St John's School, he joined Blackpool Grammar. He grew into a leading world authority on Newton's mathematics, and his edition of "Newton's Mathematical Papers" is universally known as "Whiteside's Papers".
The "Sun Ray" Hotel was proposed to be built in Blackpool. It was to have been 511 feet tall and surmounted by a massive glass "sun" ball but was never built.

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James Leyland (JL) Bean opened a baker's shop at 100 Victoria Road West, Cleveleys, soon opening a second at 108 Poulton Road in Fleetwood. The Fleetwood shop is now a tanning salon called Browned Off.
The Cleveleys Electric Laundry Limited was struck off in September.
Sidney Brooks, building contractor, was operating from Dorset Avenue in Cleveleys.
HRH Prince George – The Duke of Kent (and future king) – visited Fleetwood. He reviewed the local troops of the 5th Battalion, King's Own Royal Regiment.

Hearnshaw's of Fleetwood: The house furnishers, opened, eventually operating from three separate premises on Lord Street. They had a carpet and vinyl department at 163, a furniture department at 135 and 137, and an electrical department (formerly Ye Olde Toffee and Bacca Shoppe). Their suite store was on London Street, in the former Congregationalist Sunday School building. Hearnshaw's were the salvation of many hundreds of Fleetwood families, with their weekly payments credit purchase scheme.
The company became "limited" on the 5th of May 1954 and was dissolved in 2007. The shops themselves began their closing down sales in May 2003.

Redman's "Good Bacon Shop" was at 82 Lord Street in Fleetwood.
Fleetwood Badminton Club was formed.
Fleetwood received its first motor powered lifeboat, "Sir Fitzroy Clayton".
The Nursing Home was in operation at 31 St Peter's Place in Fleetwood, providing midwifery, maternity, and general nursing care for residents. It had been a Ladies' Seminary from the 1840s.

Fleetwood Full Gospel Church: A large tent was erected on East Street (site of today's Post Office) in July, and evangelist Reverend Fred Squire held meetings where prayers were said by up to 500 people and healings attempted. The first tent was blown down and replaced by one with a capacity of 3,000.
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By September, the first church building - a suite of rooms in Lord Street above the property adjacent to the spare ground where the church had been – was opened. The first pastor was Reverend Charles Duncombe, whose congregation was about 200 strong. The Tabernacle later became Peel's Cafe and then Horsley's Furniture Store.

By 1935, a dedicated church building was needed. Its foundations were laid on Lowther Road by J Cryer and Sons in the July. The last service in Lord Street Tabernacle was on the 1st of September, and the opening service at the new church was held on the 4th of that month.

In 1945, the church bought a house in Carr Road, for the use of minister Reverend W Ron Jones and his family. In 1952, a better house was bought in Warren Road North.

In October 1962, a small hall was built for use for midweek services. This seated about 70 people. However, by 1969, the congregation needed a new home. The vacant Elm Street Methodist Church was re-consecrated for use by the Full Gospel Church on the 18th of January. Then, in May 1969, the old Methodist Mission was re-furbished and became the Cast-A-Net coffee bar. A new Sunday School and larger side chapel (for weekday services) was opened in the old coffee bar space. Built by Lord's Construction Limited, it was opened in February 1976, by the Mayor of Wyre.

H Grundy and Son, house furnishers, were operating from 56 St Albans Road in St Anne's, run by Hanson Grundy, who lived on site in his adjoining house. The premises are now the home of Taylor and Kay, upholsterers.
The offices of the Kirkham and Wesham Advertiser were at 17a Station Road.
The Ministry of Labour Employment Exchange was at St John's Hall on Dean Terrace in Ribby Road in Kirkham, as was the St John Ambulance Brigade. The Kirkham Division of the St John Ambulance Brigade had been established in 1915, with Wesham Doctor, William Smith, as its Honorary Surgeon.
Kirkham Post Office and Telegraph Office was at 83 Poulton Street.
The Kirkham Farmers' Auction Market was on Marquis Street, run by EG (FAI) Hothersall and Sons Ltd, auctioneers and valuers. The local cattle dentist was Thomas Thompson, who worked from "Sunny Bowers" on Derby road in Wesham.

1934
Certain portions of the parishes of Carleton, Hardhorn and Marton were amalgamated with the County Borough of Blackpool on the 1st of April.

Children's Amusements at the Pleasure Beach: The Pleasure Beach began to further develop the spare land in the South of the park, and had Joseph Emberton design a dedicated Kiddie's Park, containing rides and attractions just for children. This started this year, when the Zipper Dipper was opened. It is a small wooden roller coaster for children, which was constructed as a younger companion to the Big Dipper and had originally been called the Little Dipper. Either Charles Paige or Harry G Traver constructed the ride. Emberton added a purpose-built creche, and the Fairy Whip and other rides were moved from the original Kiddies' Park. The giant Gulliver figure over the park's entrance followed when the monorail was built. In its heyday, by then named the Children's Amusement Park, the rides included The Fairy Grotto at the back of the park. The Candy House and a new crèche were at the front, and behind that was a traditional children's sand playground, surrounded by a wall, through which parents could watch through glass windows.
The other rides included the Little Turnpike, Helicopters, a big roundabout, the Fairy Whip, the Happy Caterpillar, the mini Turtle Chase, and the Crazy Dazy.

©

1972 saw the park even bigger. It had a Pony Track with 25 ponies, a llama ride, a children's adventure playground, Mini Skooters, Helicopters, Carousel, Jolly Caterpillar, Fairy Whip, Grotto La Paz, Crazy Daisy, Little Dipper, Kiddy Turnpike, Kiddy Speed Boats, and the Streamliner. There was even a qualified nurse on duty in the adventure playground.

In 1977, resident graphic designer Keith Ingham re-designed Ice Drome Jack and turned him into a new mascot – Mr Sunshine. The children soon re-christened him Mr Funshine, and the Children's Amusement park duly became Funshineland in the early 1980s. New rides included Magic Mountain, a Totem Pole, a Watering Can Fountain, and a Smallest House.

Beaver Creek opened in 1992, packed with rides designed just for children. Funshineland was fully rethemed, and Bradley Beaver was its new mascot. A children's Log Flume was opened in July, by entertainer Russ Abbot, and the new food outlet was christened Bradley Beaver's Catering Company. A Clown Roller Coaster was then added to the helicopters (now with planes), the Jolly Caterpillar, the Spinning Teacups, the Mini Whip, the Mini Turnpike, and the Zipper Dipper. The original children's playground and crèche went, but the Candy House remained.

Beaver Creek Rides included: Big Apple, Bradley Beaver's Orbiters (Mini Scooters), Bradley Beaver's Pirate Ship Ride, Chewitt's Log Chute (Aka Beaver Creek - The Ride), Chinese Puzzle Maze, Convoy, Ellie's Caterpillar, Fruit Shoot, Griffin's Magic Dragons (new name for the Mini Whip from 2004), Helicopters, Lunar Carousel, Magic Mountain, Magnus's Mini Dodgems, Morgan's Clown Coaster, Motor Boat Ride, Pleasure Beach Express, Tetley Teacups, Thor's Turnpike, Veteran Carousel, and Zipper Dipper.
Beaver Creek closed in October 2010, and rides such as the Magic Mountain, which took youngsters through a fantasy world of moving animals and pictures, disappeared. Just three of the rides were given new homes elsewhere on the park. These were Tetley teacups (formerly Crazy Daisy), Carousel, and Thor's Turnpike.

Film and TV star David Hasselhoff officially opened Nickelodeon Land at the Pleasure Beach on the 4th of May 2011, featuring the Rugrats and SpongeBob SquarePants. The Zipper Dipper was renamed the Blue Streak.

The Fun House, at the Pleasure Beach: This innovative attraction, designed by Joseph Emberton, opened on the site of the original Water Chute, which had been transformed into the House of Nonsense. Emberton had built a massive empty building and had commissioned artist Margaret Blundell to paint the outside with art-deco pictures of people having fun. The letters of the words "Fun House" were made to rock back and forth.

Advertised as the *"largest fun palace in the world"*, it was approached through a darkened corridor heading towards a number of devices, which had been especially designed by Charles Paige. These were the Crash Bumper, the Spinning Barrel, the Grating - with wind blowing up through the floor, the Rocking Floor, the Ice Walk, the Cake Walk, the Drop Floor, the Shaking Floor, a Sahara Desert - a giant sandpit, and Shuffleboard. It then went on into the massive hall, inside which were three large wooden slides, two centrifugal drums, and the Social Mixer - a spinning disc like the old Joy Wheel. There was also a moving staircase.
The exterior was cleverly lit by Emberton to make it attract visitors from afar.
The Blackpool Fun House was the largest single room funhouse in the world.
The famous laughing man was added to the entrance in 1935.

©

In 1970, the "Giant Slide" was added inside - a near-vertical metal slope.

In 1987, an ancillary attraction, called Fodi's Funhouse, had been built to the north of the main one, in the vacant Cableway station building.

The Fun House was gutted by fire on the 16th of December 1991. The body of the famous "laughing man" was burned away, but his head was saved and later restored. *"The monorail track through the Art Deco building was twisted by the heat and the cable on the cableway snapped. Flames 100ft high, which lit up the night sky, could be seen miles away. They were tackled by 80 firefighters from 15 appliances"*.
The Fun House itself was not rebuilt but was replaced by the Valhalla "dark" ride.

Blackpool Corporation responded to complaints of increased noise in the town, by passing a byelaw against loudspeakers, gramophones, and amplifiers in public places.
An Avro 504 aeroplane crashed into a Westland Wessex plane over Blackpool, prompting a review of the need for two airfields.
Plans were drawn for a "Wembley of the North" to be built, to include Marton Mere. They were never actioned.

Hargreaves and Bailey Limited, Blackpool: started in business as a driving school, before moving to Alfred Street, where they began selling Alfa Romeo, Lotus, TVR, Renault, and Scimitar cars.
By 1962, they had changed the Alfred Street site to the workshop and had opened their main "King Street Motor Showrooms" at 33 to 41 King Street, and were selling Austin, Daimler, and Singer vehicles.
They later opened a branch on Cherry Tree Road/Vicarage Lane, and also had outlets in Burnley, Preston, and Blackburn.

The Raikes Garage, Blackpool: was opened at 272 Church Street on the 10th of December, opposite Liverpool Road. They advertised themselves as *"automobile engineers, private cars for hire day and night, garage for 100 cars (agents for Hillman cars), official repairers to AA and RAC"*. Several original cottages were demolished to make room.
By 1957, it had become Kirby's Garage (expanding to number 292) – a Rootes cars main dealer, TH Bennett's Garage (son of James Bennett of Park Garage on Back Reads Road), Speed's Garage, and is now Eastham's Solicitors office.
Wright's Chemist's was next door for many years, and Raikes Hall Garage was nearby on Leamington Road.
TH Bennett also had a parts, petrol, and repairs outlet on the corner of Buchanan Street and Charles Street.

Frank Harbron had grocery shops at 232 Whitegate Drive, 283 Lytham Road, 3a Highfield Road, 2 Newton Drive (later Rainford's butchers and now the Toxic beauty salon) and lived on Broadway. He later expanded to have other outlets on Newhouse Road - on the corner of Winton Avenue, St Leonard's Road, the corner of Talbot Road and Foxdale Avenue, and on the corner of Finsbury Avenue and 87 Ansdell Road.
The Simpson's Beverage Supply Company Limited opened off Woodland Grove. They moved to Chiswick Grove in 2013.
John Budd founded his solicitor's practice in Adelaide Street. It later moved to Church Street and merged with Blackhurst's Solicitors in 2009, to become Blackhurst Budd.
The County Court Offices were operated from Central Station chambers.
Messrs Priestley and Berry were pork butchers at 96 to 98 Talbot Road. The shop later became simply Berry's Pork Pies, which merged with Burton's bakers in the 1960s. It is now an RSPCA charity shop.

©

Annie Dowe's confectionery shop was at 104 Talbot Road. By 1965, Bailey's bakery and shop were there. The premises were later taken over by Streets Bakers, who also ran a small café from there. It is now occupied by the R&B's Kitchen café and take away.

St John Vianney's Catholic School, Blackpool: was opened on Glastonbury Avenue in May, as an "all age" secondary and primary school for 410 pupils. Local Catholic children had been taught in the nearby, temporary church until then.
St John Vianney became a Boys' Secondary School on the 21st of July 1951 and closed in 1968, when St Thomas of Canterbury School opened.
The senior school was used as a replacement temporary church until the proper building opened in 1959.
The school continues as St John Vianney Catholic Primary School, with 460 children, and the uniform is green, white, and gold.

Marton children were educated at Marton Institute and the Mount, Preston Old Road, whilst their new school was being built. This was called Stanley Temporary Primary School.
Builders A and GR Fletcher were offering for sale brand *"New Type Modern Semi-Villas"* on their Rosemede Estate off Preston New Road. Prices began at £335.

Norbreck Junior Mixed School, Blackpool: opened on Norbreck Road on the 9th of April. Later renamed as Norbreck Primary, it was greatly extended and improved in 2010. It is now called Norbreck Primary Academy.

The Tramwaymen's Institute and bowling green was on Red Bank Road.
Goodwins Hotel on Waterloo Road was advertising their Georgian Restaurant.
Most of Marton was joined to Blackpool Borough, as were parts of Hardhorn and Carleton.
Builder JW Harrison was constructing the Mere Side Park Estate on Preston New Road from his base at Meresley, also on Preston New Road. £450 would buy a detached house built to your own designs.

Social Services, Blackpool: The Blackpool Council for Social Service started operations on the 8th of October, with its registrar's office opening on the 15th. The new Social Services operated from Springfield Road and opened a Food Centre on the 22nd of December, to feed the poor. The centre was based in the Recreation Hut belonging to the Blind Society at Marton. On the 29th of March 1955, the Council took up tenancy at the Municipal Offices in Sefton Street.
A new Social Services Department was created by the Council in January 1971.

The "Fylde Coast Express" left Central Station for London on its first run on the 9th of July. The locomotive was a "Jubilee" Class 4-6-0 5556 named Nova Scotia.
Railway sidings, with their own weighbridge, were built to the Blackpool Council Depot at Layton; they stopped being used in March 1963 and were officially closed in November 1964.
The Blackpool Transport Department opened a football ground at Squires Gate. It later became the Blackpool Football Club training ground. The changing rooms and other wooden buildings were demolished in July 2017, to be replaced by a new training centre. This will include separate changing rooms for first team and youth players, physiotherapy and rehabilitation rooms to treat injured players, a classroom for academy players, and a dining room for the team. The existing pitches will be retained in their current layout.

©

The South Shore Clinic opened on the 6th of April in St Mary's Church Hall. It quickly moved to Scarsdale Avenue Wesleyan Church Hall, but in 1935, that building was requisitioned by the Education Department. It then moved back to the suitably-altered St Mary's.
Nearby, at Stony Hill Sidings, Hide and Co (Blackpool) Ltd were working as timber merchants, and "manufacturers of all kinds of prepared joinery" at Stony Hill Saw Mills.
At 123 to 129 Bond Street, a large round—roofed garage had recently been constructed. This is now a National Tyres and Exhausts outlet.
After the Methodist Union in 1932, Blackpool was this year split into three circuits: Fleetwood, Blackpool North, and Blackpool South.
The Trinity College of Music was at 77 Church Street.

The Highfield, Blackpool: This large public house and bowling green were opened by C&S Breweries on the 12th of March, on the site of Eaves Farm. It is on the corner of Highfield Road and Common Edge Road. The pub was built to have vaults, saloon bar, ladies' room, and smoking room, with a large clubroom on the first floor. The staff quarters are also on the first floor. The downstairs bars were all "waiter service" only, and no customers were allowed at the bars. Over four of the doors can still be seen stone plaques, carved with the C&S initials.
The Highfield was fully re-furbished in 2015 and opened in November that year as part of Mitchell and Butler Brewery's Sizzling Pubs chain.

The Progress Hotel was built at 653 New South Promenade.
Frank Parkinson founded his building company, first working from Elizabeth Street, but now based on Mowbray Drive, to where F Parkinson Limited moved in the 1940s.
Barker Bleasdale and Company, turf accountants, was at 50 Clifton Street.
The Britannic Assurance Company opened on Birley Street on the 27th of January.
A Home and Colonial shop was at 4 Abingdon Street. They had other stores around town at various times – Bank Hey Street, the Strand, and Lytham Road.

Standerwick's China, Blackpool: Welsby and Co, estate agents were in business at 19 Queen Street. This soon became Florence Spring's ladies' outfitters, which was bought by Standerwick's China and Glass in 1944. Standerwick's had been set up at 100 and 102 Talbot Road by Ethel Standerwick (her actual initials were M.E.), whose brothers ran Standerwick's Coaches, shortly after the original North Station was built. It was Blackpool's first china shop.
The shop was later bought by Harold and Mabel Barlow, who expanded the business into Queen Street in 1962. The company also had a shop in Cleveleys from about 1960 to 1962. The Talbot Road shop closed soon after 1973.
Standerwick's, by then run by Debbie Rowland (nee Standerwick), closed the shop in 2004, and after the closure the business changed to mail order only. The shop premises were then occupied by Bar 19 from 2006.
The original shop on Talbot Road is currently an Age Concern charity shop.

Essbees were in business as fancy goods dealers at 15a Clifton Street. They later began to specialise in jewellery and bought shops at 78 Talbot Road, 160 The Promenade, and at 12 Waterloo Road. A third shop was bought at 55 St Anne's Road West after the business was purchased by the Febland family; this is now St Anne's Mobiles.
Marton Village Football Club played on fields at the corner of Squires Gate Lane and Common Edge Road.
Marton Men's Social Club was opened on Daggers Hall Lane, by the Yorkshire Brewery.

©

Whitegate Drive received electric street lighting on the 16th of June.
The Progress Gyroscope Company was in operation on Kirby Road, South Shore, producing toy and scientific gyroscopes until the 1960s. The stand of the toy gyroscope was a cast model of the Tower, and their toy gyroscopes were acknowledged as the best in the world.
The Hawes Side Working Mens' Club opened at 1 Brun Grove in Marton, having been formed in 1930. It later changed its name to the Brun Grove Club.
J W Beman of Birchfield won the Manchester to Blackpool Relay Race.
Fascist, Oswald Moseley visited the town three times this year to garner support for his cause.
A stone and brick-built Information Bureau was opened on Central Promenade on the 11th of August to replace the original cast iron building. In previous years, a wooden hut had been transported from Rigby Road at the start of each summer season. The bureau was closed in 1981, and demolished in 1983, together with the public toilets underneath.

Pablo's Ice Cream, Blackpool: Pablo's Café and Ice Cream Factory opened on the 7th of April, down a back alley between Albert Road and Charnley Road. It had been built on the site of his original washhouse-cum-shop (that building was originally a stable block). The new shop had ice cream bars on the ground floor and roof-top ice cream garden. It was advertised at the end of the alley by a single sign which said "THIS IS THE WAY TO PABLO'S ICES". The site of the shop now forms part of the garage of the Ruskin Hotel.
James Pablo had lived at 18 Grasmere Road, before moving to the corner of Cumberland Avenue and 149 Whitegate Drive. He also ran Pablo's Ice Cream Shop on the corner of Station Road, opposite South Pier, a caféteria at 22 Foxhall Road (with the Savoy Bingo Club on the first floor by 1963), an ice cream bar next to Robert's Oyster Bar on the Central Promenade, and another outlet in Fleetwood Square.
In 1961, Pablo's opened a gift shop next door to the Station Road café. It was taken over in 2002, under the name of Jam and Brookes Ltd. This closed in 2014. The café on Foxhall Road was burnt down in 1995.

The Parkleigh School for Girls was at 42 Raikes Parade, run by Mrs Nelson. Parkleigh Preparatory School for Boys was adjoining, run by Mr C Nelson. They both advertised *"spacious airy schoolrooms. full preparation for all exams; speciality, music and speech training"*.
Beacon Workwear opened their factory at 102 Devonshire Road. By 1976, the company was known as Wood Harris and Company Ltd (Beacon Overalls) and were the makers of West Coast Jeans amongst others. They closed in 1984, and the ground floor of the factory was taken over by John Hall as another motorcycle showroom. In 1986, the Olympia Gym opened at 108 Devonshire Road, next door, closing in 2009, before being demolished in April 2010. A KFC outlet soon replaced both.

Thompson's furniture, Blackpool: Thompson Brothers Limited, furnishers, opened at 41/43 Topping Street on the 3rd of November. In 1959, John Thompson opened his own furniture shop, and in 1967, he established Thompson's (Blackpool) Ltd in Church Street. The business moved to specially-built premises at 328-336 Church Street in 1976, later expanding into numbers 338 to 342.
The 1990s, saw them take over the recently-vacated former Windmill Dairy, then Milk Marketing Board, then Cow and Gate dairy distribution facility and Dale Farm on Clifton Road, Marton. Thompson's had decided to concentrate on shop-fitting and building work only. The name changed to the JT Design Centre in 2005. The Church street building closed in April 2009, to be demolished and replaced by mews houses.

Lonican's bakers, Blackpool: Peter Lonican's Baker's was established in Blackpool's Abingdon Street Market.
In 1970, Lonican's Bakery expanded, buying a shop, with bakery, at Langdale Place, Mereside, which operated until 1983, and then went back again, now occupying Unit 6 at the "new" shops (now closed).

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After taking over his father-in-law's business, Seddon's Bakers, in 1972, they moved to Marton and built a bakery. This enabled them to branch out into providing to the wholesale market.
In 1992, Lonican's moved to their current location at Units 4/5 Willow court on Bracewell Avenue in Poulton. The company opened a shop on Chepstow Court (formerly Raynor's bakery and off-licence), Grange Park in November 2001 (now closed), and run the Lonican's Cake Stall in Abingdon Street Market.
As L W B (North West) Limited, Lonican's went into liquidation on the 25th of January 2017.

Singleton and Crystal, a company of bottlers and mineral water manufacturers, were on Bickerstaffe Street, before moving to their own bespoke Mineral Works on Singleton Street.
The Black Boy Chocolate shop was at 1 Metropole Buildings.
Jenner and Butterworth, mineral water manufacturers were operating on Ball Street.
Rushforth's, a well-known South Fylde builder, together with other developers, built Sixth Avenue and others, off Watson Road.
R and E Martin opened their grocer's and fishmonger's shop on the corner of 92 Highfield Road and Ash Street. The shop lasted until 1953. In 1974, Mike Swift opened his electrical shop there, soon opening another shop at 147 Layton Road (formerly the Osby Launderette, and later taken over as Layton Electrical). Mike died in 1995, but his wife, Margaret, carried on, moving from Highfield Road in August 2003, and reopening at 168 Fleetwood Road, Norbreck on the 22nd of May 2004. She closed for good in 2010. The Highfield Road shop is currently the Blue Diamond Indian take-away and restaurant.
"Fairy Sponge Puddings" was established. By 1955 they had moved to 93 Victory Road – now replaced by the Caunce Street Sports Barn.

The Layton Social and Sports Club, Blackpool: was at 32 to 34 St Walburga's Road. The building was demolished to make room for Rodwell Walk on the edge of the Grange Park Estate.

The Christian Alliance of Women and Girls' Holiday Home and Institute was at 141-143 Bond Street. They later opened the Oaklands at 2 Gynn Avenue, as a Christian Alliance Guest House.
Wilson, Kepple, and Betty appeared in the Christmas show at the Palace.
Blackpool Old Boys Rugby Club merged with and strengthened the Fylde Rugby Union Club.
Bispham Bowling, Croquet, and Tennis Club was on Cavendish Road.

Janet Munro: was born as Janet Horsburgh on September the 28th. The family apparently lived on Woodland Grove, and her father, Alex was a well-known Scottish born local comedian who adopted the stage name Munro. She was Frank Randle's god-daughter.
Janet became an actress and changed her name to Munro, going on the star in the films "Darby O'Gill and the Little People", "Hide and Seek" and "The Day the Earth Caught Fire" and won a Golden Globe award in 1959, for the "Most promising newcomer". She died in 1972 from a heart attack caused by Chronic Ischemia.

Brian London: was born in West Hartlepool on the 19th of June as Brian Harper. He moved to Blackpool aged 15, and in addition to his boxing feats – his nickname was the Blackpool Rock (due to his previous job in a rock factory) - he later opened several nightclubs in town, including the 007 and 008.
London won the British Heavyweight boxing title on the 3rd of June 1958, by knocking out Joe Erskine in London.
In the 1960s, he played Sunday League football for Foxhall Juniors.

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Joan Savage: was born in Blackpool on the 2nd of January. Her acting and singing career began at the Tower Circus when she was only twelve, playing in the Tower Children's Revue. She then got a break in showbusiness, when George Black chose her to appear in his theatre revue "Music and Madness" went on to become a renowned comedy actress and singing star, marrying long-time sweetheart Ken Morris at Devonshire Square Register Office in January 1955, and living on Hornby Road, and later on Paddock Drive.

Oyston's: Owen Oyston was born in County Durham. He moved to Blackpool when he was two, and later attended St Joseph's College. In the 1960s, he started Oyston's Estate Agents on Dickson Road, and in 1987, bought Blackpool Football Club and launched Preston's Red Rose Radio station. The BFC purchase was made to prevent the club from being demolished for housing and shops.
The company's headquarters were soon set up in Clifton Street, then 10 Edward Street/Cedar Square, and finally at 68 Topping Street, where the company built a small private club with bar, snooker table etc. on the top floor of the 4-storey building.
By the mid-1980s Oyston's Estate Agents had become the largest firm of family-owned estate agents in the United Kingdom, but in 1987 Oyston sold the business to Royal Insurance. Royal Insurance moved into Topping Street, and various charity shops subsequently used the ground floor retail area. Until 2016 it was a Barnardo's Charity Shop.

The family re-entered the estate agency business when Oyston Estates Limited was founded in March 1989 and has grown to have several estate agencies.
Mr Oyston was jailed for rape in April 1996, and released in December 1999. His son, Karl, had continued to run the family affairs in the meantime.

Kathleen Ferrier: Soon to become a world-famous opera singer, she transferred to the Blackpool telephone exchange from the Blackburn facility. She had taken lodgings nearby, to be close to her new boyfriend, a bank clerk named Herbert Wilson. When they married in 1935, the couple moved to Warton, to be nearer to Mr Wilson's bank, and she soon joined the Lytham Choral Society. Kathleen's first appearance at the Lowther Pavilion was for a rehearsal, when she arrived drenched after cycling in the rain from Warton. *"Years later, whenever she was singing professionally in Manchester or Liverpool, Kathleen would always stay with"* the society's founder, Samuel Broughton, in Lytham. The Wilsons moved to Silloth in 1937, but a group of bungalows on Bank Lane in Warton, called Ferrier Bank, is named after her.

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Poulton Post Office: moved from the ground floor of James Baines's house in the Market Square, to the Breck.
It later moved to Church Street and in 1972, moved temporarily to make way for the construction of the Teanlowe Centre, before moving into the new centre in 1977.

Tom Alker was running his fish shop at 3 Ball Street in Poulton. The shop later became the Cottage Chippy amongst other guises. In 1997, Doodles fish and chip shop was opened there by the Abson family, as a licensed restaurant and take-away. After changing their tack and concentrating upon selling just fish and chips, in July 2013, they won the National Federation of Fish Fryers' highest award for quality and service. The shop was sold in 2018. There had been a fish and chip shop on the site since about 1913.

The Odeon Cinema, Cleveleys: The contemporary cinema opened on Crescent West on the 24th of November. It was the first Odeon in the north of England and had been taken over during construction by the Odeon group; nobody knows what the original name was to be. It was designed by George Tonge of Southport, and several disused gypsy caravans had to be removed from the site prior to construction.
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Situated on a corner site, the rounded corner entrance was divided into three bays, and was constructed of brick, with faïence tiles to the ground floor below the rounded canopy. The wings to Crescent West and Runnymede Avenue were also faïence tiled, and each had three small square windows to the ground floor, and three long narrow windows to the floors above.
The auditorium had 1,156 seats, 256 of which were in the small balcony, the remaining 900 in the stalls. There was a café inside and a run of 5 shops down the eastern side.

The Odeon Cinema closed on the 7th of January 1961 to be converted by Mildred Crossley and renamed the Orion Theatre - dressing rooms were introduced for this purpose. The Orion opened on the 30th of June. The last film to be shown was "A town like Alice", and the building became the Orion Bingo and Social Club from 1965. Orion Bingo closed in August 2009. It was rapidly demolished and a new Aldi store opened on the 25th of November 2010.

Note: There were plans to build a pier at Cleveleys - the Cleveleys Pierdrome was to be built opposite Victoria Road West. Also, in 1949 there was another proposal for a Cleveleys pier, which would have been *"the world's most modern pier with a unique design"* – being 1,050 feet long.
Neither plan came to fruition.

The Queen's Theatre, Cleveleys: was re-built on the South Promenade, on the corner of Ellerbeck Road. It boasted Mildred Crossley's "Happiness Ahead" show, a Cafeteria, the Dolphin Lounge Bar, The licenced Theatre Bar, The Giddy Golf Course, and Free Parking.
By 1946 it was owned by Fred Thompson, having been used by the army between 1941 and 1946.

In 1959, part of the building was opened as the 350-seat Dolphin Lounge Bar, which provided cabaret (usually in the form of local singer Brian Rossi) and a ballroom/discotheque – the Sea Horse Cocktail Bar being a smaller room near the Dolphin. The venue also offered crazy golf for children on the 18-hole "Giddy Golf Course".
It became the Showboat in 1963.
The disco became the Gallopers in 1972 (changing from and back to that name over the next few years until it closed in 1975), with the 300-seater Café, the Cabaret Bar, and the Dolphin still downstairs, and the Showboat upstairs.

The last show at the Queen's Theatre was held on the 30th of September 1960, after which it became a dance hall with cabaret. The Horseshoe Bar opened on the 21st of October 1960, and the summer show from the Queen's theatre transferred to the Marine Hall at Fleetwood.
The Queen's Ballroom was opened by Miss World on the 15th of June 1962. The Kinks played there on the 21st of July and 21st of September 1964, and the Yardbirds on the 20th of July 1965.

In 1978, the whole building was transformed, by Michael Skelly, into the New Showboat, and it now boasted three bars – including a wine bar, a balcony restaurant, and a "quiet disco". Nelly's Bar was briefly by the entrance.
The Showboat was demolished in 1985, and the space is now filled by Admiral's Court flats.

Martin's Bank was at the northwest corner of Victoria Road West in Cleveleys. The western part of the building later became Sherratt's jewellers.
The Thornton Cleveleys Old Age Pension Association was founded.

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Shakespeare (Infants) Council School, Fleetwood: was opened on Manor Road by Alderman Robertson on the 16th of June. The first head was Miss Sumner. Its classrooms were arranged around a central quadrangle and were centrally heated. Built to take 328 pupils, there were 7 classrooms, including one for babies. On the two-acre site, it also had its own pupil's garden, and had cost £12,000 to build. Shakespeare was the 100th school to be built in Lancashire.
In 1984, Shakespeare Primary School opened, when Shakespeare Infant and Milton Junior Schools were amalgamated.

Fleetwood's lower promenade and the nearby beach huts were opened.

The Fleetwood Bowling Tournament: The first annual event was held in the Memorial Park. Fleetwood Bowling Club had played on Upper Lune Street since the mid-1870s, and even became a Limited company in 1921. It started as a bowls, archery, and tennis club.

The National Bowling Championship was held at the club in 1907, and the first All-England Bowling championships were held there in 1910, with the centenary event also held there in 2010.

The Fleetwood Bowls Festival was relaunched in July 1980 and is a prestigious crown green bowls tournament attracting competitors from all over the country. The winners of the Ladies' and Men's Competitions automatically qualify for the Champion of Champions event at the Waterloo Hotel in Blackpool. The Festival also features Junior Competitions. The Competition is played on the greens in the Marine Gardens, also using the greens of the Belmont Bowling Club further along the seafront. The first Freeport Fleetwood Bowls Festival was held there in 2012.

Hambleton received its own electricity supply which was switched on the 10th of May.
G Stubbs started his removals business on Sefton Road in St Anne's (some of the land is now a Catholic Club), now working from Queensway Industrial Estate on Scafell Road, St Anne's. He lived at 18 Raikes Parade in Blackpool until his death in 1947 and had a depository at 37 Mere Road. The company also had a furniture storage warehouse in Freckleton.
The Savoy Hotel was at 5 Clifton Drive North (now 314) St Anne's. For many years, the public bar in the cellar was home to many works' *"dos"*. It became the temporary home of St Anne's Conservative Club in 2008.
The St John Ambulance headquarters was in Station Road, St Anne's before moving to 108a St Andrew's Road North.
"Wayfarers" was constructed on Clifton Drive in Ansdell. It was built for the Yorkshire based cotton manufacturer Roland Coates on the site of a market garden. The Coates family spent lavishly on construction of the building. The house was rented out during World War 2 and it became well known as the temporary home of Vera Lynn.
Richard Cross was running his plant nurseries on Regent Street in Ansdell.

Lytham Paddling Pool and Mussel Tanks: A Paddling Pool was opened on Lytham Beach. Next door for many years was a set of 6 swing boats, beside which donkeys were tethered ready for children's rides. When the sandpit was built, the swing boats and donkeys were moved to the eastern side of the pier. The paddling pool and sandpit were demolished with the help of money from the Civic Society.

Next-door, from the 4th of September 1935, were the town's three Mussel Tanks; the eastern tank for cleaning the mussels, the central one for chlorination, and the western for storage. They had been

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constructed in 1934, to support the local shellfish industry in processing their catch before taking it to market. There had been several outbreaks of food-poisoning after eating shellfish, and it was illegal to take mussels from the Ribble without them being cleaned, the tanks were constructed in order to cleanse them prior to market.
The tanks were available to be used by members of the Lytham and Banks Fishermen's Co-operative Society. As well as the regular catches from local beds, mussels from North Wales, the Lune estuary, Morecambe, and Pilling were also transported to and from Lytham. The tanks could handle over 600 bags of mussels each week at their peak, and up to 18,609 bags were handled in 1945/6.

After the closure of the tanks in 1956, the eastern tank became the home of the RNLI and the central tank housed the Ribble Cruising Club from 1960. Later, the Anchorage - complete with ballroom, dining room, and snack bar, Scruples (which was briefly revived as the Water's Edge Roller Disco in 1990), and finally the Zanzibar club, were erected in the site of the third tank. The club building burnt down on the night of the 13th of July 1985, and the storage tank was covered over with concrete flags, to prevent its use as an unofficial swimming pool.

A scheme to improve their appearance began on the 4th of September 2017. It includes photographs of the tanks in use, artwork representing a mussel, and tiles, produced by Lytham Sixth Form College, illustrating aspects of the town and shore. Information plaques tell the story of the site, how the tanks worked, and its links to the Ribble estuary and the local wildlife. The end of the project was marked by an official opening by the Mayor on the 18th of May 2019.

David Green and Sons Limited were established as a Limited company in February, to continue running their army surplus store and yard at 31-35 Albert Street in Lytham. They advertised themselves as *"hardware, rubber and Government stores merchants, office and warehouse"*. The company went into liquidation on the 3rd of October 1985, but the premises are still in the family, operating as Paul Green Period Mouldings Limited – fireplace manufacturers.
John Edmundson was running his drapery at 5 Market Square, Lytham. By 1936, the shop had become Boult's gentleman's wear shop, and by 1954, it was CE Atkinson's ironmongery. In 1971, it began to be run by the Turner family, and selling high class cookware. Atkinson's closed in 2015.
Number 99 Ballam Road was built in a Modernist manner, based on the "House of Tomorrow" design, which was unique in the district at the time.
Ernest Barlow was the farmer at Syke Hall Farm in Bryning, near to the Fylde's other Windy Harbour.
Fred H Barker Bleasdale was operating his bookmaker's shop at 42 Marsden Street in Kirkham – he also had shops in Blackpool and Preston.
Kirkham and Wesham Working Men's Club and Institute was in operation on Mellor Road. The club closed in 1992, and a small housing complex (Crown Mews) was erected in its place. Mellor Road had been named after Horace Mellor of Milbanke, and until 1970 number 44 Mellor Road also housed the telephone exchange. This was replaced by today's Kingdom Hall of the Jehovah's Witnesses in 1997.
The Territorial Army HQ of the 4th Battalion, the Loyal Regiment (North Lancs) detachment was on Freckleton Street in Kirkham.
Grange Farm on Fleetwood Road between Greenhalgh and Esprick was farmed by one Henry Marquis. Today, the farm is run by K Rowe as a dairy farm.
Cragg's "The Old Village Shop" was on High Street in Great Eccleston, with the small branch of the District Bank next door.

White Hall, Treales: is listed in local registers. It is now a farm.

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1935

King George V's Silver Jubilee was celebrated by local children on the 6th of May, and many schoolchildren received a free commemorative medal.

The Jubilee Temple, Blackpool: was erected on Waterloo Road, the foundation stone being laid by evangelist George Jeffreys. It was registered for marriages on the 14th of July 1937 and was also a social institute.
In 1984, the name was changed to the Elim Christian Centre, then the Blackpool Christian Centre, and is currently known as the Gatehouse.
The Rainbow Preschool Center (wrongly spelled) was built next to the centre in 2000.

Swainson Street plane crash, Blackpool: Two aeroplanes, taking part in Sir Alan Cobham's Air Circus at Stanley Park Aerodrome, crashed over Blackpool on the 7th of September. A confusing hand signal had caused the Westland to crash into an Avro biplane - the smaller of the two – and it fell on Swainson Street, killing the pilot and two girl passengers. Other parts fell in Cedar Square, near to the Cedar Tavern.
"The dead pilot was Captain Robert William Patrick Stewart, of Hurlingham. The two women were sisters, Lilian and Doris Barnes, of Gloucester Avenue, Blackpool. They had gone up for a joy ride".
Lilian fell out and landed in Leopold Grove, Doris was then thrown out into Swainson Street, and the dying pilot was pulled from the wreckage in the same street. The sisters, who owned a hairdresser's shop on Marton Drive, were buried in Marton churchyard.
The damaged house was demolished, and neighbouring dwelling were compulsorily purchased later, ostensibly to build a replacement for Cocker Street Baths. The land has remained undeveloped, becoming an unofficial car park.

Railway Air Services Limited started a scheduled mail and passenger service from Liverpool to the Isle of Man, via Squires Gate, using the name "Manx Airways".
The "Spirit of Blackpool" aircraft was flown from Stanley Park on the 13th of May, on a fact-finding trip around Europe, in order to trawl ideas for a Class A International Airport.
The Ministry of Transport decided that Squires Gate should be Blackpool's only Airport and that Stanley Park Aerodrome should close.
The second Wurlitzer Organ was installed at the Winter Gardens - played by Horace Finch. In 1950, Horace Finch surprisingly won the Waterloo Handicap bowls tournament.

The Laughing Man at the Pleasure Beach: The famous "Laughing Man" came to the Pleasure Beach. Made by OD Binger of London, it had been bought by Leonard Thompson from the Galeries Lafayette store in Paris, and the 78rpm "Laughing" record provided his voice (NOT Bing Crosby as reported elsewhere).
It was situated in the middle of the entrance to the Fun House.
It was burnt - apart from the head - in the 1991 Fun House fire, but the head was restored, placed onto a newly-made body, and re-sited by the Revolution and Avalanche rides in 1996. Its replacement fibreglass torso was made by a German robotics company and concealed inside are three motors which control the movement of its limbs and head, together with a new recording of its original manic laugh.

The Pleasure Beach opened its Tumble Bug ride in front of the Fun House. It was the only one in Europe at the time and was renamed the Turtle Chase in 1938. Running a train of 6 turtle-shaped carriages around a circular rise and fall track, it last operated in 2004, and was removed in 2006.

The Grand National, Pleasure Beach: this ride opened on the 13th of April. Charles Paige had designed it as Europe's first twin-track racing coaster, and its wooden roller coaster was the first in the world to feature a

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"Mobius" loop. This gives the illusion of twin tracks, when it is in fact only one, and that gives the effect of the racing trains "magically" swapping tracks after each ride.
The ride has *"a height of 62ft and a top speed of 40mph, the Grand National features 2 tunnels, 2 double down elements, a camelback hill, 3 floater hills, 2 bunny hills, and 5 signs that resemble the signs at the Grand National horse race"*.
The two cars weighed exactly the same, so the result of the race depended on the relative weights of the passengers in each.
A fire on the 20th of May 2004 destroyed the station and trains, damaged 2 adjacent rides. It was caused by an electrical fault in the lights on the station ceiling. The station was rebuilt and the ride was reopened on the 28th of October, complete with new trains.

Marton's growth was illustrated by the building of over 1,000 new houses in this year.
Mercury vapour lights were erected along Whitegate Drive – the first in the north of England.
TB Horner's butcher's shop was in operation at 246 Whitegate Drive. The shop was later owned by Benson's of Kirkham and Mark Anthony of Blackpool, and from the 5th of June 2013 became "Plaice to Meat", selling both meat and fish.
JR Shaw Ltd, Bakers' Sundriesmen, was in operation on Ribble Road.
WH Nunn was operating his cobblers at 1 Rectory Road, a road which had several other shops at that time. In 1934, the shop was owned by John Conn. James Knowles had a newsagent's shop at number 3, Stanley Grovestock's grocer's shop was at 33, Betsy Shaw's shop was at 35, Edwin Hulme's newsagents was at 44 to 46, and George Webster had his gent's hairdressers at number 55.
S Preston's ladies' hairdressers was at 481b Waterloo Road. The shop has been occupied by the Babylon fast food takeaway since the 1990s.
Bradbury's Chemists was in operation at 337 Whitegate Drive. This became Richardson's in the 1990s and is currently run by Boots PLC.
Critchley's Linen House was at 78 Church Street – the former Lyon's Corner House. They also had a store at 8, 9, 12 Metropole Buildings and another at 25 Talbot Road. By 1938, the Church Street building was a Co-op outlet. Critchley's had been formed in 1888.
The Yorkshire Penny Bank Ltd had branches on Bond Street, 110 Central Drive (closed in 2016), and 50 Abingdon Street. The Abingdon Street branch soon moved to the more visibly dominant building at 2 to 4 Abingdon Street - above which were the Liverpool Victoria Insurance offices.
A record 224 trams ran on September the 14th - including 25 hired from Lytham St Anne's.
An express bus service from Blackpool to Lytham began on the 7th of June – the new number 11 route.
Lancashire United Transport (LUT), Ribble Motor Services, and the North-western Road Car Company acquired a route to Blackpool from Oldham, via Manchester and Bolton.
The Furness Railway's steamers began to carry tour parties from Blackpool and Fleetwood across Morecambe Bay to Ramsden Dock Station.
Storms in October caused a four-hundred-yard-long fissure to appear in the half-built sea defences – the worst of many over the years.
The Fire Brigade and Police Force were brought under separate control.
Bond Street was extended past the rear of the Pleasure Beach.

Empire Pools, Blackpool: opened a claim checking department in Dover Road, run by the Edwards family. At busy times, they hired the top floor of Talbot Road Bus Station for claims checking. Empire later moved to Chiswick Grove off Preston New Road and was taken over by Copes Pools, then Zetters Pools in 1977, which was in turn taken over by Littlewood's Pools in 2002.

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Empire was the first company to have their name advertised by way of a full paint job on a Blackpool tram – Number 707 in 1975.

The Club Embassy was above Abingdon Street Market. In the 1970s, it moved to 98 Dickson Road, upstairs in the next building to the Imperial Cinema (North Shore Car Hire Service Ltd), changing its name to the Embassy Club. As well as entertainment, hosted by MC Bill Heaney, it offered a full a la carte menu.
The Corporation organised its first Carnival Procession from the Promenade to Stanley Park.
The London Stores opened on Topping Street on the 8th of June.

Blackpool Boys' Club: was formed, meeting in buildings alongside Fenton's Sawmills, off Caunce Street. It then met briefly in the basement of Blackpool Grammar School, before opening premises on Laycock Gate at Queens Park in 1959.
In 1961, singer Frankie Vaughan launched a building fund for a new Boys' Club. That club began to be built on Laycock Gate on the 10th of August 1964, and opened in 1965, soon becoming the home of the Royal Artillery Cadets too.

Blackpool Boys and Girls Club (note the new name) became a non-Limited Company on the 26th of June 1991, and in 2007 one of its workers, Dave Blacker, received an MBE for his services.

Felton's Demolition started business, now trading from Highfurlong.
Atherton Brothers, builders were in operation at Peter Street Sawmills. They closed their business, by then called Atherton Brothers (Blackpool) Ltd, in 1970. Their office was at 70 Peter Street.
The Maxin Photographic and Cine Company was in business at 125 Wellington Terrace.
Leslie Butson started his estate agency business on Abingdon Street, later moving to 12 and 13 Cedar Square. The company later opened a second office at 1 Vicarage Road in Poulton, which is now the sole premises and headquarters of Butson Blofeld Chartered Surveyors and Estate Agents.
Rail traffic to Blackpool was so high now that Kirkham's North Junction signal box was handling almost 600 trains per day – averaging one every 2½ minutes.
Sun Printers of Watford, to celebrate the King's Silver Jubilee, booked four trains to take their employees on a day-trip to Blackpool. Breakfast was served on each train, lunch was laid on in three halls of the Winter Gardens, speeches and presentations followed, and then everyone headed out to enjoy Blackpool's many attractions. All four locomotives sported bright signs declaring "*Here comes the SUN!*"

The Bispham Hotel: opened at 68 Red Bank Road on the 21st of December. Designed by Francis Lumb, it has a glazed dome, and both the ladies' bar and the saloon bar have rubber floors to reduce noise.
It was completely re-furbished in 1985, when owned by the Samuel Smith's Tadcaster brewery.

Britain's **second** underground car park: The Little Bispham Underground Car Park opened below Princess Way, with space for 90 cars. It measured 300 feet long by 40 feet wide, and a line of glass skylights was set into the roof (the promenade floor) to illuminate the interior.
The linear run of parking spaces was integrated into the newly-built promenade and were accessed by two ramps – the southern one for down, and the northern one for up – the exit ramp was later sealed to prevent flooding.
The two shelters and seven chalets adjacent to the garage were built in 1936, and since the 1980s have been leased by the Fylde Boat Angling Club, which was formed in 1971, and originally stored its equipment in the former underground car park. The chalets are built of brick, with a single concrete roof, and have a "loggia" in front for use by sunbathers.

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During World War 2, the car park was used as a top-secret storage facility by Vickers Armstrong. It was opened up for use as a car park again in mid-1946.

It was decided that the structure was unsafe, so in April 2015, the car park was filled with rubble, and was then completely sealed with concrete.

Carleton Cemetery and Carleton Crematorium: Blackpool's replacement cemetery opened, on land off Stocks Lane that used to be owned by Carleton Lodge. The foundation stone had been laid by the Mayor on the 5th of February 1934.

The Crematorium, Chapel and the Garden of Remembrance were officially opened on the 18th of July 1935, by Alderman Newman. The first cremation took place on the 25th of September.

The Cemetery was extended in February 1948, and now holds over 22,000 graves. It contains the 4-oven Carleton Crematorium, a Columbarium in the Rose Garden, a Jewish Prayer House, public toilets, a seasonal floral Tea Room, and the Lodge House, which contains the cemetery offices.

Carleton's Jewish Section was established in 1981 and serves both the Orthodox and Reform communities. Their plots are separated from one another by a pathway.

Carleton Cemetery and Crematorium's opened its own tea rooms and florists in January 2006.

The Friends of Carleton Cemetery Babies (FCCB) was established in 2007, to ensure that Carleton Cemetery is a special resting place for infants and their bereaved families. The Friends group was officially launched on February the 9th.

In August 2018, work began on adding another 7 acres of land for 2,200 graves. The expansion will also include a larger and re-equipped cremation room, and a new café.

The Tower was first painted in Red Oxide this year, having been coloured Purple Oxide since it was built. It is continually repainted by its company of workers, known as *"Stickmen"*. A full coat takes 7 years to complete.
The top attraction at the Tower Circus was Winton's Californian Seals and the Hollywood Bathing Belles, in an *"aquatic sensation"*.
Florenze and her Romany Band began appearing at the Tower Lounge Café.
At Central Pier, "Royal Follies" was again the main production.
The Super Pin Table Palace was at 133 South Promenade.
At the Palace Ballroom, the Palace Syncopators and Rhythmagicians gave daily shows.
Eight specially designed telephone boxes were erected outside the GPO in Abingdon Street. Another three were erected by Sacred Heart Church on Talbot Road.
The Cleveleys Advertising Company was at Electric House on Topping Street, providing lantern slide adverts to theatres.

Ivy House Holiday Camp, Blackpool: opened for business at 196 Common Edge Road. During the War, it became briefly a home for unmarried mothers evacuated from Manchester. It later changed its name to the Ivy Leaf Camp.

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In 1949, The Ivy Leaf Club opened in the Welcome Hall of the camp, hosting local talent shows and cabaret. This later became the Rainbow Club, which closed on the 28th of October 1990.

There was a devastating fire at the club on the 21st of January 1963. By the 1970s it was called the Ivy House Holiday Centre advertising self-service chalets with TV, fridge, and cookers in every one. It also had an open-air swimming pool, children's paddling pool, launderette, camp shop, and large playing areas.

With its final title of the Thompson's Holiday Centre, the camp was demolished in 1991, and the land cleared. Belverdale Gardens, a small housing estate, now stands in its place.

30 mph speed limits were introduced to many of the town's roads on the 9th of March. In 2012, the whole town became officially *"30 mph or less"*.
There were 52,480 water closets in the town, about 3 cesspools, and about 378 pail closets.
The Coastguard Cottages on All Hallow's Road in Bispham were demolished in July. Stansfield's shop was to the north, and Cookson's Post Office and the adjacent cottages were knocked down in February 1937.
International Sheep Dog Trials were held in Stanley Park on the 14th of September.
Blackpool Cricket Club won the first Meyler's Loxham Cup at Lancaster. South Shore Cricket Club then won it in 1938, Blackpool Second Eleven in 1942, and Pelham Mount in 1951.
Redmans Limited, provisions dealers, were at 49-51 Bond Street, 37 Talbot Road, 17 Market Street, 142 Central Drive (later to become Suite World), and 1 Abingdon Street Market.
Two Silver Jubilee Stones were laid in the Co-operative building on Coronation Street on the 12th of October.
Blackpool Corporation converted several of its single-decker coaches into mobile advertising units to travel the country. Each was fitted with a lift-up side panel and had a model of the Tower on its roof.

Maternity Homes, Blackpool: As an indication of the boom in births in the town, the Corporation now had 14 licensed Maternity and Nursing Homes on its books. These were at Howard House, 250 Hornby Road (3 mothers), 50 Marton Drive (1), 22 Moore Street (1), 40 Sherbourne Road (3), Central Nursing Home at 230 Hornby Road (3 – with 10 beds allocated), 22 Severn Road (2), 1 Ribble Road (2), 13 Tower Street (1), 100 Reads Avenue (3), 129 Powell Avenue (1), 79 Westmorland Avenue (2), 33 Broadway (3), 7 Belgrave Road (1), 4 Magdalen Road (1), 3 Boscombe Road (1), 1 Collingwood Avenue (1), 40 Waterloo Road (0), 244 Park Road (2), 412 Lytham Road ((2), 45 Northfield Avenue (5), Blackpool Maternity Home, 68 Devonshire Road (5), 13 Ribble Road (2), 25 Sandicroft Road (4), 45 Sherbourne Road (1), 2 Ansdell Road (3), 20 Sherbourne Road (3), and 480 Lytham Road (2).

The Fylde Antiquarian and Historical Society was founded by Reginald Sharpe France. In 1984, the group's name was changed to the Blackpool Historical Society, as other Fylde towns had begun to form their own societies. Mr France went on to found the Lancashire Records Office. The society meets monthly at Blackpool Cricket Club.
George Elliot *"the chocolate covered coon"* (sic) appeared in Blackpool. In those days, there was nothing wrong with the title, but of course, today it is not politically correct.
School milk was introduced to Blackpool schools.

Allen Clarke: this author, journalist, and Lancashire dialect storywriter, died in Blackpool.
He was born Charles Allen Clarke in Bolton in 1863 and was the author of "Windmill Land". He owned a shop on the corner of Shaw Road and the Promenade, from where he ran the publication "Teddy Ashton's Northern Weekly", later living at 27 Osbourne Road, South Shore, and finally, at 17 St Ives Avenue.

©

His writing on windmills and local history caused the Little Marton windmill to be dedicated to him.

In June 1899, Mr Clarke's son died. The Gazette wrote *"A sad accident occurred yesterday to the only son of Mr Allen Clarke, a well-known Lancashire dialect writer, who lives in Blackpool. The boy went out fishing about 5-30 and fell into a pond. The alarm was raised by his companions and two men dived into the water, but they never found him. A drag was employed and the body got out. Mr Clarke is on a holiday ramble in Germany and Belgium"*.
He is buried at Marton Cemetery on Preston Old Road (plot 9, grave 136).

John Inman: (Frederick) John Inman was born in Preston on the 28th of June. He moved to Blackpool at the age of 12, where he lived on the corner of Sherbourne Road and Ashburton Road, and went to Claremont Junior School and Warbeck High. He also attended Claremont Congregational Sunday school, with his brother Geoffrey, who grew up to be a local butcher. He then worked as a window-dresser and commercial artist in Fox's Outfitters at 64-66 Church Street (the shop is now the House of Cards) for 5 years, before becoming a famous comedy actor – first appearing at South Pier's Pavilion theatre in the play "Freda" in 1948 for the Jack Rose Repertory Company. He last appeared in Blackpool in "Fancy Free" at the ABC in 1980 – that theatre's last live show.

Dennis Crompton was born in Blackpool. He became a world-famous architect.

Jimmy Armfield: was born on the 21st of September, in Denton, Manchester, but his family moved to Blackpool when he was 6, living in a room above a butcher's shop on Tyldesley Road. His father at first rented a grocer's shop on the corner of Tyldesley Road and Princess Street, before moving to a different grocery on the corner of Bairstow Street and Dale Street – next door to the Princess pub. He attended Revoe Primary and then Arnold Schools, but chose football over university.

Jimmy signed for Blackpool as an amateur in 1952, from the Blackpool Association of Boys Clubs, making his debut in 1954. He won a record 43 English Caps and represented just two sides – Blackpool and England.
Jimmy was the first player to perfect the "defensive overlap" – a move where he, as a left back, ran past Stanley Matthews in the midfield, to get the ball again and cross it into the penalty box.
Jimmy married an old friend from Revoe Juniors, Anne Ashurst, in 1958. She went on to be matron of South Shore Hospital.
His farewell appearance for the Seasiders was against Manchester United at Bloomfield Road, on the last game of the season on the 1st of May 1971. He had made 627 appearances for his club and went on to manage Bolton Wanderers and Leeds United, before becoming a journalist and commentator.

On his return to Blackpool, he lived briefly on Ravenwood Avenue, then on Beechfield Avenue, before settling in Stony Hill Avenue. He became a governor of Arnold school, and played the organ at St Peter's Church on Lytham Road. He was made a Freeman of Blackpool, and in 2000, was awarded an OBE. In May 2004, he opened the Jimmy Armfield Library at his old school, Revoe, and in 2010, a stand at Bloomfield Road was named after him. May the 1st 2011, saw a statue of him unveiled outside the ground.
He died of cancer, at Trinity Hospice, on the 22nd of January 2017.

Rees Thomas Davies was killed when he fell down a lift shaft at the Tower.

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Garstang Road: Work began on the construction of the new A586 trunk road to link Blackpool and Garstang. It became called Poulton Road, leading onto Garstang Road in Blackpool, Garstang Road East in Poulton, and Blackpool Road for the rest of the way, and relieved the pressure of traffic in Poulton and the rest of the small villages on its route. The work included the construction of a large railway bridge at Poulton, to replace the original structure. Poulton Road was extended to a new junction opposite Garstang Road Park, and the B5268 Blackpool Old road was joined to the new junction on Garstang Road. The old Poulton Road section so bypassed was renamed Poulton Old Road.

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Singleton Garage was opened in the village on the site of a blacksmith's, which had been there since the 1700s. The Miller family later re-built the smithy opposite the Bowling Green. The garage has now been demolished and two new houses built in its place. *"Next to the smithy there was a wooden black and white hut that was used as a reading room. Alderman Miller wished his tenants to enjoy some leisure time and he provided this place with books, daily papers and a billiard table"*.

The Regal Hotel, Cleveleys: was opened on Victoria Road West. Its bedrooms could accommodate 100 guests and all had hot and cold running water. The hotel originally had its own ladies' and gents' hairdressing departments. There was a resident's dining room and also a 120-seat dining room for non-residents, with a separate grill room. In the reception hall and lounge, there was *"orchestral music during the season"*.
Behind the houses on the other side of the road at the time was the Palladium Billiard Hall.

The Natalia Christian Spiritualist Mission operated on Bispham Road, Cleveleys between the 4th of February and the 24th of May.

Fleetwood Marine Hall: was opened on the site of the old "Brooklands" race track, having been designed by architect William Melville. *"It is constructed of brick and reinforced concrete with structural steel framework to the auditorium. The external finish is Portland cement relieved with faience bands. There is a central reinforced concrete dome.*
The auditorium design originally incorporated flush panelled walls veneered to a height of six feet with Australian Walnut with horizontal bands of black Macassar Ebony, eggshell finished in cellulose. The sprung floor was polished maple with dark walnut borders. The ceiling had extensive fibrous plaster ornament in an Art Deco style with the dome at the centre glazed with coloured leaded lights. Galleons and the Borough Arms feature at eight points on the circle of the dome. Above the walnut panelling were ornamental panels and, at either side of the rectangular stepped proscenium was a clock (left) and an act number indicator (right). Today the auditorium is substantially intact although the walnut panelling has been replaced in a more prosaic wood and the upper walls have been curtained. The dome remains and although it looks splendid, it causes acoustical problems.
In 1967, the foyer was extended by incorporating part of the colonnade. At the same time, a series of small rooms was swept away and the building enlarged over the car park to form the Viking Bar"

By 1994, its café was entitled simply the Marine Café, and offered afternoon and high teas, and catered for wedding parties and the like.

Fleetwood Crown Green Bowling Tournament was first held at the Memorial Park.

St Wulstan's School, Fleetwood: this Roman Catholic school was opened on Poulton Road, with Sister Attracta in charge.
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A nursery was added in 1980, and more classrooms in 1992. 2 mobile classrooms were brought in in 2009. The two schools of St Wulstan's and St Edmund's merged in 2004 and consolidated onto one site in 2006. It is now known as St Wulstan's and St Edmund's Catholic Primary School and Nursery, and after extensive re-furbishment in 2014, has an average of 300 pupils.

St Edmund's Catholic Primary School closed on the 31st of August 2004, with pupils transferred to the enlarged premises at St Wulstan's from the 1st of September 2004. St Edmund's was later converted into WAVE (The William Allen Vocational Learning Centre) for Cardinal Allen Catholic High School.

Chaucer School at Fleetwood won the Elliot Cup in Fylde and Wyre junior football.
The Macfisheries' Northern fleet was based at Fleetwood from this year. They had various fish and poultry shops in the area, including one at 3 Maybell Avenue (now Abingdon Street), that later became Fylde Tilecraft, and is now the Galleon Club. There was another at 9 The Square in St Anne's. Several of those fish shops later became fish and chip shops.
Woolworths opened their store 613 at 183 Lord Street in Fleetwood on the 10th of May. The store was extended in 1937 and modernised in 1967. It closed on the 6th of January 2009, to become a Bright House store.
At 76 Lord Street in Fleetwood, next door to the new Marks and Spencer store, was Attersley's tailors and outfitters. The building then became a branch of the Santander Bank, which closed on the 27th of June 2019.
Blackpool Old Boys merged with Fylde Rugby Club. The Old Boys carried out their remaining fixtures under the title of Fylde BOB, and played their games at Stanley Park, Blackpool. Next, they played, as Fylde Extra 1st, at Blackpool Greyhound Stadium.
Fylde Press was formed on St Leonard's Road in St Anne's
The first municipal bus service started from Dicconson Square in Lytham to Blackpool Central Station on the 7th of June. Lytham trams provided a more frequent service between the two towns via Clifton Drive - and also served St Anne's.
Harry Clifton donated land to the people of Lytham for their recreation. This became the playing fields of Park View and Lansdowne Road.
Lytham Corinthians Football Club was founded, playing at Park View.
Lytham Scout hut was built on Park View Road. It has since been re-vamped and is the home of the 8th Lytham Scouts and Beavers group.
Kirkham and Wesham were joined together; their former boundary had been Wrangway Brook – now called Station Road.
George Banks opened his jewellers' shop at 44 Poulton Street in Kirkham.

1936
Blackpool's Diamond Jubilee celebrations were held in Stanley Park, and a grand procession travelled from the Promenade to the park. The highlight of the carnival was the Diamond Jubilee Queen of Beauty Pageant, won by Miss Birmingham – Olive Carpenter.
A machine gun firing range opened at Squires Gate, close to division lane.
The Co-operative Laundry opened on Bristol Avenue on the 15th of August. In 1980, this was called the NEL Co-operative Laundries Association Ltd. The building later became the TVR car factory and is now an indoor ice-skating rink.
Albert Ashworth founded Ashworth's Builders, operating from 15 Deeside. The company became Limited in 1974 and was dissolved on the 16th of July 2002.
The Billington Brothers had two furniture stores in Blackpool, the original one at 94 Central Drive, and a smaller one on the Strand.

©

The Blackpool Premier Holiday Association formed in March. The town's Hotels formed Associations in both the north and the south of the Fylde Coast, uniting in 1945.
School caretakers were introduced to Blackpool schools, and every school had its own caretaker. This made the town's schools the cleanest in the Northwest.
Arthur Clarke, Humphries and Company, financial advisers, was founded at 118 Normoss Road.

The Royal Hotel, Blackpool: opened on the corner of Marton Road (now Marton Drive) and Harcourt Road on the 23rd of December. The pub had two bars and a snug, with its most popular bar being called the Knight's Bar. It was built for Messrs Westwell and Hague, and its licence had been transferred from the old Royal Hotel on Central Promenade.
By then, just known as the Royal, it closed in late-2009 and was converted into a Tesco Express store in 2011, opening on the 14th of January.

The opening of Tesco meant that the One-Stop store opposite, at numbers 110 to 112, had to close, but this re-opened in 2016 as Abstract Kitchens. Edward Stoten's VG Stores in those premises had closed on the 29th of January 1975.

The Lennox Gate sewage pumping station was built, to cater for the Cherry Tree Road Area and land West of Common Edge Road. It reached its full capacity and was upgraded in 1995/6.
"Fylde Ferdie" and his dog "Fido" were framed in an illuminated tableau on Bispham Cliffs.

The LMS Loco Club, Blackpool: was started by LMS railways staff at Rigby Road sheds. The Shed Master was made president of the club and the committee made up of his fellow LMS workers. The club was at first known as "The Loft" as it was a room in a loft over some stables. In 1938, they moved into a disused railway carriage in Rigby Road, but after World War 2, they moved to Back Ribble Road, and into premises vacated by the Progress Club.
In 1968, the club procured what now the concert room. The games room is underneath. The club's members finally purchased the Ribble Road premises in 1999, but it closed in spring 2014.

Highfield Library opened, next to the Grundy recreation ground. The library was closed on the 15th of October 2004, and taken over by the South Shore Community Association and the Early Years and Childcare team (EYC). They initially used the site, as a training facility for local carers, but in September 2018, the South Shore Community Partnership (SSCP) was granted a five-year lease for the building. The centre now offers classes in many subjects and is the home to several societies and clubs.
Farrer's Garage was established at 34 Watson Road, being registered as a company by the Roberts family in 1978.
Agnes Johnson sold nearly ten acres of the old Newhouse Farm's land to the Corporation on the 8th of April, for Stanley School to be built.
On Devona Avenue at the time was a tennis court and bowling green.
Preston Old Road Post Office was owned by TW Dyson, who operated his own bakery and confectioners from the building. It later became a Spar outlet and in 2014 was taken over by the McColl chain.
Rodway Factors was opened on Caunce Street by the Rowell brothers, and was the first motor factor in Lancashire to undertake nationwide deliveries. They were taken over by Redman's Engine Centre of Fleetwood in 1990, and the shop was closed, having been one of the Northwest's oldest motor factors.
The Brake Grip Company was working at 296 Lytham Road. They made and sold brake compounds for cars.
Joseph Riley's clog shop was in business on Vicarage Lane, opposite Eaves' Brickworks.

©

Harry Parker ran a building and funeral business from a building adjacent to 53 Mere Road.
Britain's first "Eli Wheel" was erected at the Pleasure Beach. It was 70 feet tall with sixteen cradles, each seating two people, and Leonard Thompson had bought the number 16 Eli from America. Another wheel was erected alongside in 1938. This ride, with its twin Ferris Wheels and Clown figure (added later), was a famous sight for many years. It was sold to A Hart in 1984.
The steamship Jubilee Queen had been acquired in November 1935, by the Mersey and Blackpool Steamship Company, for a short-lived service from Liverpool to New Brighton, Blackpool, and Fleetwood. The service only operated from Easter until June 1936. In July, the Jubilee Queen was transferred to the Jubilee Shipping Company who also ran a few trips from Liverpool to Blackpool, but again, the service was short-lived. Jubilee Queen was finally sold for scrap in 1937 and the Mersey and Blackpool Steamship Co was wound up in 1941.
A Sub-Post Office opened on the corner of Park Road and Westmorland Avenue on the 8th of August, opposite Lowe's chemist. After many years as a typical "corner shop", this is now a Premier Stores outlet.
In December, the Evening Gazette carried an article about the "Carleton Ghost". A Layton taxi-driver, Harry Hodges, claimed he had seen a ghost with a green face, near the gates of Carleton Crematorium. He had stopped his cab and found himself staring into the face of an old man "with sunken eyes, long dark hair, a Punch-like nose, and prominent chin".
The English Leather Company opened on Abingdon Street on the 23rd of May.
Sam Lyon Junior had his shop called The County Jeweller" at 14/16 Church Street. The shop was famous for its "Door Handle" watches. It is now the Sunseekers tanning shop.
The Layton and Central Drive tram routes were converted to motorbuses on the 19th of October.
Mrs HO Nelson stayed at the County Hotel; the anonymous film star Bette Davis was trying to get some secret respite from her fans.

The Mass Observation: study of Blackpool grew from a longer study of "Worktown", the name they gave to Bolton. Many mill workers went to Blackpool for their holidays in the two weeks per year that the mills closed. Five permanent observers were attached to Blackpool for fourteen months from August this year. In an illustration of the popularity of gaming machines, just one man, Mr Hawtree, operated over 1,600 in Blackpool: amusements with names such as "Over the Top" which involved getting a ball into a funnel, together with "Box Ball", "Notch Ball", "Groove Ball", and "The Bomber". There was also "Alibaba discovers the Cave of golden Shred" – a play on words, using the Robertson's jam Golliwog to attract visitors.

Doris Thompson introduced the town's first crèche at the Pleasure Beach.
The Blackpool Table Tennis League was founded on the 15th of February by F Worsley. It is now called the Blackpool and District Table Tennis league.
Jules Bledsoe, the original "Ol' Man River", made his debut singing the song on the 3rd of February at the Palace Theatre.
Dame Alicia Markova was at the Opera house, the Merry Widow was at the Grand, and Arthur Lucan and Kitty Macshane were appearing at the Palace in June.
George Fairfield won £700 for breaking the world *"endurance without food"* record on the Promenade. The money he won paid for his much-needed hospital and medical treatment.
A man threw himself off the top of the Tower and crashed onto the ballroom roof.
Bill Ashton was born in Blackpool on the 6th of December. He was "*educated at Rossall School, and went on to become a saxophonist and composer, best known for co-founding the London Schools' Orchestra, now the National Youth Jazz Orchestra (NYJO), of which he is Musical Director"*.
Michael Barlow was born on the 18th of January 18, in Blackpool. After changing his name to Tim Barlow, he became an actor, known for Hot Fuzz (2007), Les Misérables (1998) and Automata (2014).

©

Sabrina: Norma Anne Sykes was born in Stockport. From 1947, she lived in her parent's Blackpool guest house at 1 Saville Road, attending Claremont School, then "Fleetwood Girls' High School". She swam at the Lido each day – she was a junior swimming champion at the breaststroke, and briefly *"worked at Burton's Biscuits on Vicarage Lane"*. Norma was struck with Polio and spent almost 2 years in Blackpool Sanatorium. She left Blackpool at 16 and changed her name to Sabrina. Arthur Askey had discovered her, aged 16, when he was appearing at the Grand Theatre, and she was working in a café. Then, at 18, she appeared in his TV show "Before your very eyes" on the 15th of February 1955.
Later she had a 41-17-36 figure, and insured her breasts for £100,000, being wined and dined by European royalty.
RAF aircrews in the 1950s, dubbed part of the Hawker Hunter jet fighter "Sabrinas" due to two large humps on the underside of the aircraft. In the late 1950s ERF trucks produced a heavy-goods vehicle with a short protruding bonnet that was nicknamed a "Sabrina", because it had *"a little more in front".* Then, in 1974, the British motoring press gave the name "Sabrinas" to the oversized pairs of protruding rubber bumper blocks added to the MG MGB, Midget and Triumph TR6 sports cars.
Sabrina died on the 24th of November 2016.

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Cleveleys Bus Station: The station we know today began to be developed from now on its present site. The first rudimentary station had been built in 1932, by the Thornton-Cleveleys UDC for use by Ribble Motor Services whose buses had been parked off-road nearby, after terminating on Victoria Road West.
Tenders for a proper bus garage had been let by Blackpool Corporation in January 1921, and this opened in the July in a converted battery house at Rossall. In July 1946, two new metal shelters were erected, to be replaced in May 1959, by today's concrete buildings and toilets.
The first Blackpool Corporation bus entered the new bus station on the 1st of February 1947.

To commemorate the reign of King George V, who had recently died, the St George's playing fields at Thornton were renamed King George's playing fields around now. In about 1963, a large stone was donated to Thornton council by Keirby and Perry Ready Mix Ltd, and was erected by Clement Dickens Ltd. A cigarette packet and a coin were placed underneath.
McNaught Lamps Limited were operating from Lawson's Road in Thornton, making fog lamps for vehicles.
Thornton-Cleveleys Amateur Operatic Society was formed by Tom Greenhall and Sheila and Ralph Duxbury, now rehearsing in their own hall on Ritherham Avenue.
The Rotary Club of Thornton Cleveleys was inaugurated on the 9th of January.
John Thornber opened his wine and spirits merchants' shop at 148 Victoria Road. The shop was taken over and knocked through at the opening of the Cleveleys Carpet Centre in 1981.
Thomas Croft opened his butchers' shop at 110 Victoria Road in Cleveleys. He had transferred from Church Street in Blackpool. He retired in 1946, and his son took over (T Croft and Son). The shop later became Sykes's butchers and finally a branch of the Scottish Meat Market.
North Drive Garage in Cleveleys was run by T Wilson (of 56 Stockdove Way), offering his "Private Car or Taxi for Hire".
The Thornton Cleveleys Opera Society was formed. Their Cleveleys Operatic Society Football Club was founded in 1966.
Marks and Spencer opened a store at 68-74 Lord Street in Fleetwood, on the site of the Congregational Church. This closed on the 18th of February 1989, and later became Hitchens, briefly a Littlewood's outlet store, and then Hitchens again. It was finally Store 21, which closed in summer 2016. The closure of Marks and Spencer is considered locally to be the main catalyst for the decline of Fleetwood's centre.
In July, the "super trawler" Northern Pride docked at Fleetwood's North End Quay. It was the first of 15 of the vessels which had been built, for Unilever, in Bremerhaven in Germany with the intention of each
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landing a catch of deep-water Icelandic fish every day. Operated in town by Mac Line, they were 188 feet long and weighed 620 tons, and were capable of fishing where the town's normal boats could not safely reach. Sadly, they left Fleetwood in September 1937, for Grimsby, where the larger facilities were more able to handle them.
The houses of Homestead Drive in Fleetwood were built.
In January, Fleetwood's first pantomime was presented by Chester's Stage Academy. The show was Little Red Riding Hood, and it was staged in the Marine Hall on the 21st. The panto was raising funds for the Fleetwood Industry Benevolent Fund and Fleetwood School Children's Clog Fund.
Buses took over from trams, between Lytham and St Anne's on the 15th of December.
Sir Lindsay Parkinson Ltd built the Links Park estate on Church Road at St Anne's.
A Lloyd, builder, started business at 61 Orchard Road in St Anne's.
St Anne's received its first set of traffic lights.
Fylde Rugby Club opened their first pavilion.
Three Art Deco-style apartment blocks, called Windsor Court, Queens Court, and Kings Court, were built at 192 to 198 Clifton Drive South. They were designed by the Lancashire Building Company Ltd.
JT Clark's radio shop was at 8 Park Street in Lytham. Since August 2013, the shop has housed Lytham Eyewear Limited, an optician.
James Ashworth's newsagent was at 17 Station Road in Lytham. This is currently occupied by The Foot Company, a podiatry and foot treatment shop.
In the old Barnes and Crompton Pharmacy at 1 Church Road in Lytham, the West End Pharmacy was run by pharmacist TA Durkin. As well as medicines, they supplied perfumes and radio equipment. The shop is currently Caesar's Italian take away.
The art deco house called Green Ridges was built at 99 Ballam Road in Lytham. It was then voted the Architects' Journal House of the Year. The house comprised, a central entrance hallway with cloakroom and toilet, a main lounge, dining room, morning room, games room, kitchen, and utility room. The first floor had a master double bedroom, three more double bedrooms, a shower room, and an art deco bathroom. There was a first-floor roof terrace, and a double garage. In January 2018, permission was granted to demolish it for the building of an apartment block.
The 1st Freckleton Scout Group was formed in October, lasting until September 1942. Today's 2nd Freckleton Scout Group followed in September 1952, opening their Scout Hut in 1966, at the entrance to the memorial playing fields.

The Bay Horse public house, Catforth: was rebuilt on Catforth Road in Catforth. Its new position was 50 feet further from the road. The Bay Horse was taken over by Enterprise Inns, but it closed in 2009 through lack of custom. The pub was then demolished in 2010, by Ribchester-based Springavon Developments, and was replaced by a small housing development.

Blackpool Pleasure Beach sought to expand and bought Morecambe Pleasure Park from Helters Limited, the firm that gave rise to the name Helter Skelter.

1937

The Blackpool Technical College: The town's first specialist "tech" was officially opened by David Lindsay, the 27th Earl of Crawford on the 22nd of November on Palatine Road, and the wooden Art College building was opened on Ripon Road. After it was commissioned by the council in 1928, the Earl of Derby had finally laid the foundation stone of the college on the 15th of September 1934, on the site of disused brickworks in Palatine Road. The site had been known as Pally Fields, and Nissen huts were erected behind the college and were used for RAF training during the war.

©

The clinic was opened on Bennett Avenue at the same time and is now a Barnardo's children's centre.

The Blackpool Technical and Catering College: The newly amalgamated college opened in 1969, on the site of Whiteholme Farm on what would soon be renamed as Ashfield Road, Bispham. Their iconic, 7-storey Cleveleys Building could take 1,300 full-time and 5,000 part-time students. The number 9 bus service was extended to serve the new college in 1970, and Ashfield Road itself was completed in 1973. The Bispham campus later became known as Blackpool and The Fylde College.

A large, blue-coloured Information Technology Centre was opened in 1989. In 2007, the college expanded into the space formerly occupied by the Pelham Mount Club.
In May 2014, work began to extend the Construction Skills Centre extension, to be completed by December 2014. Work to build a new Advanced Technology Centre started in July 2014 and was completed in August 2015. Following this, the old Wyre Building was demolished between August and November 2015.

Blackpool and the Fylde College's £3 million Central campus was opened by Lord Davies on the 5th of November 1999. The project involved the redevelopment of Palatine Campus.

The College's £10 million University Centre was opened for use in September 2009 and was opened officially by Lord McNally of Blackpool in the December, as the main focus for Higher Education in the town. In 2014, the arts teaching was moved into that main building. The Park Road building was then renamed as the Gateway Campus, advertising itself as being *"A dedicated facility where young people can access entry-level qualifications to improve their life chances and routes to employment".*
Also, in 2014, the Barnardo's building on Bennett Avenue (built in 1926 and designed by JC Robinson to be built of artificial stone blocks) was demolished to make way for a better entrance road to the college.

In 2015, the college was the Queen's Anniversary Prize Award for Higher and Further Education Excellence.

In June 2017, the college was one of only 14 British establishments to get the Gold Award in excellence in teaching from the Government's Teaching Excellence Framework.

Today, the college has *"5,750 full-time students while more than 21,500 people are enrolled on part-time courses"*.

The Coronations of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth were celebrated in town on the 8th of May. Burton's bakers issued their special "Queens Crisp" biscuits and opened their new Sun Café on the North Pier Head at Whitsun.
The Duke of Kent visited the town on the 21st of October, to switch on the Illuminations. Whilst he was in town, he also officially opened Victoria Hospital, the Lifeboat house on Central Promenade - also naming the lifeboat (Sarah Ann Austin), and Princes Way, in front of the Norbreck Castle. He also made the only recorded royal tram ride.
As part of the newly-widened Princes Way, the art deco-style pumping station at Anchorsholme was built. Kent Tower, a decorative vent for the station in the shape of clock tower, was added shortly afterwards. It was demolished in 1982, when the entrance to the pumping station was moved. Blackpool's sea defences, promenades, and shelters now extended from its boundary with Cleveleys in the north to Squires Gate in the south. The cliffs at North Shore had been reinforced by artificial *"rockifying".*
Charles Paige built the Cyclone at the Pleasure Beach, which also opened the Octopus ride.

©

Along the Promenade at this time were attractions such as "The Headless Woman", "Gipsy Lee", "The Tar-Hatted Big Dipper", and "The Educational Museum of Human Anatomy".
Blackpool Steam Navigation Company operated the pleasure steamer "TS Atalanta" until 1939.
Fenella, a Sumatran tigress from Holmfirth, was displayed in a caravan on the Beach from now, seasonally, until the early 1940s.

Littlewood's, Blackpool: The shopping and betting company's first ever retail store opened at 38-42 Waterloo Road on the 6th of July. The building had been built in the 1920s, to house Stanley's ladies outfitters, and the premises currently house a Premier general store.

Littlewood's moved very briefly to the corner of the seafront and Church Street within a year, whilst their new Littlewood's Buildings were being built at 61/71 Church Street, having replaced Barker's store and 3 others. That store, designed by Cecil Quilter, opened in 1938. Littlewoods café on the first floor was a popular eating place for many years, until it closed in the 1980s, to be replaced by the children's' wear department. Above the new store was the Blackpool Appliance Centre, which distributed surgical appliances and artificial limbs to the public.

They moved from Church Street to Bank Hey Street in November 1995, where they joined HMV, Index, and others in the converted Tower Centre.

In 1998, the top floor was removed, and the remaining parts were turned into three separate units. The first occupiers were Virgin Records and the Halifax Building Society on the ground floor and JJB Sports on the first floor. *"JJB Sports first opened in Blackpool, on Birley Street, in July 1988. At that time the largest independent sports retailers, JJB was owned by Dave Whelan, former professional footballer"*. In 2000, JJB Sports sold the ground floor of their Church Street premises to Greggs, who opened another baker's shop. JJB went into administration: *"Administrators were appointed in September 2012 and the store in Blackpool closed in October 2012"*.

The Virgin Megastore, after briefly becoming Zavvi, closed in January 2009, moving to Unit 14 Hounds Hill as a Virgin Media outlet (closing in March 2020). The Halifax took over their space at 67-71.

On the 19th of September 2014, the Chinese Buffet opened their new restaurant in the first-floor area. The former JD Sports store at 61-63 Church Street is currently occupied by a Perfect Home furnishing outlet on the ground floor.

Littlewood's ceased trading completely in March 2006, and Primark opened a store at their 50-68 Bank Hey Street site in October.

Hawes Side Primary School, Blackpool: was opened on the 12th of January on Pedders Lane. It had been designed by Borough Architect JC Robinson and was a single-storey red brick complex built around a central courtyard and having a central Assembly Hall.

The school is now known as Hawes Side Academy, and has 684 pupils and 84 staff, housed in 3 buildings. In January 1987, the new school library was opened by then Energy Minister, David Hunt.

In autumn 2016, the pupils moved into newly-built classrooms. The remainder of the original buildings were then demolished, and the new school was constructed nearby. The original boundary walls were retained.

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Today's school has a *"library as the centre-piece, with hi-tech classrooms featuring touch-screen teaching walls and ergonomically designed desks which allow flexibility in the classrooms. Outside there is a memorial garden for former pupils who have died, a trim trail and outdoor classroom, sensory garden multi use games area and a wildlife area. The school playing fields have been properly drained to provide better playing areas"*.
The official opening was carried out by Blackpool Mayor Ian Coleman on the 2nd of October 2017. The mayor was helped by year four pupil Issy Simpson, who entered the TV show Britain's Got Talent in 2016, as a magician.

Fisher's Fields, Blackpool: The land at Fisher's Piece on St Anne's Road had been bought to build a separate infant's school for Hawes Side, but soon became the playing fields for Highfield and Roseacre Schools instead. In 1957, the Education Officer declared that *"The area of land, previously known as 'Fisher's Land', adjacent to Highfield Road, has also been acquired, and 4 Association football pitches have been prepared by the Parks Department. These pitches have already been extensively used by Highfield Boys' School, Thames Road Secondary and Primary Schools, Roseacre Junior School and Highfield Youth Club"*.
It is now used for amateur football matches, being known as Fisher's Fields, and is the home of Foxhall Junior Football Club.
In 2017 and 2018, United Utilities built a large underground storm water storage tank under the eastern half of the fields.

Half Way Garage, Blackpool: Half-Way Garage opened at 463 St Anne's Road, as one of the first buildings on that side of St Anne's Road. By 1961, it was run by Joe Jefferson, and in the late 1960s it was taken over by Imperial Garages. Then in 1971, by Ken Stones, as Halfway Garage (a single word - Halfway), first as the area's only Lada dealer and then as its only Daewoo and Chevrolet dealership.

The garage closed in April 2008 to be reopened as CCM Direct on the 11th of June 2009. The former owner of CCM in Cleveleys, Mike Bentley, retained the CCM initials, but they now stood for Controlled Cost Motoring. He had begun CCM in Cleveleys, rebuilding it from the relics of MGM Motors at Vicarage Lane.

CCM left Half Way Garage in July 2014, and in September 2015, the premises were bought by Karl Smith Car Sales as a second outlet.
Cleveleys Car Market had opened at 115 Victoria Road West in 2005, replacing Bartley's Select Group car sales, which moved to St George's Lane. The company calls the saleroom the Cleveleys Car Centre.

The Mere Park, Marton: hotel and bowling green was designed by JB Singleton for the C&S brewery. It was opened to customers on the 21st of February and was then formally opened on the 24th of December. A two-storey art deco structure with a distinctive flat roof, it had been built on the corner of Lancaster Road and Preston Old Road as an *"ultra-modern"* pub in the centre of the 60 houses comprising the "Mere Park Estate". The pub has 4 separate areas, all served from a central bar.
An early licensee of the pub was Blackpool footballer George Wilson, who went on to captain England.
The bowling green to the side was built over in the early 1980s, to become Mere Park Court.
The Mere Park was bought by Mitchell and Butler in 2007 and is now one of their "Sizzling Pubs".

The Blackpool Building Society was formed, and it opened its headquarters at 33 to 35 Topping Street on the 3rd of September 1938, calling the building "Building Society Chambers". In 1950 the society was investigated, and in January 1951, an order was made, forbidding it to accept investments. Another investigation in February 1958 found that accounts were being falsified, and as a result the society ceased

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operating later that year. The Topping Street address is currently occupied by the Pets Paradise shop at number 35 and Harry Sutcliffe's Estate Agents at Guardian House in number 33.
Market traders named Queen Vera Road (to the right of Abingdon Street Market, off Cedar Square) after the year's Cotton Queen, Vera Greenwood, who had just made an "official" visit to the market. The street is Blackpool's shortest thoroughfare, and the sign wrongly calls it Queen Vera's Road. Vera Greenwood married Mr Bunn and moved to Poulton, where she died in 2003.
Layton Branch Library was opened to replace the old Reading Room.
The New Victory Social Club on George Street was closed on the 15th of July.
Lockhart's Café opened on the 29th of May, on the corner of Bank Hey and Adelaide Streets. Built in the Modernist style, it had four floors of eating space. Its corner area is now the Coronation Rock shop, and the remainder of the building is occupied by Whittaker's bookshop.
The Abingdon Furnishers, at Abingdon Street Market, was run by Joseph Butterfield and went bankrupt in December.
The recreation ground was laid out at Horseman's Hill, next to the playing fields.
Joseph Greasley's barbers opened on Highfield Road. It closed in 2010 to be replaced by Green's Café.
At Bloomfield Road, the England ladies' football team played France on the 16th of August. This took place despite the FA banning women from playing on Football League grounds in 1921, stating *"…the game of football is quite unsuitable for females and ought not to be encouraged".* The score was 12 – 2 to England.

George Formby: first sang "My Little Stick of Blackpool Rock". It was immediately banned by the BBC for having "suggestive" lyrics. Formby was christened William Hoy Booth, and during the War, he joined the Poulton Home guard as a corporal dispatch rider.

He later had several homes in the area, Garthallen in Mains Lane, Singleton - from the 9th of September 1937, Sullom End near Garstang – from 1945, Linden Lea at 277 Inner Promenade at Granny's Bay in Fairhaven – from 1949, and Cintra – again at 199 Inner Promenade at Fairhaven, from the 22nd of February 1953. George had bought Cintra from Josef Locke, who also owned a chip shop and car showroom in Blackpool, and owned stables with 10-12 horses at the railway end of Sandhurst Avenue. The house was built in 1932. All these houses were renamed "Beryldene" after his wife.
George owned two Rolls Royce limousines, with the registration numbers GF1 and GF2.

After briefly being treated at La Sagesse Hospital, Beryl died of leukaemia in Blackpool Victoria Hospital on the 24th of December 1960. George soon followed, on the 6th of March 1961 after having a second heart attack at the home of his new fiancée Pat Hewson. They were living at Clock House in Lea, to which he had moved to after Beryl's death. He had known and loved Pat for 30 years, and had made a brief recovery, before succumbing in Saint Joseph's Hospital, Preston. At Fairhaven, a public auction was held in June 1961, at "Beryldene" at 199 Inner Promenade, the last home that George and Beryl had shared.

Marks and Spencer, Bank Hey Street – The Edith Centre: Work started, in May, on Marks and Spencer's second Blackpool store on the corner of Albert Road and 76 – 84 Bank Hey Street. Featuring relief sculptures of seagulls in flight over stylised waves along the top of the building, the store opened on the 28th of July 1939.
Shortly after the store opened, the Second World War began, and the ground floor became an RAF clothing depot, with the first floor being converted into offices for the evacuated staff from Marks and Spencer's head office in London. Marks and Spencer closed the store in 1980. According to the Gazette *"The whole site was given the title 'The Edith Centre' after the founder and wife of one of the directors of the property company which purchased the building from M&S in 1980".*

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The building is shared by a McDonald's Restaurant, Poundstretcher. The other unit was occupied by Bon Marché until the company went into administration in October 2019.

Kathleen's Florists opened in the Lido Buildings on Lytham Road.
Talfacto Ltd - manufacturers of "Talfacto" toilets were at 185 Central Drive. They were struck off in 1975.
Streamline Taxis was established at Princess Chambers, 174 the Promenade. They were incorporated on the 7th of January 1947 and moved to 158 Talbot Road in 2009 after merging with Progress Taxis. They then moved to 2 Grasmere Road in 2011. In 2012, Streamline Progress Taxis moved to Topping Street, but closed in October after the company was declared insolvent.
Sudell's animal feeds opened in Coleridge Road's old bus garage. Opposite were railway stables, beside the Bakery, the main set of railway stables being next to the tracks on the site of Mecca Bingo on Talbot Road. On each side of the road, on both corners with George Street were independent churches.
A Christadelphian meeting was held at number 37 George Street in September, having moved from their meeting room which had been at Bolton Street South Shore since at least 1870. Soon afterwards, work began on the meeting hall on Collingwood Avenue.
Several ancient (17th century) cottages were demolished in February, to make way for the widening of Bispham Road. The Post Office on the corner of All Hallow's Road and Red Bank Road was also knocked down, to be replaced by a traffic island.
The Blackpool Chamber of Trade was established at 20 Dickson Road on the 14th of January.
Notarianni's Ice Cream parlour was opened on Waterloo Road by Luigi Notarianni, having opened his original shop some years earlier on Central Promenade. Notarianni Brothers (Blackpool) Limited was then formed on the 3rd of May 1948.
Dale's Fish and Chip Restaurant was in business on Cookson Street.
Frankell's Ice Cream Parlour was operating in Bloomfield Road.

Hesketh's Chippy, Blackpool: Hesketh's Chip Saloon was operating on Adelaide Street. In 1976, Hesketh's Fish and Chip Shop moved across Adelaide Street to take over a new building on the site of Albert House at numbers 26 to 28, calling itself Hesketh's Hot Food Restaurant. This was on the corner with Winifred Street. Everyone knew the place as Hesketh's Chippy.
Dick Hesketh had started the business in Albert Road, and it was taken over in the 1950s by Ismail Gibrail, Dick Witham, and Eric Bellamy.

Maxwell's Restaurant was on Church Street.
W and H Alker opened their solicitor's offices in Blackpool.
There were several caravan sites on Hawes Side Lane. In 1955, one of these held 94 permanent vans. This became Skerryvore caravan Site, which now holds just 19 residential units. Much of its land was sold off for house building.
The Catholic Boys Association (CBA) was founded by Bishop Pearson in Blackpool. "*Ad Altiora*" meaning "The Higher Things" was the club motto. It later became the Achille Ratti Climbing club.
The British Chess Championships were held in Blackpool, won by William Fairhurst. They came again in 1956, 1971, and 1988. Blackpool had also held the General Chess Masters tournament from 1907 to 1910.
The film "Cotton Queen", starring Will Fyffe and Stanley Holloway, was partly filmed at the Pleasure Beach. It had the alternative title of "Crying out Loud".
Magician and Pickpocket, mark Raffles, first appeared on a Blackpool stage, when he entertained at the Palace Theatre in July. He went on the appear at 16 Blackpool theatres and venues – thought to be a record.
An estimated 2 million visitors came to Blackpool.

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The Poulton Municipal bowling green was opened in Vicarage Park. The opening competition was the Blackhurst Cup, which was won by J O'Brian.

Jubilee Gardens, Cleveleys: The town's first true park was opened on North Promenade by Lord Stanley on the 1st of May, to celebrate the Silver Jubilee of King George V.
Initially, Jubilee Gardens had a boating lake, pitch and putt greens, an indoor cafe selling snacks and lollies, a small boating lake (to which pedalos were a popular addition in the 1990s), and a roofed stage area for shows, the first of which was the Miss Jubilee beauty competition in 1937. The children's playground had a slide, two sets of swings, a roundabout, a seesaw, and a paddling pool.
The bandstand was added in 1971.
The playground was renovated in 2006, to include with a children's play area, a skateboard park, and a MUGA - Multi Use Games Area.

The gardens were home to its own miniature railway for many years, running steam locomotives such "The West Riding of Yorkshire" for pleasure rides.

North Promenade was once known as Garfield Road after a large detached house. Garfield House, and the nearby Beachfield House, had been demolished to make space for the park. Previously, the Jubilee Gardens site had been the site of Rossall Preparatory School and of Wilkinson's Beach.

Also, around this time, the Cleveleys Bathing Station was constructed beneath the promenade, level with today's Jubilee Leisure Park. Inside were changing rooms, toilets, and showers, which had glass bricks both at the top of the front wall and in the roof (which was the surface of the Promenade above). It was also used as the base for the Council lifeguard and beach patrol, and as a store for deckchairs.

On the beach in front of the bathing station, for many years, was a wooden slide diving platform. When the tide was low, the slide was used, and when the tide was high, the platform was used. It was wheeled down from its store each day, and stored away during the winter months.

The Royal Hotel, Cleveleys: The Royal Hotel was newly in business on the North Promenade. It was to become a hospital for Polish airmen in World War 2.
By the 1980s, the accommodation had become the Royal Holiday Flats. The Royal had run the "Pebble Bar" (previously the Kings Bar) downstairs for many years. The Thistle Bar was upstairs – briefly called the Royalists Bar. It was transformed into the Royal Venue, which opened on the 22nd of November 2002. The new complex featured the Horizon Bar and Grill (formerly the Windsor Grill), the Mezzaluna Restaurant, a sports bar, and The Enigma nightclub.
The building is now known as The Venue, and the downstairs area is the Spirit Function Suite.
From 2016, the venue began to host an annual Cleveleys Beer Festival.

St Teresa's Roman Catholic Church, Cleveleys: was opened on the corner of St George's Avenue and what became St Teresa's Avenue on the 2nd of May, as a chapel of ease to Thornton. Canon Bamber had acquired the land from the Fleetwood Estate Company and the first sod had been cut on the 27th of April 1936. The parish church was erected on the 20th of June. It was built to hold 250 people, but the sanctuary end was left incomplete, to allow for later expansion. When this was finished, the enlarged church was formally opened by Bishop Flynn in 1957, with the campanile being added in 1963.
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In 1967, Willowdene in Cleveleys became vacant, and the children from Cardinal Allen Primary School on Luton Road were moved into it, still taught by nuns. That convent changed into St Teresa's School on the 6th of November 1972, with 56 pupils, and Willowdene, next door, was classed as temporary accommodation.

In 1975, the Teresian Players were formed, producing plays and pantomimes from St Teresa's Church. The group folded in January 2008.

On the 1st of September 1992, the Willowdene annexe became a separate school. Mrs Yates was appointed as Headteacher of the new school and it opened with 115 pupils on roll. In September 1993, building work commenced on a new two-storey building to replace the temporary accommodation. By this time, the school roll had grown to 123 pupils and the temporary accommodation had become severely overcrowded. In September 1994, the new building was finally completed, and soon opened with 144 pupils on roll.

The Cleveleys Road Club was formed by local cyclists.
The Victoria Arcade was in business on Victoria Road West, with the Victory Penny Arcade on the left and the Mayfair Café and two shops on the other. One of these shops (SC Duckworth and Son, auctioneers) later became Victoria Wines and then Vincent's Café. The centre section was bought by Woolworth's in 1953 and converted into one of their outlets.
The block of shops was built at Crescent West in Cleveleys, to the North of the Orion Cinema. They included Lilian's sweet and tobacco shop (later the Candy Box), the Crescent Garage (later Cleveleys Post Office), and Percy Mather's travel agency. R Bebbington's shop to the North of the garage is now the Crescent Café, and the old post office entrance now gives access to a large furniture and carpet store which fills the main interior.

Thornton Cleveleys Cricket Club: played its first season at the Rugby Ground on Fleetwood Road, as their ground at King George's Playing Field on Victoria Road was not ready. Before World War 2, the pavilion was in the garage of the nearby Ashdell Café, but after the war, the air raid shelter on the edge of the field became the new pavilion and changing rooms. Nowadays, it is also the clubhouse of the Ashdell Bowling and Social Club.
In 1957, the club moved to the present ground at Illawalla after Sir Frederick Emery, who lived at the Illawalla, leased the land overlooking the River Wyre for a period of sixty years at a peppercorn rent. Within 18 months, and with the help of a £700 grant from the Playing Fields Association, members had erected a timber pavilion.

The houses of Lincoln Avenue in Fleetwood were built.

Fleetwood Orphanage: Mrs Mary Wilson prepared her own home to accept needy children and on December the 17th, the Fleetwood Orphanage and Children's Home was formally opened at 52 Adelaide Street, facing St Peter's Church, and the first child arrived. Above the door was written the epithet "Suffer Little Children"
In 1943, the home moved to "The Towers" at 32, the Esplanade, which itself closed in 1954 to become the Masonic Hall. The building had been constructed as a private house in 1847.

Brixham Trawlers Limited moved their base to Fleetwood.
Howarth's Travel opened at 2 Warrenhurst Road in Fleetwood.

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The Marine Hotel (Fleetwood) Ltd was incorporated. It was dissolved in 1960.
Lytham St Anne's last Blue Tram ran from Lytham to Blackpool on April the 28th, with tram number 41 being ceremonially driven by the Mayor of St Anne's. The 11 and 11A bus routes took over from Blackpool.
Whelan's Chip shop opened at 26 Clifton Street in Lytham. They now have a second outlet, Whelan's of Warton, at 150c Lytham Road, Warton.
Bert Stanley erected a wooden pavilion on Lytham Green, and began to put on his own Pierrot shows.
The Fylde branch of Soroptomists International was formed on the 23rd of April.
Kirkham Young Farmers association was formed, first organising a Calf Show.
W Holden was running the Weind bakery in Great Eccleston. He soon set up a self-service mobile shop in a large van, and travelled the local area. Later, as W Holden and Sons, the company opened a general store on Chesham Street. That store is now a branch of the Nisa Loco chain.
Preesall Council purchased its own dustcart in March. They also demolished the Church Club House.

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Preparations began for the much-dreaded war with Germany.
The RAF Volunteer Reserve took over Squires Gate on the 1st of November with more buildings being constructed. The airport had been requisitioned by the Air Ministry in September.
A branch of Civil Air Guard was formed at Stanley Park Aerodrome in August, using their own three aircraft to train civilian pilots.

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Lifeboat men at all four local stations were taught to fire 303 rifles in case they ran into enemies.

King George VI and Queen Elizabeth visited Blackpool and Fleetwood on their Lancashire tour, on the 17th of May.
The Illuminations "One Way" system on the Promenade was reversed, running south to north until 1999. Running in the opposite direction had been in operation since the beginning. At this time, there were two lanes running in each direction. This also changed in 1999.
The Co-op opened two stores on Bank Road in Marton on the 14th of July. One was a butcher's and one a general store. They replaced the 4 cottages which had been built on Flag Causeway (its previous name), which were bought for redevelopment by the Council in 1930. Later, Mr Hanson's barbers shop made way for the central Co-op building. The shops were then joined and since the Co-op left, have variously housed a hairdresser, furniture shop and a computer shop – later the Picture Framing Centre, with Helme's Veterinary Surgery next door at number 6 Newhouse Road.
Fire once more destroyed the Pavilion theatre on North Pier on the 19th of June. Tessie O'Shea helped to fight the fire. A replacement was quickly erected, reopening in 1939.
Lloyds Bank opened on Corporation Street on the 9th of April.
Queens Mansions were built at 224 Queen's Promenade, at the junction with Red Bank Road, as private holiday apartments. In 1975, 14 rental units were created.
The Roxy Private Hotel was at 315 The Promenade, run by Miss Singleton. The building now forms part of today's 140-bedroomed Lyndene Hotel, at 303 to 315 Promenade.
A sign of the increased difference in trade between the holiday season and the closed season is clearly shown when RHO Hill's stopped all hire purchase because of the instability of guesthouse keepers' trade.
Four men were killed on the 31st of March when the concrete floor collapsed onto them during the building of the new Casino at the Pleasure Beach.
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Harrowside Solarium, Blackpool: Work began on the South Promenade Winter Gardens - when it was completed, it was called the Harrowside Sun Parlours (or Solarium) and was used during the War by the WRAF as a meeting place for them and their visiting families.
The solarium was reopened as "Solaris", the Blackpool Centre for Environmental Excellence on the 2nd of November 2004 - a joint venture of the Corporation and Lancaster University.

A similar but smaller sun parlour was built at Bispham. This closed in 2000, and was finally demolished in January 2013 - having been known locally as the Dolls House.

Anchorsholme Methodist Church, Blackpool: was opened on the corner of Luton Road and North Drive on the 28th of May.
In the will of Charlotte Beaumont on the 30th of April 1931, it was stated that she directed "*my trustees upon the death of my sister to convey to the Vicar and Churchwardens of All Hallows Church aforesaid all that plot of land known as the Orchard situated on the sea side of Norbreck Road behind Bispham House aforesaid for the purpose of building a new church*". Subsequently, on the 19th of *"July 1960, Blackpool Corporation granted permission for a Church/Sunday School to be built on North Drive. Plans were drawn up by the architects, Leach, Rhodes and Walker, the site was consecrated by the Bishop of Blackburn on Saturday 28 October 1961, and the church built by R and B Fenton"*. The single-storey church has a versatile worship area, two large halls, and a sanctuary.
On the 26th of January 1989, Reverend Peter Nunn was named as the first Incumbent of the new Parish of Anchorsholme – separate from Bispham for the first time. Also, in 1989, *"a purpose-built Vicarage was then built on the spare land on Neville Avenue with money provided by the Church Commissioners"*.
The church closed in October 2017, due to a decline in the number of worshippers. It is currently for sale as development land.

Highfield Wesleyan Methodist Church, Blackpool: opened on the corner of Mayfield Avenue and Highfield Avenue (now called Scarsdale Avenue) on the 25th of March.

T Southworth's funeral director's office and showroom was at 5 Vicarage Lane. The shop was later taken over by Sam Taylor's cycle shop.
The Methodist chapel on Chapel Street was opened after being rebuilt.
The Progress Sports and Social Club was in Back Ribble Road. It moved to 10-16 Exchange Street in 1946, where its facilities included a ground floor public house/games room, and the first floor held a function/concert room. The Progress Club closed in 2014.
Bailey's Farm on Warbreck Hill Road was demolished, to enable the road to be widened. The bungalows of Cambray Road now fill the farm's site.

The Dominion Cinema, Bispham: Bispham's own cinema opened on the corner of Red Bank Road and York Road on the 18th of June. It had 1,175 seats and the proscenium was 39 feet wide, with a 12-foot stage. There were three dressing rooms. The first showing was Jeanette MacDonald and Nelson Eddie in "Rose Marie". Next-door were a row of shops including Bailey's, Haywood's Butchers, the Midland Bank, and George's Bakery.

The Dominion closed on the 25th of September 1962. The site was used as a car park for four years until being rebuilt as shops. The shops initially were Oyston's Estate Agency, Vander Gowns, Madison's Café, a dress shop, and then a laundrette (known locally as *"the bag wash"*).

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Bispham Clinic: opened on the 8th of February in the old Police accommodation on the eastern end of Red Bank Road next to the Police station.

The foundation stone of the new permanent clinic in Devonshire Road was laid by the Chairman of the Health Committee, Councillor DJ Bailey JP MPS, on the 25th of March 1937. It was named the Bispham Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic, and the opening ceremony took place on the 11th of May 1938. *"The Clinic at the junction of Devonshire Road and Bispham Road was opened by the Chairman of the Health Committee, Councillor D. J. Bailey, J.P. This building consists of a spacious waiting hall, examination, weighing and records rooms, toddlers' room, nurses', and visitors' rooms, together with undressing cubicles, kitchen, stores, and food issue rooms"*.
Bispham Health Centre and Dental Clinic was demolished in February 2012. The Bispham building was replaced by the Langdale Project day care centre, which also took over the old library.

Bispham Library: was opened on the 5th of May on Red Bank Road – the original branch library having opened in 1925. The library moved to the Moor Park Leisure Centre on the 4th of July 2011, having closed at the old site on the 14th of June.

The New Langdale Centre was opened in November 2011, inside the buildings of the former library. It boasts facilities including a sensory pod and a relaxation garden, and replaced the old Langdale Centre, on Langdale Road, in Mereside.

Bispham Railway Station was renamed as Layton on July the 4th.
Tramway loops were built at Starr Gate and Little Bispham.
Houses and shops, including a Co-operative store, Seed's confectioner's, and paper shop (now the Big China takeaway), and Foyle's lending library, were built opposite the Welcome Inn. The inn had started business in the 19th century as a beer house and had its own bowling green.
A Crushing Mill on the west side of Cherry Tree Road was closed. It had made poultry feed grit from discarded oyster shells.
Whipp's Cottage, opposite the Cherry Tree Gardens Hotel was demolished, as was Bank View Farm, opposite Penrose Avenue. Cherry Tree Farm was still going.
Northern comedy plays and shows began to be presented by Jack Rose at the Royal Pavilion theatre in Rigby Road.
Will Hay appeared, as the Head Teacher of St Michael's, on the cover of "The Blackpool Theatregoer" magazine, on March the 21st. The publication was issued weekly to patrons of the Tower and Winter Gardens companies' outlets.
Batty's bakers and confectioners were at 180 Central Drive. The shop was demolished for the construction of Ibbison Court.
The shops on Grange Road in Layton were built.
One of the most popular taxi companies in town were Cititax – telephone 4000.
Poulton Road Brick Works were opposite Blackpool Old Road, to the South of Poulton Road. The site was later to become the bowling green and football fields of the Boundary Park recreation grounds.
Red Lees (then the Sunbeam Home for the Blind) was demolished on the corner of Hornby Road and Park Road. The Fylde Water Board later built part of its headquarters there.

The Castle Hotel, Blackpool: was built on Central Drive - its licence came, soon afterwards, from the Castle Inn that had stood on Market Street. The site had previously held Lawrence Wright's music shop. In the 1970s, it was home to Joplin's Piano Bar during the winter months, with Roy Rolland on the piano.

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Harridge's Ladies Outfitters was on the corner of 55 to 59 Victoria Street and Coronation Street, selling haute couture such as Lyndale. It was replaced a branch of the New Day furniture chain, and a Pizzaland restaurant was opened on the site in 1981.

The Squires Gate Hotel, Blackpool: This isolated hotel was opened at the bottom of Squires Gate Lane. The original plans included a 100-car underground garage. It was built as a Magee Ales pub, and from 1958, Greenall's Brewery took over both the brewery and the pub.

The Lemon Tree Casino was opened by the Levine family above the hotel in 1966. It started on just one floor, but with its El Patio Coffee Shop, the casino, the popular Mexican Bar (playing Northern Soul music, and originally called the Spanish bar), the Club Room with its Bridge disco (originally the Bit o' Lemon disco) and Pagoda Room upstairs with a revolving stage, graced by DJs Simon Tate etc. It eventually used all three floors. It became one of the area's favourite nightspots until it was closed in 1983.

The Squires Gate Hotel reopened briefly in 1987, but the whole building was demolished in 1992, and the Lemon Tree Court apartments were built in its place, opening in 1993.

The Oxford Cinema, Marton: Arthur Hall opened his new cinema on the 17th of June, on the site of the Oxford Hotel gardens, between the hotel and the Car Showroom. Built by South Shore Theatres Limited, it held 1,140.
There was a massive fire there in 1956, and, despite being re-built, audiences still fell. 417,000 went in 1950, but only 130,00 in 1959.
it closed on the 22nd of October 1960, with the last showing being "Hercules Unchained" starring Steve Reeves.

By September 1962, it had been fully taken over by Thomas Motors, as an extension to their adjacent Car Showroom. It then became a CSL furniture showroom (which closed on the 18th of March 2015, after a short sale), with the only remaining part of the cinema visible being the single storey entrance to the left of CLS – the cinema stairs went straight up from that entrance to the auditorium at the rear – which was demolished by 1994. Its last vestiges were demolished in 2015, to make room for a new Gregg's outlet and an ALDI store, which opened on the 19th of November.
The cinema frontage, and its carved stonework, was re-created as the walls of Gregg's.

Hawes Side Library and Hawes Side Clinic, Blackpool: Hawes Side Branch Library was opened on the 5th of May. It closed in October 2004.

On the 11th of May, the Hawes Side Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic was opened - *"The Clinic at Hawes Side Lane, erected on land kindly given by Miss M. Millington, daughter of the late Alderman Fred W. Millington, J.P., was opened by Mrs. Councillor Mabel A. Quaide, Mayoress, and Chairman of the Maternity and Child Welfare Sub-Committee. The accommodation of this Centre provides facilities similar to those at the northern end of the borough".*
Hawes Side Health Centre and Dental Clinic was demolished in February 2012.
In May 2018, Blackpool Council awarded a 10-year lease to Hexagon Care Services, to open a small school for 25 children in the building.

Lancashire Cash Bakery opened its new plant on Threlfall Road on the 25th of June. It had already been on the site for over 20 years. The company was the major local baker of Mother's Pride bread and was wound

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up in 1978. The premises were then purchased by RHM Bakeries (Northern) Ltd, and are now closed, with the space being occupied by various industrial units.
Bentley's Central Drive Garage was in business at numbers 333-337, with space for 250 cars and selling petrol and oil. Becoming Wilson's car sales and garage in the late 1950s, the site was taken over by the ASMO Motor Group in the 1980s – selling Audi and Volkswagen cars - and later, Dixon's Garage/Corton Beach filling station.
Blackpool and Fylde Aero Club Limited was formed at Squires Gate on the 10th of August.
Bram Martin was appointed musical director for Lawrence Wright's annual production of "On with the Show" on Blackpool's North Pier.
The Revue "All the best" was at the Opera House, with Stanley Holloway, and the Ice Revue "Switzerland" was on stage at the Grand.
Turnbull's photography salon was in operation on Victoria Street.
Tony's Milk and Snack Bar opened on the 30th of April, on the corner of Dickson road and Queen Street. It remained in business until the 1990s and is now occupied by Mark Knight Property Management.

The Dickson Bar, Blackpool: was opened, on the corner of Wilton Avenue and the Imperial Hotel. It was fondly known as the Imperial Arms and had an L-shaped bar room. It closed in about 1990.

Australia played an England Cricket XI in Blackpool in a 3-day match from the 31st of August. Australia won by 10 wickets.
The RAC Rally started from the Promenade outside the Metropole Hotel and was won by Jack Harrop. It was also started in Blackpool in 1954 and 1956.
Charles Ingham started his solicitor's practice at 2 Caunce Street. This evolved into today's company of Ingham, Clegg, and Crowther. In 1994, the company had a second office at 12 Queens Square in Poulton.
Ellis Cycles was at 117 Whitegate Drive. They were agents for Dawes, BSA, New Hudson, and Elswick cycles, and also sold His Master's Voice, Columbia, and Marconiphone radios. This shop is currently the Pine Tree furniture shop.

Elaine Smith: was born in Blackpool. She was the first Miss Blackpool in 1954, and her father George was a Blackpool policeman. She was later known by the stage name of Heller Torren, married TV star Jess Yates on the 30th of June 1958, and was the mother of TV star Paula Yates. Elaine later changed her name again to Helene Thornton and became a famous author. Paula Yates' father was later proved, by a DNA test disputed by Elaine, to be TV presenter Hughie Green.

Lennie Bennett: Michael Berry was born in Blackpool on the 26th of September. He attended Palatine School, and worked on the Gazette, living on Solway Close, then Holmfield Avenue in Cleveleys. He changed his name to Lennie Bennett and became a famous comedian. A brief foray into commerce saw him open the Fat B*stards burger bar on the promenade. He died on the 8th of April 2009.

Paul Bootherstone was born in Blackpool on the 7th of May. In the Falklands war of 1982, he won the Distinguished Service Cross as commander of HMS Arrow, the frigate that rescued the crew of the doomed destroyer HMS Sheffield.
David Whitaker was born in Blackpool and studied art at the Blackpool and Fylde Art School before moving to London in the 1950s to be a famous graphic designer.
Blackpool footballer, Jimmy Hampson, was killed in a boat off Fleetwood on the 10th of January. Jimmy, of Kenwyn Avenue, is still Blackpool's record goal scorer, with 252 in 373 games. He also scored 5 goals in 3 games for England in a short international career.

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Nellie Boswell died at her home, 11 Cyprus Grove, Blackpool, on the 21st of May. She was a circus horse rider who rode for Hengler's circus. She was famous for playing, on horseback, a Newhaven fishwife, then a jolly young waterman, and thirdly Rob Roy McGregor. She changed her costumes with great rapidity and danced a hornpipe and a Scottish reel with as much ease as if she were on terra firma.

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Poulton's first public bowling green was opened in June in the Memorial Park.
Poulton District's rubbish was disposed of at the tip at Skippool Marsh.
There was still one Common Lodging House in Poulton, catering for 38 *"unfortunates"*.
The sea wall at Rossall was completed and groynes were built on the beach.

The Olympia amusement arcade, Cleveleys: This complex was purpose-built on the site of the Cleveleys Inn, but before it could be used, it was taken over by the Home Guard.
In 1945, it was bought by Albert Mason who opened it as Mason's Amusements, in 1958, Cleveleys' earliest house (built in about 1880) was demolished to make way for an extended amusement arcade.
In 1966, he built Children's Corner opposite, after taking over the loss-making Cleveleys Arena from the council.
He also bought the Odeon Cinema and turned to it into Orion Bingo - complete with a bar, which was renamed Albert's Bar after his death.

Thornton Library: was opened at Four Lane Ends on the 19th of November, by Sir Percy Meadon, Director of Education for Lancashire. It had been designed by the County Architect Stephen Wilkinson and replaced a library in premises on Fleetwood Road North, which are now used by Social Services.
The library was closed by Lancashire County Council in May 2017, but was re-opened on the 26th of February 2018, by a community group.

Thornton Lecture Hall, attached to the library, was also opened on the old Strickland's Field. It is now known as the "Little Theatre".

Next door to Thornton Library, for many years, stood a house called Villa Mar. This was a large bungalow-type residence owned by Mr TH Bennett, who ran a garage on Church Street in Blackpool. The house had been built beside a large pond and had its own stables and riding paddock. The house was demolished after Bennett's death, and the site was cleared in 2006 to make way for the gated Mill View development of detached houses.
Thornton Health Clinic was built on Church Road.
A haulage business was opened at Dorset Avenue, Cleveleys, by Harry and Jim Barlow and Jim Worthington. The company later became Builder's Supplies Limited. In 1991, the company opened a second depot on Kilbane Street in Fleetwood.
Cleveleys Thornton Motors were on Victoria Road in Cleveleys, boasting of *"1938 equipment throughout"*. They sold all makes of cars, were Simplex agents, and sold Mobil fuels. The building is currently the Cleveleys Car Market.
Brixham Trawlers Limited was formed in Fleetwood.
Carl Wray was operating his barber's shop on the corner of Blakiston Street and Warren Street in Fleetwood. The shop closed in 1990, when run by his son Ken.
Albert Baker built a row of six shops next to the Fleetwood Ferry office. They were commandeered by the American army in 1940, and taken over by British Rail in 1965, to be sold on to private bidders.
Greenwood's Ferry Restaurant was next door – they owned a second café at Knott End, in the old railway station buildings.
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Gwydr House School was at 20 Victoria Road, St Anne's with its principal, Mrs P Dawson. By 1943, it had moved to 443 Clifton Drive North. It closed in 1976.
The King George V playing fields were opened on Heeley Road in St Anne's, complete with a bowling green and pavilion.
Lytham Round Table was formed.
Frederick Edward Robin Butler was born on the 3rd of January, in Lytham, the son of the managing director of a paint manufacturing firm. He became a Cabinet Secretary and the Head of the Civil Service, before being knighted in 1988 and made Lord Butler of Brockwell in 1998, and a Knight of the Garter in 2003.
The Rotary Club of Kirkham and Rural Fylde was formed, with its title being chosen to recognise the ten rural parishes, and the urban districts of Kirkham and Wesham. The meeting at which its formation was decided had been held on the 26th of May 1937 at the Carr Hill Hotel.
The Kirkham Maternity and Child Welfare Centre was on Station Road and Mellor Road.
Quinney's café/restaurant was newly-opened at 849 Blackpool Road in Lea, being built by Jack Swarbrick. It had its own sprung wooden dance floor. The building later became a pub called the Pig and Whistle, which is currently a Crown Carvery outlet.
Manchester's Ringway Airport was opened on the 25th of June, to compete with Blackpool.

World War Two - 1939 to 1945

Many bombs fell on Blackpool and the Fylde during the conflict and I have detailed these in Appendix W, along with several notable air crashes.

All evening shows at cinemas and theatres had to end by 9.30 pm, as the whole of the Fylde coast blacked out for safety.
The places of entertainment owned by the Blackpool Tower and Winter Gardens Company gave a Forces reduced admission price of 6d.
Jack Simmons introduced hamburgers to Blackpool, after seeing the market amongst the visiting US servicemen.
House building in Blackpool came to a standstill during the War.
Singer and comedian Max Bygraves made his first ever radio broadcast from the Jubilee Theatre, in "Aircraftman Smith Entertains". Other shows from the Jubilee included the BBC's TV show "Music for Pleasure".
While all the resorts on the South coast were closed for fear of invasion, Blackpool remained open for business – and it flourished in spite of the hardships suffered by all.

Blackpool Grammar had allotments on the "Flashings" (a rural English name for areas of water in large tracts of marsh. These were behind Layton on what is now Kingscote Park) to supply their own food, and pupils from all secondary schools were sent out to help on local farms.
Barricades were built on the Promenade to foil invaders, old tram tracks were placed upright in the sands, public air raid shelters were constructed on the Promenade and elsewhere, and open-air water tanks built all over Blackpool in case of bomb damage to water pipes.
A total of 1,768 public air raid shelters were built on the instructions of the Corporation. By August 1941 there was room for 14,000 people in public shelters, 50,000 in communal surface shelters, 9,800 in basement shelters, and 16,500 in school shelters. There were over 100 shelters being built every week, as well as hundreds of Anderson or Morrison shelters that people were building in their own gardens.
Beach defences were erected at Squires gate to protect the airfield from attacks from the sea.
The piers had gaps made in them, to prevent invaders from walking the full length.
North Pier was commandeered by the RAF.
Segments of the Promenade were roped off daily to provide marching drill areas for soldiers.

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The word 'Blackpool' was painted out on signs in the town, to confuse the enemy should they come ashore during any invasion.
Tree trunks on roadsides were whitewashed to make them visible during blackouts.

The Home Guard: Blackpool Home Guard – initially called the Local Defence Volunteers – was formed.
The Blackpool 7th Battalion Home Guard was attached to the 10th King's Own Royal Regiment, and the headquarters of one of the battalions was in two commandeered camping coaches near Central Station.
Their Commander during the War was Lieutenant Colonel Eric Read.
The Blackpool detachment was one of the few that had female members – two.
In August 1940, the full-formed detachment marched past the Zone commander, Lieutenant General Sir James O'Dowd.
The Blackpool Home Guard carried out an exercise on the beach on the 16th of May 1943, to practise repelling invaders.
The Blackpool Home Guard Association was formed on the 1st of June 1964, closing in August 1975.

In Poulton, the Local Defence Volunteers first met in the police station, under the command of Major Harold Hunter. They posted a nightly guard on top of the tower of St Chad's Church, as well as guarding local important sites and bridges, and using Illawalla as a guard post.
On the 29th of August 1942, the brigade held a fund-raising field day, raising enough money to fund an ambulance for the town – George Formby opened the event (at the outbreak of war, he had joined the Poulton Home Guard as a dispatch rider).
Staining Mill was used as a Home Guard lookout post.
The newly-built Olympia amusements complex in Cleveleys was taken over by the local Home Guard squad for the duration.
The Lytham St Anne's Observer Corps was formed, and the Lytham Home Guard had a small training facility around Moss Side brickworks. In 1941, F (Lytham) Company Home Guard won the Morrell Cup.
Kirkham Home Guard, led by Major T Durkin worked from Church Memorial House. They had an Anti-Aircraft gun (AA gun) in the Market Square for the duration.

The Home Guard was stood down from duty in late 1944, and formally disbanded in December 1945.

AA guns were positioned around town – for example, the heavy gun battery in the fields between Lytham Road and St Anne's Road. It was unarmed in 1942 but had GL Mark 1A radar. One of the units was manned by the 227th Regiment of the Royal Artillery. A further heavy battery was located on the cliffs near St Stephen's church.
Spitfires were based at Squires Gate to protect Liverpool from the Luftwaffe. A full list of the RAF sections stationed at Squires Gate during the war is given at Appendix U.
Squires Gate became a Coastal Command Centre to monitor ships in the Irish Sea.
The Aerodromes at Squires Gate and Stanley Park were major targets on Luftwaffe attack maps; Squires Gate was bombed several times, but Stanley Park was not.

The Hitler "seaside playground" Myth: An often-quoted tale, is that Hitler wanted Blackpool as his own seaside playground after his conquest. As part of Operation Sealion, he wanted to base his paratroopers at Squires Gate after landing them in Stanley Park – the Italian Gardens were to be used as a target, as the paths made a perfect compass. The tale is a total MYTH.

Women were used to drive trams and buses, and many worked as porters on the railways.
The town's trams were repainted a uniform green, as cleaning material for the cream portions was scarce.

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Blackpool Tower was used by the Chief of Police to checked Blackout conditions.
A Replica of the Tower was built on the hills of North Wales, to confuse the German pilots.
Lord Haw Haw announced that the Luftwaffe had bombed Blackpool Tower, completely destroying it. It was even said that picture of the tower lying on the sands alongside Central Pier had been published in German newspapers. To no one's surprise the tower was seen next morning in its usual place; one wit remarked that our engineers must have been extremely busy during the night getting it back into position.
RAF recruits were received in Luna Park before being sent to their billets.
769,673 airmen were given their initial training in the Winter Gardens.
31,743 WAAFs were stationed in Blackpool.
The Prefect Hotel on Queen's Drive housed WRNS from HMS Inskip.
The RAF used the Tower Ballroom for aerobics, and once a week the airmen were marched to either the Lido or Derby Baths for a shower and/or a naked swim.
The Empress Ballroom was used as a large gymnasium.
The Brighton Hydro Hotel on South Promenade became a temporary local RAF headquarters building, complete with armed guards. The rank and file airmen were billeted in South Shore, whilst the officers were at North Shore.
The Salvation Army opened a servicemen's canteen on Market Street.
The Jubilee Theatre was used as a wartime recording studio by the BBC. The BBC's Roy Lumley later revealed "Between the time we recorded the show and the time it was due on air, the theatre burned down and all the scenery and costumes were destroyed, an event that made front page news all over the country. But there, on Radio Normandy, were Bertini and his Band, and the Five Sherry Brothers and Tessie O'Shea, and all the rest of the big cast, still performing on a stage that no longer existed".
The Tower Circus and Opera House were used for Royal Artillery lectures and training films.
The John Smith's Brewery on Ibbison Street briefly housed Italian prisoners.

Gone for a Burton: Olympia Amusement Arcade (the Promenade's first such building) and Burton's Ballroom were used to train wireless operators. Two and a half thousand airmen at a time were trained in Morse code. The phrase "gone for a burton" was coined above the Burton shop in Church Street, where there was an office for testing RAF wireless operators on Morse code. The test was dreaded, and later the phrase described anything from cancelled leave to death in action. Morse code was also taught in the converted Feldman's Ballroom.
Burton's Ballroom was also used for kitting out squaddies who were to go to the Far East. Many of them received their "Bombay Bowler" helmets there.

The Horseshoe Promenade, the oldest part of the Winter Gardens, was used for kit inspections and pay parades, with more than 34,000 men being paid in one day.
Passing Out parades were held on Princess Parade.
At North Shore Golf Course, RAF personnel worked on the "back nine" of the Golf Links. A fence was erected across the centre of the of the site and the landward side was designated temporary arable farmland, first for grazing sheep and then being ploughed up and planted with wheat. The seaward half was criss-crossed with trenches intended to obstruct *"planes or gliders that might attempt to land"*. The Golf Links were later restored to their former glory with the assistance of Italian prisoners of war.
Stanley Park, Cleveleys Hydro, and Norbreck Hydro golf courses were all used for sheep grazing.
Revoe Park was used to gather all scrap metal donated for salvage.
St John's Market and larger stores, such as Hills, were used as an RAF kit issue store. Many London tailors had moved to town and were used constantly to alter regulation uniforms to make them more wearable.
The Pleasure Beach housed RAF tents on its south side, and Wellington bomber machine gun turrets and Spitfire parts were made in its workshops – one of the foremen was future author Desmond Bagley. Part

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of the site was used for military training, and as a result, one of the wooden fishes off Noah's Ark was "borrowed". It travelled to many countries during the conflict before being returned.
The Raikes Garage on Church Street was used to store cardboard coffins and for Morse code training and as a WAAF medical room.
The main NAAFI was located on Talbot Road. The building now houses a Shoemarket store. The Central Naafi was opposite Central Station, and South Shore Naafi was at the Cramonde Café.
Air Raid Wardens from throughout the northwest were trained in town streets and at Squires Gate. The senior ARP Warden throughout the War was Councillor Jack Hill.
The ARP ran a "model" Air Raid Shelter in the basement of the Co-operative Society warehouse on Charnley Road. The colonnades under the Metropole were bricked in to provide extra air raid shelters. In one of these, on the 25th of July 1944, US Army Private Thomas Montoya, murdered Bispham woman Joan Long.
Blackpool Fire Station was used to train the Lancashire Fire Service women's gymnastics team.
Talbot Road Bus Station's upper floor was used by the RAF's Number 3 SOFTT (School of Technical Training), and Vickers Armstrong set up a factory on the other floors (the outside walls had been painted grey for camouflage. The building had its own Forces Canteen.
The Talbot Hotel's bowling green was dug up for use as a lorry park.
The Air Raid sirens were sounded 137 times during the War - the first time was September the 2nd 1940, and the last time the all clear sounded was March 1945.
A Servicewomen's Club was set up in Queen Street, run by the Catholic Women's League.
Over 100 women enrolled as ambulance drivers under the Women's Voluntary Service, being taught mechanics, air raid precautions, and gas drill at the Blackpool Corporation Driving School.
The Air Ministry's local office was also on Queen Street, and 60 local girls and older women administered the payment of meal allowances to thousands of local hotels and boarding houses where RAF trainees had been billeted. The office later moved to the top floor of the Co-op Emporium.
RAF Police were at all stations and on the roads from St Anne's and Blackpool to Preston. Buses and coaches were stopped, and anyone caught without a pass was returned to Blackpool.
Blackpool became the RAF's largest training area, with extra camps at Kirkham and Weeton. The Kirkham camp also housed the RAF's Tuberculosis hospital for the course of the war.
229th AA Driving Training Regiment (RA) was based at Warbreck Hill Road.
Observers were stationed in many of the Fylde's windmills as well as on Blackpool Tower.
Many of Blackpool's German and Italian performers were interned on the Isle of Man as a precaution - such as Charlie Cairoli who went in June 1940, until he received a French passport, and was allowed to return in the October.
Blackpool sponsored 10 Churchill Tanks during Tank Week.

Evacuees: During the Second World War, tourism reduced but Blackpool welcomed over 90,000 official evacuees (plus many unofficial ones) – 53,000 of whom were children. Blackpool Council introduce a Billeting Scheme in January 1939 and appointed a Corporation Billeting Officer. Based at the Municipal Health Centre, he arranged for them to be housed in requisitioned hotels and many private houses. Their education continued, but school accommodation was short - Revoe School, for example, was so full, that the overflow had to be taught in the Gospel Hall in Salthouse Avenue. More famous evacuees included author Jack Rosenthal, Alan Coren, Millicent Martin (who appeared in the Children's Pantomime), and Barbara Windsor (born Barbara Ann Deeks), who learned to dance in Blackpool at Madame Behenna's Juvenile Jollities. Barbara attended Norbreck Primary School for that year only, whilst living on Delphene Avenue.
The Chief Billeting Officer for the Council was based at the Municipal Health Centre on Whitegate Drive.
Blackpool's first evacuees arrived on the 2nd of September 1939, from St James's School in Salford.

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At the start of 1939, six fully trained nurses were sent from Manchester to help treat the evacuees.
The medical Officer of health revealed that *"The resultant influx into the town of great numbers of women and children led to the temporary suspension of measures designed to prevent overcrowding in boarding and apartment houses"*.
In 1941, many children evacuated from other towns had tuberculosis. The admissions to the sanitorium increased by 23.9% during the year.
Many schoolchildren from out of town were educated in local schools. For example, pupils from John Street Council School in Salford shared St John's School.
Arnold School took in many evacuees from the Manchester Central High School. Locals were taught in the mornings, and evacuees in the afternoons.
From 1939, Waterloo School shared their accommodation with Lily Lane Infants of Manchester and Simms Cross of Widnes.
950 evacuees and their teachers were accommodated at Bispham Endowed School
Collegiate Girls School was given pupils from the Central High School for Girls in Manchester in 1939, and in 1943, pupils from Stretford High School.
Highfield School was so full that afternoon lessons for some children were given on the balcony at the Lido Baths.
De La Salle College was evacuated from Manchester to Blackpool, and a shift system was put in place at St Joseph's School, with local pupils from 8am to 1pm, and De La Salle from 1pm to 6pm.
Carleton School received 110 evacuees from Salford on the 4th of September 1939, and on the 1st of September 1941, it received an additional 30 children from Didsbury.
Thornfield Holiday Camp in Staining was requisitioned to house gypsies and other travellers whose lifestyles were not compatible with the restrictions of the war. The camp had been founded in the early years of the century as a collection of wooden chalets, and still exists today. The site also housed a blacksmith, and its Sunnyside café was built in 1967.
Thornton Cleveleys Senior Council School became home for refugee children from Manchester in September. Pupils from Cavendish Senior School and Didsbury Central School came to share the boys' part, and girls from All Saints School and Chorlton-cum-Hardy Central School shared the girls'.
Fleetwood Grammar School was shared with pupils from Wade Deacon School in Widnes.
Fleetwood also took many Belgian and Danish refugees during the war, along with children evacuated from Salford.
43 children were evacuated to St Anne's from the Home Counties.
In September 1939, 340 evacuees arrived at Queen Mary School in Lytham from Levenshulme and Runcorn High Schools. The timetable was split half-time 9 am – 1 pm, and 1 pm – 5 pm the following week so that all the pupils could be taught. Nine air raid shelters, made of concrete and covered in sand, were created in the grounds each designed to hold 50 people. At the same time, 300 evacuees from Runcorn and Chorlton High Schools arrived at King Edward School, a school designed to accommodate 250 boys.
On the 31st of March 1947, the Government Evacuation Scheme was terminated.

The Billeting Officer's Report of 1947 summarised the evacuation arrangements as follows:
"*1939. Survey of the town carried out.* (This estimated that 109,000 properties would be made available)
Original evacuation from Manchester and Salford areas, Widnes, Runcorn, and part of Liverpool.
Organisation of Maternity Homes comprising 900 beds.
Establishment of creches, cleansing station and skin hospital.
Formation of Billeting tribunals.
Arrival of Civil Servants.

1940. Sanitary administration associated with the billeting of the Armed Forces.

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Further evacuation from South East England.
Requisitioning of houses for members of the priority groups commenced.
Organisation of Recreation and Welfare Centre.
Establishment of Hostels for children and homeless persons.
Billetees arrived from Coastal areas.
Emergency Feeding Centre started.

1941. Crash evacuation from Manchester and Salford.
Billeting of Munition Workers commenced.
Requisitioning of houses for munition workers commenced.
Establishment of post-natal hostels.

1942. Further billeting survey of the town.
Establishment of Hostels for complete school units.
Two soldiers' Hostels opened.

1943. Organisation of Ministry of Labour Hostel (30 beds) (for housing young female directed labour).
Organisation of M.A.P. Hostel (90 beds).
Enuresis Hostel commenced.

1944. Further extensive organised evacuation from London.
Heavy influx of evacuees from Coastal area.
Establishment of further Recreation and Welfare Centre.
Communal Wash House commenced.
Additional feeding centre established.

1945. Return of organised parties of evacuees to their homes.
Requisitioning of houses for Blackpool inadequately housed persons".

Evacuation of Government staff: 1,700 Civil Servants initially were moved out of London for their protection, laying the foundations for a future large Civil Service presence in the area. The government requisitioned 45 seafront hotels to house them. In total, over 4,000 Civil Servants, from nine Government Departments, came to the Fylde and it was here that the "Welfare State" was first envisioned.
The Department of Health was moved from London. Staff were told that the whole department was to be evacuated to a mysterious "XJ" that turned out to be Blackpool. The Department took over all the big hotels, and Rossall School, as offices. The students from Rossall were all relocated to Naworth Castle in the Lake District for the duration.
Civil servants sent to Blackpool were known as *"Guinea Pigs"*, because the Billeting Allowance paid to their landladies was one guinea per week, meant to buy them two meals per day and their accommodation.
The Board of Trade's Standards and Companies Departments were evacuated to the Bedford Hotel at North Shore for the duration of the War, as was the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.
The Imperial Hotel was taken over by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, which retained control until 1953. The HM Customs and Excise Accountant and Comptroller General's Office was also housed there for the duration.
The Grand Hotel on Station Road was used as Government Offices.

The General Register Office was evacuated from London to Blackpool.

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The Queen's Hydro was taken over by the India Stores Department. Its Indian staff members were quite a novelty in a town, which had, until then, only seen non-white people in shows.
The Sunday school of the Banks Street Unitarian Free Church was used as the RAF Medical Centre for the duration.
The Government also requisitioned 5,000 other hotels and boarding houses as billets for the thousands of airmen (and later, the American Army Air Corps). By 1943, the town had provided billets for:

American Army Air Force – 449
Amy Officers – 210
Army Nursing Sisters – 55
Army Technical Group – 587
British Expeditionary Force – 6,229
French Naval Officers – 113
Military Police – 10
Polish Personnel - 18,183
RASC – 16
Royal Air Force – 76,9,673
Royal Artillery – 25,114
Royal Engineers – 1,873
WAAF – 21,156
WRNS – 120

The Florence Hotel and the Northcliffe Hotel were taken over by the Ministry of Works and Planning on the 7th of September 1939 – all furniture was removed and burnt before it was refitted to take the soldiers. They were derequisitioned in 1946.
In 1941, the Ministry of Food took over the Fernley Hotel on North Promenade as the Blackpool Food Office. Ration books and clothing coupons were issued from here.

Evacuee Maternity Provision:

I have provided much detail on this matter in view of the large number of children born in these homes, who might need to aid their research.

In 1939, the Ministry of Health introduced the Emergency Maternity Homes scheme, and the Blackpool Medical Officer of Health announced: *"Prior to the outbreak of hostilities arrangements were made for the reception of expectant mothers from Manchester, Salford and Liverpool. With the evacuation on the 30th August, 1939, thirteen establishments, mainly large Boarding Houses, were equipped as Maternity Homes and one as a Maternity Hospital, with a total bed accommodation of 500. At the 31st December, 1939, 1,172 evacuees had been confined".*

By the beginning of 1940, it was also necessary to establish certain ancillary Homes for such things as skin conditions, sick children, and a residential nursery.
The official Blackpool Health Report in 1940 shows the following was the state of some of these:

Puerperal Hospital, Grundy Home – opened 09.09.1939, closed 02.02.1940
Residential Nursery, 584, Lytham Road – opened 23.10.1940
Sick Bay, 56, Reads Avenue – opened 09.01.1940, closed 12.12.1940
Skin Hospital, Old Red Lion Hotel, Bispham - opened 17.02.1940
Post-Natal Hospital, 214, Whitegate Drive – opened 28.09.1940, closed 07.10.1940
Sick Children's Hospital, "Greystones" - opened October 1939

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The Kimberley Hotel on New South Promenade was also used as a Maternity Hospital, with its dance floor being converted to a maternity ward. The Cloverley Hotel at 160 Reads Avenue fulfilled the same function for some years.

The Medical Officer of Health stated in 1940, that *"Prior to 1940 Blackpool maternity cases were admitted to the Maternity Block at the Infectious Diseases Hospital. With the establishment for the Ministry of Health of the Emergency Maternity Hospital Scheme, Blackpool patients were accommodated in one of the requisitioned premises from August, 1939, until February, 1940, after which they were admitted to the main hospital under the Emergency Scheme and an adjustment in costs made with the Ministry"*.

The end of 1940 saw just two emergency maternity hospitals remaining in use. *"These were at Glenroyd and The New Central. On the 1st January, 1941, the provision of bed accommodation was increased by the reopening of the Caledonian, being further augmented on the 29th May, 1941, by the opening for the second time of the Kimberley. As circumstances demanded the auxiliary institutions were opened or closed, and during the year under review the following changes were effected"*:
Puerperal Hospital, Grundy Home – opened 07.04.1941
Residential Nursery, Wood Street Mission – opened 01.04.1941
Residential Nursery, 225 Whitegate Drive – opened 20.09.1941
Residential Nursery, 56 Reads Avenue – opened 18.02.1941, closed 13.05.1941, opened 26.06.1941, closed 28.10.1941
Enuresis Hostel, 26 Withnell Road – opened 20.10.1941
Post-natal Hostel, 118 Coronation Street - opened 15.07.1941, closed 15.11.1941
Sick Bay, 214 Whitegate Drive – opened 08.04.1941, closed 16.08.1941
Post-natal Hostel 214, Whitegate Drive – opened 17.08.1941
Residential Nursery, 584 Lytham Road – opened 16.09.1941

By the end of 1941, just four Emergency Maternity Homes were available for Blackpool and Evacuee Expectant Mothers, these being Glenroyd, New Central, Caledonian, and Kimberley.
Of these, the Kimberley closed on the 24th of March 1942, and the Caledonian on the 27th of June 1942.

The situation changed again in 1943, as follows:
Sick Bay (children) 584 Lytham Road – opened 18.04.1943, closed 02.10.1943
Residential Nursery " " " closed 17.04.1943
Ante and Post-Natal Hostel, Ex-Servicewomen, 59 Holmfield Road – closed 28.08.1943
Puerperal Hospital, Grundy Home - closed 20.02.1943
Enuresis Hostel, 26 Withnell Road - closed 22.04.1943
Sick Children's Hospital, Greystones - closed August 1943

1944 saw the re-opening of the Caledonian and the Kimberley *"on the 29th and 22nd July respectively. The former was again closed on the 7th October and the latter on the 24th of the same month. Of the other establishments whose facilities form an integral part of the Service, the following Institutions remained open during the year or were put into commission or closed as circumstances dictated".* Three stayed open throughout the Year. They were: Residential Nursery at the Wood Street Mission, the Skin Hospital in the Old Red Lion Hotel at Bispham, and the Ante and Post-Natal Hostel (ex-Service women) at 59 Holmfield Road.
Those put into or out of Commission during the year were:
Residential Nursery, 225 Whitegate Drive – opened 26.07.1944
Residential (Short-stay) Nursery, Bispham Holiday Camp – opened 30.08.1944, closed 07.10.1944

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Post-natal Hostel, 225 Whitegate Drive – opened 30.08.1944, closed 16.10.1944
Residential Nursery in the Staff Billet, at Bispham Holiday Camp - actually at Beach Lawn, 302, Queen's Drive – opened 30.08.1944, closed 07.10.1944
Post-natal Hostel, 81/83 Read's Avenue - opened 10.09.1944, closed 14.10.1944
Post-natal Hostel, 214 Whitegate Drive - closed 29.04.1944
Ante and Post-Natal Hostel, Greystones, Lytham Road – opened 22.07.1944

During 1945, the Glenroyd and the New Central stayed open all year, and no more homes were then needed. Other changes that year were:
Residential Nursery, Wood Street Mission – closed 18.07.1945
Residential Nursery, 225 Whitegate Drive - closed 20.01.1945
Residential Nursery, 225 Whitegate Drive – opened 25.07.1945, closed 25.10.1945
Skin Hospital, Old Red Lion Hotel - closed 31.08.1945
Ex-servicewomen's Ante- and Post-Natal Hostel, 59 Holmfield Road – closed 04.05.1945
Ex-servicewomen's Ante- and Post-Natal Hostel, Greystones, Lytham Road – closed after the war

The Emergency Maternity Homes scheme was discontinued at the end of the war, and the Local Authority took over the financial responsibility for the management of Glenroyd and New Central as Maternity Homes with accommodation for approximately seventy cases. The following were the numbers of cases admitted to the homes since 1940: 1940 – 576, 1941 – 815, 1942 – 881, 1943, 858, 1944 – 884, 1945, 913, and 1946 – 1324.
The New Central was closed on the 31st of March, and Glenroyd officially became Blackpool's Corporation Maternity Home, receiving all new expectant mothers from the town.

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Cleveleys Hydro was taken over by the Ministry of Pensions as their Pensions Issue Office. It had been used as an RAF hospital before being used by the Ministry. However, in 1941, the Warbreck Hill complex of offices was opened, and Cleveleys Hydro was vacated. The Warbreck Hill offices were completely rebuilt between 1989 and 1993. Cleveleys Hydro was taken over again, this time by the Ministry of National Insurance, on the 9th of February 1946.
Brianholme – a large house at Cleveleys – was requisitioned as an Emergency Hospital.
Pupils from Alleyn's School in Dulwich, London were evacuated to Rossall School in September 1943.
The Cabinet Office Historical Section moved to Lytham St Anne's on the 15th of November 1939, where it stayed until April 1942, when it moved to the National Library of Wales in Aberystwyth.
Foreign consulates relocated to the houses on Queens Terrace in Fleetwood for the duration.
Buildings on Moorland Road St Anne's were used as a field hospital for soldiers shipped in from the battlefields in France and Germany. Once the conflict was over, the site was bought by the Ministry of Defence, Agriculture, and Fisheries, and the Government later employed more than 3,000 staff at the site to run the benefits system.
Some Government departments were moved to St Anne's, and the larger hotels were requisitioned, with the Fernlea Hotel at 15 South Promenade (previously the Fern Lea guest house), the Majestic housing the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, and the Glendower housing the Ministry of Home Security.
Elsewhere in St Anne's, the Ministry of Pensions opened its War Services Grants office, and the Lytham St Anne's Central Hospital Supply Depot worked from Starr Hills in Ansdell throughout the conflict.
The Government of Sudan moved into the Oxford Hotel at St Anne's.
The Soviet Embassy moved 260 staff into St Anne's.

Squires Gate during the war: At the outbreak of war in 1939, the Depot of the East Lancashire Regiment moved from Fulwood Barracks, Preston to form an Infantry Training Centre at Squires Gate.
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The airfield was bombed several times during the War although all its hangars were painted to resemble the nearby domestic housing.
RAF Coastal Command had decided that Squires Gate would be the best site for their base, and in September, C flight of 63 Squadron flew in some Fairey Battle aircraft.

Wellington Bomber production: The Ministry of Aircraft Production established a major aircraft "shadow" factory at the north-east corner of Squires Gate in January 1940, for the production of large numbers of Vickers Wellington bombers by Vickers Armstrong at their 250 Plant. The first three built there flew on the 30th of September, finally taking off in July 1941. The factory covered over 1 ½ million square feet and, even though only 50 feet high, it had the largest single-span roof in the world. Unfortunately, on the 9th of August, one of the roof trusses collapsed, killing 6 and injuring 13. At its peak, 10,000 people were employed in this and the other aircraft factories in the town.
The factories were given their own railway sidings, which connected at Squires Gate Station; these now lie beneath the industrial units. 2,584 Wellingtons were built before October 1945. A secondary assembly line was set up at Stanley Park, where five temporary Bellman hangars were constructed, to house a secondary assembly line. Because of the airfield's short grass runways, the Wellingtons landed at the larger Squires Gate facility after their maiden flights from Stanley Park.
The Wellingtons were soon given the nickname "Wimpeys", probably after Popeye's friend Mr Wellington Wimpey.

Small-scale parts were made in the workshops of the Pleasure Beach's miniature railway. At one point, in 1942, there were 300 Wellington bombers on the beach – they could not be used because they had no propellers.
The RAF Number 13 Radio School opened in the paint shop at Rigby Road, a NAAFI was set up in the stores department, and a wet-weather parade ground in the adjoining bus garage.
The RAF's Number 3 School of Technical Training was formed in Deacon's Bank Chambers on Talbot Road on the 20th of October.
The VA Band of Vickers Armstrong was very popular locally during the War years.
In 1940, HV Burlingham's Preston New Road works and the assembly shop at Vicarage Lane were instructed to produce airframe assemblies for Vickers Wellington medium bombers, which were then carried on "Queen Mary" articulated lorries to be assembled at the Vickers shadow factory at Squires Gate. As well as this work the Newhouse Road workshop built mobile YMCA canteens and utility buses on an Austin chassis for the armed forces.
From 1942, the Wellington bombers began to be fitted with magnetic hoops to aid in the detection of sea mines.

The Vickers Armstrong factory stopped making bombers in October 1945. The last Wellington to be made at the factory – T Mk X trainer PR590 – was completed at the factory on the 15th of October and delivered to the RAF on the 25th of October. After the closure, the Vickers Armstrong company presented the town of Blackpool with a unique stainless-steel model of the bomber.
Vickers had made a total of 3,841 Wellingtons, 2,584 in Blackpool, and all of which had been flown from Squires Gate.

The Corporation considered allowing heavy industry companies to take it over but decided against that. From May 1945, the plant began to make of aluminium and concrete prefabricated houses, in accordance with the Government's house building programme. They could manufacture 250 units per week, which were then bolted together on site. The houses each had a living room, hall, kitchen, and two bedrooms.

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In 1947, the Vickers factories stopped taking orders, and those at Squires Gate, Marton Tram Sheds, Talbot Road Bus Station, and Harrowside and Little Bispham underground car parks began to wind down.
All work at Vickers stopped in March 1948 and the factories closed in April, with the loss of 3,800 jobs.

For a short time, about 200,000 square feet of the factory were used for the repair of 1187 Government vehicles, employing 450 men and 50 women.

The official number of Wellingtons produced by the Blackpool factories is as follows:

At least 26 Wellington Xs were delivered by Vickers-Armstrong Squires Gate between September 42 and February 43 - serial numbers in the HF609 to HF816 range.

At least 188 Wellington Xs were delivered between December 42 and August 43 - serial numbers in the HZ102 to HZ981 range.

At least 300 Wellington Xs were delivered between December 43 and July 44 - serial numbers in the ME870 to ME999, MF113 to MF742 range.

27 Wellington Xs were delivered in March/April 43 - serial numbers MS470 to MS496.

Some 326 Wellington Xs delivered between June and December 44 - serial numbers NC414 to NC990, ND104 to ND133.

Some Wellington Xs delivered between November 44 and April 45 - serial numbers PF820 to PF999, PG112 to PG422.

206 Wellington Xs were delivered between May and October 45 - serial numbers in the RP312 to RP590 range.

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Illawalla at Thornton housed a regiment of the Royal Engineers.
A railway siding loop was built at Rossall, to house the special trams that were drafted into service to ferry troops from their Squires Gate barracks (later to become Pontins), to the rifle ranges at Rossall. These ranges were extended this year, and a weapons pit survives nearby.
Fleetwood became Britain’s largest fishing port due to the massive German bombing of Hull and other ports and handled virtually all of Britain’s trawled fish during the War. In September 1939, a large number of Fleetwood vessels were called back to port and once again taken into naval service. Most of the crews were in the Royal Naval Reserve (RNR), and were seen by the War department as vital. By the time of the Dunkirk evacuation in June 1940, there were only two trawlers left fishing from Fleetwood. The James Robertson and Sons engineering complex manufactured equipment there for the Royal Navy, fitting out many trawlers as minesweepers, and several Navy vessels docked for repairs.
20 of Fleetwood’s fishing vessels were lost during the war, and many local fishermen lost their lives to torpedoes and mines.
Fleetwood Docks were protected by 4.7-inch naval guns manned by the 405th Coast Battery, made up of soldiers of the 52nd Bedfordshire Yeomanry Regiment (until 1942).
The US Army, 43rd and 49th Medical Battalion were based at Fleetwood, as was the 5th.
Fleetwood docks were used as the embarkation point for German prisoners being taken to the Isle of Man, and local children would hurl abuse at them.
Parrox Hall was requisitioned to accommodate a number of WRENS, who would man the network of observation posts along the coast. The eastern half of the house accommodated a team of WRENs, and the Elletson family retained the western half. The Royal Navy installed partitions on the first floor, to divide off separate bedrooms and bathrooms.
Pilling sea wall was constructed, with gun emplacements to deter the expected invasion.
The beach from Pilling Sands to Cockerham was used as a bombing range by the RAF and the Fleet Air Arm. Preesall number 1 practice range employed a floating target. The sands were used as Cockerham number 2 practice range and targets were placed there, including a metal cut-out silhouette “German ME 109”,
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and a brick built "U-boat". Number 3 live range was further out to sea and also used floating targets. The sands also held an army firing range, and monitoring of them all was carried out from a number of quadrant towers, one of which still stands to the south of Cockersands Abbey.
A temporary Fire Station was set up at number 55 Hove Road, St Anne's.
Number 2 Mobilisation Centre of the RASC was based in St Anne's.
Trenches were dug along the sea approaches in Ansdell and Fairhaven.
The Lytham Battery of Western Command off Ledbury Road, had two 4" guns, manned by 404 then 171 Coast Battery Royal Artillery of the 524 Coast Regiment. By 1942, the battery was unarmed but had GL Mark II radar.
Other Lytham batteries were operated by the C and D batteries of the American 109th AA artillery gun battalion mobile.
There was an AA battery and radar installation off Albany Road in Ansdell, where the car park for Ansdell High School was laid out. Nearby, opposite the Premium Bonds site was another AA emplacement, which had a searchlight and sound locators.
The Lytham WVS and Civil Defence headquarters were at 4 Clifton Square. Those premises are now a Hidden Hearing shop.
Lytham dockyards were again used by the War Office and the Admiralty, building supply ships, landing craft, and "secret" floating breakwaters (called Bombardon Tanks) which were used to make floating harbours during the Normandy invasion on "D Day".
Ribby Hall was taken over by the Army.
Whittingham Mental Hospital became the Whittingham Emergency Hospital, being used for Dunkirk evacuees and injured Prisoners of War. Also, at the hospital, the first EEG (Electro Encephalograph) machine was invented, using War surplus materials.
Myerscough Hall was used by the Royal Engineers.
Barton Hall became the headquarters of the Number 9 Fighter Group, which controlled operations at all the local airfields.

1939

War against Germany was declared on Sunday the 3rd of September - the first night of Blackpool's blackout being on the 1st.
The Illuminations were prevented by the outbreak of war. There was a full-scale preview on the 31st of August, complete with a giant searchlight sweeping from the Tower top. Unfortunately, the next night the blackout was enforced and the only colour to be seen was inside boarding houses, where landladies defiantly coloured their light bulbs with "Dolly Blue".
Whenever the air raid siren sounded, anyone at the top of the Tower had to stay at the top for the duration. They were only allowed down when the all clear sounded.
An IRA bomb exploded outside the Town Hall on the 26th of August, smashing windows and railings. Three more were defused around the town – 12 sticks of gelignite were defused outside the police station, two more were in a dustbin between Woolworths and Blackpool Tower.
Marton Tram sheds closed to trams on the 3rd of November, and the RAF opened them as the Technical Training Command's northwest home, before giving it to Vickers Armstrong for the manufacture of aircraft wings. The port sides were built at Marton, and the starboard sides, fuel tanks, and weapons for Wellington bombers were made at the Ribble Bus garage on Devonshire Road. The wings were then carried to Squires Gate on a lorry, nicknamed "Queen 'Illory", for assembly.
The Army took over Bispham Lodge Camp and erected Nissen Huts for the troops.
The Wood Street Mission Holiday Camp at Squires Gate was taken over by the War Department to billet troops from the Manchester Regiment. In 1941, it was taken over by the Ministry of Health to house displaced young children and expectant mothers, until 1945.

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Annexe wards were built behind Victoria Hospital, to house servicemen during the War. They originally had a life span of 10 years but lasted until 2002.
Blackpool Corporation's part-time rescue service was performed by employees of the corporation's highways department in addition to their ordinary duties from 1939 until the 5th of November, 1941, resulting in a great saving of man-power by avoiding the use of full-time paid rescue workers.
The Blackpool ARP opened fire stations at their Red Bank Road training unit and on Lytham Road at the corner of Dean Street. The Bispham Fire Station was turned into a true station after the war.

The Blackpool Regiment: The 137th (Army) Field Regiment RA (TA) was formed at Blackpool on the 17th of June. Between April and May, 580 young men joined this regiment of the Royal Artillery, which was at first headquartered in Buchanan Street Drill Hall. The men were initially billeted in Talbot Road Bus Station, with an overflow at Brook Mill in Wesham. The 137th was moved to Oulton Park Camp in Cheshire on the 1st of May, for pre-embarkation training. They left by train from Blackpool North Station at 0830.
On the 30th of September 1941, they set off from Liverpool for Malaysia.

Many were later killed at the Battle of Slim River near Singapore on the 7th of January 1942. 445 were captured, but about 100 managed to link up with Australian troops and made it to Singapore.
Several of these *"survivors found some old French 75mm guns, and set them up outside the famous Raffles Hotel, in Singapore"*.
The "Fall of Singapore" came when 85,000 British and Commonwealth troops surrendered to the Japanese on the 15th of February 1942. Many were sent to the infamous Changi Prison – nicknamed the "Camp of Death", and around 12,500 died, after being forced to work on the "Burma Railway of Death". They died due to appalling treatment by the Japanese – the 137th lost about half of its number in this way. Another 11,000 died en route to forced labour camps in Japan and Japanese territories. About 80,000 local labourers also died working on the railway.

What had by then become known as the "Blackpool Regiment" was disbanded after the Fall of Singapore, and the Blackpool and Fylde Far East Prisoners of War Association (FEPOW) was soon formed. *"Some years later, the Gazette reported that the National FEPOW Conference held their annual dinner and Ball at the Norbreck Castle in, when the Ballroom entrance was dressed to look like a Japanese Guardhouse, complete with Guards in uniform"*.
The association disbanded in May 2008, but a small chapel in St John's Church is dedicated to the men of the regiment.
The last survivor of the regiment, Harry Mottram, died on the 1st of May 2015.
Local man Mike Coyle has a web page showing the Roll of honour of the 137th at: 137th Roll of honour

RAF Blackpool: The town's own RAF base officially opened at Squires Gate on the 23rd of October.
By the end of the war, the 150-acre site had grown to 300 acres.
It was reputedly the biggest military training centre in the world, and along with RAF Weeton and RAF Kirkham, there were close to one million airmen in the area during the war. 235 buildings were to be constructed there during the war, starting with 2 VR2 hangars in 1939 (these are today used by Westair).
The RAF Volunteer Reserve took over Squires Gate Aerodrome on the 1st of November, and the old Blackpool Golf Club on the land was taken over for runways etc. The Golf Club could be reached from either Clifton Drive or Squires Gate Lane (its postal address) at the time.
The aerodrome became known as RAF Squires Gate in 1940, becoming fully operational on the 1st of December. Stanton air raid shelters, a school instructional centre, lecture rooms, a photographic block, barrack huts, and SNCO quarters were then built.

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Three tarmac runways were laid, in the favoured 60-degree pattern, and the old Division Farm was requisitioned and demolished. St Anne's Road in Blackpool was closed beyond the Halfway House from February, to build the new runways – as was the linked Blackpool Road North in St Anne's.
A very successful judo club was organised on the base – with over five thousand servicemen learning the rudiments of judo.
RAF Blackpool issued its first weekly news magazine, called "Contact" on the 4th of April 1941.

Stanley Park Aerodrome during the war: Stanley Park Aerodrome was used as a training centre for parachutists. The Lancashire Aircraft Corporation serviced Bristol Beaufighters there and Spitfires were stripped down for scrap in the Marton hangars.
Stanley Park Aerodrome soon became an RAF Station, with three grass runways, 4 hangars and a clubhouse. The airport ran operational night fighters, training, and Vickers aircraft production. The three runways, of mix of local sand and tarmac, were built in 1940. The aerodrome was requisitioned as an RAF parachute-training centre.
Originally, there was the air traffic control building and one hangar, now known as Hangar E, but in October 1941, four Bellman hangers were opened there, and Wellington bombers were assembled and flown off the site.
Initially the aerodrome was used by the Royal Air Force Number 3 School of Technical Training, which used various types of grounded aircraft, including Armstrong Whitworth Whitleys, which were dispersed around the airfield boundary.
Stanley Park had initially housed a corps of the Civil Air Guard, many of whom later joined up as pilots.
The RAF's Number 181 Gliding School was formed at the aerodrome in August 1943. It was disbanded in June 1948, after having moved to Warton in 1947.
From summer 1944 until 1947, tented camps were held at Stanley Park Aerodrome for the cadets from the three services. Also, in 1944, Lancashire Aircraft Corporation moved to Stanley Park Aerodrome from Salmesbury, to begin repairing Bristol Beaufighters.
1945 saw 40 Hurricane fighters flown into Stanley Park Aerodrome for scrapping. This was the last job there, and when it finished, the Corporation took over the site and the buildings became a storage facility for the council, including the illuminations and the promenade deckchairs. After this, the only action on the site was by Number 181 Gliding School. Apart from the buildings that were later used in Blackpool Zoo, the only remaining structure was one hangar, which was used for many years as an indoor tennis court and for amateur football training. This too was demolished in 1993.
The RAF staged the last Empire Air Day at Stanley Park Aerodrome, showing off their latest planes.

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An RAF camp began to be built on the old military camp at Weeton, opening in 1940, and there were Air shows there until the 1950s. There had been some sort of army camp there during the Great War, but this time, ten thousand men passed through after receiving motor transport training.
Poulton opened an "All Services Canteen" in a hut on Hardhorn Road, for use by the servicemen. Its site is now taken by a car park and offices behind Gennars Italian Restaurant.
Within days of the declaration of war, four Fleetwood trawlers had been sunk by German submarines. In six days in September 1939, the Davara, Rudyard Kipling, Arlita and Lord Minto were all lost.
St Anne's began to recruit for its own Territorial detachment, to be known as the 463 regiment of the 62nd Searchlight Unit.

RAF Kirkham: this began to be built by George Wimpey Ltd. The camp opened in May 1940 as a training camp for RAF tradesmen, including the Bomb Disposal corps, and until 1945, it trained 72,768 British and Allied service men and women. In November 1941, it became the main Armament School for the RAF. The
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camp had ten hangars, and accommodation for airmen and NCOs, as well as its own hospital, church, and a 780-seat cinema (later used by Kirkham Grammar for Speech Day services). Also based at the camp in 1944 were the School of Administrative Trades and Number 22 Air Crew Holding Unit. Between May and December 1945 Kirkham became a demob centre, Number 101 Personnel Dispersal Centre (PDC) being based there, releasing air personnel at the rate of 1,000 per day. Number 10 School of Technical Training was based at the camp from 1950 until the 31st of December 1957, when the camp closed. A little-known fact is that whilst on guard duty, small recruits were not allowed to guard on the "main gate" on the Blackpool New Road, because the RAF did not want passengers on the coaches on route to Blackpool to know that the RAF had little airmen!
The camp hospital was the tuberculosis and penicillin research centre for the Northwest of England.

Soldiers from the 350th Field Battery of the Royal Artillery were billeted in and around Kirkham, and the 600 men used the local slipper baths on Station Road, for sixpence each.
Kirkham's air raid wardens were led by Eddie Sargeant from 37 Moor Street.
Freckleton had another RAF camp – a mass of tents near Hall Cross, between Lower Lane and Kirkham Road. This soon became subsumed by RAF Kirkham.
From 1957, the married quarters for officers from RAF Kirkham were opposite Kirkham Windmill. The commanding Group Captain had a large detached house there, senior officers lived in several detached houses, and other officers in groups of semi-detached dwellings. All these houses were demolished in 1994.
The RAF Kirkham football team won the RAF Challenge Cup in 1958.
RAF Kirkham closed in 1958. It was acquired by the Prison Service in 1959, and in 1962, part of the camp became Kirkham Open Prison.
The Royal Ordnance Factory was opened at Chorley. It eventually employed 18,000 and was a major employer of Fylde people for many years. The complex was built by Sir Lindsay Parkinson and closed in 2007.

The Grand Theatre's stars included Sir John Gielgud, Edith Evans, and Peggy Ashcroft in Oscar Wilde's "The Importance of Being Earnest"; Rex Harrison, Diana Wynyard, and Anton Wallbrook in Noel Coward's "Design for Living"; and Donald Wolfit in a Shakespeare week.

The Odeon Cinema, Blackpool: The word Odeon comes from Ancient Greek, meaning "a place of entertainment", and Odeon builder Oscar Deutsch cleverly created his own acronym "Oscar Deutsch Entertains Our Nation" with which to name all his newly-constructed cinemas.
This new an impressive white building on Dickson Road was built by Hamer Construction. It was opened on the 6th of May by George Formby and Conrad Voight, first showing "Three smart girls grow up" starring Deanna Durbin. It was Europe's largest Odeon, seating 3,088 people, and had its own Conacher organ (moved from the converted Ritz at Southend in 1946). Dickson Buildings had been demolished to make way for the new cinema.
The Odeon was *"triplexed"* and re-opened as the town's first multi-screen cinema (three screens) on the 16th of October 1975.
The Odeon closed on the 5th of December 1998, and from 2002 it became Funny Girls club in the stalls, with Flamingo's in the circle foyer. Funny Girls had moved from Queen Street.
The Conacher Theatre Organ at the Odeon "was a 4-manual/12-rank plus Grand Piano Instrument which remained in place until 1969. Following its removal, it was sold and transported to Hayes, then Yeovil and thence to Norfolk". It is now privately owned and in storage.

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In late 2018, the building and its businesses was purchased by brewers Daniel Thwaites, and in May 2019, they applied for planning permission from Blackpool Council to install a traditional cinema-style readograph - a backlit sign displaying moveable letters. Such signs were commonly used in its original incarnation as a cinema.

The Squirrel Hotel, Bispham: opened on Bispham Road on the 6th of May on the site of Moorfield House. Its drinks licence had been transferred from the recently-closed Market Hotel in the town centre. Designed to resemble a Tudor building, it has a half-timbered first floor, and oak panelled interior public areas. The original interior was fashioned into four spaces: A lounge, the vaults, a snug, and a snooker room.
In the 1990s, it was acquired by brewers Mitchell and Butler, who soon transformed it into a Crown Carvery. The bar areas were then merged into one open-plan bar.
On the 29th of January 2016, it became a Sizzling Pizza Pub and Carvery.

Stanley Primary School, Marton: opened for 390 junior and infant pupils on the 4th of September, being officially opened on the 13th by Councillor Charles Wilkinson. The new school had 7 classrooms, an assembly hall, and various support rooms, all surrounding an inner quadrangle with its own lily pond. The total cost had been £22,440.
A new road, Buttermere Avenue was built to allow access, later being renamed Wordsworth Avenue. Little London Farm had been demolished to make way, and the building contractor was HH Vickers of Whitegate Drive Sawmills. Future pupils had been taught temporarily at the Mount off Preston Old Road.

Stanley Junior School was constructed adjoining the original buildings in 1950, being opened on the 16th of September by the Earl of Derby. The infants continued in the original buildings. Between the start of the Suez Crisis in 1956, and 1967, Stanley schools catered for up to 230 extra children – the offspring of evacuated service personnel.

Stanley Primary School was opened in September 2007, having combined Stanley Junior and Stanley Infants, making it Blackpool's largest primary school, able to take up to 630 children. It also has its own nursery, called Stanley Kittens.

In June 2019, Stanley lost one of its most well-liked and well-respected members of staff. Pamela Tickle was a former deputy headteacher who retired in 1991, after almost 35 years at the school. Even after she left, she helped out in the school library for many years afterwards. She passed away on the 17th of June.

Town Centre Clearance, Blackpool: Several buildings, including the Castle Inn, the Market Hotel, Whewell's Bazaar, Crossley's Leather shop, Lewis Levine's Pawnbroker's, Leonard Dews Pawnbroker's, George Bolton's Draper's, and the extension of St John's Market were demolished to make way for the widening of Market Street. The licence for the Market Hotel was transferred to the newly-built Squirrel Hotel on Bispham Road. Many shops were also demolished on Church Street to make way for a large shop and car park.
As the War intervened, the site was used as a very popular open-air market and a car park until 1956, with British Home Stores being built there in 1957.

The Derby Baths, Blackpool: Blackpool's own Olympic-sized pool was opened to the public inside the Pembroke National Gardens between the Promenade and Warley Road on the 21st of July. A mannequin and bathing parade was held to celebrate. 1,200 swimmers turned up on the opening day.

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The baths were Britain's only ones with the full range of facilities required for Olympics-sized competitions, and from 1953, they hosted the annual Amateur Swimming Association Centralised Championships, Water Polo, and Synchronised Swimming Champs. The baths had hosted many famous National and International swimming and diving events, and regular Olympic, European and Commonwealth Trial events. The main pool room had 1,800 seats for spectators. In the basement was a BBC broadcasting station.

Work had begun on the building in September 1937, requiring the demolition of terraced housing on the northern side of Derby Road – after which the baths were named. The lanes were constructed in 1938.

The entrance was on Warley Road. As well as the large main pool, the baths also had slipper baths and showers, Turkish baths, vapour rooms, a hairdressing room, a spectators' café next to the gallery, a 144-foot by 25-foot sun lounge, and a 60-foot by 30-foot gymnasium, but the planned remedial section was not completed until later. The main pool was 165 feet by 55 feet, reaching depths between 3 feet and 16 feet, and a 30 foot-square learner pool was on the sub-ground floor – both were filled with filtered and warmed sea water. The cost had been £272,685.

Over 5 million servicemen and women used the baths during the war.

The water in the pools was later obtained from the mains water supply.

A true official opening was planned for May 1940, but was delayed until 1965 because of the War, and was only arranged after the completion of the saunas. The 1940 opening was scheduled to be performed by Lord Derby, but it wasn't until 1965, that his grandson the Earl of Derby carried out the ceremony.

In 1949 Johnny Weissmuller (dressed as Tarzan and holding a chimpanzee) starred in the "Water Follies" aqua show at the baths, with 30 bathing beauties. This was part of a 16-week UK tour.

By 1970, the Council listed the baths as comprising *"Main Pool 165 ft. x 55 ft.; capacity 485,000 galls.; spectators accommodation 2,000; learners' pool 33 ft. x 33 ft.; capacity 17,000 galls.; source of water supply—pumped from the sea into two settling tanks 120,000 galls, capacity, prior to filtration; turn-over rate—main pool approximately three hours, learners' pool approximately two hours.*

Remedial Section. The Remedial Section of the Derby Baths, work on which was suspended due to the outbreak of hostilities in 1939, now stands completed in a modified form. In the light of the changed circumstances of needs, ideas of planning, the availability of specialised equipment and improved techniques in building, considerable alterations to the original conception were made in consultation with the Baths General Manager and the Baths Committee to make this establishment unique in the range of facilities provided. There is space within the new section for future development if demand justifies. The Ground floor comprising some 5,680 square feet of floor area provides the Warley Road Entrance with ticket office, telephones and lift and stairs up to the Gymnasium on the second floor.

Dressing Room. From the Entrance the patron enters the Cooling and Dressing Room area which provides 27 cubicles with reclining couches and wardrobes, where attendants will furnish hot towels, etc., appropriate to the treatment to be undertaken. This portion also includes some lounge area, facilities for refreshments, and toilet accommodation. From here, the patron will go to the treatment desired and return for rest, cooling and refreshment.

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Facilities provided and administered by competent staff includes: Three authentic timber Sauna Baths of Finnish make, each of which will accommodate ten to fifteen persons a session. Five marble shampoo and massage slabs with associated basins, scotch and vichy douches, provided with hot or cold, fresh or sea water. Two stainless steel Aeratone vessels, one of which is provided with hoisting and lowering gear for aiding disabled patrons. Two vapour rooms. Suite of three Turkish Rooms each progressively warmer. Three Bathrooms for hot, fresh and sea water baths. Luma pine and hydropathic treatment.
Provision is made in the cooling area for various electrical and infra-red treatments to be undertaken. In association with the foregoing there are ancillary showers, needle sprays and a small pool for total immersion. The central core of the ground floor area is given over to staff rooms, toilets and storage.

Gymnasium. The Gymnasium (2,668 sq. ft.) providing facilities for approximately 32 patrons at one time, comprises a fully furnished hall 60 ft. long by 30 ft. wide, and ancillary Instructor's Room, Kit Store, Changing Accommodation, Showers and Toilets. Equipment is provided for Basket Ball, Indoor Football, Netball, Boxing and Badminton; the enthusiast will also find a Trapeze, a Trampoline, a Punch Ball, a Cycle Exerciser, a "Readson" Stimulator, and the usual facilities, for vaulting, climbing, swinging and other gymnastic activities.

Decor. The interior finishes on the ground floor include heated and illuminated ceilings, washable plastic fabric, timber or ceramic mosaics or tiles to walls, and resilient P.V.C. carpet, ceramic mosaics or tile floors. The Gymnasium end wall is tiled and the floor consists of maple strip. The exterior of the building is clad in a protected metal sheathing which replaced the original faience.

The Engineering Services to serve the above installations comprise: A new boiler plant consisting of four Thompson Multi Pack type boilers, fitted with Hamworthy Rotary Cup Burners, has been installed, using 35 sec. Fuel Oil. The number two boiler house in the Remedial Section has now been converted for oil fuel storage, with associated calorifiers for heating circuits, for fresh and salt water lines and tanks at roof level for storage and head.

There are diving boards in the two above establishments of international standard type up to 10 metres".

The Derby was revamped in 1983 with the creation of its "Splashland" attraction, complete with indoor (The Black Hole) and outdoor (Knuckleduster) water chutes, the indoor one being the first in Britain. In 1986, now calling itself the Derby Pool, it was advertising a "Watery Wonderland" featuring "Eerie Caves, Spooky Castles, and Dragons".
The baths café had windows below the waterline, allowing customers to watch the swimmers.
The baths closed to the public in 1987, and the first European Masters competition was the last major event to be held there. The baths stayed opened for local schools for another year, but finally closed on the 16th of July 1988, when the last part, the saunas, was shut. After closure, it was occasionally used for fire brigade training – which meant jumping into the water with their firefighting kit on.

They were demolished in March 1990 - the official reason being concrete cancer. Rumour has it that a Tunisian businessman offered to swap 5 camels for the 1,700 plastic seats! The scale model of the baths is now held at Brooks Collectables' Toy Museum on Waterloo Road. The site of the baths is now a simple grass meadow to the north of the Hilton Hotel.

South Shore Market at 25 Waterloo Road was completely rebuilt. It became the Victoria Centre market hall in 1992.

©

Kay's Carpets and Kay's Shoes, Blackpool: Kay's Carpets was opened 85 Waterloo Road, and Kay's Carpets (Blackpool) Ltd were first registered in May 1950. They also had shops at 52 Bond Street, and 52 to 54 Wood Street in St Anne's. In 1942, another Kay's Carpet Store was built at 327 to 331 Dickson Road, near Gynn Square, extending into number 333 in 1953. It has since seen service as various furniture shops, including Pine World in the 1970s.
Kay's soon opened shops on Lord street in Fleetwood and even at 93 Highgate in Kendall. The company was dissolved in October 1993 after being wound up in October 1988.

HJ Selby Limited was established by Harold Jackson Selby of 49 Leeds Road. He had two optician's shops in the town centre - 40-42 Clifton Street (now occupied by Lytham Funeral Services Ltd), and 37 Church Street. They called themselves the "FYLDE'S PIONEERS OF POPULAR-PRICED EYE-WEAR". The Church Street shop is now a jeweller's store.
Dugdale's electrical shop opened on Anchorsholme Lane.
W.A.S.P. Engineering was at 41b Cocker Street, making photographic equipment etc.
Clarke and Ainsworth's opticians were at 1 Birley Street, after moving recently from 22 Market Street. They advertised themselves as "Opticians by Appointment to the Theatrical Profession".
Steam Boat sailings from the piers were abandoned.
Feldman's had a large walk-in sing-along shop on the Promenade. A "shill" was used to herd passers-by inside where a piano player and singer led everyone in singing current popular songs. A "shill" was someone who *"bought"* a song and proudly displayed the item to genuine customers as he departed, begging them to buy too.
The Moonrocket ride was opened at the Pleasure Beach. It was the first to be made by Leonard Thompson's company, Lusse Brothers, who had already made dodgem cars for the company.
The "Dive Bomber" ride was also developed by Lusse at Blackpool, and their first machine made its debut on the Pleasure Beach. It occupied a prime spot until its removal in 1961, when it was relocated to the sister park at Morecambe.
Another fire destroyed the Indian Theatre at the Pleasure Beach on the 27th of September - it was fought by ARP reserves.
The BBC's "Children's Hour" was broadcast from the Pleasure Beach.

Exchange Wine Bar, Blackpool: John Smith's Brewery opened the Exchange Wine Bar on Bolton Street on the 22nd of July. It had previously been an old pub of the same name, said to have been on the site since around the 1870s. John Smiths had demolished the old building and re-built it to also take in several adjoining shops. The new pub was designed by Architects Halstead and Best and had both a public bar and a more sedate lounge bar.
From the 1970s it was known as the Noggin, then Oscars, and then in 1997, it was renamed Legends. It soon reverted to the name The Exchange, but by 2010 had become the Brigadier Gerard. In April 2010, the pub closed, to be converted into two flats.

Citizen's Advice Bureau, Blackpool: Blackpool Social Service Council established the Blackpool and Fylde Blood Transfusion Service and the Blackpool Citizens Advice Bureau. The Citizen's Advice Bureau (CAB) was originally on Whitegate Drive, but they opened offices on Sefton Street on the 21st of January 1949, beginning to operate from there on the 22nd. In 1975, the CAB and the Council for Voluntary Service (CVS) began to operate from the old Motor Taxation offices on Cookson Street.
In 2000, the CAB obtained grant funding from the National Lottery Charities Board to purchase and refurbish the Midland Bank building at 6-10 Whitegate Drive. They moved into those premises shortly afterwards.

©

A Sewage Storage Tank was opened under Queen Victoria Road recreation ground, to hold 1,100,000 gallons of effluent.
Vicarage Lane, Cherry Tree Road, and Clifton Road were all widened to 60 feet, to take the increased level of traffic. In the previous 16 years, 900 new private streets had been built.
Whitegate Brick Company began building houses on its land behind the Oxford Hotel.
Harold Rawcliffe sold School Lane Farm to the Corporation and moved to Mythop Road, opposite Mill Lane Farm, into the old blacksmith's house. Marton Smithy and Wheelwright's shop had been on the corner of the old Preston road since the late 19th century, with the Little Marton animal pound behind. The smithy was later Jim Abram's Smithy Garage. The two houses adjacent and still standing, in Mythop Road, were built by Clifton Estates to house the blacksmith and the wheelwright. Smithy Garage and Scrapyard were demolished in 1993, and a block of flats was then erected, opening in 1995.
Layton Road housing scheme was completed.
Blackpool Dog Show was the first to introduce a ban on dogs remaining on the grounds overnight and by the late 1940's the practice was universally outlawed.
GH Mason's Domestic Appliances was established at 303 Whitegate Drive. They later moved to the Midland Bank premises at 63 Common Edge Road and ceased trading in October 2011. The building now houses a branch of Eyedeal vision.

St Bernadette's Church, Bispham: Father McNarney, parish priest of St. Teresa's, began to say the Sunday Mass for the local Catholics in the reading room of Bispham Library.
Soon, Dutton's Brewery gave permission for a mass to be said upstairs in the cocktail bar of their Red Lion pub on All Hallow's Road. About the same time, Magee Marshall's Brewery allowed the Diocese to buy some land for a future church. Then, in 1945, a *"Catholic lady who lived at 744 Devonshire Road bequeathed her house to the diocese for the priest who would one day come to Bispham to start a new parish"*. Subsequently, Father TH Marsden, at the time a curate at Holy Family, was appointed by the Bishop. Father Marsden began to use 744 Devonshire Road as his presbytery, and from there continued to say mass at the Red Lion Hotel.
From about 1944, Daily Mass was said at 744 Devonshire Road, with Father Marsden using his army altar for the purpose.
In mid-1949, Father Marsden applied for permission to put up a hall, and a large Nissen hut with 4-foot brick wall foundation was erected. This building began to be used as a school, and mass was said there. Also, social events could now be held there.
The Catholic Diocese purchased a plot of land belonging to Villa Farm in 1949, and a new church began to be built.

St Bernadette's Church duly opened on Devonshire Road on the 16th of April 1950 – the Feast of St Bernadette. It was blessed by the Bishop of Lancaster, Doctor Thomas Flynn. The architects of the new single-storey brick-built church were Mackeith Dickinson and Partners. In the 1980s, the sacristy was enlarged, and a new porch and a choir loft were built.

After the opening of the current church, the old Nissen hut remained as the infant's school for a few years, after which it was used as a scout and cub hut at night. The Nissen hut was bought in order to teach infant children, and the reception class was taken by Mrs Reynolds. Mrs Egan then taught second- and third-year infants, but older children were bussed to Holy Family Junior School - the nearest Catholic Junior School.

The Nissen hut was demolished in 1970, and St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School was opened to pupils on the 5th of September 1970. The first headmaster was Mr R Kelly, assisted by his deputy Mrs Dean.

©

In 1976 St Bernadette's Players were formed, and they performed their first show in the school hall in 1977. They moved to the church hall when it opened in 1991, and this became their permanent home.

Ashford School, Bispham: Miss Bolton set up her Ashford Private School on England Road in Bispham. The school occupied the church and the lower hall of the Bispham Methodist Church on Beaufort Avenue from this year until 1945. The school's entrance was on England Avenue.

Ribble Motor Services had a coach depot on Devonshire Road (this became a Dutton Forshaw car dealership and was taken over by Harry Feeney in 1987). Another depot was on Talbot Road, and this service depot was sold to Abbott's Coaches when Ribble moved to Fleetwood's Pandoro docks.
Blackpool, Princess, and Ribble Laundries Limited were in operation at 440 Talbot Road.
The Normandy private hotel was at 278 Queen's Drive in Bispham, owned by WS and L Smith. The property is now a private house at 278 Queen's Promenade.
The Homestead private hotel was at 375 Warbreck Drive, owned by M Haworth of Fleetwood.
Central Studios was in business at 77 Central Drive, owned by WG Pickering.
A Railwayman's Hostel was opened on the corner of Seymour Road and Bloomfield Road on the 1st of July.

Sculptor Sir Jacob Epstein in Blackpool: Epstein's controversial statue of "*Adam*" was on display at the Lawrence Wright Art Gallery at number 21a Church Street from the 20th of July. Admission was to be set at 1 shilling, although was raised to 2 shillings initially to deter "Peeping Toms" and mischief-makers from the opportunity to poke fun at the naked Adam.
In addition, Epstein allowed the display of 14 of his bronze sculptures including busts of a young Paul Robeson and Haile Selassie (the former Emperor of Ethiopia). The display received up to 20,000 visitors per day and was so popular that Epstein displayed another work, "*Jacob and the Angel*", there in 1942.
In 1952, at Tussaud's Waxworks, several of Epstein's controversial sculptures were exhibited in the basement, along with some of his drawings. The waxworks quickly hired a nearby shop and staged the display there for 2 years.
Epstein's "*Genesis*" joined "*Adam*", "*Eve*", "*Jacob and the Angel*", and "*Consumatum Est*" in a collection of anatomical and freak show oddities at Louis Tussaud's during the 1958 Easter season, where 10,000 visitors were expected daily. The dying artist was "mortified" that his work had been bought cheaply, to be shown in a mere waxwork.
Adam was removed to Edinburgh in 1961.

Despite the threat of war, Blackpool continued to draw big stars. In 1939, the Grand theatre's list of stars included Sir John Gielgud, Edith Evans, and Peggy Ashcroft in Oscar Wilde's "The Importance of Being Earnest", Rex Harrison, Diana Wynyard, and Anton Wallbrook in Noel Coward's "Design for Living", and Donald Wolfit in a "Shakespeare week".
The bus terminus on Corporation Street was first used, to relieve the old one on Adelaide Place.
The Ministry of Pensions relocated to the Norbreck Hydro but moved to the Norcross Pensions office in 1940.
Six schoolboys drowned in the sea off Central Promenade on the 9th of July; they came from St Aidan's School in Farnworth on a day trip.
Comedian Arthur Askey gave his first of many Blackpool performances, at the Tower.

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Harold Larwood: Blackpool Cricket Club signed *"Body Line"* bowler Harold Larwood as their professional. He owned a sweets and tobacconists at 128 Caunce Street between 1946 and 1950, before emigrating to Australia in 1953. The shop was later bought by Rodway Factors.

Blackpool Sea Cadets: were formed, with their headquarters in the yard of the Fire Station on Albert Road. After the war, they named the base "TS Penelope", in honour of HMS Penelope, a Royal Navy cruiser adopted by Blackpool in 1941.
In 1963, the corps moved into the newly-vacant Bispham Endowed School building at the corner of 596 Devonshire Road and Red Bank Road in Bispham

Blackpool Central Cricket Club won the local Cricket Shield in August.
The first Manchester to Blackpool relay race was held on the 11th of May, won by Sheffield United.

John Lennon and Blackpool: Cynthia Powell, first wife of John Lennon was born in Blackpool on September the 10th after her family was evacuated from Hoylake.

John stayed at a friend's house at 37 Ivy Avenue in June 1946 and began learning to swim in Derby Baths. While living with there his father Freddie, Lennon had to choose between his estranged parents - he chose his mother Julia.
He also used to stay with the Shipway family at 90 the Esplanade Fleetwood, where he swam in the outdoor baths with his mate Stan.

In 2009, "Nowhere Man", a film about the life of John Lennon, and starring Kristin Scott-Thomas and Anne-Marie Duff, was partly filmed in Blackpool. Scenes were filmed in Bel's Café on Trafalgar Road and in the Trés Bon Hotel on the 13th of March, before moving on to North Pier. Five-year-old Alex Ambrose played the young John Lennon, and Aaron Johnson played him at the age of 17.

Comedy actor Ricky Tomlinson was born (Eric) on the 26th of September in Bispham. His mother had been evacuated from Liverpool and he was back in her home town within 3 days of his birth.
Peter Purves, of Blue Peter fame, was born on the 10th of February. His family moved to Blackpool in 1942, to the New Mayfair Hotel at South Shore. The hotel is now owned by the Arthritic association.
Doctor Walford Bodie (Samuel Murphy Bodie - The Electrical Wizard of the North) died in Blackpool on the 18th of October, while his show was at the Olympia.
Actor George Cole first appeared on stage at the age of 14, in the chorus of "White Horse Inn" in Blackpool.
Bunny May was born in Blackpool on the 30th of November. He became a well-known child and character actor, London club owner and theatrical impresario.

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Tessie O'Shea: The famous singer moved to 16th century Mulberry Cottage on Breck Road, Poulton, close to her beloved Blackpool theatres and her in-laws the Rollo family, who owned the Bloomfield Hotel, where she used to lodge whilst performing in Blackpool. She also lived in a white bungalow at the top of Warbreck Hill Road for a time.
It was at Blackpool that she introduced what was to become her signature tune, "Two-Ton Tessie from Tennessee", accompanying herself on the banjo. She played Blackpool every summer until she moved to London in 1957. Her real name was Teresa.

The electrician's shop of E Dugdale and Son Ltd was opened at 16 Anchorsholme Lane East in Cleveleys.
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The Victoria Hotel, Cleveleys: was opened on the 6th of April, on the corner of Victoria Road and North Drive. Designed by F Lumb of Blackpool, it had a public bar, saloon bar, ladies' room and a 100-seat dining room upstairs. An off-licence was also opened on the Victoria Road frontage.

The newly-constructed Rossall promenade and sea defence works were officially opened on the 20th of May, by RH Bernays, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Health – an old-Rossallian. The new stretch finally made a completely uninterrupted 15-mile promenade from Squires Gate to Fleetwood.

Cardinal Allen Primary School, Cleveleys: opened at 4 Luton Road and in the Meridian Hall, on Anchorsholme Lane. Its motto was "*Tenaces Propositi*" – meaning "Holding Fast to the Faith".
In 1945, the school moved to Salesia House, also on Luton Road, which was converted into a convent and run by nuns from the Sisters of the Cross and Passion, based in the Stella Maris Convent in Fleetwood.
In 1967, Willowdene in Cleveleys became vacant and the children from Luton Road were moved into it, still taught by nuns. The convent changed into St Teresa's on the 6th of November 1972. Number 4 Luton Road is now the Miramar holiday flats.

Ellison's Garage, St Anne's: Robert Ellison opened his garage on the corner of St Davids Road North and 10 St Leonard's Road in St Anne's. He gave his address as "St Leonard's Bridge". He was originally a Jowett Cars agent, changing to Rootes when that company folded.
In the 1951 Monte Carlo Rally, he finished the best British driver and won the Riviera Cup for coming first in the 1500cc class, being given a civic reception on his return in January.
In the mid-1960s, Rootes were taken over by Chrysler, and the garage became a full Chrysler dealer, adding the Singer and Humber franchises. In 1970, it became the Renault dealer for the Fylde, but in 1980, the business went into liquidation.

In 1972, Shaw and Wright Car Sales Ltd moved into Ellison's Building. They moved in 2012, to 1 Press Road, renaming themselves Shaw and Wright Garage

Harry Clifton of Lytham Hall made preparations to build a new town, called St Christopher, between Wrea Green and Lytham. A commemorative stone was erected in a field approaching Westby, although the town was never built, he still commissioned a set of medals.
Kirkham Library opened on Station Road.

The 1940s
Whalley Villa Caravan Park opened on Whalley Lane in Marton. It had space for about thirty caravans and had its own ornamental rose garden. It now has 56 pitches, and is now run by Clarkson's Caravans Ltd. Nearby is the Kinross Caravan Site, taking paying customers.
Windmill Caravan Park opened off Preston New Road in Marton. The land had been leased by the Kirkham family, owners of Whyndyke Farm. In 1989, it was sold by farmer John Kirkham to Elf Properties, which operated Total Garages, the owners of the filling station in front of the site. In 2011, Total Oil Ltd was taken over by Rontec. The caravan park now has 12 privately-owned caravans, and is now leased from Rontec, who want to remove it and replace it with a drive-through coffee shop.
Clifton Police Station was at 3 Clifton Lane, staffed by PC Bill Stackhouse. There is a record of a policeman in the village in 1898. The station is now a private house, called The Village Police Station.
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Warrenhurst Post Office in Fleetwood was owned by the Hodgson family, who also sold greetings cards and tobacco products, as well as Triang Toys, Bayko construction sets, and Frog Aircraft kits.
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Food began to be rationed on the 8th of January. Ration books were issued to every person (to be stamped by a local shopkeeper when the goods were collected), and a typical weekly ration for one person included: one fresh egg, 2 oz butter, 2 oz tea, 1 oz cheese, 8 oz sugar, 4 rashers of bacon, and 4 oz margarine.
The first Air Raid Siren sounded on the 2nd of September.
A captured Messerschmitt 109 fighter was put on display in the open market in March. It was Bf 109E1, WNr 3470 of 8 JG54 (B2+).
An RAF plane made a forced landing on the beach at North Shore on the 13th of March and had to be manually towed ashore.
A Fairey Battle aircraft clipped the Squires Gate railway bridge and crashed just outside the camp on the 3rd of May, killing 3 people.
Pilot Officer L M Sharp died as a result of a *"flying accident"* on December the 28th, when his Hurricane (P3899) crashed into the sea shortly after take-off from Squires Gate.
Old railway subways began to be used as Air Raid Shelters in November.
Three of Talbot Road Bus Station's four sides were bricked-in and doors were fitted, to allow buses to be garaged overnight. Wooden doors were fitted on the Talbot Road and Cookson Street entrances.
Blackpool Tower was used as a radar and communications centre. Forty feet was cut off the top and replaced with radar aerials in February.
The BBC built a broadcasting centre in the basements of Derby Baths. It was one of 16 "H" Group transmitters in the Northwest and operated on 203.3 metres.
Marks and Spencer on Bank Hey Street was used for the issuing of overseas kit to servicemen.
The Blackpool Citizen's Army started a recruitment drive on the 20th of June.
The Women's junior Air Corps was formed in Blackpool – Number 41 3rd Blackpool.
The "Presentation Spitfire" number W3334, named "Progress 1", was built, being sponsored by the people of Blackpool.
The Corporation hired 38 female tram conductors in July, to replace the men who had been "called up" for National Service.
Bispham Tram Depot was briefly reopened in case of a bomb strike on Rigby Road.
In September, an application was made to the Ministry of Health for *"a grant under the provisions of the 1939 Civil Defence Act towards the cost of laying mains at Warbreck and Westby reservoirs to facilitate the filling of tankers"*. This was in effect until May 1942.
The Imperial Hotel became, like many Blackpool hotels, a place of residence for transit to the Isle of Man, for aliens in the United Kingdom. The sad fact was that most of these aliens had escaped here from the Nazi regime.
Frederick Kruse (a naturalised German) of Roseberry Avenue was detained by police in June for being a practising fascist.
Troops in training began their *"square bashing"* on the Blackpool football ground.
At Squires Gate, pilots were trained in Tiger Moth aircraft. Ack-ack gunners trained by shooting at targets towed above the sand dunes.
St Anne's Radar Station on Wildings Lane, Marton Moss was built, as an RAF Rotor radar site. It was later connected to NATS (National Radar Traffic Service).
The sand dunes were used as rifle ranges. Those between Lytham and South Shore, and those at Fleetwood had been used as rifle ranges in the late 19th century. The ranges at Rossall Point were very extensive, having, since 1914, included four 800-yard ranges and a camp known as *"the Hutments"*. In its wooden buildings, 75 million rounds of ammunition had been stored during the last war.
The War Ministry built several fortifications to protect the area against invasion. These are listed in Appendix V.

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The RAF began to use Lockheed Liberator B-30 aircraft as ferries between Montreal and Blackpool Squires Gate, which thus became the UK's first transatlantic airport.
RAF number 2 School of Photography was stationed in Palatine School's Ripon Road building, and additional Nissen huts were built there.
HMS Blackpool was launched by Harland and Woolf in Govan on the 4th of July. Details of all holders of that title are given at Appendix CC.
Max Lorimer – aka comedian Max Wall, was a Corporal Drill Instructor billeted in Handsworth Road, North Shore. When he was there, he created his famous character Professor Wallofski, whilst performing at the Jubilee Theatre. He would regularly appear in the RAF's own show "Contact" at any available local venue on Sundays. Fellow comedian Eric Sykes and actor Denholm Elliott were also billeted locally.
Mervyn Peake was posted to Blackpool by the Royal Artillery as a driving instructor with the Anti-Aircraft Training Regiment, and whilst here, he wrote his book "Titus Groan" – part of his world-famous Gormenghast trilogy. He lived at 62 Coronation Street with his wife and son, before moving to Bloomfield Road.

Blackpool Air Defence Corps / Blackpool ATC: The Blackpool Air Defence Cadet Corps number 177 was formed at Blackpool Cricket Club on the 12th of January, and a large metal hangar was erected there. In February 1941, it became an Air Training Corps Squadron with a cadet strength of around 200, and along with 178, 190, 191, 1543, and 2007 Squadrons it formed the Blackpool Wing, which rose to a total of about 1,600 cadets. The Air Defence Cadet Corps Squadron Headquarters, by then in the Drill Hall on Buchanan Street, was bombed in 1942 but the Squadron was relocated in the Number 13 Royal Air Force Radio School (based in town from July 1940 to Oct 1944), where it remained for the duration of the war, in one of two large World War 2 hangars on Laycock Gate.
In 1947, they moved to Revoe School and in 1952, known as the 177 Squadron of the ATC, they moved to Blackpool Airport. Soon afterwards, when Blackpool Corporation took over the management of the airport, they moved to a site beside the British Island Airways hanger, which is where the Squadron stayed until they moved to their current location in 1981. In 1998, the Squadron's name was changed to "Blackpool Airport", and it is now the 1st Blackpool ATC Squadron 177.
Air Training Corps' number 181 Gliding School moved to Stanley Park Airfield in May 1945, having been formed in 1942.
Layton 2354 squadron ATC, Layton 2454 squadron ATC, Layton 1159 Unit GVC, and Claremont 177 squadron were based at Claremont Boys school until it moved to a new at the rear of Chepstow Road shops. The 2354 (Layton) Squadron Headquarters closed in 2001.
There are currently three other local ATC squadrons: 1301 (Fleetwood) – based at Grange Road, 967 (Bae Warton) Squadron, and 206 (Thornton Cleveleys) Squadron. Lancashire Wing Air Training Corps headquarters has been based at the old HMS Inskip since 2012, meeting in the old SCTC facility.

The Polish Air Force in Blackpool: After Dunkirk, Blackpool became the Polish Air Force's administrative headquarters and a Manning Depot for Polish aircrew, before they were despatched for training or operations. New arrivals were sent to the Goodwood Hotel in Hornby Road for debriefing and registration, and the White Eagle Club at 175 Hornby Road became the officers club. The "masses" were processed at Luna Park.
The Lansdowne Hotel was the Polish Air Force Headquarters in exile. 18,143 personnel passed through the HQ, and there were so many Poles in town that the Pleasure Beach duplicated all its signs in Polish.
The Polish pilot of one Hurricane was court-martialled after flying underneath the tram wires near the HQ.
The Poles initially billeted under canvas at Weeton and Kirkham camps, which were still being fitted out.
The Royal Hotel at Cleveleys was used as a hospital for injured Polish airmen.

©

RAF Polish squadrons stationed in the Fylde are listed in Appendix U.
The Polish aircraft at Squires Gate operated from Hangar 24.

After the war, many Poles elected to stay in Blackpool, and as a result, the town's large Polish population proved attractive to others. In 2006, there were an estimated 20,000 polish immigrants in Blackpool – a new influx caused by the expansion of the European Union – many local signs were again rewritten.

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RAF Weeton: opened on the 21st of May, and housed Number 8 School of Technical Training until the 30th of September 1965. It had five wings, with 1,000 men per wing and each wing specialised in some form of technical training - blacksmiths, sheet metal workers, instrument makers, fabric worker, parachute packers, and the driving and maintenance of vehicles. The School also ran conversion courses for Flight Mechanics and Flight Riggers, and there were many instructional airframes on the ground to practice on. Camp facilities at its peak included three churches, a first-class entertainment centre with ten-pin bowling and dances, a children's school with about 100 pupils which also catered for a number of civilian children, a cinema, an amateur theatre broadcasting service, and a fully equipped hospital.

On the 1st of July 1940, 31 officers and 754 men of the Polish Air Force arrived at RAF Weeton, after evacuation from France, followed on the 3rd by a further 358 Polish personnel.
The Fire and Rescue Training Unit was transferred there from Cranwell from July until August 1943.
In September 1940, courses for Fitter Armourer and Aero Carpenter began and the trainees at Weeton assisted in the manufacture of Hurricane and Spitfire parts for the Ministry of Aircraft Production.
In December 1940, the Mechanical Transport School, which had previously been located at No 3 Technical Training School, Blackpool moved to RAF Weeton and in December 1941, the Motor Transport Instructor Course commenced.
The Number 31 Bombing and Gunnery School opened there.
Between August 1940 and August 1942, a total of 41,863 personnel successfully passed out from RAF Weeton – including comedian Ronnie Corbett. Between September 1941 and March 1942, the average personnel strength of the Station was approximately 9,000.
The RAF Police School arrived in September 1943 and remained until January 1946.
In August 1950, Number 9 School of Recruit Training formed at Weeton, leaving in July 1952.
In September 1950, the camp hospital, on a separate site to the north, became separately established as a lodger unit. It came under the Control of HQ Number 63 Group and was then officially named RAF Hospital Weeton. It was the main RAF Hospital for the north of England and was autonomous from RAF Weeton. The only relic of the hospital is now some derelict waste ground, with a concrete turning circle for ambulances visible in the scrub opposite the main gate of Weeton Barracks. On the 31st of December 1959, the Hospital was closed.

In 1952, the camp NAAFI burned to the ground.
In November 1958, RAF Weeton became the parent Station to RAF Warton, taking over control of Number 29 Recruit Centre at Preston and the Air Traffic Control Unit, Preston.
In November 1959, the Station Entertainment Centre was opened.
In 1960, Flight Engineer training restarted at Weeton.
The Northern Region Air Traffic Services Centre (NRATSC), an offspring of the National Air Traffic Control Services and Headquarters United Kingdom Air Traffic Services (UKATS) moved to RAF Weeton from Barton Hall in 1961, leaving in December 1964.
The camp's main units had been:

Fire and Rescue Training Unit (Jul 1940 - Aug 1943)
HQ, No 2 Police District (Nov 1954 - Jul 1959)
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Mechanical Transport School (Dec 1940 - ?)
No 19 Personnel Transit Centre (12 Feb - 23 Aug 1945)
No 31 Bombing and Gunnery School (5 - 21 Mar 1941)
No 8 School of Technical Training (21 May 1940 - 30 Sep 1965)
No 9 School of Technical Training (Aug 1950 - Jul 1952)
RAF Hospital (May 1940 - Dec 1959)
RAF Police School (Sep 1943 - Jan 1946)
RAF Support Unit Weeton (1 Oct 1965 - 31 Oct 1970)

RAF Weeton was decommissioned in 1971, after training over 50,000 personnel. It was then completely taken over by the Army, who had first arrived in 1965. The school and St Joseph's church remain.
The camp was fully rebuilt between 1983 and 1985.

Prisoners of War (POWs): The Fylde had just two permanent POW Camps.

1. Brook Mill Prisoner of War (POW) Camp, number 168, was opened at Woodlands in Wesham, as a base camp to house Italian prisoners. Later in the War, some of these men were actually allowed to attend dances in Blackpool and were frequently seen wandering freely around Kirkham! At its peak, the camp held just over 1,000 prisoners – including some veterans of the Spanish Civil War. The Brook Mill Camp was finally demolished in 1955.

2. The only other local POW Camp was number 146 at Newton-with-Scales – a German Working Camp and a satellite hostel to Brook Mill. A few German POWs were very briefly held in another mill at Wesham, and these men helped to clear ground for the building of Grange Park Estate.

Prisoners being taken to the internment camps on the Isle of Man often spent single nights in hotels in the area before leaving via Fleetwood. This gives rise to many rumours of other POW camps – the only one to which any credence may be given is a temporary (mainly overnight) stop-over camp at Lytham/Warton, behind what was later the Holt Jackson book factory. This was used occasionally by German prisoners, and by some of the Italians from Brook Mill, who would stay there whilst detailed to carry out chores in Lytham. After the war, the site was taken over by families of squatters from other Lancashire towns. Rumours abound of another on Harbour Lane at Warton (in a disused USAAF camp), but NO proof can be found of this.

Father Rawlinson of Holy Family Church at Warton was chaplain for the German prisoners, holding confession at the camp on Monday evenings at 8.30.

On the 30th of December, the ICI ship "Calcium" struck an acoustic mine but, apart from the stoker, the crew were rescued by its sister ship, "Sodium". The "Sodium's Captain Atkinson and Chief Bramley were awarded the George Medal.
Fleetwood trawlers were diverted to the south of England in May, to assist in the evacuation from Dunkirk, and the Fleetwood boat "Evelyn Rose", a 138-foot trawler of 327 tons, commanded by Arthur Lewis, was the last boat to leave Dunkirk Harbour.
The 52nd Bedfordshire Yeomanry Regiment moved to Fleetwood in Lancashire to form a field battery unit, staying until 1942.
Lytham Hall was converted into a British Red Cross hospital for convalescent soldiers, which was opened by Councillor John Kay in October. As part of the men's convalescence, they helped in the kitchen gardens,

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and had PT in the extensive grounds. The Matron had her office in the family's Morning Room among the valuable furniture and family portraits, and one ward was in the 17th century Long Gallery – this room was just right for a long line of beds. The shape of the base of a toilet is still visible on the old floor boards there, and the blocked-up pipe still runs out through the wall beneath a window. The hall was released by the War department in 1945.
Construction began on new runways at the RAF base at Warton, which was to be developed as a "satellite" airfield for the RAF Coastal Command station at Squires Gate airfield. Penketh Farm and others were compulsorily purchased to allow the building to start. The original choice in 1938, had been Preston's sewage farm at Grange Farm, but it had then been found unsuitable.
On the 15th of September, a German bomb destroyed Fred Royton's Freckleton Smithy. Lord Haw Haw reported it as the destruction of *"an Iron Foundry"*.
Clifton Marsh was built up by local servicemen to be a "decoy" town or "Permanent Starfish Site" to lure bombers away from Preston. There were 3 types of Bombing Decoys on the marsh: mock oil dumps - a 'P-series' Oil QF decoy to divert raids from the oil installations of Preston by recreating oil pools which were often targeted by bombs, street lighting - the 'QL' type from the 'C-series', replicating the lighting of an area of docks and factories, and a bombed built-up location.

Morecambe and Wise: the popular comedy duo first appeared in Blackpool. They each starred, separately, in a show called "Youth takes a bow" at the Palace Theatre. They first appeared in town as a duo for a week in April 1949, at Feldman's Theatre. After they returned, to the Winter Gardens Pavilion in 1953, they became regular visitors to various theatres until their last of 1,200 local shows in 1979. Each would rent a house locally for the 26-week season.
The famous duo had a statue of them erected inside the Winter Gardens in 2016.

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Blackpool Road – between St Anne's and the Halfway House – was closed in February to extend the Airport. It was served by the number 11 bus route from 1935.

The Cottage Chip Shop, Marton: opened on Newhouse Road, in the farmhouse of Flag Causeway Farm, which had been hand-built in 1856 by Christopher Johnson, who used cobbles that he had collected from the beach.
In 1920, Jane Quinn had been granted a covenant by William Ord, the landowner, to *"conduct the business of fish and chip retailer"* - wet fish had been sold out of the kitchen window until the chip shop started. Ord Avenue, which now joins Newhouse Road at that point was named after him.

In 1948, it was taken over by Phyllis Hargreaves, who extended it and turned it into the Cottage Chippy.
It is now probably Blackpool's best-known chippy, and a favourite of many visiting stars. It retains the original cobble walls inside.

Wells' Restaurant was in business at 54/55 Central Beach, next to the New Inn.
Taxis were first allowed in the town centre on the 4th of January.
R Duckworth started his cigarette wholesale business, becoming a Limited Company on the 14th of August 1944. In 1945, they began supplying wholesale as well as retail, and the company's tobacco warehouse and headquarters were at 15 South King Street (now Frenchman's Cove). They now make and supply cigarette vending machines from their depot at Ellbrook House on Clifton Road, Marton.
Martin's Bank was on the corner of York Road and Red Bank Road.
The Metropole Arcade had by now become the North Pier Promenade Garage Company.
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Edwald's of 2-4 Market Street became a limited company on the 31st of August, selling high class material and dresses.
The 11C bus service began, from Blackpool to St Anne's, via Marton Moss.

The Devonshire Arms, Blackpool: was opened on Devonshire Road on the 4th of May, by the Catterall and Swarbrick Brewery. Designed by JB Singleton, it was built by HH Vickers and Son of Whitegate Drive, with the roof being constructed by Fairclough and Foster of Dover Road. A revolving door led to a smoking room on the left, and a main lounge to the right. A separate billiards room (complete with roof dome) was at the rear.
The land, backing onto Claremont Library, had been purchased by builders R Fielding and Son of Stanhope Road, for the purpose of building a "Public Garage (for 35 cars) with house attached and petrol filling station", but the C&S Brewery bought it for the erection of the pub.
The three sets of semi-detached houses to the south of the plot were newly built by Sherratt and Smith Ltd, builders, of Manchester.

The pub was taken over by Bass Charrington in the late 1960s and retained its original waiter service until the 1970s.
In 2008, Mitchell and Butler bought the venue, painted the original red brick walls white, and turned it into a "Sizzling Pub".

The Clifton Court Hotel was in business on Clifton Drive.
The Concord Hotel became the St Dunstan's Convalescent Home for the blind. The charity also set up its Northern headquarters at 556 Lytham Road at the same time.
The Grand Theatre's first summer season show was held. It was a variety revue starring local comedian Harry Korris, who returned the next season with a stage version of his famous Happidrome radio show.
On Church Street at the time were the UCP Tripe Shop and Restaurant (now Clarke's Shoe Shop), Greenwoods gents' outfitters (now a Bella Pasta restaurant at number 23), with H Johns and Son, bottlers above it, Stead and Simpson's shoe shop, Clayton's, and the Maypole Café. UCP later opened another tripe shop on Topping Street (now a sandwich shop) and already had one on the Strand.

John Mahoney: Charles Mahoney was born in Blackpool on the 20th of June. His mother had moved briefly to Bispham from Manchester, to give birth, before returning there. Contrary to popular belief, he did not attend St Joseph's College, as the family moved back to Manchester after the war, and he lived there until he was nineteen, then moving to the USA. He went on to play "Marty Crane" in the US TV series Frasier using his middle name, John.

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Norcross Civil Service complex: The Norcross offices of the Ministry of Pensions were opened on the site the old Norcross Farm. The 5-building complex had been originally designed to be a hospital.
30 staff made redundant in 1947, from the Royal Ordnance Factory in Chorley were taken on by the growing Ministry of Pensions office at Norcross.

The Norcross Players were formed, being first called the Ministry of Pensions Amateur Dramatic Society.
Norcross and Warbreck Football Club formed in 1945.
The inaugural concert of the Ministry of Pensions Musical Society took place on the 28th of January 1951.

Norcross Social Club was opened on the 5th of April 1952, by the Minister of Pensions, Mr David Heathcote-Amory. The Brierley Suite cabaret and function room was added in 1987. The club closed on the 25th of
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August 2013, apparently for the last time. It reopened in the clubhouse at the Tee Time Golf Centre on Fleetwood Road South on the 3rd of November.

In 1950, the whole of the Ministry of pensions moved to Norcross, leaving no other offices.

In 2013, Department of Work and Pensions was staff reduced from 2,200 to 860, occupying two buildings, Clarke House and Tomlinson House.

The rest of the site began to be redeveloped into up to 152 new homes, mainly 2 – 2 ½ storeys high, 3 storey flats, Sheltered Housing at up to 3 storeys, and offices between 2 and 3 storeys. A single storey pub/family restaurant was proposed, and there will be a retail centre incorporating some small retail outlets as well as a single storey, 45,000 square foot supermarket. In February 2019, it was announced that Marks and Spencer will be the major occupier, with a drive-through Costa and Taco Bell - the first in the county.

The ferry from Wardleys to Cockle Hall ceased to operate, when ICI demolished the hall (not really a hall, but a crowded cottage).

Flakefleet Junior School, Fleetwood: was opened on Northfleet Avenue. It is a single-storey red brick building, with three distinct sections. It has a western and an eastern grassed quadrangle, and an extension, built in the 1970s. An Infants School was added later in the 1970s, and the school now has capacity for 480 children, plus about 60 in the attached nursery.
It is now known as Flakefleet Primary School.
In November 2018, Flakefleet School won the Happiest Primary School prize at the National Happiness Awards, for taking steps to ensure the health and wellbeing of pupils and staff.

Lawton's Garage was established on the corner of North Albert Street and Bold Street in Fleetwood, selling Chrysler cars. It later moved to Copse Road, and Fleetwood Hospital expanded onto the old site, building a geriatric ward.

St Anne's Synagogue: The Jewish community in St Anne's began in about 1901, with the first services being held in the home of Joseph Hamwee on Clifton Drive North – that house is now the Manhattan Hotel. The congregation then moved to the Union Bank Chambers on Park Road.

Their first synagogue opened for worship on the 22nd of September in the old St Mary's Mission Hall on Orchard Road. The new building was designed *"by Jewish architect A. Maxwell Caplan of Southport which adopts a nonstandard plan form. Constructed from brick (very pale brown for show, red elsewhere) with concrete dressings. The rectangular schul and synagogue are separated by a shared entrance corridor, with the Ark on the same wall as the entrance".*

The current Synagogue of the St Anne's Hebrew Congregation was built on the same site in 1960, and officially opened on the 21st of June 1964. It was consecrated by Dr Israel Brodie, the Chief Rabbi for Great Britain and the Commonwealth. The architect was A Maxwell-Caplin.
In May 2012, Blackpool Hebrew Congregation joined with them after the closure of their own synagogue.

The first Freckleton Competitive Music Festival was held in June, organised by Richard Spencer. The event is now one of the biggest in North West England, attracting over 1,500 competitors.

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Blackpool Corporation held a "War Weapons Week" during March, to raise £1 million - £2,047,025 was actually achieved – more than any other town.

The Blackpool Civil Defence Office was on Sefton Street, and Blackpool bus 118 was given to the Civil Defence for use as a mobile canteen.
A large Civil Defence camp was constructed off St Anne's Road, comprising 26 buildings. After the war, they were taken over by squatters, and they were demolished in 1957. Squatters also took over ex-army huts in Cleveleys and an old Army gun site off Church Road in St Anne's, and other people moved into empty houses and disused hotels, including the Red Lion Hotel in Bispham. In September 1946, a Gazette report revealed that there were more than 4,000 people on the housing waiting list, and the Corporation requisitioned unused buildings to rehome them. St Anne's Road fire station now fills the site of the huts.
Blackpool built a Civil Defence Air Raid Precautions Depot on land behind Airedale Villas on Whitegate Drive. After the war, it was taken over by Blackpool Social Services. In 1983, the Social Services moved to South King Street, and the Marton buildings at 258a Whitegate Drive were taken over on the 27th of May, by the Education Department, who had moved from Stanley Buildings on Caunce Street. The Education Department later named the building the Oxford Centre, which opened in March 1999, to provide education and guidance for pupils excluded from Blackpool schools.

The RAF commandeered Blackpool Cricket Ground for recruit training, erecting a large hangar by the entrance. During the war, Blackpool Services Cricket Team (known as Blackpool RAF) shared the local ground for home matches.
The first Blackpool-built aeroplane took off from Squires Gate in July, and the first Wellington assembled at Stanley Park left there for Squires Gate on the 26th of October.
Squires Gate built further buildings, including an extended accounts office, a new admin office with various sleeping shelters. The control tower was built and so were eight blast shelters.
A special 33-inch water main was laid down Squires Gate lane to supply the ARP fire pumps for the aerodrome.
Stanley Park Café was used as an army post.
By October, out of 23,000 child evacuees in Blackpool a year before, only 3,000 remained.

The Central Station Air Crash: Two aircraft from Squires Gate crashed over Blackpool on the 27th of August.
Blackburn Botha L6509 from Number 3 School of General Reconnaissance went through Central Station roof and 18 people died.
Bolton Paul Defiant N1745 from 256 Squadron with a New Zealand crew demolished number 97 Reads Avenue, the home of Mr and Mrs Lionel Franceys, a prominent local couple, and all the crew were killed. The house was never rebuilt and is now part of the college car park. The building at number 95 was opened as the Waverley hotel in 1947. The pilot's body was found hanging by his parachute in Regent Road, and an engine hurtled down in Hornby Road embedding itself at least a foot deep into the tarmac, whilst elsewhere a wing came down in a street. Mr N Midgley, an aircraft rigger working with Brooklands Aviation at Squires Gate, had been just about to board the Botha at Squires Gate for a ride when at the last minute, he was called away to a job! This disaster caused more casualties than did all the enemy air raids on Blackpool and the Fylde during the entire war.
On the 29th of January 1942, the Air Ministry awarded the George Medal to acting Corporal Thomas Hill for his *"undaunted courage"* in the incident. Blackpool Police Constable Thomas Beeston received a commendation, a merit badge, and an award of 10 guineas. Gratuities of five guineas each went to Police War Reservist JEK Harrison, Special Constable W Jackson, and Mr James Gallimore of Peter Street.
A commemorative plaque was installed at North Station.

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A full list of all the victims of the disaster can be found in Appendix W.
Another Bolton Defiant night fighter crashed at Squires Gate on the 13th of November, killing its pilot, Bertram Best.

The Disappearance of Amy Johnson: Amy Johnson set off from Prestwick on the 4th of January, in an Airspeed Oxford Mk II. She called at Squires Gate and spent a night with her sister, Molly Jones, and husband Trevor on Newton Drive, leaving for Kidlington the next day. Amy got lost above the clouds over the river Thames and bailed out. Her body was never recovered. Before her flight, photographer John Capstack took her portrait at his studios at 145 the Promenade (now a Donner Kebab shop).

HMS Penelope: Blackpool people raised £1,506,746 towards the repairing of the cruiser, which had been allocated to the town by the Admiralty in Warship Week. She had been commissioned in 1936 but had run aground and been holed. The people of Blackpool continued to supply their adopted crew with cigarettes, food, and clothes until she was sunk off Anzio on the 18th of February 1944 by a German submarine. All 41y crew members were lost. During her war service, she was holed so many times that she was nicknamed HMS Pepperpot. The Blackpool Sea Cadet unit "TS Penelope" at 596 Devonshire Road, Bispham was named after her.

The second HMS Penelope, again sponsored by Blackpool, was commissioned on the 31st of October 1963. She had been launched on the 17th of August 1962 in Walker-on-Tyne, Newcastle. Numbered F127, she was a Royal Navy Leander frigate. The Penelope Association was formed by ex-crew members in 1987, meeting annually. In June 1990, the ship was presented with the Freedom of the Borough of Blackpool at a ceremony on Princess Parade. After action in the Falklands War, she was de-commissioned in 1991 and sold to Ecuador.

Blackpool residents also raised the money to fund three Spitfire fighters for the RAF. They were named Progress 1, 2, and 3. The first, W3433, was bought for £5,000, and made its first flight with 616 Squadron on the 26th of June but was sadly lost on operations on the 29th of September.
Three more Spitfires (Red Rose II, III, and IV) were presented to the RAF by the Lancashire Constabulary later in the year.
All men between 20 and 23 years of age had to report to the Employment Exchange in Blackpool to register for military service. The Blackpool Food Office was stormed on August Bank Holiday Monday by holidaymakers wanting temporary food ration cards.

RAF Blackpool Tower: This special station opened on the 1st of April. The flagpole and crow's nest cage had been removed to make way for "Chain Home Station number 64".
Its code was AMES 64 – Air Ministry Experimental Station.

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Fleetwood adopted the submarine HMS Turbulent, and Thornton Cleveleys adopted frigate HMS Wear.
Fylde Rugby Club's ground at Woodlands Road was taken over by the Army.
Lytham St Anne's residents took part in the War Office Spitfire Fund and raised enough money to fund an aircraft. The Spitfire was a Mark VB and was given the tail number W3644. It was completed in July and entered service with 19 Squadron. It was lost whilst on a Ramrod bomber protection mission to France on June 23rd 1942.
Freckleton was used for the launch of the nation's "Dig for Victory" campaign, by the Duke of Norfolk.
Kirkham RAF camp ran 16-week flight mechanics courses and was also an Armourer's school.
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A bombing decoy site was built on Clifton Marsh by the Warton military staff. This was of the "Permanent Starfish" type and represented a bombed urban environment, designed to imitate Preston.

Marton Moss Post Office moved from School Road and opened at the corner of Brookfield Avenue and Midgeland Road. It was closed in December 2003 to become a house once more.
The Blackpool Borough AFS Band was formed.
Northwest Magicians Club was formed in Blackpool in April. One founder member was Paul Clive, a Blackpool magic dealer, who owned several *"witchcraft"* shops - one on North Pier and one on Central Pier. Another shop was on Central Drive and he also owned a warehouse in Blackpool. In February 1951, the name was altered to "Blackpool Magic Circle", holding its first one-day convention at the Pleasure Beach Casino in 1952. It is now known as Blackpool Magician's Club. Ken Dodd is the Honorary Life President, and the club now has its own clubroom at the Savoy Hotel.
Blackpool's first Council Nursery for under-5s was opened on the 19th of July.
The C Cabs taxi company was established, by bandleader Harry Townson and others at 26 King Street. The company was incorporated as C Cabs (Blackpool) Ltd on the 15th of February 1967, later moving to Topping Street, and then 6 Caunce Street in 1967. In 2002, C Cabs were taken over by Red Cabs (operating as C Cabs), and then, in November 2014, they merged with Tower Taxis. The company now operates 185 vehicles locally.
The Australian Café (known as Aussie Jack's) opened at 188 Central Drive, advertising *"Chicken always on the menu"*. It is now called the Central Café. The Tempo Coffee Bar opened opposite, in what had previously been Parker's fish and chip shop, on the 31st of December 1959.
Brooklands Aviation relocated to Blackpool because of bombing at Shoreham, their usual aerodrome, on the South Coast. They were at Squires Gate from 1941 until when the contract ended in 1945.
Nuttall's Patamints became a limited company on the 21st of July, working from their factory at 37-39 Henry Street. The company became insolvent in 1988 and was dissolved in 1991.
Fylde Coast Construction Company Limited came into being in September.
Hurman's Café was in Victoria Street.
The Stylo shoe shop was next to the Winter Gardens entrance at 82 Church Street. In 1978, the shop was taken over by Finks "The Family Jewellers".
Old Farm Garage started, in Turner and Birch's premises on Layton Road, on the site of Smith's Farm.
Number 26 Leys Road was a Maternity Home.
Bloomfield Boarding Kennels were in operation, lasting until 1966. The owner later ran a shop called "Marguerite's" at 57a Chapel Street.
Harry Jacks set up his roofing business in Kent Road.
Guitarist Roy Harper was born in Rusholme, Manchester on the 12th of June. After his mother died during childbirth, he was raised in Blackpool from the age of 6, by his father and stepmother, and was educated at King Edward VII School. In 1984, *"Roy Harper and Led Zeppelin's Jimmy Page recorded the album "Whatever Happened to Jugula?" at The Boilerhouse Studios, a studio in the basement of Tony and Gail Beck's house, "West Bank", 6 Clifton Drive, Lytham"*. This was followed on the 21st of April 1984 by a gig from both musicians at the St Ives Hotel.

Tania Mallet: was born in town on the 19th of May, to local car salesman Henry Mallet and Russian Olga Mironoff. Tania was the cousin of actress Helen Mirren, whose father was the brother of Tania's mother. She went to school in Blackpool, and at 16 she enrolled in London's Lucy Clayton School of Modelling. Her modelling career saw her grace the cover of Vogue magazine amongst others, and she starred as "Tilly Masterson" in the James Bond film "Goldfinger" (1964) and never accepted another film role. Tania died on the 31st of March 2019.

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Author June Francis was born in Blackpool. Her mother had been moved from Liverpool for the birth due to threats of German bombing.
Anthony Gordon Eriksson was born in Blackpool on the 21st of March. He later became Swami Nadabrahmananda and founded the International Meditation Society.
Laurence Olivier appeared with wife Vivien Leigh in a charity show at the Opera House on the 5th of October. They played a brief scene from "Henry V".

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The Grange Nursing Home was on Hardhorn Road in Poulton. It was demolished in the late 1960s and replaced by Grange Gardens apartments.
Thornton Cleveleys Horticultural Society was formed, holding their first annual show in September. The show's Best Baby was awarded the Francis Cup.
The Café Marina was in operation on Victoria Road West in Cleveleys, offering such delicacies as Lobster Salad for 1/6.
The Exchange Control branch of HM Customs and Excise in London was bombed in January, and the import staff (except for a small liaison unit) moved to Moorland Road, St Anne's. They returned to London after some years, although work did carry on in other buildings in Lytham St Anne's, alongside the GO 12/30 Deposits section, until the late 1980s.
The Clifton Aircraft Company was formed on Victoria Street in Lytham, to make parts for the Vickers factory in Blackpool. They had made domestic electrical appliances since 1945 – such as the "No Trouble Iron" and the "Clifton Breakfast Cooker". Clifton Engineers (Lytham) Limited was registered on the site in December 1986, trading from West Cliffe. The company dissolved in 1998.
The Lytham Vocal Society – President Frank Kay – presented their first concert on the 7th of December. It was their version of Handel's Messiah at the Lytham Palace.

BNFL Springfield, at Salwick: The site gets its name from the Springfields Plantation (so called because of natural underground springs), the only remaining parts of which now lie to the north of the railway line. The site was bought this year by the War Ministry, and immediately became an ICI munitions (incendiaries and smoke bombs) and poison gas establishment, making and storing the vesicant *"Lewisite"* pyro - a mustard gas agent with arsenic. The buildings were constructed on land between Station Road and Deepdale Wood, and the mustard gas began to be shipped out by mid-1942, firstly under the control of ICI, and later the Ministry of Supply. Some of the Chlorine and Mustard Gas devices were also stored at the ICI complex at Thornton.

By late-1943, sufficient stocks had been accumulated and production was halted, and by 1946 the usefulness of the site had declined. The Ministry of Defence allowed the Atomic Energy Commission, to take over the complex, and they then opened their Springfields plant there on the 28th of March 1946, to manufacture fuel for the UK's experimental nuclear reactors. Building began in May, and the site was handed over to the new Department of Atomic Energy in October of 1946, with a workforce of just 162. It was the birth of the UK's civil nuclear power programme, and it was producing fuel by mid-1948.

In 1958, Springfields opened its Magnox Plant to manufacture uranium fuel for the UK's Magnox atomic power stations.

Springfields soon employed 4,600 people, and by 1963, over 300 houses had been built locally to house the employees. By 1965, it was the world's largest plant designing and producing uranium fuel, and new production facilities to make fuel for the next generation of nuclear power station, the Advanced Gas-Cooled Reactors, were opened. In 1996, the multi-million-pound Oxide Fuel Complex was opened - the
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world's most advanced nuclear technology. A visitor centre was opened in 1986, and in 1993, a nature trail was added.
The complex remains a major local employer of 1,500, and the Springfields site is operated by Springfields Fuels Limited, under the management of Westinghouse Electric UK Limited. In January 2018, Westinghouse was bought by Brookfield Business Partners of Toronto

The sewage works at Newton were extended and improved by the construction of 2 detritus tanks and 6 settling tanks, from where the sewage is pumped into 14 sludge beds. Cleansed waste is then pumped into the River Ribble.

1942

Stanley Park became the training ground for all drill and weapon training – including grenade throwing on the open field.
The Park also began to be used to train men for airfield guard duties - that group was soon to be christened "the RAF Regiment".
Stanley Park's shelter, on the main driveway, was converted in the RAF's Pay Parade office.
Abingdon Street Market and St John's Church jointly built an air raid shelter outside the west end of the church. Today an Ecumenical Trust uses it as emergency shelter for the young homeless.
The RAF Kubukwai Judo Club gave free lessons in the gym at Tyldesley School on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays.
Squires Gate built MEE workshops with an AA dome trainer and an RDF workshop.
North Shore Golf Course was used by the RAF for physical training, field training, bomb throwing, and bayonet fighting.
On the 17th of April, a squadron of 6 Lancaster bombers attacked a German engine factory at Augsburg. One was piloted by John Nettleton who eventually landed (the lone survivor) at Squire's Gate aerodrome, and telephoned Waddington airbase to report on the mission and ask about the survivors. On the 28th of April, the London Gazette announced the award of a Victoria Cross to John Nettleton.
A Polish technical training school was formed in town.
Locals were disgusted at "antics on the sands" between the GIs and the local girls. Many "GI Weddings" were carried out at the Register Office on Regent Road.

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During "Warship Week" in March the people of Lytham St Anne's raised £700,000 for the Q Class destroyer HMS Queensborough. On the 21st of March, a Guard of Honour of Royal Marines was inspected in St Anne's Square by Lord Derby.
The MS railways "Salvage Coach" visited Lytham in August, to show people what kind of goods could be salvaged and reused for the war effort.
Spitfire W3644 "Lytham St Anne's" was lost in action over the Channel on the 23rd of June - neither the plane nor the pilot, Sergeant Alan Lever Ridings, were ever found.
The USAAF had a base at Inskip, using the base alongside the Fleet Air Arm's HMS Nightjar, which began to be built on the 4th of June this year, until the 2nd of July 1946, when the land was finally bought from the Earl of Derby and used as a transport store.
At the same time, Thistleton Lodge was taken over as sick quarters, Parrox Hall as WRNS berths, and the adjacent Higham Grange as sick bay. Higham Grange had been built near Higham Nook in the 1870s. Inskip Lodge served as the WRNS headquarters for the base.
Balderstone Mill at Freckleton was wound down for the War, and was closed down in July 1941, to be used by the USAAF for storage. It re-opened in 1947.
Clifton Marsh was mined and booby trapped to prevent invasion by gliders.
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350 acres of land on Freckleton Marsh were requisitioned by the Lancashire Agricultural Committee, for the growing of wheat for the war effort. The land was released again in 1952.
At Pilling, a giant fuel dump was set up by the US Air Force. The American camp was built at Jarvis Carr Farm, to guard the dump, which covered several fields on the farm. The tented camp was opened on the 21st of October, closing on the 6th of April 1943.

USAAF Base Air Depot 2 at Warton: The Americans arrived in Blackpool and the Fylde, when Warton Air Depot was opened on the 5th of September, having started operations (at 10% capacity) in June. The fledgling RAF satellite airfield began to be upgraded in March 1942, and by June, 2 runways had been almost completed. There were to be 9 runways and 7 hangars, as well as *"workshops, engine test cells, MT shops, armouries, and stores were amongst the many buildings designed and built around the airfield. Ten accommodation sites were constructed in order to house 15,902 persons. A chapel, hospital, and cinema were to be provided along with other facilities for personnel"*. One runway was the longest in Europe and a hangar was the biggest in Europe.

At first, the servicemen were billeted in camps set up at Lamaleach Farm, Naze Lane (now the trading estate), Further Ends Farm, and on Croft Butts Lane. They called these camps "Tent City".
The base hospital was on West End Lane and had 210 beds at its peak in 1944. The base housed a total of 15,402 people - including support staff - in 10 accommodation sites.

On the 14th of August 1942, 4 officers and 92 men had arrived at Lytham Railway Station to take up their duties at Warton, and on the 5th of September, the Warton Air Depot came into being.

Finally, there were around 10,000 US Airmen at Warton, which became the 8th USAAF Base Air Depot number 582X (known as BAD2) on the 12th of February 1943, the official handover from the RAF being performed on the 17th of July 1943. It was later christened *"The world's greatest air depot"*. The base had its own social club for airmen, the Aero Club, run by the American Red Cross.

The road between the base and Lytham was strewn with concrete barriers to stop any invading German planes and tanks.
In 1944, the depot was allocated the maintenance of all P-51 Mustangs and B-24 Liberators, and on the 14th of August 1944, the Glenn Miller Band played to 10,000 people in front of Hangar 4.
Also, on the 6th of June 1944, boxers Joe Louis and Billy Conn addressed the troops at the base.

The last aircraft was delivered on the 2nd of August 1945. There was then a Farewell Concert by the 523rd Air Forces Band of BAD 2 on the 19th of August, in Blackpool's Stanley Park, attended by over 8,000. BAD2 then ceased work on the 31st of August 1945, and was officially "de-activated" on the 3rd of September.

After a few months as home to the Warton American Technical School, the site was re-possessed by the RAF mid-February 1946. All USAAF servicemen had left Warton by the 11th of January 1946. Warton had processed 10,068 aircraft during its life, including every type of US aircraft used in Europe during the war, as well as many British models.
The hangars and workshops remained, together with a large railway goods yard on the north side of the road to Lytham. It lay behind what later became Stanway's Garage.

©

After the war, English Electric acquired the depot for Canberra building and flight-testing, and today it houses British Aerospace Systems' military aircraft division. It was initially surveyed as a possible site for a proposed Preston Airport.

Residential Nurseries were opened at 584 Lytham Road on the 27th of June, and the one at 225 Whitegate Drive closed on the 12th of September.
Blackpool Council also established several Day Nurseries, to help women doing emergency war work. The first, and temporary one was opened at the Coronation Street Schoolroom on the 2nd of March, for children of 2 to 5 years of age. This closed on the 25th of June 1945. Five others opened: corner of Caunce Street and Devonshire Road (now a block of flats) – 1st of June, Claremont Park – 14th of July (closed in 1953), Glastonbury Avenue, 14th of July (closed in 1951), Lostock Gardens – 28th of April (closed on 12th of July 1952), and Lytham Road – 7th of July (closed in 1951). These five were specially constructed and were not adaptations of existing buildings".
There were 2 Council-registered Common Lodging Houses: Eden Street, housing 160 adults and 1 child, and Seed Street, with 56 adults and 1 child. In 1910, there was one more, at Gavan Street, which housed 148 adults and 22 married couples – or 217 adults and 1 child. The house on Seed Street was closed in 1961, and the Eden Street premises followed in 1966. The buildings were commonly known as doss houses.
The Bond Street emergency bus garage opened in January. It was the old Carnival Shop hanger from Rigby Road, which had been moved and rebuilt on Bond Street in case Rigby Road was bombed. It stored old buses until 1954, and then became British Car Auctions, before being sold to the Pleasure Beach. It was demolished in September 1998.
The first women tram inspectors were employed.
Doris Wright became the resort's first female bus driver.
The Duchess of Westminster visited the Blackpool premises of Premier Coaches.
Noel Coward premiered and appeared in two of his plays at the Grand Theatre. The plays were "Present Laughter" on the 20th of October, and "This Happy Breed" on the 21st. He later staged "Blithe Spirit".
The Blackpool YMCA opened a meeting hut on the corner of Station Road and the Promenade on the 19th of December.
The Keidokwai Judo Club was founded in Blackpool, now operating in Revoe Gym.
J Wolstenholme's photography shop was at 33 Coronation Street. They later moved to Deansgate.

Lindale Gardens Methodist Church, Blackpool: After pressure on the town Council from the Salvation Army, permission was for worshippers to meet, and a group of local Methodists first met in the Assembly Hall at Highfield Senior School. In May 1938, Lindale Gardens Sunday school began, led by the first minister at Lindale - Reverend EJ Nuttall. A Church Hall was built on Dorritt Road from May 1948, immediately behind the Highfield Road Co-op and on the corner of Margate Avenue. It was opened on the 27th of October 1948, and was licenced to perform marriages in 1952.
The present Lindale Methodist Church was opened on the 7th of October 1967, on the site of an air-raid shelter next to the church hall.

William Salthouse founded his building firm in Osborne Road, South Shore, and built his own Osborne Road Sawmills. The company remained in the Salthouse family until bought by Bill Twentyman in 1998.
Salthouse (Blackpool) Ltd was incorporated on the 26th of November 1943, and went into liquidation on the 24th of November 2003, and was finally dissolved on the 26th of May 2013.
Parker and Company, slipper manufacturers, were in business on Dover Road. On the 8th of June, Honor Brammer, the manager, was charged with murdering her husband in his bed.

©

Williamson Aircraft Limited were manufacturing sheet metal panels for the aircraft industry from their Buchanan Street works.
The first and original "Kentucky Derby" game was introduced on Blackpool foreshore by an American Jockey, GV Tonner, and was located there for a number of years.
England played the West Indies at Stanley Park on the 19th of August (England won by 70 runs), and the Royal Air Force North had played the Royal Air Force South there on the 2nd (RAF South won by 5 wickets).
Comedian Norman Evans moved to Ashville, at 278 East Park Drive. He died on the 25th of November 1962, being buried in Carleton Cemetery. His grave is like a stone wall, and is called *"his last garden wall"*, after his famous show. He initially owned a large house on the corner of the Promenade and Waterloo Road.

Graham Nash: (of the Hollies, and Crosby, Stills, Nash and Young) was born in the Kimberley Hotel's temporary Maternity Ward on the 2nd of February. His mother had been evacuated from Salford.

Comedian Syd Little: was born, Cyril John Mead, in Blackpool on December the 19th. His mother had been evacuated to Blackpool, he was born at the New Central Hotel – then a makeshift maternity unit - and they soon moved back to Manchester. After he became famous as part of the Little and Large comedy duo, he moved back to settle in Poulton, and opened the Little Restaurant inside the Strawberry Gardens Hotel at Fleetwood in August 2012. In April 2016, he moved the Little Restaurant to the Steamer pub.

Billy Bennett – comedian and raconteur – gave his final performance in Blackpool in May, weeks before his death. Perhaps his best-known monologue is "The Green Tie on the Little Yellow Dog", his take on "The Green Eye of the Yellow God".
Richard Evans was born in Blackpool, becoming chairman of BAE Systems PLC from 1998 to 2004. He was knighted in 1996.
A travelling circus family wrote to the Blackpool Food Office in March, asking *"Please can we have new ration books, as the others have been eaten by our elephant"*.

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Andy Summers: was born (Andrew James Somers) in Poulton on the 31st of December. His family lived on Compley Caravan Park and moved to Bournemouth. He played in the Animals from 1967 to 1968, and became the lead guitarist with "The Police" when they formed in London in 1976.

Tavernor's drapery store opened at 29 Clifton Street in Lytham. The shop closed in 2009. The company later opened a fishing shop at 31A Clifton Street, and a second drapery at 152 St Albans Road in St Anne's.
Kirkham Laundry and Dry Cleaners Ltd opened on Marsden Street in September, before later moving to Seafield Avenue in Lytham. Percy Constantine's Kirkham and District Steam Laundry was on the Marsden Street site in earlier years.
A Council Clinic was opened at 7 Elletson Terrace on Park Lane in Preesall.

1943

Civil Servants from Norbreck staged a sit-down strike on the tram tracks on the 9th of July, demanding priority on the trams over holidaymakers.
The Government requisitioned 3,000 boarding house beds in Blackpool at short notice, required that visitors be ejected. The landladies protested, but to no avail.
Blackpool Corporation organised a "Dig for Victory" week in March, and a "Wings for Victory" week on the 3rd of April. As part of "Dig for Victory", public places were turned in to allotments; for example, Fisher's Field had allotments to the west and an AA emplacement on the eastern half. Wings for Victory raised
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£1,800,019, which could fund the construction of 18 Wellington bombers, or 18 Lancaster bombers, or 36 Spitfires. One of the Lancasters purchased was sadly lost in 1943

HMS Triphibian: was commissioned at Squires Gate Camp as a shore training establishment for new entry procedures for the Royal Naval Patrol Service on the 1st of November. It was a kitting-out base for training new recruits, and was used for Combined Operation training, before its ratings were sent to Devonport and to Stoker Branch in Chatham after passing out.
The first base Commanding Officer was Archibald Lovett-Cameron.
The base was paid off on the 22nd of February 1944, and transferred back to the Army, from whom it had been loaned.
It was later used for Royal Artillery marching and preliminaries, and by the East Lancashire Regiment and the Loyal North Lancashire Regiment as an Infantry Training Centre.
The base name is often wrongly spelled as HMS Pribithian.

RAF Air Sea Rescue (ASR) School: The first such school was established at Blackpool on the 30th of May, being accommodated at the Technical Training Command station. Both practical and theoretical training was given to ensure all students had a thorough knowledge of rescue procedure and became thoroughly familiar with all types of rescue equipment. The school moved to Hampshire in 1955.

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A platoon of American soldiers from Warton was billeted on Fleetwood Pier for a time, manning the port defences. Their PX was in the Ferry Arcade, and others were billeted in the school buildings on Lord Street; next to the pier was a Civil Defence building.
Lytham docks were used to build *"Mulberry harbours"* – under Operation Phoenix - for the army's D-Day preparations.
Royal Navy Air Service Inskip - HMS Nightjar at Inskip was commissioned on the 15th of May, to house the Royal Navy's Fleet Air Arm Training wing. When the land was bought by the Admiralty in June 1942, its intention was to call it "Elswick Airfield", but its name was changed in April 1943. Its proper title was Number 1 Naval Operational Training Unit and initially it comprised 747 Squadron, which arrived on the 9th of June, and 766 Squadron, which followed in the July. 735 Squadron took up station in August.

The camp was built to resemble an aircraft carrier, so that pilots could practice carrier landings and take-offs. Shorrock's Farm at Treales was taken over by the navy as billets for the WRENs from the base.
A Fairey Swordfish aircraft (DK689 of 766 Squadron), flown from RNAS Inskip by Sub Lt T Judd, was on an Anti-Submarine bombing exercise over Pilling, when it hit a pole and had to make a forced landing.
The Squadrons used and serviced Fairey bi-planes and Avro Ansons and were supplemented by the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve. Other squadrons came and went during the war, using the base's four runways. I have listed all the squadrons which used it at Appendix U.
All flying at Inskip stopped in February 1946, when 766 Squadron left, but the Royal Navy retained the base as a transport pool, using the 32 "S" Sheds. RNAS Inskip was decommissioned on the 2nd of July, and began to be used as that transport pool, and by RAF Weeton as a driving school for RAF drivers.

Royal Navy Wireless Station Inskip was opened as a Royal Navy radar station on the 12th of January 1959, and its four landmark 600-foot-tall masts were built. These are now a well-known Fylde landmark.

HMS Inskip was commissioned there in 1966, and was de-commissioned on the 8th of March 1995, the last of the base's hangers being demolished. Today the base is called DCSA Radio Inskip - a Royal Navy communications base.
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The old HMS Nightjar became TS (Training Ship) Nightjar - a Sea Cadet Training Centre. SCTC Inskip closed on the 31st of January 2010, ending 68 years of uniformed presence in Inskip – although the HQ of the Cumbria and Lancashire Wing Air Training Corps has been based there since 2012, meeting in the old SCTC facility.

Blackpool Borough Quarter Sessions were established, to hear legal cases relating solely to Blackpool.
The Blackpool Girls' Anchor League paraded in October – the only girls' Sea Cadets cadre in the country at the time.
The Fylde Ex-Service Liaison Committee was in operation (exact name not known).
An old anchor was ploughed up on Thompson's Farm, Mythop Road, reaffirming that the Mere had been much larger in the past.
Questions were asked in Parliament about the "illegal" running of 11 extra trains from Manchester to Blackpool – contrary to War Department regulations. Blackpool was busy.
The Salvation Army's Red Shield All Services Club opened on the old market site on the 16th of October.
Boxing returned to the Tower, with Ronnie Clayton and others. Wrestling was also back, starring Jack Pye and company.
Blackpool Happyland Limited was formed on the 20th of May, operating on the Promenade.
The Treasure House gift shop opened on Coronation Street.
Blackpool Business and Professional Women's Club was formed.
The Famous Army Stores had two stores in Blackpool. The main outlet was at 27 Victoria Street, and the second at 6 Bond Street. The main shop later moved to the corner of Church Street and Market Street, later to become a Millet's outlet.
Blackpool Motor Auctions Ltd were at 6-8 Gorton Street. They ceased trading in 1948, but a similar business soon appeared at the same address, called Gorton Street Motor Auctions. That company was wound up in March 1958, but by 1986, it had re-appeared, with auctioneer Stanley Hill. The plot is currently vacant, but next door at 286 Talbot Road is Peter Johnson's Webster Motor Company (WMC).
NA Robson Limited started business as a construction company and house builder. It is located on Robson Way, Highfurlong, which is named after it, and now hires blast equipment.
W Salthouse (Blackpool) Limited, builder, was formed on the 26th of November.
Blackpool Service Football Club won the Lancashire Combination League.
Blackpool Services team won the Ribblesdale Cricket League title for the third consecutive year.
Tom McNally was born in Blackpool on the 20th of February, later made a Liberal Life Peer.
Albert Louden, a foremost *"British Outsider Artist"* was born in Blackpool, the son of a photographer, T Louden of Talbot Studios, 61 Talbot Road. He first became known in 1985, when he was given a one-man show at The Serpentine Gallery in Hyde Park in London.
Syd Francis was born in Blackpool on the 4th of October. He became a famous comedian, appearing on the TV show "The Comedians" and headlining in Blackpool.
Children's writer Beatrix Potter (Ellen Beatrice Heelis) died on the 22nd of December, of a heart attack following severe bronchitis. She was cremated in Carleton Crematorium on the 24th, and her ashes were scattered on her land in the Lake District by her shepherd, Tom Storey.
The film "They met in the dark" was partly filmed in Blackpool, starring James Mason.
The World Premiere of the play "Brighton Rock" by Graham Greene was hosted by the Grand Theatre on the 16th of February, starring Richard Attenborough, Hermione Baddeley, and Dulcie Gray.

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George Formby filmed part of his film "Bellbottom George" in Fleetwood, with the film being released in January 1944.
John Fyffe was born in Fleetwood. He attended Manor Road School and Fleetwood Grammar, and went on to sing and play guitar in the 1960s group "The Settlers".
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Graham Parish, the librarian of St Anne's Library, was awarded the George Cross for bravery in April. He had returned to a burning plane to rescue a passenger, but they both died.
Arnold Ingham and Son, builders, were at Crescent Saw Mills in St Anne's, also running a retail outlet at 4 Orchard Road. The shop is now occupied by a hairdresser called Prestige Hair.

Barnardo's Home, St Anne's: Barnardo's opened a children's home at 9 Links Gate in November, as a girl's home. It had previously been run by the Ormerod Trust.
A nursery was added in 1966, and a day care unit had opened by 1968. From September 1971, it provided accommodation for boys and girls.
In April 1975, it changed to a home for children with physical and learning disabilities, and it moved to 11 Links Gate in May 1977. The original home is no longer standing.

Johnny Hart: John Bernard Hart was born on the 29th of August 29, at the War Memorial Hospital in St Anne's. He was bought up in Preston and went to St Joseph's Boys RC school and then Harris Secondary Technical and Commercial School. He grew up to be an internationally-renowned stage magician, and was the first British magician ever to appear on the USA's Ed Sullivan Show in 1962. His signature act was to produce budgerigars from thin air. He died in December 2018.

After the death of John Booth, his sons EH and JK Booth presented a painting in their father's memory to the Lytham Art Collection – *"The Deathbed of Robert, King of Naples"* by Alfred Elmore.
Lytham St Anne's Corporation was fined by the Manorial Court for not maintaining their drainage ditches.
Rose Cottage at Kellamergh was demolished. In 1905, it had been the home of Miss Swarbrick.

1944

445 of Blackpool's servicemen were listed as being held prisoner by the Japanese.
On the 9th of August, Hannah Haworth from Preston was killed by a stray bullet from a plane as she walked along Norcliffe Avenue in Bispham.
The ceiling fell in at the Salvation Army Club above Yates', but no GIs or girls were injured.
Wing-Commander Robinson asked the Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of War Transport whether he would grant an increase in the allocation of petrol to the Blackpool Corporation Transport Department to enable them to run omnibuses until 10.30 pm instead of 9.30 pm from the town centre for the general convenience of the residents and visiting workers.
From D-day until October, the fabrication of spectacles, which was beyond the capability of mobile army units, was accomplished by the ETOUSA (European Theater of Operations, US Army) Base Optical Shop located in Blackpool.

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The Warton Air Crash: On the 23rd of August, B-24 Liberator H-20 42-50291 "Classy Chassis II" was being test-flown by 1st Lieutenant John Bloemendal. Soon after take-off from Warton in terrible weather, the B-24 ripped the top off a tree and shed its right wingtip as it chopped off the corner of a building, leaving the rest of the wing ploughing along the ground through a hedge. The bomber carried on, demolishing three houses and Whittle's "Sad Sack" Snack Bar in Freckleton. It continued, raking across Lytham Road, and finally disintegrating. Another part of the plane destroyed the infant's wing of Holy Trinity School (built in 1839). Sixty-one people were killed, the clock in one classroom stopping at 10:47. The bodies of the children were taken to a temporary mortuary by the Coach and Horses pub, and their funerals were held on the 26th of August.
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A full list of the victims given is at Appendix W – only two five-year-old children survived; Ruby Whittle and George Carey. Two others, George Madden and Harry Latham were fortunately off sick. Teacher Hilda Healy also survived.

The Astra Cinema, Warton: Bing Crosby visited the injured children on the 1st of September, weeping as he comforted them and singing some of his songs at the Post Theatre – later to become the Astra Cinema - on Lytham Road in Warton. He then went on to perform a show for the servicemen in Hangar 7. The Astra Cinema was later bought by George Blackburn as George's Garages (Warton) Ltd – used as a petrol station and storage building. Later the garage displayed both the Jaguar car from the "Return of the Saint" TV series (with the registration plate "ST1"), and a white Rolls Royce car in the main entrance for many years. The cinema building was demolished in 2010, to be replaced by a Tesco Express store and 16 new houses, accessed from Post Lane. The RAF ran several Astra cinemas around the country.

In August 1945, the USAAF opened a memorial gardens and playground which they had built near the site. This contains a memorial stone and plaque, which was moved closer to the graves in the 1970s. In January 2012, two local people, Lyn Braithwaite and Nicole Partridge, set up a group called the Friends of Freckleton Memorial Park, to support and maintain the area. Work began in 2012, to improve the Memorial Gardens by installing improved play facilities, including a zip wire.
The Freckleton Charitable Trust Ltd was set up in 1947, to manage the donations from the Air disaster.
In 1977, the Freckleton Memorial Hall was built in memory of the dead, and in July 2007, a memorial plaque was unveiled at the actual site of the disaster.

American film stars such as Bob Hope and Clarke Gable also visited Warton to entertain the troops, and Glen Miller fetched his band to play on the 14th of August.
The "Warton Warriors" American football team beat the "Burtonwood Bearcats" at the Bloomfield Road stadium on the 15th of October.
George Formby performed a live show at the cinema in RNAS Inskip.

D Delmage set up his veterinary practice on Mere Road.
The Crescent Hotel was on North Promenade, proprietor J Craig.

Earl's Court Fire, Blackpool: There was a serious fire at the Earl's Court funfair and amusement arcade on the south-western corner of Temple Street and Church Street in February. It *"started in the first-floor canteen of the three-storey building and rapidly spread to the top floor"*. The fire was so large that it required 100 firemen and 15 engines. *"At one point, despite "imminent peril", three of them were standing on the roof directing their hose towards the flames, which were driving them back foot by foot. All the time the fire was spreading through the rooms below. A mobile kitchen was in operation – handing out hot drinks and sandwiches to weary firefighters"*.
The building had to be demolished, to be turned into Mason's UCP restaurant, with the Derby upstairs. After a time as a Clark's shoe shop, it became a Nando's chicken outlet in 2012.

Marton Congregational Church: moved into a wooden cabin on Buttermere Avenue (now Wordsworth Avenue) on the 19th of September. It was dedicated for worship on the 5th of January 1946. Marton Congregationalists had first worshipped in the Stanley School hall on the 8th of October 1939. The church was extended on the 6th of June 1953. The organ was built by the John Compton Organ Company Ltd and was presented to the church on the 23rd of April 1963.

©

Marton Congregational Church opened on Wordsworth Avenue on April the 13th 1969. It had been rebuilt in brick and stone. The Church Hall and Memorial Garden were added later.
The name was changed to Marton United Reformed Church on the 5th of October 1972.

The North Staffordshire Miners Convalescent Home was at the Russell Hotel on Clifton Drive North.
The Blackpool Forum was started, as a young person's club run by a local vicar, the Reverend Joe Brice, who wanted to appeal to those aged between 16 and 30 who were too old for the youth clubs. It closed down in May 2007.
Blackpool Van Transport Limited was formed on the 16th of August.
Brewer and Turnbull Limited were operating a removals depository at 105a Hornby Road. They later moved to Vicarage Lane in Marton and branched out into their own furniture stores.
Heslop's garage was established in Back Norfolk Road in Marton. Originally just carrying out motor car repairs, it now incorporates a small car sales business, called RH Motors.
Harvey's Opticians were in business at 67 Talbot Road, offering "Spectacles, completed in 7 days".

Bond's Engineering, Blackpool: Lawrence Bond set up his own small engineering workshop at Squires Gate. Employing some 20–30 workers, the Bond Aircraft and Engineering Company (Blackpool) Ltd manufactured aircraft and vehicle components under Ministry of Supply contract and had its office on Queen Street in the centre of the town.
The end of the war saw the closure of the Blackpool premises, and he moved to Longridge, where he set up shop in Townley Works on Berry Lane.
The company went on to manufacture the niche collector's car the "Bond Bug" from their factory on Gosford Street in Preston – Lawrence had designed the vehicle for his wife to drive to the shops in Preston centre. Mr Bond died at 56 Woodlands Road in Ansdell on the 2nd of September 1974.

Blackpool Schools Kitchen opened on Penrose Avenue in Marton on the 13th of May.
David Atherton was born in Blackpool on the 3rd of January. He became a world-famous conductor, founded the London Sinfonietta, and was the youngest conductor at the BBC Promenade Concerts.
Christopher Patten was born in Blackpool on the 12th of May. After a distinguished career in politics, he became the last British governor of Hong Kong.
Mike Bateson was born in Blackpool. His later business acumen in the world of double-glazing allowed him to become chairman of Torquay United Football Club in 1990.
The Winter Gardens hosted a festival performance of Handel's Messiah on the 2nd of January, in aid of the Mayor's Services Welfare Fund. The conductor was Dr Malcolm Sargent, and it featured the Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra, the Huddersfield Choral Society, and Webster Booth and Anne Ziegler.
Donald Peers performed his first season show at South Pier on his release from the Air Force.
Many famous names appeared at both the Regal Theatre and the Rainbow Theatre on South Pier. The summer shows, produced by Jack Taylor, featured artistes such as Frank Randle, Norman Evans, Douglas Wakefield, Jimmy Clitheroe, Hylda Baker, Nat Jackley, Albert Burdon, Billy Scott Coomber, Ronnie Ronalde and Dave Morris.
FJ Mainey founded the International Sequence Dance Circle (ISDC) at Cleveleys, holding their first festival at the Winter Gardens. He also wrote the tune "The Blackpool Caledonians".
Plans were made in July for a £10 million Atlantic air terminal, together with a huge seaplane base at the mouth of the River Ribble, which would be connected to Squires Gate airport by an underground tunnel. The reclaimed land for the site would be 4 miles long and 15 feet deep. Nothing came of the plans.

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John Simpson was born John Cody Fidler-Simpson on the 9th of August in Cleveleys. He went on to become the BBC's World Affairs Editor after a life of overseas news reporting.

Partington's: George and Margaret Partington started their holiday business in Thornton, going on to buy and run several local and national holiday parks. Partingtons Holiday Centres Ltd was registered as a company on the 13th of November.
In 1949 they purchased the Newton Hall Holiday camp at Staining, and then, in 1954, they also bought Windy Harbour Caravan and Holiday Centre, opening a clubhouse in the old farmhouse in 1956.
In 1960, they bought Broadwater Holiday Centre and Caravan Park, where a clubhouse was opened in 1966, and a new play park and sports bar, together with a lodge development
Partington's are now based at Chapel Court, 204 Fleetwood road North in Thornton. The company also runs holiday centres at Wardley's Creek in Hambleton, Black Beck in the Lake District, Greenfield Park in Preston, and Tarn House at Skipton.

Milton Lodge – an old Congregational Manse and then Miss Bailey's private day school - was bought for use as a Maternity Hospital on Mount Road in Fleetwood. It opened for use in 1948 with 9 beds and closed in 1979.
Queen Juliana of the Netherlands visited Fleetwood on the 7th of October.
Oral Plastics Ltd was incorporated on the 21st of January, operating from their Oral House on St George's Road in St Anne's. By the mid-1960s they were the UK's second largest makers of false teeth. The building became the home of Gerrard's Auctioneers.
The Lytham St Anne's Music Circle was co-founded by Margaret Holliday and Margaret Shanks.
Saddler's Engineering was formed, moving to Lytham in 1947, they became Sadlers (Lytham) Limited. Their factory was on Dock Road. In February 1998, their Registered Office moved to Bolton, and the company is now Dormant.
Ribble Properties (Lytham) Limited was established at 46 Clifton Street on the 5th of August. The shop later became Wood's butchers. It was Fylde Discount Co Ltd by 1970, and then became the Halifax Bank and Estate Agency, which closed in January 2010.

Earthquake: At shortly after 0130 on the 30th of December, *"The shock was felt right across the north of England by the tremor, which was the second largest of the 20th century in the region"*. It *"shook buildings as far apart as Manchester, Darlington, Sheffield and towns and cities 100 miles away"*.

"In Blackpool and at Lytham St Annes. Many people were awakened at 1.37am. Beds shook, windows rattled, and there were reports of ornaments falling from shelves. People in Fleetwood, Thornton Cleveleys, Poulton and the Over Wyre district felt the shock. A woman living in Park Lane, Preesall, said the shock was so violent that she thought the walls of the house were going to collapse". Stoneyhurst College Observatory measured the tremor, and attributed it to the Pendleton Fault.

1945

VE Day on the 8th of May was celebrated in Talbot Square, as was VJ Day on the 15th of August.
Prime Minister Clement Attlee became the first Prime Minister to address the Trades Union Congress conference when he spoke in Blackpool on the 13th of September.
A "Service of Thanksgiving" for the "Cessation of Hostilities in Europe" was held at the Opera House on the 9th of May, organised by the Blackpool Free Church Council.
The LAC staged an "At Home Day" at Stanley Park on the 14th of July, with demonstrations, including low flying by a Bristol Beaufighter.

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A pontoon bridge was built across Stanley Park lake on the 22nd and 23rd of August.
Polish forces pulled out of Blackpool to return home.
Central Pier mounted a display showing a V1 and a V2 rocket which had been dropped on London. It cost 6d to enter. The pier later displayed a replica German U-Boat conning tower.

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Captain Raymond Charles Crossley Dodd of 6, The Grove, Cleveleys, was awarded the Military Cross on the 11th of August.
In August, the civilian air raid shelter in Lytham Square was demolished. Another on Park View was demolished in 2007, but the one in Robin Park remains.
A Vickers Wellington bomber - LP981 – crashed in the sea 250 off the beach, northwest of the life-boat station at Fleetwood on the 13th of April. The Polish pilot and 4 crewmen were killed and 2 more seriously injured.
A German submarine, U1023, visited Fleetwood on show for the public on the 14th of July.

Brooklands Aviation's contract ended in late 1945. They finished at Squires Gate, all civilian workers were dismissed, and the civilian unit closed. Brooklands relocated to the aerodrome at Sywell in Nottinghamshire.
Rock began to be made again after the lifting of restrictions on sugar. One shop had five hundred customers queuing on Bank Hey Street from 5.30 am.

The Grange Park Estate: The Corporation set in motion their plan to build 616 houses on a large parcel of land which had begun to be bought up by Chadwick's Builders from 1934. Eventually, nearly 2,500 houses would be built by 1950, by compulsorily purchasing land at Layton, including some owned by the nuns of the nearby convent.
Most of the land for the estate was RH (Pop) Singleton's Grange Farm – hence the name change. Grange Farm (finally farmed by the Yates family) stood at the junction of today's Rodwell Walk and Dingle Avenue, and the only remaining original building in the area is Marine Villa – now on the corner of Rudyard Place.
Work then began on Layton Council Estate (later known as Grange Park). The first houses were built on the site of Grange Farm, between Rodwell Walk and Dingle Avenue, and included several Police houses.
By mid-1947, all the land had been fully sewered.

Argosy Avenue's first houses were prefabricated, to speed up the construction. The building technique had first been tested on prefabs at Greenlands. The majority of the estate was built by local firm Taylor-Woodrow. 140 additional prefabricated asbestos houses were built on Argosy Avenue in 1947.

Kingscote Drive was built in 1950, to allow buses to reach the Grange Park Estate.

In 1951, Grange Park began to be extended into 100 acres of Poulton land, and six shops, including a Post Office, were built off Chepstow Road on the estate. These shops opened in 1952, and currently hold a One Stop Shop at 47, a Post Office at 53, Grange Pharmacy at 59, and the Grange Bakery (formerly Lonican's) at 63. The Grange Park Estate Office and Family Centre is at 67 Chepstow Road. Peter Collins took over the Post Office in 1983 and ran it until 2017, becoming a familiar and well-loved resident. The Post Office closed on the 20th of June 2017 and opened in the Londis shop at Cunliffe's garage on Poulton Road on the 21st. The complete block of shops was demolished in November 2018. The space will be filled with 135 new homes, a play area, and shops.
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A second parade of 6 shops soon opened on Easington Crescent, also having a Post Office (its last, the One Stop Shop and the Cod Father fish and chip shop, closed in 2008).

A third group of shops, on Dinmore Place, quickly followed, housing a grocery shop, a bakery, and a fish and chip shop.

The estate continued to grow over the following years. For example, Cockerham Walk was built in 1957. Whilst the estate was developing, there were several opportunists who offered goods for sale in various novel ways – an ice cream delivery bicycle, the "camp shop" off Normoss Road, at the edge of the gypsy camp, a bread van, Mr Raynor's green "everything" van, the pie man, the bleach and soap man, the "Neilson" van, and the red Co-op van.

Grange Park was once the largest council populated area per head of local population in England. There are now approximately 1,800 homes, housing over 6,000 people, and it is still one of Lancashire's largest.

Prefabricated homes, Blackpool: Other prefabs were erected on Lawson Road fields (a new road called East Gate was created there), Moor Park (Brodie Avenue, Walker way etc.), Munster Avenue, Lostock Gardens, Galway, and Bristol Avenues. There are a few still standing, and occupied, on Henry Street.
They were also built in other areas, such as the Warren Farm Estate and around the Memorial Park (Percy Street, Greenfield Road, Hatfield Avenue, Lindel Road, Nelson Road, Hamlet Road, Mowbray Place etc.) in Fleetwood.

Blackpool was split into two separate Parliamentary Divisions.

La Sagesse/South Shore Hospital, Blackpool: Three Nuns from the French Religious Order "Daughters of Wisdom" (or Les Filles de la Sagesse) arrived in Blackpool on the 18th of April, to visit and nurse sick people in their homes. They went on to found the "Catholic Mothers' Holiday Rest Home", after buying number 575 Lytham Road for the purpose. Another house nearby had been opened by the organisation in July 1939.
In 1948, after buying houses adjacent to number 575, the nuns were given permission by the Corporation on the 9th of September, to open a nursing home, which they opened for use in 1952, as "The Convent of Wisdom". La Sagesse Private Hospital was opened officially by the Mayor, Edwin Smith on the 5th of September 1953, in the grounds of the "Convent of Wisdom".

South Shore Hospital: In 1973, La Sagesse was bought by the National Health Service, who turned it into South Shore Hospital. Many of the nuns moved to a specially bought house in Clifton Drive South, along with some older patients. They subsequently moved to the Preston convent. In 1983, South Shore Hospital gained a specialist Geriatric Unit.
The hospital was demolished in July and August 2009 to be replaced by a health centre.

Carshalton Rock was started by Billy Greenwood in Carshalton Road, North Shore. The company moved to St Anne's in 1953, being taken over by Rock Candy Kingdom in 1989.
Ashurst's Café Royale opened at 3 Red Bank Road, offering both a tea lounge and a grill room. By 1981, they also had a bakery at 91 Red Bank Road, trading as Ellis and Thexton Limited. A second bakery at 211 Bispham Road soon followed.
The Pleasure Beach overcame the shortage of building materials by buying parts of a "Mulberry Harbour" and a "Bailey Bridge" from the Normandy landings.

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The "Hip Hip Hooray" show began at the Opera House, starring Jimmy Jewel and Ben Warris.
In May, South Pier hosted an "International Week", featuring Blackpool Symphony Orchestra.
Blackpool Associated Works Brass Band took part in the Wigan Borough Brass Band Contest.
J and W Ham Limited began their upholstery business, now working from 131 Mowbray Drive.

Busmar Limited, Blackpool: was in operation on the northern side of Field Street, making sidecars, such as the luxurious "Lancastria Family Saloon". The sidecars were known, irreverently, as "*Blackpool Eggs*".
By the 1955 Motor Show at Earls Court in London in 1955, they were advertising their York, Lancastria, Devon, Cumbrian, Lincoln, and Durham sidecars for their 1956 range.
In 1962, they moved to a purpose-built factory in Bristol Avenue and branched out into making ambulance bodies. In 1963, they also started to manufacture fire engine bodies, but they closed in December 1965. The Field Street premises were soon occupied by Leopold Grove Engineering.

Travelcade travel agents opened for business on Church Street.
Burton and Garland, Photographers, were in business at 86 Talbot Road.
Polwin's was in business on the corner of Lindsay Avenue and Whitegate Drive. It then became Frank Harbron's DIY shop, and is currently occupied by Print It.
H Maxwell and Company Ltd, printers and stationers, were on St John's Walk.
Arthur Sykes (Blackpool) Limited, builders, was formed on the 20th of September.
Ian Willis (later Ian Kilminster), was born on the 24th of December in Burslem. He played in a number of Blackpool R and B bands (including the Rainmakers and the Motown Sect), before moving on to join Reverend Black and the Rocking Vickers. He changed his name to Lemmy and left to join Hawkwind and later Motorhead. Lemmy died in December 2015.
(Robert Henry) Graham Kelly was born on the 23rd of December. He went to Norbreck Primary School and Baines Grammar School before becoming a bank clerk in Blackpool. He went on to be Chief Executive of the Football League in 1979 and of the Football Association in 1988. He lives in Wrea Green.

The Petulengros: William "Sonny Boy" Pattison – or Petulengro as he was known – moved to Blackpool from Leeds as a 15-year-old. He spent more than 60 years working a variety of jobs on the Promenade and was the founding father of Blackpool's most famous fortune telling family – the Petulengros. He ran a darts stall on South Pier until 2006 and died in April 2007.
Mariah Petulengro has had her own stall, telling fortunes, on Central Pier since 1954.

A national record was set in July when 102,889 day-trippers passed through Blackpool's three railway stations during the first peacetime Wakes Week.

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The Windmill Players were formed in Thornton by James Bradshaw. The first play "Ma's Bit O'Brass" was performed in January, at Thornton Parish Hall on Meadows Avenue.
Elston's auction house was on Poulton Road (corner of Manor Road), on the site of Blundell's furniture shop. The building now houses a Blockbuster video store.
The houses on Hillylaid Road in Thornton were constructed.
PC Arthur Richardson died of injuries sustained in rescuing an unconscious woman in a bath at Fleetwood.
The United Defence Services Club (UDS Club) was on Lord Street in Fleetwood.
Lytham Posy Bowl opened in Clifton Square. It later moved to 11 Henry Street.
An Emergency Teacher Training College was opened in Freckleton to fill the gaps caused by the ravages of the War. Blackpool's overflowing schools provided ample practice for the trainees.
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Highgate Garage, Newton: JS Ramsbottom opened his new garage in October. It had been owned by Brown and Mallalieu in 1934, and then by Arthur Crook. By 1976, the business was simply known as Ramsbottom's.

The first petrol pumps in Newton-with-Scales were erected at "Mayfield Junction" in 1928, in a garage which had its own café. The café owners bred up to 400 hens, whose eggs were sold daily to places as far as Manchester. The pumps were still in use in 1953, but when they were removed a few years later, the garage business transferred to Highgate Garage, which is still a petrol station today, but with the Groundpower agricultural machinery maker's unit behind. *"The front of the garage is new, but the buildings at the rear of the petrol station were in evidence before 1845"*.

Opposite this garage for many years from the 1940s were two very popular transport cafés. They both closed after the M55 Motorway opened, killing off their businesses.

1946

The RAF left Blackpool, when the Station Sick Quarters at Park House were emptied, although Fighter Control Unit 3621 was based at Squires Gate until the 1950s. The Air Ministry transferred the airfield to the Ministry of Civil Aviation in August, and Blackpool Airport came into being.
Converted Bren gun carriers, ex-army Bedford 4x4 trucks, Alvis Stalwarts, and DUKWs began to be used to carry tourists into the sea from Blackpool beach.

Blackpool Airport / Squires Gate Aerodrome: Finally came into being in August, when the old airfield at Squires Gate was released by the War Department to the Ministry of Civil Aviation (Its IATA code is BLK), and Squires Gate's first Terminal Building opened for civilian use in the old, wooden, NAAFI Canteen on the 6th of September. Scheduled flights began to the Isle of Man, operated by British European Airways. Scheduled flights began, including to London, and in conjunction with Northwest Airlines, services began to be offered from Blackpool to the Isle of Man, Manchester, London, Leeds, Birmingham, Southport, and Glasgow.

The land was originally owned by Squire Clifton, who had wanted to build his own zoo on the land (the animals were actually ordered). It had previously housed an airfield used for the 1909 and 1910 air shows, the Clifton Park Race Course from 1911 to 1914, the King's Lancashire Military Convalescent Home from 1914 to 1924.

It hosted various ad-hoc flying until 1932, when Blackpool and West Coast Air Services set up a small airport to rival the one that had been officially opened at Stanley Park in 1931. In 1935, Blackpool Corporation bought the airport site from the Clifton Estates, and in 1936, the Ministry of Transport recommended that flying should cease at Stanley Park and be developed at Squires Gate. In 1937, the airport built its 3 runways and 4 Bellman hangers, and in 1939, the fledgling airport was taken over as an RAF Coastal Command Training Station (see above).

In 1946, the Ministry of Civil Aviation took control. The adapted all the buildings for civilian use, and by September, an Air Traffic Control unit was established. The NAAFI canteen was transformed into the new terminal building. The fire station and fire station barracks were demolished near the main entrance, as were a fuel store and a defence post (The Air Balloon pub and Premier Inn now stand on the site). The new airport was open between 0800 and 2200 daily, and the first flight was run by BEA on their Manchester to Isle of Man via Blackpool route on the 6th of September.

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Also, in 1946, several pleasure flight companies were established – the Lancashire Aircraft Corporation, Pine's Airways Ltd (7/6 to fly around the Tower), Thorne Aviation, and Skyways.
In 1947, the Air Navigation and Trading Company Limited (ANT) was established, taking over Blackpool Air Services, and they and Loxhams began pleasure flights and charters from Squires Gate.

BEA left in 1948, when it became clear that the airport's anticipated boom was not coming. However, deliveries of daily newspapers began to the Isle of Man, by charter. Also, in 1948, Starways Limited began as a small charter company based in Blackpool. Its first flights began in January 1949 using a Percival Q6 light aircraft. When this aircraft was lost in an accident, Starways moved their flight and maintenance operations to Liverpool. Charter and pleasure flights were sold, by companies such as Pines Airways.

The airport was redesigned in 1949 - a public enclosure, restaurant, and lounge bar were built, to try to encourage the public to use it, to make it seem less like an RAF Station, and to make it more attractive to passengers. By 1950, over 25,000 passengers were passing through the airport annually. It became known as Squires Gate Airport.

In 1952, the runways were extended to allow new jets to land safely, and work began on building Queensway (formerly called Common Moss Road), to divert traffic around the enlarged runway. This severed the link between St Anne's and Marton, and left St Anne's Road to end at Squires Gate Lane. Leach Farm, Division Farm, and Moss Edge Farm were all demolished to make way for the runways. Many military buildings were pulled down in the process, from barrack huts to the battle headquarters. Division Lane was closed west of Common Edge Road. In 1954, traffic began to use the newly completed Queensway instead. The new road was dedicated to the new Queen, Elizabeth II. Street lighting began to be installed on it in 1969.
Also, in 1952, the Lancashire Aircraft Corporation began its "Coach/Air" scheme to run passenger services to the Isle of Man.

A new Control Tower was opened in March 1956, and Silver City Airways bought out the Lancashire Aircraft Corporation. Silver City merged with Jersey Airlines and BUA, but the airport contract was given to Autair, who ran the Jersey and Isle of Man services until 1969. After many years of changing company names, Air UK took over in 1980.

By 1958, the government could not afford to run many regional airports, and Blackpool Council again bought the land, runways, and infrastructure, taking over on the 1st of April 1962. Headroom Gate Farm, at the far south side of the airfield, had been demolished prior to the take-over. They renamed it Blackpool Airport, and straight away, a new east/west runway was opened, from which Aer Lingus planes began flying for the first time, in conjunction with Silver City Airways. Model Farm at Heyhouses was also demolished to make way for the runway extensions. Originally called Division Farm, and farmed by the Cartmell family, it had been the school farm for Arnold School until 1938 and was the home of the Fylde Horse Club.
By this time, Silver City Airways Limited was flying winter services to the Isle of Man from Squires Gate.
In January 1958, HM Customs and Excise first established a presence there, which lasted until 1990, after which the airport was covered on an ad-hoc basis by staff travelling from Fleetwood, then from Preston, and finally from Liverpool.

Blackpool Corporation officially took over control of the airport from the Ministry of Aviation on the 1st of April 1962, and British United Airways (BUA) began operating services from Squires Gate. In 1971, BUA became British Island Airways (BIA) and operated a full service from Squires Gate to Belfast, Dublin, Jersey,

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and the Isle of Man. It was also their main national engineering base. The company had 8 Herald passenger aircraft and 3 DC cargo planes based there.

Blackpool Aviation Museum opened at the airport in June 1970, run by Reflectaire Ltd. The Reflectaire Museum was forced to close, by the council, in November 1971, and its contents sold at auction on the 29th of April 1972. Its star exhibit had been Lancaster bomber MX611 (Just Jane - later re-named Guy Gibson), which was dismantled by the RAF and taken to RAF Scampton on the 16th of August 1973, to be displayed at the camp gate.

In July 2016, an open day was held at the forthcoming Fylde Coast Museum of Aviation and Aircraft Manufacturing in Hangar 42 Squires Gate. The Bellman hangar was the home of 256 Squadron during World War 2 and had been taken over in June 2015. The museum was to be operated by The Lytham St Anne's Spitfire Display Team, to be based around the team's own collection: 3 Spitfire replicas, 1 Hawker Hurricane replica, and ex RAF vehicles. There will also be other related items and displays to celebrate the aviation history of the region, and parts of the Lancashire Aircraft Investigation Team's collection. The hangar will eventually have the look and feel of its life during WW2.
2018 saw one of the museum's three replica spitfires feature in a new ITV drama, the Halcyon Hotel.

Vulcan Bomber XL391 was flown into Squires Gate Airport on the 16th of February 1983. First flying in 1963, the Vulcan flew to Ascension Island during the Falklands conflict in 1982 - the longest bombing mission in history - to bomb Port Stanley airfield. The plane was initially flown into Blackpool for the Manchester Vulcan Bomber Society with the ambitious view of flying her. After being on display for 23 years, the plane was scrapped in 2006.

Also, in 1983, helicopter services began from the airport. The new helicopter terminal was opened by Dennis Thatcher, husband of the Prime Minister. The copters carried 10 people per journey, on 12 flights daily, to the 5 local gas rigs.

In 1987, Andrew and Hilary Janes formed Janes Aviation at Blackpool Airport. They moved to Liverpool in 1992 and became Emerald Airways. Also, in 1987, Blackpool Airport became a Private Limited Company, with Blackpool Borough Council as 100% shareholder.

On the 11th of October 1995, a new £2 million terminal building was opened on the site of the old wooden terminal, which had originally been the World War 2 NAAFI canteen. It is capable of handling an increased number of passengers and modern aircraft up to Boeing 757 size.
In December 1996, the Control Tower - the old Vickers factory Flight Office building (known as the 'Pilot House') was demolished. The current tower, originally an RAF watch office was extended in 1980's and is still in use for air traffic control.

Budget airline Ryanair started a daily service into Blackpool from Stansted in 2003. In June alone, 7,000 passengers used the service. The company pulled out of Blackpool on the 4th of January 2009 in protest at the airport's new charge of £10 per customer for an "Airport Development Fee".

In 2004, Blackpool Council sold the airport, to a consortium including Mar Properties and airport operator City Hopper, for £13m.
Then, in April 2005, Jet2 Airlines based an aircraft at the airport, creating 50 jobs there and flying to seven destinations in Spain and the Canary Islands. Also, in July of that year, A2B Airways was launched and

based in Blackpool, operating direct services between Blackpool and Belfast, and more flights to Belfast via the Isle of Man.

On the 9th of March 2006, the terminal opened new check-in desks, new retail outlets (Max Bean's Café, Hertz Car Hire, and WH Smith newsagent) and a new departure lounge. Fylde rugby legend Bill Beaumont officially opened the new terminal. The airport had by then become the fastest growing airport in the UK, seeing a tenfold increase in passengers from 70,000 in 2002 to 700,000 in 2006. However, by 2011, this had decreased to 235,519, making it only the 29th busiest in the UK. Freight movements went down in 2011 to just 3 tonnes – a 93% drop in a year.

Jetstream Express re-established Blackpool Airport's link to Scotland when it began flights to Aberdeen on the 4th of June 2007.

In May 2008, the airport was sold to Balfour Beatty for £14 million, but the council retained a 5% share.

January 2009 saw the controversial Airport Development Tax introduced, and Ryanair pulled its flights out of Blackpool as a result.

After a dramatic slump in passenger numbers, from 550,000 in 2007, to 262,000 in 2013, Balfour Beatty, pulled out, and the airport closed to the public on the 16th of October 2014, with the last commercial flight departing for Belfast at 5pm on the 15th. Jet2.com changed all its Blackpool flights to Manchester Airport from the 9th, and their last flight from Blackpool left for Alicante in Spain on the 10th. In November 2014, a new operating company was formed by Balfour Beatty - Squires Gate Airport Operations.

Isle of Man based carrier Citywing (formerly Manx2) flew into Squires Gate at 9.50am on the 1st of April 2015, bringing passengers from the island and from Northern Ireland. The airline ran two flights daily until the company went into liquidation in March 2017.

A new passenger terminal was to be constructed by owners Balfour Beatty, but they put the site up for sale in October 2016. The old International Terminal building was demolished in March 2016, and on the 1st of April 2016, Blackpool Airport gained Enterprise Zone status. This paved the way for the first planning application to be submitted for an Energy Headquarters and Training College for Lancashire to be developed on the site from July. The runway is not part of the Enterprise Zone.

On the 13th of September 2017, the airport came back into full public ownership for the first time in 13 years, when they acquired all shares in the current operating company Regional and City Airports. (Blackpool) Holdings Ltd then took over 100 % ownership of the site.

The list of RAF units and aircraft companies using the airport to date includes:

Aer Lingus Regional
Air Ecosse
Air Navigation and Trading Co Flying Club
Air UK
Autair
Bin Air
Blackpool Air Touring Club
Blackpool and Fylde Aero Club
Blackpool and Fylde Aero Group

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Blackpool and Fylde GC
British Amphibious Airlines
Blackpool Flying Service
British Island Airways
British NorthWest Airlines
British United Island Airways
Britannia Airways
Citywing
Fylde Flying Group
Isle of Man Air Services
Jet2.com
Jetstream Express
Lancashire Aircraft Corporation
Logan Air
Loxhams Flying Services
Manx2
Monarch Airlines
No 1 AACU 'F' Flight
No 1 AACU 'R' Flight
No 1 School of General Reconnaissance
No 17 OTU
No 2 School of General Reconnaissance
No 215 Sqn
No 23 Personnel Transit Centre
No 256 Sqn
No 3 (Coastal) OTU
No 3 School of General Reconnaissance
No 307 Sqn
No 42 E&RFTS
No 63 Sqn
No 75 Sqn
No 9 AONS
No 9 CANS
No 96 Sqn
Northern School of Aviation Flying Club
Pegasus Airlines
Railway Air Services
Ryanair
Silver City Airways
Thomas Motors Flying Club
Westair Flying School
Westair Flying Services

The Giro Aviation Company was operating the Blackpool Air Ferry Service from the Marine Drive and Hesketh Park Aerodrome in Southport.
The Pleasure Beach bought the Pony Ride. It was later replaced by the Go-Kart track.
The Local Government Exhibition at the Olympia displayed models of Blackpool in miniature.
In May, cafés and restaurants closed for two days during the Tradesmen's Holiday.

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Local house owners first started showing "Vacancies" signs outside their properties, to try to attract some of the growing Bed and Breakfast business to their "unlicensed" and lower-rated premises.

100 to 106 Whitegate Drive, Blackpool: Clarence Masters of Masters and Sons died at his home at 98 Whitegate Drive. The family furniture shop had been at Manchester House, 100 to 106 Whitegate Drive for many years.

In 1998, C and E Motors opened in numbers 96 to 106, selling Vauxhall, Daimer, and Wolseley cars. This later became Whitegate Car Sales, which had been part owned by singer Josef Locke who briefly lived upstairs. A First Stop DIY store then moved in, soon to become the International DIY Discount Superstore and then Agri Electrics. When this closed, numbers 100 to 106 became the Global Video shop. This closed in June 2007, to be replaced in its turn by a Subway sandwich shop franchise, which opened for customers in February 2008, with its official opening on the 16th of April.

Next door at numbers 96 to 98, a Tesco Express supermarket was opened in September 2006. Tesco took over from Heald's Day and Nite. Numbers 96 and 98 had been built as houses.

Zell Em / Bestplate Limited, Blackpool: Martin Zell started Zell-em Limited, a sign making business, in Abingdon Street before later moving to Cedar Square and finally to 210 Watson Road. In 1953, Zell-em moved to factory premises on the site of the Marton Brewery and the Boars Head coach house in Wren Grove, Marton. Wren Grove was formerly known as Green Lane and ran to Blaydon House on Whitegate Drive.
Mr Zell had a unique round-fronted house built at 284 East Park Drive in 1959.

The Zell-em Group was incorporated on the 2nd of April 1962, and by 1963, Zell-em had expanded because of pioneering printing techniques (car tax holders, window stickers, and PVC screen-printing). They then moved into Stargate Engineering's premises on Watson Road, and at the time, they were a substantial local employer of about 100 people. On the 2nd of July 1984, the name was officially changed from Zell-em Limited to the Zell-em Group Limited.

Zell-em started a new company, Bestplate Limited, on the 5th of December 1967, to make car number plates. This began on Wren Grove, before moving to the Watson Road site in the 1980s. They soon began to make radiator cores for cars.

In November 2016, the company moved to its new head office on Snowdon Road in St Anne's, after taking over Grantham's Signs.
The vacant site on Watson Road, along with 5 derelict bungalows facing the road, began to be turned into a 44-home housing estate in late 2018. The developers are Muir Housing and MCI Developments.

Winston Churchill: visited town on the 4th of October and was granted the Freedom of the Borough at a reception in the Spanish Hall. He was also presented with a specially made stick of rock. A full list of the Borough's Freemen is at Appendix X.

A War Trophies Exhibition was held in the Winter Gardens.
RH Green began his accountancy practice in Adelaide Street.
Blackpool Local Labour Party became the Blackpool Borough Labour Party.

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St George's Presbyterian Church, Blackpool: opened on Pembroke Avenue. St George's was originally formed by relocated civil servants from London during the Second World War, as a means of Presbyterian worship near Blackpool. The congregation had met on several sites previously, until in 1955, the building on Plymouth Road in Layton was built and inaugurated, as St George's Presbyterian Church of England Church.
In 1972, it changed its name to St George's United Reformed Church.

Electric cable was laid between Peel and the Shannon Street Electrical Works for the first time.
The Blackpool Federation of Parent Teachers Association was formed on the 25th of May.
The Antonian Circle for the Hard of Hearing was founded.
The very first National Congress of Catholic Youth was held in the Opera House in October.
The Blackpool branch of the charity Hearing Concern was founded.
The Fylde branch of the British Empire Naturalists Association (BENA) was formed in May. In May 1948, it became the Fylde Naturalists Society.
Henry Irving Mellor was the first conductor of the Fylde Ex-Servicemen's Liaison Band, which formed in Blackpool this year, playing regularly at the Bloomfield Road Stadium.
Blackpool Ice Dance Club was formed in September at the Pleasure Beach.
Ken Woodward set up the Woodward School of Physical Culture at 61 Talbot Road.
Anderson and Company, Insurance Brokers were established at 5 Charles Street.
H and B Grice and Sons were in business on Victoria Street selling china and jewellery.
Blackpool Car Auctions Ltd was formed on the 7th of October. The company was dissolved in May 1992.
Kay's Estate Agents began on Church Street, expanding into commercial estates in 1948.

Lefton's Furniture, Blackpool: was opened by brothers Cyril and Reuben Lefton at 68 Central Drive (later became the Harlequin Café), before moving to 94-96 Central Drive in 1951. After branching into home furnishings, the firm then opened shops at 154-158 Church Street and in St Anne's, and in 1964, bought the Thompson Brothers' shop at 41-43 Topping Street (this was destroyed by fire in 1988).
The company opened Cylben Carpets at 47-49 Talbot Road in 1967, and moved to General Street in 1978, with a 4-storey warehouse in Atlantic Buildings on nearby Walker Street (Nutbrown's old factory).
In 1991, the General Street store was damaged by IRA explosive devices.
Lefton's ceased trading on the 8th of October 2019, with Richard Lefton citing competition from the internet and Blackpool Council's lack of support for local retailers as the reasons for closure. Their vacant store on General Street was taken over by Manchester-based company Factory Outlet, and opened on the 27th of October.

Cassidy Brothers and Casdon, Blackpool: On the 8th of June, Tom Cassidy began making and selling small trinkets for children and teenagers in the shape of skating boots. He first had a small workshop in his mother's shed, before buying his own house in 1947 and extending it. He first rented space and hired staff in 1949, when known as the Marton Tool Company. Cassidy Brothers started business making toys in 1950, when Tom was joined by his brother Joe, and in 1954, they registered the Casdon name as a Limited Company.

Cherilea Toys was also formed this year, being formed by Wilf Cherington a former chief designer with John Hill and Co, and Jim Leaver. They had started in August, when John Hill and Company (or Johillco) of Islington had reopened under new management in Plumbe Street in Burnley. They quickly opened a small factory behind the old police station in nearby Padiham, and then combined their names to change the name Johillco to "Cherilea", making die-cast military vehicles.

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By 1950, the company had become part of Cassidy's, and Wilf Cherington was working in the Blackpool factory, supervising the making of the metal master casts. The figures were then cast from these moulds in a mixture of lead and antimony. Each caster could produce 1 figure every 6 seconds.
Later in the 1950s, Cherilea opened a larger factory at Sunnybank Mill in Kirkham, and switched over to producing in plastic, making toy soldiers and animals. Slight misshapes were dumped in the mill pond behind the factory, to the delight of local children! The famous Action Man vehicles were first made at Kirkham.
Cherilea Toys UK Limited was registered as a company (by Casdon) on the 1st of April 1957.

In 1954, Cassidy Brothers moved to larger premises, before in 1956, they bought a plot of land on what became Mitcham Road off Clifton Road, where the factory remains today. They called it Casdon Works (later to become Casdon House), and on the 20th of October 1988, the firm became Casdon PLC. During the 1970s, the company also manufactured Infantoy pre-school toys.

Their Cassidy social club was at 22 Lee Road and is now used as the staff canteen for Gilberts Ltd.

In mid-2015, Casdon was re-purchased by the Cassidy family.

TVR, Blackpool: Trevor Wilkinson (born in 1923) founded Trevcar Motors (TVR = TreVoR) in an abandoned brick factory in Beverly Grove in South Shore. He had taken over the incumbent wheelwright's business. When Trevor started the company, it was not to build sports cars but to repair Blackpool's fairground rides and recondition demobbed army equipment.
In 1947, the company name was changed to TVR Engineering, and in 1949, Trevor built his first car, giving it the name TVR by shortening his first name. That first car doesn't survive, but his second, built in 1952, is on display at the Lakeland Motor Museum in Keswick. Those first cars had metal bodies, and it was in 1953, that TVR first used the glass-reinforced plastic for which they became famous.

In 1955, the firm moved into the drying sheds of Fielding's Warbreck Hill Brick Works at Hoo Hill.

The first production car was the Jomar in 1956, and in 1958, the Grantura became the first model to be made by TVR in quantity. It was a two-seat coupe, hand-built at the Blackpool factory. It featured many parts from other vehicles: its brakes came from an Austin-Healey, the suspension from the Volkswagen Beetle and the rear axle from the British Motor Corporation.

TVR was dissolved in December 1958, to become Layton Sports Cars Ltd, and an associate company, Grantura Engineering Ltd was created in 1959.
A magazine article in 1961 described the factory thus: *"The TVR factory consists of two storeys of a former brick works. On the ground floor of the main building the cars are assembled, bodies being made on the first floor of another building, while the chassis are welded-up, one at a time in simple jigs, in a sort of disused brick kiln, below the body shop. The glass-fibre coupé body takes three boys 23 hours to produce as a set of moulded plastic panels; and in 40 hours these are assembled and the body shell is polished ready for painting. The bonding of these plastic components is assisted by the timber roof of the body shop"*.
In September 1961, the name changed to TVR Cars Ltd, and when that company went bankrupt in October 1962, Grantura Engineering started to make cars instead.
Grantura themselves went into liquidation in August 1965 and became TVR Engineering Ltd in the November. The company remained at Hoo Hill until 1970, when they moved to the old Co-op Dairy/Preston Dairies/Unigate Dairies on Bristol Avenue over the Christmas break.

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The dairy site had been used for cycle speedway in the 1950s, and Cycle Speedway competitions were held opposite the refuse destructor, featuring local teams, such as the Bispham Red Lions, and the Marton Flyers, against out-of-town teams.

In 1981, TVR was bought by Peter Wheeler, who began to get the firm manufacturing its own engines.

Project 7/12 was first shown to the public at the Birmingham Motor Show of 1996. The engine – a 7.7 litre V12 – hence the 7/12 name - was based around two of TVR's 6-cylinder Cerbera engines set around a common V12 crankcase. It was then developed to become the Cerbera Speed 12, which could achieve up to 1000 horse power. It was the fastest, most powerful TVR ever produced.

TVR was purchased by Russian millionaire Nikolai Smolanski in 2004, and in 2005 they finally released the world's fastest road car – the Cerbera Speed 12 - which was capable of 240 miles per hour.

In December 2006, TVR's Blackpool factory was suddenly closed by its Russian owner, when 158 workers were laid off without warning. A world record number of TVRs paraded through London to raise awareness of the company's decision to cease production in the UK, and 479 cars were recorded on the parade, which ended in London's Whitehall with the presentation of a petition to Downing Street.
A large part of the old factory was demolished in February 2016.

The Stopford Press was established, now working from 71 George Street.
R and N Davidson started their roofing business in Tennyson Road, Layton, later moving to 132 Cornwall Avenue.
John Fielding (Blackpool) Limited, builders, was formed on the 6th of July.
Leopold Grove Engineering was established as a press tool manufacturing company. They now work from custom-built premises on Blackpool Business Park.
Blackpool Boarders Limited was established on the 6th of September.

Tony Ashton: was born in Blackburn on the 1st of March. He grew up in Blackpool, and went to St George's High School, working at Leonard Dews Jewellers, and playing football for Stanley Boys. His first local group was "the College Boys", and he went on to form the pop/rock group Ashton Gardner and Dyke.

Jeffrey Hammond: was born in Blackpool on the 30th of July. He went on to help form and play bass guitar in the band Jethro Tull with other local lads. He became known as Jeffrey Hammond Hammond, a name that he adopted as a joke, since both his father's name and mother's maiden name were the same.
"After leaving Grammar School, he opted to study painting rather than continue with music, but he was convinced to join Jethro Tull in January 1971".

Julie Grant: Vivien Foreman was born in Blackpool on the 12th of July, being moved to Cape Town at the age of 16 months. She made her stage debut as one of the Siamese children in the original production of the King and I in London, and won a talent contest at Butlins in 1960, beating Helen Shapiro. After changing her name to Julie Grant, she had three hits in the UK Singles Chart with "Up on the Roof", "Count on Me" (both in 1963) and "Come to Me" (in 1964).

Patricia Fuller was born in Blackpool. She later acted in Coronation Street as Sandra Butler, Elsie Tanner's niece. She then became the lead singer of the pop group "A La Carte".

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Shirley Crabtree and his two brothers became lifeguards on Blackpool Beach. He later took up wrestling, and when he changed his name to Big Daddy in 1976, he became a famous television wrestler.
The film "Dual Alibi" was partly shot in the Tower Circus. It was a black and white film featuring aerial shots of the Cromwell Twins in action. They doubled for Herbert Lom who played the part of both twins in the film.

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Westby Brick Works: The Westby Brick and Tile Company Limited started business by the clay pit on Anna's Road in Peel on the 6th of November. They transformed into Westby Brick Limited who were incorporated on the 13th of January 1983.
The clay pit workings were on both sides of Anna's Road, with the brick works located on the northern side.
The brickworks ceased production in 1995, and the company was finally dissolved on the 24th of September 2008 - some foundations and flooring from the brick-making sheds can still be seen. Westby had been the area's last surviving brickworks.

Wood's Waste/FM Waste Management soon began using the premises and developing the adjacent Westby Landfill Site, where landfilling had begun in 1981. By 2018, the landfill site covered 16.2 hectares. The site of the brick works themselves was reclaimed, some of its building were modernised, and it is in use as the location of a glass-recycling plant.

The adjacent Westby Clay Pits are a protected habitat for Great Crested Newts.

Eastham Kitchens Ltd, Thornton and Fleetwood: Thomas Eastham had started as cabinet makers in Thornton before World War 2, and later erected a factory on Holmes Road, where they built stand-alone kitchen cabinets using Formica.
Thomas Eastham and Sons Limited joined with Burco Dean of Burnley (kitchen appliance makers) in 1968, to become Eastham Burco, and the company then moved to a newly-built factory in Fleetwood in 1971.
The Thornton factory was demolished in 1979.
The company name reverted to Eastham Kitchens Ltd on the 3rd of January 1985, but in 1987, it was taken over by Magnet Joinery Ltd.
One of their delivery vehicles was a 1967 Leyland Tiger Cub PSUC1/11 (Registration number ATF 443E) with a purpose-built high capacity furniture body. They had 9 of them.

"Trevassa" at 30 Rossendale Avenue in Thornton was given for use as a Scout Camp in June. It was sold in 1954, and its proceeds used to buy Mowbreck Scout Camp near Kirkham.
Thornton Cleveleys Old People's Welfare Association was formed.
JE Hatcher opened his upholstery shop at 121a Victoria Road West in Cleveleys. This is now Style Carpets.
Eric Tolson opened his watchmaker's and jewellery shop at 125 Victoria Road in Cleveleys. The shop is now part of Gudworth's ladies clothing store, also occupying number 123.
The Ministry of Agriculture asked the Thornton Cleveleys Allotments Association, on the 23rd of February, to set up 280 new allotments to grow more food. A similar appeal was repeated in all British towns.
As a result, Fylde Borough now have allotments at Crofts Butt and Naze Lane East, Freckleton, Rear of Morland Avenue, Wesham, Fleetwood Road, Wesham, Off School Lane, Kirkham, Mythop Road, Lytham, Off Blundell Road, St Anne's, Shepherd Road Allotments, St Anne's, Wrea Green Allotments, and Church Road Allotments, Singleton.
The battleship King George V docked at Fleetwood for 6 days from the 2nd of August.
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The Jolly Sailor, Fleetwood: this pub had recently been built on Radcliffe Road, next to the Mullard's factory.
The pub closed in early 2010 and was re-fitted as student accommodation for the Nautical College. The accommodation opened in October 2014, and "boasts 11 furnished bed spaces with a TV provided per room. Free WIFI throughout, 4 Shower Rooms, Bathrooms and WCs. Modern fitted communal area and diner, Modern lounge with 50" TV, Central Heating and Fully Double Glazed, Coded locks on all doors. Additionally, the Halls of residence also has a further five bedroomed furnished flat on a lower level with its own separate kitchen, communal area, and bathroom. The Jolly Sailor Halls of Residence contains a laundry room with two washers and two dryers.

JKF Latus's sportswear shop opened at Albert Square, before moving to 181 Lord Street (Styan Street corner) in Fleetwood in the early 1960s – now occupied by Mobility 2000. They later sold toys and models too and opened a second shop at 79 Lytham Road in Blackpool.
The Fleetwood and District Darts League was established – its first champions were the Jolly Sailor.
The Dalmeny Hotel was built, by the Webb family, on the Promenade at St Anne's. It was an extension of the earlier Dalmeny Boarding House that had been at number 21 for 50 years. By 1966 it had expanded into an annexe to the south.
The Chadwick Hotel at St Anne's was opened by Mr L Corbett and Mrs E Corbett. The hotel had 73 rooms, a pool and health club complete with sauna and steam room, as well as a restaurant and bar. HY Hotels took over the running of the Chadwick in June 2016, as a joint venture with previous owners the Corbett family and Assured Hotels. It closed suddenly in November 2018 after a winding up order was issued by HMRC. The building was demolished in mid-June 2019.
Elsmere at 200 St Anne's Road East was bought from the Boyes family by the National Children's Home (NCH), to house 16 children, having been rented since 1942. It was run by the Sisters of the NCH and is now a private residence once more.
Caroline Pratt opened her dress shop at 3-5 Park Road in St Anne's. The shop has been a ladies' clothes shop called Cube since 2002.
Hilton Avenue was built off Smithy Lane in Heyhouses.
Fylde Rugby Club bought their ground and renamed it the Woodlands Memorial Ground in honour of those who fell in the War.
The RAF's 101 PDC (Personnel Despatch Centre) moved from RAF Kirkham to Warton camp in January, for the demobilisation of airmen. Number 5 PDC was at Blackpool.

Kirkham Tip: Kirkham Council Tip was on Carr lane. A second tip was opened on Coronation Road in 1962, and the two were operated jointly, until Carr Lane tip was closed in 1965. A new refuse destructor was installed at Coronation Road in 1965 after the original one was decommissioned. In 1967, some of the land at the tip began to be reclaimed for future use as playing fields.
The tip was closed in 1970, with refuse disposal being transferred to the Freckleton tip on Clifton Marsh. In 1972, Kirkham Urban District Council provided a small Council Dump at the council yard off Station Road, but it was rarely used, and soon closed.

Bond's of Elswick: The local Gornall family opened a shop at Copp Lane End in Elswick, selling everything from cheese and bacon, to ladies' nylons. The family soon started making and selling ice cream as a side-line, and later opened a café. They then renamed the company Bonds, after the street in Elswick where the ice cream was first produced.
The Bond's of Elswick ice cream factory became a popular tourist attraction for local people for years to come, even growing to be a popular destination for coach trips.

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A purpose-built restaurant was opened in 1974, and ex-employee Martin Molloy bought the family business in 1993.
The restaurant closed in 2016, but in December 2017, amid worries about demolition, Molloy sold it to Simon Rigby of Wrea Green. As a result, the restaurant, ice cream parlour, and coffee shop were trading again from the 1st of December. Rigby almost immediately opened a new ice cream parlour, called Bond's 1947, in Preston centre.

Ambulances covering Preesall and Knott End districts began to be supplied by Thornton-Cleveleys UDC.
16 council houses were erected in Preesall. Another 6 were built in 1948, 16 more in 1949, 19 in 1950, and 9 in 1952. There followed a 10-year gap with hardly any house building, until over 1,010 private houses were built between 1961 and 1972.

1947
The Empire League Air Display took place. The first display by the RAF Aerobatic Team (now called the Red Arrows) took place at Squires Gate on the 2nd of July, organised by the Lancashire Aircraft Company.
Disused Army Nissen Huts on Stanley Park were used as temporary housing, with postal addresses of East Park Drive. They were arranged in their own streets with full services laid on – the land is now open green space for public use. They were demolished in 1956.

Sir Stanley Matthews: joined Blackpool Football Club from Stoke for a fee of £11,500. He had first fallen in love with the town on his first holiday visit in March 1938, and had served in RAF Blackpool as a PE instructor, guesting for Blackpool Football Club. He already owned the Romford Hotel on the South Promenade, where he often accommodated visiting teams, and it is a little-known fact that he had refused to leave Stoke for anywhere other than Blackpool, in order to run his hotel.
He lived in Blackpool, running the hotel, while he was playing for Stoke City, and trained with the Blackpool team before travelling to Stoke each weekend.

Known as the *"Wizard of the Dribble"* his crosses in the 1953 FA Cup Final, allowed Stan Mortensen to complete his winning hat-trick. The game will always be remembered as "*the Matthews final".*
Matthews was presented with the first ever Ballon D'Or on the 18th of December 1956, for being voted Europe's best footballer, and he won the prestigious World Footballer of the Year Award in 1957.
Matthews later lived in a house near Watson's Road railway bridge, at 168 St Anne's Road – this is now the Owls Rest Home.
He was never booked, and never dived, and was knighted in 1965, playing until he was 50.
He played his last match for Blackpool in the 3 - 0 loss to Arsenal in October 1961.
In the 1970s, there was a Stanley Matthews Football Souvenir Shop on Waterloo Road.
Stanley died in Stoke on the 23rd of February 2000, after falling off a plastic reindeer in his Tenerife home.
His second wife Mila, a former Czech spy, had died some years before, and this had deeply affected him.

The Ambassador Hotel was on the corner of Cocker Street and the Promenade.

The Mereside Estate, Blackpool: The Corporation compulsorily purchased land at Little Marton, and work began on the Little Marton Council Estate. The state was soon renamed Mereside, after its proximity to Marton Mere, and the first houses were occupied on the renamed Mereside Estate in 1949. The first occupants were Mr and Mrs Avery, who moved into 40 Deepdale Road on the 13th of August.
Newby Place was built on the Mereside Estate in 1966.

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The Number 4 bus route was introduced to the new estate in 1951, and 1954 saw the arrival of the Number 6 to serve Langdale Road shops. The last Number 6 ran on the 25th of July 2010.

In 1952, Langdale Road shops opened on the new estate and more houses were occupied. From left to right, there was: A Co-op store, then Charlie's Chip Shop – from 1955 to 1973. Charlie Joyce had started out on his three-wheel bike selling ice cream, then buying his famous ice cream van. Next was Eric Whiteside's butcher's (which lasted until 1991), Wright's greengrocer's (later run by George Bennett, then Mr Barton), Riddell's Post Office, newsagents, and sweet shop (which was later sold to Glyn James - ex-Blackpool Football Club), Quinn's Chemist's, Venette's Wool Shop - with a hairdresser's salon at the back, and finally Heath's Bakery (later an Off-licence and then Lonican's Baker's).
The post office was closed on the 14th of August 2017.

The Cabin: In the mid-1950s, two shops were built at the junction of Preston New Road and Kentmere Drive. There was originally a newsagent at 274 and a greengrocer at 276. Part of the building was soon turned into the Cabin Café.
When the café closed, the newsagents continued to use the name The Cabin (NOT Kabin). There was a smallholding next door until the late 1970s.
Tom Leeming and his family ran the shop for many years (hence its local nickname of Uncle Tom's Cabin), and soon bought the greengrocer's. When the Leemings left, it became a Spar shop, and Spar had a small serving hatch installed at the Western end for use at night. It then briefly became Dexter's Paints, until Millercare Limited moved there on the 1st of August 2000, after vacating their original premises at Clarke Street, Poulton. The premises are rented from Dexter's by Millercare, and there are two flats above.

In May 2018, it was decided that the blocks of 81 flats at 19 to 29 Troutbeck Crescent (built in the 1960s) would be flattened to make way for new dwellings. The original housing took the form of 42 one-bedroom flats and 39 bedsits. 57 of the flats and bedsits were in T-shaped three-storey blocks accessed through internal stairwells and a further 24 flats in three-storey deck access blocks. In January 2019, it was agreed that 75 new homes would be built on and near the site. They will be a mixture of 2 and 3 bedroomed houses and dormer-style bungalows, surrounding a landscaped pond. The builders are Tyson and Co Ltd of Blackpool. The 152 trees that were felled were either re-planted elsewhere or turned into benches.

The latest Spen Dyke Drainage Scheme was begun, designed to reduce flooding, and improve the agricultural value of a large portion of Marton Moss. *"From the sanitation point of view the principal benefit derived from the scheme will be a reduction in the water level in the dykes which will avoid the frequent backing-up of the septic tanks"*.

St Christopher's Church, Hawes Side, Blackpool: St Christopher's Church was built on Hawes Side Lane in a wooden hut. Taking 6 years to appear, it was constructed as a dual-purpose prefabricated church and hall on its present site. For some years previously, the work of the church had been carried on at Harcourt Hall in Harcourt Road, immediately behind the existing Post Office on St Anne's Road, and before that in a room at The Corn Shop on Hawes Side Lane.

On the 27th of August 1989, the Bishop of Blackburn Alan Chesters laid a new Foundation stone, and the new building of St Christopher's church began. The church was opened by the Bishop of Blackburn on the 13th of April 1991, and the original church building was rapidly demolished.

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Marton had become a Parish in its own right on the 1st of April 1989, when services were still held in the original building. During the next 20 years, the new Parish Church was fully built, and the Parish Centre next door was completed in May 2001 and dedicated by the Archbishop of York.

The Church of Our Lady of the Assumption, Blackpool: was opened on Common Edge Road on the 17th of August. Bishop Pearson, the priest of St Cuthbert's, had bought land on nearby Plumpton Avenue, but it was decided to build the wooden church on its present site instead. The church was designed free of charge by Thomas Foulkes, and the temporary building was erected by volunteer labour. The "Stations of the Cross" were erected on the 8th of February 1948, by Father Richard Kivergan, and the Crucifix was erected on the 11th of February 11 1951.

The current Our Lady of the Assumption Church was opened on the 25th of June 1961. The original temporary building next door is now the church hall. The 300-seater church is built of brown brick, constructed in a blocky style, with many bare walls in the Art Deco style of the 1930s. The west front is gabled and has a tall inset arch, with the entrance and a circular window above. It cost £34,000 to build and was designed by Mr Bower Norris.

Blackpool Reform Jewish Congregation: was formed, and the first meeting in Blackpool of a non-orthodox Jewish Congregation took place at a Methodist Church Hall in Raikes Parade the 9th of November.
The congregation was initially a member of the Union of Liberal and Progressive Synagogues (now called Liberal Judaism), but over the next 15 years, it altered its way. In 1961, it joined the Reform Synagogues of Great Britain, now being a constituent synagogue of the Movement for Reform Judaism.
It then moved to a new building, the Blackpool Reform Synagogue, at 40 Raikes Parade. It first rabbi was Rabbi Norman Zalud.

Seventh Day Adventists Church, Blackpool: On the 7th of November, this non-theistic church was opened at 6 Bolton Street, presided over by F Pearse. After beginning at meetings held in the Tower Circus in 1944, and then moving to their own Advent Hall at 31 Queen Street in 1945, the worshippers had been shuffled around 14 locations in the previous 3 years! The seats had been donated by their Wimbledon church. Meetings were now able to be held at fixed times of 10:30 am and 3 pm on Saturday's (their Sabbath), at 7pm on Sundays, and at 7pm on Thursdays.
In 1949, the church held a "Great Autumn Rally" climaxing in a tour of the Illuminations.
These Adventists follow the teachings laid down by American William Miller in 1844.

Blackpool Steam Navigation Company acquired the steamer "Pendennis" for runs from North Pier. She was Blackpool's last pleasure steamer.
Joseph Finkelstein (Fink) started his jewellery business at 42 Talbot Road. He later moved to St John's Walk, next door to the Yorkshire Bank building at 2 to 4 Abingdon Street, and his son Stewart Franks (Fink) took over the family enterprise on the death of his father in 1973. In 1978, the business took over the short-lived Stylo shoe shop at 83 Church Street, moving from St John's Walk; which is now home to The Money Shop. Finks "The Family Jewellers" also had a shop in Poulton, and finally closed in 2008.
A tram ran into Sweet and Clarke's Hosiery and Glove shop at 55-57 Abingdon Street, that had previously been a shop which traded as Bargain Corner. Sweet and Clarke also ran a shop at 35-37 Birley Street.

Moorland Motors, Blackpool: Bill Swire started Moorland Motors in his Swire's Garage on Poulton New Road, before rebuilding. They had moved to 87 Breck Road by 1966, and soon opened a second outlet at Unit 3 on Beacon Road, off Garstang Road in Poulton.

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In 1984, they opened a new Vauxhall saleroom and garage at 149-151 Ansdell Road, which became their main outlet and headquarters.
In 1995, as Moorland Motors Limited, the company opened a new facility at the Poulton site, which incorporated Vauxhall's new Masterfit franchise, full after-sales service facilities, and a manufacturer-approved accident repair centre. The premises had previously held Poulton Kawasaki Centre.
The main outlet on Ansdell Road closed in November 2006, when the dealership moved to Lytham St Annes way on Peel Business Park. It was quickly replaced by a residential scheme with a mix of 2-bedroomed apartments and townhouses that was developed by the Great Places housing association. The scheme consists of 35 new homes.
On the 10th of December 2012, the company was sold to national dealer chain Arnold Clark, and the Moorland Motors name was finally lost when the company was wound up on the 21st of June 2016.
The Poulton Road premises are now Cunliffe's Classics, specialising in old MG sports cars.

Blackpool Wholesale Trading Company started on Lee Road, Marton on the 1st of December.
Waverley Furnishers (Blackpool) Limited was formed on the 15th of July.
Nickey's Chicken Grill was at 48 Clifton Street, advertising itself as *"the place the stars eat"*. By 1992, the shop had become Terry's Balti House, which changed its name, and is now the Mumtaz Balti house, which closed in 2014.
Domestic Hardware was opened on Topping Street by the Brownwood family. It was ravaged by fire in 1972, and the shop closed in 1987.

Ditchburns, Blackpool and Lytham: Ditchburn Equipment Ltd was formed in Blackpool by G Norman Ditchburn. Norman had left his job as boss of a national builders' merchants, to begin to manufacture and distribute musical equipment such as gramophones and jukeboxes.

In 1946, band leader Jack Hylton had formed a company called Music Maker Ltd, who had their jukeboxes made in Blackpool by Hawtins Ltd, to sell in the UK. Hawtins were previously known for the manufacture of amusement machines for sea front arcades, specialising in machines for travelling fairs, fitted into robust metal cabinets. The Music makers did not sell, however, the US army chose to place an order for 500, to boost the morale of their troops abroad. It was *"US Military transport planes that carried the Wurlitzer Symplex mechanism's to their U.K. military bases, and then transported them to Hawtins factory in Blackpool, officials of the U.S. State Department even supervised the manufacture of these jukeboxes in the Hawtins factory, while the U.S. State Department helped in every way they could to secure the raw materials, Hawtins had to make the first 500 jukebox cabinets from the packing cases that the Wurlitzer mechanisms were packed in. That is why the Music Maker MK II was made from fibreglass and called the Fridge"*.
From 1947, Ditchburns became the sole UK importer of Wurlitzer jukeboxes, and also bought the rights and tooling for Music Makers from Hawtins. Ditchburns also bought the remaining stock of Music Maker jukeboxes (for export only) from Hawtins at auction on 16th of December 1947, at Hawtins' Drop Hammer shop on Clifton Road in Marton. The company manufactured the MK-2 for several years, removing the Jack Hylton part of the logo and renaming it The Ditchburn Music Maker.

Between 1948 and 1952, he moved the firm into the then vacant Royal Café building at 19 Old Hall Street, Liverpool, to be nearer his Wirral home. In 1953, he moved the factory back to the Fylde coast, working from Freckleton Street in Lytham, from where he launched a range of re-tooled Music Makers. He retained a small sales office in Liverpool, and in 1953, opened a small depot in London, followed by one in Glasgow in 1955.

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Visits to the USA in 1955, resulted in Ditchburns getting licences to produce vending machines and better jukeboxes.

1954 saw the final move, to Dock Road in Lytham, where they became a major local employer, although the old factory on Freckleton Street was used again, briefly from 1956. Another sub-depot was opened in 1958, in Tipton, West Midlands. In 1956, Ditchburn made a contract with the German company Tonomat, to import and distribute their jukeboxes in UK. Those were called "Telematic 200", but Ditchburn re-named these models to Music Maker.

May 1964 saw the main factory move across Dock Road into a new factory. There were 2 sides to the company: Ditchburn Music Maker, which manufactured and sold juke boxes, and Ditchburn Vending Machines, which manufactured and sold drinks vending machines. The automatic tea coffee and chocolate machines were called Hotspa and the cold drink machines were called Coldspa, selling cola, lemonade, and orangeade.

Ditchburn set up a recording studio in London in 1958, in order to make recordings for background music systems, vending machines etc. The label name was taken from the company's Domino social club, and the studio recorded demos as well as Ditchburn's own material, which was played by session musicians called the Ditchburn Studio Orchestra. The studio closed in January 1970. Ditchburn set up a second record label in 1971, called Spiral Records, which used the CTS Recording Studios in Wembley. Spiral Records closed in 1973, but one release, A Ra Chicera by the Delmonts, is a highly collectable classic.

In 1969, they were taken over by MAM in Play, and in 1970 by BET. October 1972 saw Ditchburn split into two parts: the Ditchburn Organisation remained part of British Electrical Traction, but MAM bought a slice of its business and formed a new company, Ditchburn Music Maker. In October 1973, the business was sold to Gainesmead and the Lytham factory closed shortly afterwards.

Clarkson's newsagents were at 83 Waterloo Road, selling newspapers, cards, and stationery. The card section was known as The Card Shop and is currently called Jays News.
W Cocker's Waterloo Estate Agency was at 191 Waterloo Road, with a second branch at 41 Breck Road in Poulton. The shop had a variety of later uses, including as a fish and chip shop called Masters Super Fish. It is currently vacant, but forms part of a group of buildings intended as a mosque.
The Blackpool and Fylde Recorded Music Society was formed, now meeting at St Anne's Road Baptist Church.

Blackpool Metal Mechanics Football Club: was founded, playing at Stanley Park, and called Blackpool Metal Mechanics. They moved to Jepson Way, Back Common Edge Road in 1949, and joined the Lancashire Combination League in 1962.
In 2005 Blackpool Mechanics Football Club merged with Lytham St Anne's Football Club and in May 2008, Blackpool Mechanics Football Club and Squires Gate Junior Football Club merged. To mark the start of a new era they decided to rename the club and the name AFC Blackpool was chosen.

Chelsom started in business as the Golden Age lighting and antiques shop, before becoming a Limited Company in 1959. They now operate from Clifton Road, Marton.
E Lewis of 7a Highfield Road invented the "Lewis Cycloped" an apparatus for exercising injured leg joints.
Woodhead's Garage (Blackpool) Limited opened on the 14th of June at 91 Squires Gate Lane, by the bridge. They were Singer and Hillman main dealers, later selling Talbot, Chrysler and then Peugeot cars. They later

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became once again a main dealer, selling Skodas and are currently the Paul James Furniture store and a car wash. The company was dissolved on the 22nd of January 2013.
The Blackpool Ignition Company Limited was formed on the 15th of September, working from Exchange Buildings behind 17 Caunce Street until the 1990s.
The Blackpool and District Badminton Association was founded, now playing at Ribby Hall and Stanley Park Sports Centre.
The Blackpool Old Scouts Association was formed.
The first Annual Police Swimming Championships were held at Blackpool on the 10th of September, and uniquely, a serving Chief Constable took part – JCT Rivett-Carnac of Huntingdonshire - entering the high-diving final.

Father Christmas: made his first appearance in Blackpool, when The Co-operative Emporium on Albert Road put on "Reindeer Land" in the basement. Children could pay 3d and get a gift and meet Father Christmas. RHO Hills then followed suit with a grand procession through town. Santa arrived on a train at North Station before processing through the town centre to "Dreamland" in the store. That procession rapidly became a town tradition, with Lewis's later joining in, taking Santa to his in-store Grotto.

Singer and comedian, Max Bygraves appeared at the Palace Theatre in April, after being stationed at RAF Blackpool as an airframe fitter during the War.
"Sky High" began at the Opera House, with Charlie Chester, Ken Morris, and Arthur Haynes.
Blackpool Tower featured in the film "Dick Barton Strikes Back", with a fight scene on the Tower between Don Stannard and Sebastian Cabot.

Maddy Prior: Madelaine Prior was born in the Glenroyd Nursing Home on the 14th of August. She was brought up at 41 Draycot Avenue on the Grange Park Estate, and preferring to be known as Maddy Prior, she went on to join folk group Steeleye Span. Her father was Allan Prior – composer of the theme music for the TV programme Z Cars.

Ian Anderson and Jethro Tull: Ian Scott Anderson was born in Dunfermline. Contrary to popular belief, he was NOT born in Blackpool, but moved to the area in 1959, when he was 11. His family lived in Cavendish Road in St Anne's for some years, and Ian's parents later moved to Beach Road.

He attended Blackpool Grammar School, until he was expelled for refusing to accept the cane. After leaving, he studied at the Blackpool School of Art, and went on to live in a flat on Devonshire Road, St Anne's. His father helped to run the Casa Romano Restaurant on Blackpool's King Street (previously the Del Rio), and young Ian worked briefly at Walkie-Snaps in town, as well as being a cleaner at the Huntsman Hotel on the promenade. One of his last jobs was working in the record department at Lewis's store, and he later said that it was reading music papers there that inspired his music career.

In 1963, a group called "The Blades" were formed at the Boys Grammar School, comprising Ian Anderson, John Evans, Jeffrey Hammond (later known as Hammond Hammond), and an older boy called Hipgrave. Ian later recruited Michael Stephens and Paul Jackman, and the group played their first paid gig at the Holy Family Youth Club. They regularly played at the Brush and Palette in Bispham.
In 1965, they changed the name to the John Evan Blues Band (without the s) - a printer had missed the "s" off a poster, playing the Grammar School on the 20th of December.

1966 was their busiest year for local gigs, which were:

12th of February - The Queens, Cleveleys
17th of February - The Queens, Cleveleys
19th of February - The Elizabethan Club, Kirkham
25th of February - Blackpool Tower Planet Room
26th of February - Lytham St Anne's Rugby Club
5th of March - Lytham St Anne's Rugby Club
6th of March - Elizabethan Club, Kirkham
16th of March - Waterloo Hotel, Blackpool
17th of March - Elizabethan Club, Kirkham
18th of March - Elizabethan Club, Kirkham
22nd of March – Blackpool Mecca
23rd of March - Blackpool Technical College
24th of March - Cabus Youth Club
1st of April - British Legion, Pilling
4th of April - Blackpool Grammar School
9th of April - Kings Own Club, Fleetwood
21st of April - Talbot Conservative Club
22nd of April - Cabus Youth Club
3rd of May – Blackpool Mecca
19th of May - Savoy Bowl, Blackpool
20th of May - Palatine Hotel, Blackpool
26th of May - Layton Institute, Blackpool
12th of June - Twisted Wheel Club, Blackpool
27th of June - Palatine Hotel, Blackpool
2nd of July - Kings Own Club, Fleetwood
7th of July - Palatine Hotel, Blackpool
14th of July - Savoy Bowl, Blackpool
17th of July - Twisted Wheel Club, Blackpool
10th of August - Twisted Wheel Club, Blackpool
11th of August – Twisted Wheel Club, Blackpool
12th of August – Twisted Wheel Club, Blackpool
15th of August - Casino Theatre Club, Blackpool
An unknown date in November - Tower Ballroom Banqueting Rooms, Blackpool

Later, local residents Tony Williams (later of Stealer's Wheel and then a Blackpool Councillor) and Barrie Barlow joined Tull.
On the 3rd of May 1967, they changed name to The John Evan Smash, soon amalgamating with another local band "McGregor's Engine", and playing that year's single local gig. After they appeared on Granada TV's talent show "First Timers" on the 24th of May, A&R manager, Ronnie Beck was one of first to investigate them. He recommended them to record producer Derek Lawrence who got them recording at CBS studios in London in September (as Candy Coloured Rain). In late 1967, local bassist Glenn Cornick joined the group from fellow Blackpool group the Executives. Mick Abrahams on guitar and Clive Bunker on drums joined from McGregor's Engine, and John Evans stayed in Blackpool. In a Blackpool second-hand shop, Ian traded in his guitar for a flute, and soon began wearing his dad's donated overcoat onstage.

The band changed their name to Jethro Tull in January 1968, and moved south to fame and fortune. They returned on the 14th of March 1971, to play at the Opera House, supported by Steeleye Span.

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They didn't play the town of their birth until the played at the Opera House on the 5th of March 2006.

Pauline Moran: was born in Blackpool on the 26th of August. At the age of 16, and before her acting training, she was the bass guitarist with local all-girl group The Misfits, and then became bassist and singer with the all-girl rock group She Trinity. After training at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts and the national Youth Theatre, she became an actress, known for Agatha Christie's Poirot (1989) – where she played Miss Lemon, Nicholas Nickleby (1977), and The Prisoner of Zenda (1984). In 1987, she became a professional astrologist.

Jean Bennett was born in Chorley. She soon started appearing in Blackpool, where she began a 30-year singing career and became known as the "Blackpool Belle".
Errol Fuller was born in Blackpool on the 19th of June. He grew up in South London, and is the author of a series of books on extinction and extinct creatures.

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Poulton Athletic Football Club was formed when they took over Poulton United. They changed their name to Poulton Football Club in 1961, being called Poulton Town Football Club since 1987. They play football at the Cottam Hall sports ground, and a junior section, called Poulton St John's Youth Football Club was formed in September 1992.
St Chad's Tennis Club was formed, with the court occupying a corner of the church football pitch. By 1930 it had expanded to a small pavilion and three courts - two grass ones and one hard. In 1945, a splinter group formed the Moorland Sports Club, and in 1947, the club opened a new pavilion and reinstated three courts, all hard.
George Abbott's shoe shop was at 67 Victoria Road West in Cleveleys. The Abbot's Shoes premises were taken over by Kenneth Gardner electricals in the late 1950s, and that company then became Reliant TV in 1990. The shop is now an outlet for the Bet Fred bookmakers' chain.
Thornton-Cleveleys Round Table was formed.
Clement Dickens builders were established. They had started out off the back of a handcart as "Dickens and Brown", from where master craftsman Clement Dickens laid bricks. The Company later moved to Dorset Avenue in Cleveleys, and in 1977, moved to their present location at Red Marsh Estate.
Cleveleys Pet Stores was opened at 30a Victoria Road by Mr and Mrs T Ward. The shop later became Lynton's china shop.
Cleveleys Garages Ltd was operating on Back Victoria Parade, selling second-hand cars. By 1964, on St George's Avenue, they were also selling new cars, such as Hillman, Humber, and Sunbeam. They also sold Commer vans and were the area's Rootes Group Dealers.

Roy Castle: This 15-year-old lad began working for Mildred Crossley in her show "Happiness Ahead" at the Queen's Theatre in Cleveleys, and also appeared on Friday nights in the "Charlie's Follies" show. Between shows he would play for the Thornton Cleveleys Cricket Club second 11. He lived on Willoughby Avenue, and whilst in Cleveleys, in 1953, he turned professional, to become a stooge for Jimmy Clitheroe and Jimmy James.

Mary and Phillip Whittaker opened their bakery at 29 Anchorsholme Lane East. In 1964, they retired and the bakery was taken over by Jeanne and Geoff Taylor, who renamed it G and J Taylor's Bakery. They had both trained at Blackpool Bakery School. Siblings Julia (now McDonald), Catherine (now Hughes), and Andrew Taylor inherited it from their parents in 1977. Now called Taylors of Cleveleys, the bakery was put up for sale by the Taylors in February 2020.
Poulton Road branch library was opened in Fleetwood – in a converted air raid shelter.
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Lighthouse Ford opened on Pharos Street, Fleetwood, before moving to Hatfield Avenue. That site was occupied by a Tesco Express store in 2011. Lighthouse Ford was taken over by Chris Allen Ford.
Fleetwood Confectionery was started by Billy Greenwood of the Ferry Café, soon moving to Copse Road, before ceasing production in 1958.

Fleetwood Sea Cadet base was opened on Princes Way. The cadet corps had been started in Milton Street School in 1942 by Sir Basil Parkes and had previously assembled in the gym in Rhyl Street, then in the basement of the Boston Deep Sea Fishing Company and, briefly in a wooden a hut that had been the camp cinema from HMS Inskip. The cadets formed their own brass band in 1947.
The base motto is "Ready aye ready".
A new headquarters building TS Cochrane (TS meaning Training Ship) was built on the site in 1965, complete with a ship's cannon mounted outside. The formal opening was carried out on the 10th of October by Vice Admiral Sir AA Fitzroy Talbot, supported by singer Val Doonican.
In 1971, the cadet base was renamed TS Conqueror, after the real HMS Conqueror - a nuclear submarine. Outside for many years, stood a de-commissioned Hawker Sea Hawk aeroplane and a helicopter - Westland Whirlwind XL840.
The corps band won the Sea Cadets National Band contest several times, and the corps started its own roller-skating sessions in 1982.

Albert Wylde opened his chemist's shop on Beach Road in Fleetwood.
James Low Ltd was at 1 Albert Street in Fleetwood, making ladies' shoes until liquidation in 1967.
Chester's School of Dance was operating at 67 Poulton Road, Fleetwood, with their studio on Birch Street.
The first Knott End and Preesall Gala was held in July.
The Preesall and Knott End Social and Athletic Club held their first ever Annual Athletic Sports on Parrox Hall Field in August. The event was preceded by a grand procession, and teas were provided in the Parochial Hall. A Gala Dance was held there in the evening.
St Anne's Royal British Legion Club opened on Mayfield Road.
The annual garden party at Our Lady Star of the Sea in St Anne's was attended by Dick Bentley, Bebe Daniels, Max Bygraves, Ben Lyon, Joan Regan, Hylda Baker, Anne Shelton, Al Read, and Dickie Henderson!
At Fylde Rugby Club, a Schools Committee was formed to teach the game to boys of 15 and over. The President presented the "Parkes" Trophy to be competed for annually by Public School "Sevens", and this competition continues successfully each year.
The South Fylde Drainage Board was established on the 9th of January. It was abolished in 1977.
Joe Longstaff opened his cycle shop at 5a Clifton Street in Lytham. It closed in 1989. The shop is currently occupied by Fashion Nails, a manicure shop.
Lancashire Constabulary purchased a Triumph 1880 Roadster (Reg number HTF 947) for use as a police patrol car – on the strict condition that it was only used around Lytham. It was too "posh" for anywhere else!

RAF Warton: This camp was opened in September on the former USAAF base, which was split into "sites":

RAF Lytham: was created on site 9, as a transit camp for personnel being sent abroad. It became the 21C Personnel Dispersal Centre, incorporating a Transit Families Unit which operated until the late 1970s. Site 13 was initially part of RAF Lytham, despite its location, and became the RAF School of Hygiene, being used for medical training from 1951 to 1955.
The site currently houses the Land Registry, and the base's Dispersal Area 1 later became the Great Birchwood Centre.

After the war, the empty Nissen huts found another use. As a local woman remembers *"squatters moved into the huts my family being one of them, the council decided to put toilets in, brick walls to separate bedrooms, the council charged 7 shillings and 6 pence rent, we all went to Warton school"*.

RAF Freckleton: Site 13 was retitled RAF Freckleton when RAF Lytham was closed in January 1956, and it became the RAF Institute of Community Medicine. It was the major training unit for medics in the RAF; all RAF doctors did their basic training there. RAF Freckleton closed in July 1964, and all staff finally left by the 7th of August, when the site was handed over to RAF Weeton for Care and Maintenance. Its buildings were then used by the Air Training Corps for some time. A retired Spitfire (number MT847 – 4960M) had stood outside since 1952. It was a Mark XIV Spitfire and the code letters on the fuselage of the aircraft were "MT-E" which stood for Medical Training Establishment. The site was later sold, and Arvin opened a research and development centre for exhaust systems there.

In 1947, the English Electric Company took over operation of Warton Aerodrome from the USAAF, using it as an Experimental Flying facility, as the runway at Salmesbury was not long enough. They became the British Aircraft Corporation (BAC) in 1960, and British Aerospace (BAE) in 1977. Warton's ICAO code is EGNO.
Test flights of the brand new Gloster Meteor jet fighter began at Warton in August 1947. The Warton base went on to be the testing ground for several front-line aircraft including the Canberra, the Lightning, the TSR-2, the Jaguar, the Tornado, the Hawk (formerly the Hawker Siddeley Hawk) and most recently the Eurofighter Typhoon:

> The first Canberra bomber, VP799, built at Warton, flew on the 13th of May 1949, later becoming the RAF's first jet bomber.
>
> The first prototype Lightning fighter jet (WG763) to fly from Warton on the 18th of July 1955 (the very first had flown from Boscombe). The company also began to build their Lightnings at Samlesbury in 1957, and their test flights were made from Warton. The first aircraft to be officially called Lightning to fly from Warton was XG307 which flew on the 3rd of March 1958. It was one of 20 preproduction, development aircraft. At the end of August 1967, the last English Electric Lightning aircraft to be made for the RAF at Samlesbury Aerodrome was flown from RAF Warton to RAF Leuchars. In January 1986, the last 22 aircraft were sold, each for £1, to a range of collectors and museums. The Lightning was officially retired by the RAF in 1988.
>
> In 1964, the TSR2's first supersonic test flight (Flight 14) was achieved on the transfer from A and AEE at Boscombe Down to Warton. During the flight, the aircraft achieved Mach 1 on dry power only (supercruise).
>
> On the 28th of February 1967, the Jet Provost T Mark 5 made its first flight, numbered XS230.
>
> The first British Jaguar flight was by XW650 from Warton on the 12th of October 1969.
>
> The first flight of the XX765 BAC/Sepecat Jaguar GR1 ACT took place from Warton on the 13th of June 1975. It was supplied to the RAF on the 2nd of July.
>
> The first UK prototype of the MRCA flew on the 30th of October 1974 at Warton, with test pilot Paul Millett at the controls. A dedicated £2.3m hangar and production line were built. The aircraft was

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renamed the Tornado in 1976, and number 001 was rolled out at Warton on the 5th of June. Soon afterwards, the Tornado entered service with the RAF and the German and Italian air forces in June 1979. "*Production of the Tornado came to an end in 1998, with the last batch of aircraft going to the Royal Saudi Airforce – under a deal between BAE Systems and the Saudi government. The final RAF Tornados will leave service before the end of March, with its capabilities transferred to the Typhoon*".

In October 2006, a £450 million contract was signed for the production of 28 Hawk 128s. The aircraft's maiden flight occurred on the 27th of July 2005 from Warton.

On the 6th of April 1994, the first flight of the DA2 demonstrator Eurofighter Typhoon flew from Warton, and on the 14th of February 2003, the first production flight (BT001) took off from there. The first Number 17 Squadron aircraft (BS004) left Warton on the 1st of April and moved to RAF Coningsby - the aircraft was flown by the squadron leader Wing Commander Jon Hitchcock.

The RAF's Number 10 Signals School of Technical Training and the Recruiting Centre for Boy Entrants were based at Kirkham camp from now until 1958.

1948

A reduced version of the Illuminations was lit once more after the War.
The National Health Service was formed. The NHS took over the running of most health services in the UK.

The Pembroke National Gardens, Blackpool: opened on the site of the original Claremont Park, which had by then become allotments. The new gardens included a replica of the Hanging Gardens of Babylon, together with a running track, Krazy Golf, and play areas, for the admission price of one shilling (5p). Another attraction of the gardens was that it was divided into five decorative sections: France, Italy, Spain, Portugal, and Mediterranean. The project failed after just a few years, and successors, such as a ten-pin bowling alley – the idea of US film star Douglas Fairbanks Junior, did not get off the ground.

The two large buildings – one on each of the north and south corners of the Gardens – were Number 1 Warley Road (the home of Rowland Rawlinson, a woollen mill owner), and the Farington Ladies College. The college was demolished to make room for the gardens, and number 1 went to make room for the Derby Baths in 1939.

The last part of the gardens disappeared when the Pembroke Hotel was built there in 1992.

The Corporation's post-war housing list held a massive 8,770 people.
Blackpool Old People's Welfare Committee was formed.
Blackpool Corporation bought a hotel at Starr Gate, on Freemantle Avenue, and converted it into an Old People's Home. It ran until it was demolished in 1969.

Mental Health Care in Blackpool: The duty to care for its own sufferers was given by the Ministry of Health to the council. It opened a temporary day-time mental health care centre in a church hall in Dean Street. It was officially titled the Occupation and Training of Defectives Centre.
On the 1st of September, 1952, the centre was transferred from Dean Street to the old day nursery at the Municipal Health centre. The Blackpool Society for Mentally Handicapped Children was formed to run the

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facility, which initially cared for 35 children. The children were transported to the centre by the Corporation Transport Department.
The Occupation Centre was closed in 1960, with the opening of Woodlands School. The training Centre was moved into the Day Nursery at the corner of Devonshire Road and Caunce Street.

In 1964, the Regional Hospital Board established a day hospital for locals with mental health problems to obtain out-patient treatment. The hospital in Church Street was unique in that since its inception did not call on the ambulance service. The central siting of this facility encouraged a more tolerant attitude towards the mentally ill and their relatives. A crèche for mentally handicapped younger children was also set up, run by female volunteers.

A small shop Library was opened at Anchorsholme.
The Marton tramway was re-laid in order to run faster, single-deck trams.
Marton Moss Conservative Club opened on Hawes Side Lane on the 6th of March. It is now known as Stanley Conservative Club. Next door stood a wooden hall built by the Marton Homing Pigeon Club – closed in 2008. It was demolished in March 2017, to be replaced by a small housing development called The Willows. The construction of the six houses by Jones homes began in May 2017.
South Shore Register Office opened on the 18th of September. Blackpool had been spilt into north and South districts in 1919.
Studio One dance studio was on the corner of Central Drive and Ashton Road, later run by Fred Morrison.
The Gazette's Young Seasiders' Exhibition of art by local children was first held.
Blackpool Championship Dog Show became the first such show to be televised, on the 3rd of January.
Viscount Montgomery of Alamein was made an Honorary Freeman of Blackpool in a ceremony at the New Opera House on the 17th of August, where he spoke at length about National Service, and later, at the Blackpool and Fylde Agricultural Show, on food production targets.
The Blackpool and Fylde Horse Club was founded, holding annual shows ever since.

The Atomic Boys: After an idea by Blackpool FC supporter Syd Bevers, the "Atomic Boys" were founded. They started as a group of supporters dressed in the same outfits – many borrowed from Louis Tussaud's and were soon seen by the Corporation as a way of promoting the club and the town. They and their orange duck followed the club everywhere. The first was called Donald, then Douglas – who was retired in 1952, after being banned by the club. Lastly, for the 1954 season, they bought Stanley, who they later renamed Puskas after the famous Hungarian player.

Squires Gate FC, Blackpool: Squires Gate British Legion Football Club was formed, joining the Blackpool and District Amateur League, and playing on Council pitches off Hawes Side Lane.
They changed their name to Squires Gate Football Club in 1953, playing at the Royal British Legion Stadium on School Road.
The club moved to their current premises on School Road in 1960, and in 1961, they won the Fylde Cup and moved into the West Lancashire League. In 1991, they were elected into the Northwest Counties Football League, and in 1995, their highest ever attendance was 600 for a friendly match against Everton. In 2000, Squires Gate finally entered the FA Cup for the first time in their history, and in January 2017, the ground was renamed the Brian Addison Stadium. This was in recognition of the 60 years of service provided by Brian Addison.

Blackpool Cricket Club played its first ever Sunday match on the 6th of June.
There was a tennis court on Squires Gate Lane, between St Anne's Road and Sandgate.

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Heyworth's Harmony House was at 37 Whitegate Drive, selling gramophone records and providing "The largest show and audition rooms in Blackpool".
Highfield Music Stores were at number 20 Highfield Road selling "Radio Gramophones, Records, and Everything Musical".
S Meadows and Company was at 4 Royal Oak Buildings, selling radiograms and records. At number 1 was Court's shoe shop, who also had premises at 60 Waterloo Road (later to become the Snackery café).
Melody House was at 1 Lido Buildings, run by Cassie Morris and selling records.
Pollard's "The Record Shop" was at 71 and 73 Bolton Street.
The Hornby Road Motor Garage was burnt out, destroying 80 cars and 7 coaches.
The Old Coach House Hotel at 50 Dean Street was opened on the 20th of March, after rebuilding.
Marton Estates was founded at 463 Waterloo Road.
John Knox Ltd, manufacturing chemists, opened a supply depot in Blackpool, serving the whole of the Fylde Coast.
HJW Kay founded Kay's Estates at 225 to 229 Church Street.
Fredrick Irving Harris set up Irving Harris and Company on Church Street.
The Universal Radio Salon was at 49 King Street.
Studio D photography opened, later moving to Waterloo Road and then 234 Church Street.
Robert Green opened his accountancy practice, later operating from 86a Whitegate Drive.
JG McDonald established McDonald and Company, Estate Agents.
Derham Mackeith and Partners, Surveyors were in business at 97 Church Street.
The population of Blackpool had increased by 10,000 since 1938, due mainly to servicemen's families and settling evacuees/refugees.

Josef Locke: The popular Irish tenor – real name Joseph McLaughlin - appeared in his first summer season, going on to do 19 more seasons in the town, and moving here. He later married local performer Doreen McMartin and bought a house on Preston New Road. He was nicknamed *"The Singing Bobby"* as he had served with the Royal Ulster Constabulary, and was best known for singing Hear My Song, Violetta, Blaze Away, Goodbye (from White Horse Inn), the Soldiers' Chorus, and I'll Take You Home Again, Kathleen.

In 1948, he met his 2nd wife, Doreen McMartin, playing opposite her at the Opera House. They married in 1949, at Sacred Heart Church. However, when they married, a decree nisi, granted to his first wife, Esther Woods McLaughlin, had not been made absolute. At a bigamy trial in Manchester in 1951, the Judge, granted Doreen her a decree nisi of nullity. Then in 1952, Locke secretly married Betty Barr, a 21-year-old actress playing opposite him in Cinderella, in Manchester.
In 1956, he bought George Formby's house, Cintra, on Fairhaven promenade.

In 1962, Locke became the subject of the film "Hear My Song", written and directed by Blackpool man Peter Chelsom, which premiered at the Cannon Cinema in Church Street in March. Also, in the early 1960s, he bought the garage that stood on the site of the old Marton tram sheds, and also became part owner of Whitegate Car Sales.
In his later years, he would pop into town and appear at places such as the Sands Club on Hawes Side Lane, billing himself as "Mr X", in order to avoid tax problems.
He last performed in 1992, and died on the 15th of October 1999.

Singer James Etherington collapsed and died after Charlie Chester's "Sky High" show at the Opera House on the 15th of June.
The film "Holidays with Pay" was shot in Blackpool and Manchester and starred Frank Randle and "Two Ton" Tessie O'Shea.

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The World Ballroom Dancing Congress was held in the Winter Gardens from the 25th of April.
Spen Hudson, a frequent local election candidate for the Communist Party in Blackpool, was involved in the famous *"Trial of the Sands".* The Conservative council, upset by the success of the Communist Party's meetings held on Blackpool's beach, sued Spen and Tony Greenhalgh for trespass. Spen had helped to found the Blackpool Trades Club.

Sooty: Britain's favourite puppet was "born" in Blackpool, when Harry Corbett, an electrical engineer and part-time magician, spent 7s 6d in Paul Clive's shop on North Pier on the 19th of July, buying a glove puppet of a bear that he eventually called Sooty from salesman Bill Lamb, to amuse his son David. Corbett had watched Paul doing tricks with the puppet and decided he could use it in his act.
Originally named "Teddy", with the addition of chimney soot to his ears and nose to enhance his character, he was rechristened Sooty and appeared on the BBC's talent night joining Harry Corbett's magic act.
Sooty became a star when he first appeared on TV on the 3rd of May 1952 in the BBC's Talent Night, and after the Sooty Show started in 1955, he went on to have the world's longest running children's television programme (over 50 years).

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Fleetwood Speedway: Motorcycle speedway racing was first staged at Highbury Avenue Sports Stadium - from the Grand Opening on the 13th of April – against the Edinburgh Monarchs. Fleetwood lost 35 to 49, racing in National Division 2. The ground had been opened by the Wolfenden brothers. The Fleetwood Flyers had started the season on the 27th of March, as Wigan Warriors, but had moved to Fleetwood after racing a few away fixtures billed as Wigan.
The Fliers raced (in colours of green with a red star) in the National League Division Two from 1948 to 1951 without success. The club's riders all used purpose-built machines, manufactured in London by the JAP company.
By the time Southampton visited in April 1949, there were 8,000 in the crowd.
As a letter to the Fleetwood Chronicle said *"The noise of the engines could be heard all over town. Babies couldn't get to sleep and neither, for that matter, could shift workers, seagoing or otherwise. Windows and greenhouses rattled, not just in the town itself but also on the other side of the River Wyre".*

Fleetwood made history on the 15th of May 1950, by giving a debut to the first Polish rider ever to represent a British team, when Max Rech scored 1 point for the team. He had been a pilot in the Free Polish Air Force in the UK, and after his Fleetwood ride, he went to Division 3 St Austell, where he scored 20 points in 9 matches.

The track was advertised on posters displayed throughout Fleetwood, which proclaimed *"The Track of a Thousand Thrills!"*

In 1952, the venue staged a number of open events promoted by local rider Don Potter with the team renamed the Fleetwood Knights. The team's performances slumped and the meetings were spoiled by disputes over the sharing of the ground with Fleetwood Football Club.
The last speedway meeting was held on the 3rd of September. The lease was terminated by the council on the 29th of October that year, after "irregularities" by the promoters, JW Enterprises Ltd. Some famous Fleetwood speedway names include Don Potter, Ron Hart, Reg Lambourne, and Norman Hargreaves.

Fleetwood also had a thriving Pedal Cycle Speedway scene for a brief period in the early 1950s, with its own league of six or seven teams, which rode along a rough track on the promenade - they included the Marine Aces and the Monarchs.
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The Fleetwood and District Motorcycle Club grew from this popular sport.

Whitehead's electrical shop opened at 1A Ash Street in Fleetwood. When the shop started to stock records, it was ceremonially opened by the Bachelors singing group.
Guffogg's Newsagents opened in Headroomgate Road, St Anne's. The store was sold to United Northwest Co-op in 2001.
The Peter Pan Preparatory School was on the corner of Riley Avenue and Alexandra Drive in St Anne's.
J Webster started his ironmongery and garden machinery business at 10 Alexandria Drive in St Anne's.
A Street Shrine was erected outside Aspden's shop in Church Road in St Anne's to allow residents to mourn their loved ones lost in the war.
The Rotary Club of Lytham was granted its charter on the 15th of April. In June 1952, a new clubhouse was opened at Rotary House at 7 Pleasant Street in Lytham. Rotary House became the local Citizens Advice Bureau on the 27th of July 1977, fulfilling that role until the same date in 1979. Rotary House is unique in that it is the only wholly-owned home for a Rotary Club in the UK.
The Lytham Film Society was founded, meeting at the Ansdell Institute.
The Lytham St Anne's Photographic Society was formed on the 1st of April at the County Hotel in Lytham, meeting for many years at the Girl Guides hut on Station Road.
On the 17th of April, the Mayor of Lytham St Anne's officially unveiled the War Memorial in the pavilion at Fylde Rugby Club.
Newton-with-Scales, Clifton and Salwick Field Day was first held, setting off from Clifton village and ending at the Highgate Hotel, where the Rose Queen was crowned. Soon, however, traffic on the A583 became so heavy that the procession now ends at the school.
By now, there were 3 council tips in the Fylde district, at Wesham, Warton, and Singleton, and rubbish was collected weekly by wagons housed at the Council depot on Billington Street East in Wesham. In 1962, a larger tip was opened at Whinbrick near Weeton, and the Billington Street depot was closed. All refuse services were then transferred to the rear of the new Council offices. The Whinbrick tip closed in September 1970, and all refuse was taken to the tip on Freckleton Marsh.

Wallings of Cockerham: Tom Walling bought High Crookhey farm on Garstang Road, running herds of cattle and sheep for many years until a downturn in demand hit in the 1970s. The family began to make ice cream in 1984, and this developed into a large retail business, based in the converted 200-year-old barn. Wallings now boast their own restaurant (The Pudding House), coffee shop, local food shop, rare-breed butchers' shop, ice cream parlour (serving 49 flavours), their own hand-crafted chocolates, and the Inspirations Plant Centre. Children can also visit the animals.
The farm still runs a pedigree herd of Aberdeen Angus cattle.

The Duchess of Gloucester also opened the Starr Gate Hostel for Old People on the 25th of June.
South Shore Cricket Club moved to Common Edge Road, on the site of Mad Nook. Boardman's cottages still stand opposite, on the eastern side of the road (numbers 354-360).
The Illuminations returned in their full glory after fuel restrictions were relaxed. Anna Neagle switched on the newly refurbished, post-war display. The lights had all been stored in Talbot Road Car Park for ten years, since the outbreak of the War.
Lancashire Police first sent an aeroplane – a twin-engine Miles Gemini G-AKHB - to oversee the Illuminations on the 16th of October. Its observer was Chief Superintendent WH Mercer.
The Corporation held the Blackpool Air Races at Squires Gate.

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Lobster Pot/Brannigan's, Blackpool: The Lobster Pot Restaurant first opened at 35 Market Street in the old Market Café. Owners Mr FC Vickers and Mrs CA Bailey decided to feature fine seafood, served on oval dishes. In 1954, they expanded into the old Café Royal on Bank Hey Street (in Feldman's buildings). They soon bought a warehouse on Devonshire Road, and in 1958, they took over the Neptune Restaurant on Talbot Road and changed it into the Chicken Barbeque.

In 1960, they bought Jenkinson's Café in Talbot Square and converted it into the Movenpick Restaurant – owned by Frank Vickers (it later became the Lobster Pot Theatre Restaurant, and then (Mama and Papa) Jenks.

The Savoy Café running through from 29-37 Market Street to the Promenade became the Lobster Pot Restaurant on the 16th of December 1963, with the Islander Restaurant downstairs and the Gaiety Bar and a chicken barbeque on the ground floor; the official opening was in January 1964. Singer Paul Melba was one of the regulars at the Lobster Pot Group's venues. *"He recalled his first booking, £35 a week. "It looked good on paper but when I got here I found I was doing 34 spots in the week", he said. "I seemed to be running up and down stairs from the Gaiety Bar to the Islander to the Savoy Bowl Club and across Talbot Square to the Orchid Room"*. The band U2 famously played the Gaiety Bar on the 20th of November 1980 (NOT the Technical College, as reported elsewhere).

The 30-lane 10-pin bowling upstairs in the Savoy Bowl - Blackpool's first ten-pin bowling alley - was opened on 17th of December 1966, by the Beverley Sisters singing group. There were then two grill bars, and on the 3rd floor, there was the Ten Pin Club. A roller-skating disco opened upstairs later, along with a 20-table American Pool Room, and an amusement arcade.
The Savoy Bowl proved most popular, and stars appearing at the various theatres set up their own ten-pin bowling league.
Also, on Market Street, was the Lobster Pot Fishing Net, a takeaway fish and chip bar.
The Islander closed in 1976, but re-opened in 1977, as the *"Caribbean Disco Paradise"* of Man Fridays at the Islander in 1977. Accessed from the Promenade entrance was the Kingfisher Show Bar.

The Gaiety Bar became Brannigan's Club and on the first floor, the Savoy Bowl was relaunched as Superbowl in December 1988, closing in January 2011. Brannigan's closed in January 2011, and was replaced by Revolution on the 29th of July, the bowling alley being taken over by MFA Bowl in August 2011. The venue had its own fish and chip chop on the ground floor, called The Fishing Net.

The Lobster Pot had its own ghost; the phantom would grab female staff by the arm and leave red blemishes, and the Superbowl since reported the late-night activity of unmanned machinery.

The Lobster Pot had another outlet upstairs at 5-7 Abingdon Street- the Oyster Catcher Restaurant and the integral Dolphin Room – above the Goldfish Bowl coffee lounge. West Coast Rock Café later opened there.

The Lobster Pot group had a "preparation plant" on Laycock Gate at the time.

A Post Box was installed at the top of the tower for visitors to have their postcards franked "Posted at the top of Blackpool Tower". At the time, it was Britain's highest post box.
Hornby Confectionery was started by Billy Greenwood and Len Hall in the old Ackroyd's Billiard Hall in Hornby Road.

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Christ the King Church, Blackpool: This Roman Catholic church was opened on the 5th of May, on the corner of Gateside Drive and Chepstow Road, Grange Park Estate. The church had been constructed on the site of a large hill of hard core which had been built up by the builders. A Presbytery was also built next door. Christ the King Social Centre and Club opened behind the church in 1970.
The attached convent is the Society of the Holy Child Jesus, St Michael's, on Calvert Place.
A new Church of Christ the King was built behind and next door to St Mary's Catholic Academy on Rodwell Walk in 2012.
The original church buildings were demolished in September 2016.

The Co-op opened a store on Dinmore Place, Grange Park. It later became Heald's and then a One Stop Shop, which was closed on the 26th of September 2008, prior to demolition.
Boundary Park football pitches were laid out on the site of an old mere and tip.

The New Cumberland Hotel, Blackpool: was built on Queen's Drive on North Promenade. The building was originally run by Betty Nuttall, offering 100 rooms in "Blackpool's Most Modern Hotel". By now renamed as the Doric Hotel, it was named the Best Family Hotel in Britain by website Trip Advisor in 2015.

Burton's Biscuit Company Limited was bought by Associated British Foods.

Brooks Collectables, Blackpool: Brooks Gifts opened in the Talbot Court building on the corner of Waterloo Road and the Promenade. The shop had been built earlier, as Slater's Rock shop, but was used as a munitions store during World War 2. The family opened a second shop under Blackpool Tower and a third in Pablo's building opposite South Pier in the 1970s but were still trading as Brooks Gift Stores Limited at 1 Waterloo Road. In 1982, they moved to 66a Central Drive, but in 1998, by then trading as Brooks Collectables they moved back top number 7 Waterloo Road.

Upstairs is a Toy Museum, whose *"exhibits includes, 5ft Blackpool Tower model, scale model of the Open-Air Baths, die-cast models which include rare Dinky, Corgi and more. Airfix kits, large collection of Britain's military bands, Edwardian and Victorian china souvenirs, dolls house and doll collections, coins, stamps, football, programmes, new Subbuteo display, small library, 1890 map of Blackpool measuring 10ft x 14ft which predates the construction of Blackpool Tower"*. Admission is free.

Model road and railway layout also Blackpool promenade tram layout
F Taylor and Company Ltd, printers, and bookbinders were on Back Regent Road.
The Pleasure Beach changed the aircraft on its Flying Machine into rockets.
Fylde Flooring was begun by Wilfred Shilliton on Central Drive. He later bought the adjoining premises at the corner of 304 Central Drive and Bloomfield Road. It became a Limited Company in April 1962, and opened a second branch at 57 Red Bank Road in the 1990s.
Huten's Furnishers Ltd was formed on the 5th of October, running their furniture store at 243/247 Lytham Road, near the Dog and Partridge. The building at number 243 started out as George Collinge's Antique Shop (he also had a booth on North Pier), and it later became a Cash Converters outlet, and is currently a Money Traders shop.
The Norman Memorial Youth Band began in back Ribble Road by Jos Taylor, moving later to Threlfall Road.
RP Tyson Construction Limited started business at 1 Mitcham Road.
Stanley Ward Conservative Club at 92/94 Common Edge Road registered at Companies House in December.

©

The first "Petit Prix" was held on the beach. This was a show business horse race for charity, along the sands between Squires Gate and St Anne's, and was won by Jerry Desmonde.
Roger Uttley, Fylde and England Rugby player, captain, and coach was born in Blackpool on the 11th of September.
Karl Bartoni, escapologist, was born in Blackpool, as Antoni Bartnik.
Comedians Tommy Cooper and Freddy Frinton starred in "Beyond the Clouds" at Feldman's Theatre for a week in July. Tony Hancock and Harry Secombe were also appearing there, in a different show.
The film "Forbidden", starring Douglas Montgomery, Patricia Burke, and Andrew Cruikshank, was filmed in Blackpool.
Julie Andrews (born Julia Wells) first appeared in town in July, at the Hippodrome, in the show "Coconut Grove - entertainment in the modern manner". Josef Locke topped the bill, with Jean Carson, Jimmy Jewel, and Ben Warriss, and Wally Boag (the balloon-artist from "Starlight Roof"). Young Julie was billed as "the Melody of Youth".
Singer Eve Boswell first appeared with Geraldo at the Winter Gardens on the 1st of June: she remained with the band for two years.
The BBC TV show "Come Dancing" was created by Eric Morley and was broadcast from the Tower Ballroom for many years.
Barriemore Barlow was born in Birmingham, and after being educated there, he moved to Blackpool, where, at 17, he met Ian Anderson and John Evans of the Blades. He re-joined them in Jethro Tull in 1971.
Blackpool Council was made a Coast Protection Authority under the Coast Protection Act of this year, as were Fylde and Wyre Councils.

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Kings Close, Queens Close, and Princess Avenue were built in Poulton.
The Singleton Cloggers dance group was formed, to lead the village gala parade. They practice in Singleton Village Hall. There are several morris dances with local titles, such as "The Poulton-le-Fylde", and "The Fleetwood Polka".
Singleton Women's Institute was formed in May.
Jim Clancy opened his car body repair shop on Station Road, Poulton.
The Thornton Cleveleys Motor Cycle Club was formed.
The Crest Café opened at 46 Victoria Road West, Cleveleys. It offered *"Coffee for the Connoisseur"*, and seating for 110.
Cleveleys Footwear opened their shoe and slipper factory on Dorset Avenue, going bankrupt in 1985.
S Swarbrick's Taxis and Coaches were at Slater Road in Cleveleys. They took over Fylde Coaches Ltd in 1952. Their coach trips departed from the Pavilion Garage on Victoria Road and Kensington Garage on Beach Road.

Mullard's: The Blackburn-based company, which made television valves, made use of a disused snooker hall to open its Warrenhurst Road operation in Fleetwood. In 1951, they built a second factory on Radcliffe Road (adjacent to the Jolly Sailor pub) which later became a cash-and-carry warehouse (and was demolished in 2011). Both Mullard's factories closed in December 1980.
Mullard's opened another factory in Lytham in 1954, which closed in 1972, and also briefly had a small factory at Squires Gate, which closed in 1975.

Fleetwood tried to compete with Blackpool with its own illuminations. On the 27th of August, the Mount Pavilion was illuminated, and a tableau was lit on the island in Marine Lake. The Fleetwood Illuminations were not a success and stopped shortly afterwards. For two summer seasons in the early 1960s, a Mr Hunter opened a fairground by the pitch and putt course on Fleetwood Promenade.
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Fleetwood Reservoir Angling Club was formed by railway company employees, under the auspices of the (LMR) Sports and Social Club. In 1976, the Angling Club became self-sufficient and severed its links with the Social Club. Its reservoir is now on the east side of Copse Road, on the site of the railway sidings.
The Fleetwood Road Club was founded for local cyclists.
Jim Langhorne opened his Sports and Books shop at 80 Poulton Road in Fleetwood. He retired in 1969, and his son David took over, closing the shop in 2000. The premises now house Wow Studios, a photography studio and shop.

St Anne's Ambulance Station: was opened in the old Lifeboat House on Eastbank Road on the 1st of April. It moved from there to Ansdell Road South in September 1974.

Lytham St Anne's War Memorial Housing Association: was founded, with the help of charitable donations to cover funds. Land was effectively donated by the local squire Clifton, who ceded the ground by means of a long lease.
The Lytham St Anne's War Memorial Homes were opened by Lord Derby on the 18th of September 1950, at the junction of Church Road and Smithy Lane. They were built as a memorial to the men and women of the borough who had died in service of their country. A commemorative stone was laid with the inscription: "*They gave their tomorrow for our today*".

Between 1947 and 1950, a chapel was built, to serve the housing development, designed by local architect Tom Mellor. The shrine features a plain oak cross and a shelf to display the Association's Book of Remembrance, which contains the names of all the 195 service men and women who never came home.
In 1950, the second phase of building began, to provide an extra 28 units. The first of these homes and the shrine were officially dedicated in 1952.

Tommy Towers opened his cheese shop opened on Clifton Street in Lytham.
Maurice Billington established his funeral directors at 43 Station Road in Kirkham – he called his funeral home "Oakwood".
Great Eccleston Gala began to be held.
St Michael's Museum was closed.

1950s

The Imperial Bar, Blackpool: opened at 69 to 71 Talbot Road in the early years of this decade. In the 1990s, it
had its name changed to become Flashman's bar (a Thwaites's bar), and in November 2006, re-opened as the Taboo theme pub, to become the latest addition to Blackpool entrepreneur Basil Newby's "In the Pink" empire just as former "gay" bar Faith (now called Fusion) on Central Promenade reverted to being "straight". Taboo became Tobago in about 2010, and converted back to The Imperial in January 2015.

The Sherbourne Arms, Blackpool: was opened at 80 Sherbourne Road, by brewers Greenhall Whitley. Converted from a residential property, it is a of a very simple yellow brick design, in typical 1950s style, and has a single open-plan drinking area with landlord's living accommodation above.
In 2000, it became the Last Orders Inn, and was bought by Hawthorn Leisure in 2014. It is currently awaiting being given a new name.

The Majestic Ballroom was at Bethesda Square. It was distinctive building with three gable ends facing the road.

©

The Balmoral Hotel was built at 215 to 217 The Promenade.

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Sanders Auction Rooms was at 46 St Andrew's Road South in St Anne's. Sanders Bedroom Centre was opened in 1974 at 20 Park Road, and the original building was purchased by the family who currently own Fleetwood Furniture Centre at 14 to 18 Warren Street in Fleetwood.

1950

Frank Sinatra: Possibly the world's most famous singer of the time performed two concerts at the Opera House, on Sunday July the 16th, with music provided by Woolf Phillips and the Skyrockets. Blackpool's Sunday performance laws allowed him to perform, and these laws made Blackpool the only place outside London to allow Sunday Entertainment. This new freedom began a new era for Blackpool shows.
Sinatra also appeared on July the 26th 1953, at the Odeon.
While he was in Blackpool, Sinatra was taken around town in a taxi driven by Ginger McCain – the future trainer of three-time Grand National winner, Red Rum!
Sinatra once claimed that *"I could be mayor of Blackpool"*.

The Tower had a full edition of the BBC radio show "Woman's Hour" devoted to it.
Blackpool's first annual Cavalcade of Sport was held in the Tower Circus.
With the start of the Korean War, work restarted at the old Squires Gate aircraft factory.

Stan Mortensen: Blackpool's star footballer opened a toy and sports goods shop on the corner of 71 to 73 Lytham Road and Waterloo Road. The sign read "Stanley Mortensen, Blackpool and England". By 18965, the shop was at 79 Lytham Road. The shop became Rayner's Café, then the Royal Oak Market for a time, and is nowadays a Hampson's bakery shop. He had moved the sports shop from the corner of Nelson Street. He also opened a bookmaker's shop at number 267 Lytham Road.

Blackpool held its first "Old People's Holiday", issuing books of discounts tickets to pensioners.
The White Eagle Club was opened at 175 Hornby Road (known locally as the Polish Club). It had been an unofficial meeting place since 1940. The Eagle Club closed in 1999, after many years as a meeting place for ex-patriots and a classy restaurant for locals. The building has housed the headquarters of the engineering company CTS Group since 2006.
The Scotch Wool Store was in the Town Hall Buildings on Market Street.
The newspapers were filled with tales of the "Blackpool Rock Racket" when spivs were caught selling rock without sweet coupons.
Owen Radcliff owned and ran the Blackpool Turf Accounts Club on Coronation Street.
Simmon's Hamburger and Tea Bar was on the corner of Central Drive and Hull Road.
Metro Bazaars Limited of Bonny Street was making seaside novelties and pocket money toys.
The Winter Gardens Company held an Old-Time Ball in October - considered to be the first Blackpool Sequence Dance Festival.

Blackpool Borough Rugby League Club: The Blackpool Rugby League Club was formed in December, unsuccessfully applying to join the Rugby League. Nicknamed *"The Babes"*, they were allowed to play in the League Cup in 1954, playing at St Anne's Road Greyhound Stadium. Larger fixtures were played at Bloomfield Road. Their first ever victory was over Hull Kingston Rovers at Blackpool. A Blackpool club had been members of the Northern Union Lancashire Second Competition in 1898-99.
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They were officially named "Blackpool Borough" late in 1954, after a Gazette competition which was won by Edith Kennaugh who came up with the name. Borough's largest crowd (at Bloomfield Road) was for a match against New Zealand on the 10th of December 1955. The biggest league crowd was in 1957, for a Challenge Cup match against Leigh, when 22,000 people watched.

In April 1962, Blackpool Council agreed to grant a 21-year lease to Blackpool Borough Rugby League Club for a new ground - Borough Park. This was on the former gas works and coach park site at Rigby Road and Princess Street. The area was originally the gas works railway sidings and had latterly been used as an overflow coach park (known by local "baggers" as the *"Eller"* – after LMS Railways). From 1963 to 1967, Borough Park was the home of the club and the Greyhound Stadium, both of which moved from St Anne's Road.

In April 1982, Borough were put into liquidation, and a new company, Savoy Sports and Leisure Ltd, then bought the club. A new Blackpool Borough Rugby League Football Club was formed on the 4th of August 1982 and accepted into the Rugby League for the new season.

Following the Bradford Valley Parade fire, the club was ordered to carry out safety measures on the ground by Lancashire County Council by the 1st of February 1987 or quit the ground. Failing to get grant aid from Blackpool Council, Borough folded, the final game being on the 4th of January 1987, when a crowd of 386 saw the club lose 8-5 to Whitehaven. The last 6 remaining) home games were played at Bloomfield Road. The Taylor Report of 1990 eventually declared the Borough Park ground to be unsafe.
Blackpool Rugby League Club then moved from Borough Park Stadium to Devonshire Road. The club was then taken over on condition that they moved from Blackpool, so they moved to Wigan's Springfield Road. The Borough Park Social Club was under the stand, later becoming the Bugsy Greyhound Club.
For a short time, the old ground was used for local five-a-side football, shows, and free concerts.

The Fylde Light Opera Company was formed after a meeting in the Babs Dawson Dancing School at "Meridian", 17 Anchorsholme Lane East. They soon became the Blackpool and Fylde Light Opera Company.
Jack Aked registered the Blackpool and Fylde Gliding Club in August. He leased a building on Squires Gate Airport, which had been the Stand Bar when the site was Clifton Park Racecourse. The stand was demolished in 1960, and the bar in 1980, but the outline of their location can still be seen in the car park.
Allotments were opened officially on land at David's Slack Bridge on Newton Drive (the site had been farmed unofficially since 1930). This name seems to have become adulterated into Devil's Slack over the years. The current allotments are correctly named however, the true name being recorded in many 19th century Local Board minutes. The slack was the site of an early water mill and bridge.
The British Legion Club was opened on the 15th of July, on Springfield Road, moving to 33 to 39 King Street in 1982. They had previously met at 92 Topping Street and on Adelaide Street, and had been registered at the new address on the 14th of April.
The Horseshoe Club was in business on Dickson Road (run by Jack and Harry Pye). Owner Jock Dodds had invested in a Blackpool hotel in his late twenties; he claimed to be the first in Britain to import fruit machines for the three nightclubs he owned in Fleetwood and Blackpool, the most famous of which was The Horseshoe. It was later bought by Brian London who ran it until he opened his 007 club.
The Northern Institute of Massage moved to Waterloo Road from John Dalton Street, Manchester, where it had been founded in 1924.
Mowbray Drive Industrial Estate began to be built, with many buildings being constructed this year. Some buildings had appeared on the road in the 1930s.

©

Electricity Substations were needed to power the improved Illuminations, and between now and 1954, eleven were built along the Promenade.
Ford's Salerooms opened in the Royal Oak Buildings on Waterloo Road. The building had previously been Raynor's greengrocers.
Dr Tattersall started the Newton Drive Practice at number 155. In 1982, the practice was amalgamated with the Yates Street practice, which had been surgery premises since around the turn of the century.
There was a tennis court on the corner of Park Road and Ferguson Road.
K Boocock and Company, glass dealers, started on Coleridge Road in June, moving into the premises vacated by William Clinning and Sons Ltd, mineral water manufacturers (previously called Clinning and Ormond which were formed in 1908, in Back High Street off Bank Street). Boococks Glass Ltd was formed in December 1993, and their glassworks closed when they went out of business in December 2013.
Lathom's Joinery was established at 1 Back Clevedon Road.
The last case of Diphtheria was found in Blackpool.

The PDSA, Blackpool: The People's Dispensary for Sick Animals opened an outlet PDSA centre at 316 Church Street. In 1951, the facility treated 11,912 cases, and also had a mobile ambulance unit. The centre was re-built in 1978.
"In October 1991, construction work began on the new Hawes Side Lane site – PDSA's current home in Blackpool. The centre opened on June 1, 1992, with plans to provide around 7,000 treatments a year. The facility cost £250,000 to build and £50,000 to equip and boasted three consulting rooms, two operating theatres, canine and feline recovery kennels, an X-ray room and isolation facilities".
The Blackpool Pet Aid Hospital was officially opened on the 17th of April 1993, by Roly Poly stars Mo Moreland and Marie Ashton.
The building replaced the Hawes Side Riding Stables and landau garage.

Anchorsholme AFC was founded. The club eventually became Fleetwood Anchorsholme, and Highbury Stadium became the home ground.
Singer Petula Clark gave her first Blackpool performance at the Opera House on the 25th of June.
The Beverley Sisters appeared at the Palace Theatre in October.
The World Snooker Final was held in the Tower Circus on the first of five occasions. Walter Donaldson beat Fred Davis 51-46. The result was reversed in 1951, with Davis winning 58-39. In 1953, Davis beat Donaldson 38-35, and Fred Davis then beat John Pullman 37-34 in 1955, and 38-35 in 1956.

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Moorland Sports Club's first owned building was opened on Breck Road in Poulton, by actor Terry Thomas and singer Tessie O'Shea. The club had begun in 1945.
Thornton Cleveleys British Legion Club was founded on the 18th of August. The Cleveleys British Legion Club was opened on Roughlea Road on the 5th of September 1958.
Lennox's Café was at 6 Bispham Road in Cleveleys.
Burnside Nurseries began at 257 West Drive in Cleveleys, possibly the Fylde's first. They later opened their Garden Centre on St George's Lane, before moving to New Lane, between Carleton and Thornton.
A Mobile Library service for the Fylde was opened, based in Thornton.
The Thornton Cleveleys Youth Theatre was founded.
Billy's Market was on Trunnah Road in Thornton, later moving to Cleveleys.
The Fleetwood Music and Arts Festival was first held.
The Crown Library was on Church Street in Fleetwood.
Mountain and Cowell established their furniture shop at 14 Market Square, Lytham. In 2013, they opened their Discount Carpet Warehouse at Brook Mill in Wrea Green, and soon moved their showroom to Unit 11, Lindun Business Park, Boundary Road.
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The Ribble Cruising Club was formed, meeting at the Queens Hotel in Lytham. After various changes in location, the club moved to premises adjacent to the RNLI station on the front in 1960, where a clubhouse was built (used until 1982 as a coastguard lookout), but finally moved to Lytham Dock in 1972. It had 70 berths at Lytham Dock.
The Fylde Mountaineering Club was formed.
John Ward opened his ironmonger's shop at 28 Poulton Street in Kirkham. This became Grundy's in 2004.
The North and South Fylde Parliamentary constituencies were established, with the split of the Fylde constituency. They were replaced by a revised Fylde constituency in 1983.

Preesall: was granted its own coat of arms on the 2nd of June:

ARMS: Azure on a Chevron between in chief two Griffin's Heads erased and in base a Martlet or a Rose Gules barbed and seeded proper between two Fountains.
CREST: On a Wreath of the Colours an ancient Galley sails furled Or with Pennons of St. George and pendent from the mast-head by a Knot Azure a Cross-Bow Gules.
MOTTO: *"prae salem notanda"* - famed for salt or the well-known place by the sea.

The chevron and griffins' heads are from the arms of the Elletson family of Parrox Hall and the Martlet is from the arms of the Fleetwood family of Hackinsall Hall. The rose refers to the County, and the fountains allude to the Fairy Well and the salt or brine workings.
The ship indicates the maritime associations of the district, including its ancient fisheries and ferry.
The knot stands for Knott End, and the cross-bow (or arbalest) is for Geoffrey l'Arbalestier, who received the Manor of Preesall and Hackinsall in 1190, and was the ancestor of local families.

RAF Longley Lane, Goosnargh: (an MOD typing error had spelled it with an 'o' instead of an 'a') was opened on Langley Lane, as a Sector Operations Centre for the ROTOR air defence system. It had been built in the 1940s as 9 Group Operations Centre, Fighter Command.
In January 1962, it reopened as ROC Group HQ number 21, the headquarters of the Western Region of the United Kingdom Warning and Monitoring Organisation. They were in a vast underground bunker that would have been the Northwest of England's control centre in the event of a nuclear attack on Britain.
After the collapse of the Soviet Union, the site was sold off in 1991, and the above-surface buildings are now used as a veterinary centre.

1951

Hawker Aircraft Factories, Blackpool: The Korean War had begun in 1950, and in response, the empty Vickers factories at Squires Gate were taken over by Hawker Aircraft (Blackpool) Limited on the 19th of May, to build Hawker Hunter jets, under Contract SP/6ACFT/9817/CB 7a, creating almost 5,000 jobs. The factories had been closed in 1947.

From 1953 until when the factory closed in 1958, 374 Hunters were made there. They also refurbished Hawker Sea Fury aircraft in the factory, for use by the West German government, and Burma and India.
The first Hawker Hunter from Blackpool's second production line flew on the 22nd of May - a total of 26 F1 Hunters were built. The first prototype of the Hunter F1, piloted by Frank Murphy, had flown on the 16th of May 1953 from Kingston.
The factories were only awarded this contract after they agreed to build a longer 4th runway across Leach Lane - the original WW2 runways being too short for the proposed jets.

©

The Hawker factory closed on the 17th of March 1958. The 2,600 workers had been made redundant in a rolling programme started in January 1957. A skeleton workforce stayed for a few years and over 100 Hawker Sea Furies were overhauled there from 1957-59, being supplied to civil companies in Germany.

The Lancashire Aircraft Corporation first flew from Squires Gate to the Isle of Man.

Starpic / Sinfonia, Blackpool: The Starpic Studios record shop was in the Winter Gardens buildings on Coronation Street (in RHO Hills' old shop), lasting until the 1980s under owner Ben Lewis. Stars, such as David Whitfield (on the 6th of July 1966), appeared there for record signings, and the company produced collectable photographs of stars.

Sandy Mountain ran it in later years before opening his own shop called Sinfonia on Cookson Street, with his wife Freda. Sinfonia later moved to 28/30 Cookson Street. Those premises then became a Salvation Army charity shop and are currently the Helping Hand furniture store.

Starpic (Mail Order) Limited went into receivership in July 1958. Opposite, at 37 Coronation Street, for many years was Speedak – also in the collectable star photography business and owned by photographer Bill Fell.

The Redcot Holiday Camp was in operation at Normoss.
A Council Old Folks Home was opened on Harrowside.
Frederick H Drummond was a scenic artist and property maker based at Squires Gate Airport.
Royal Lynd House was at 39 Reads Avenue, under the proprietorship of Messrs Haynes and Taylor. Mr Haynes had been the chef to King Michael and Queen Anne of Romania. After several years as Butler's Guest House, the premises are now called Jennie's.
The Ashton Candy Company started in Back Cunliffe Road. It was a joint venture between ex-Waller and Hartley rock roller Eddie Loynds, Mossie Parker (of Hornby Confectionery) and Albert Gubay, who used his £80 Navy gratuity. After starting Value Foods in 1958 in Wales, Gubay went on to found the Kwik Save chain of shops. When Waller and Hartley were taken over by Barker and Dobson, Ashton Candy took over most of their lettered rock customers.

Television arrives: TV finally reached the area when, on the 12th of October, the Holme Moss VHF transmitter in Yorkshire began receiving signals from London. They came via Blackpool Tower, which the BBC TV used as a relay station. The following day saw the first live TV broadcast from a moving vehicle, when tramcar 165 was used to transmit pictures of the Illuminations.
The system was replaced in 1966, with the opening of the transmitter at Winter Hill.

The Elliott Model Railway was above the Clifton Arcade on Market Street, in an upstairs room overlooking the sea. It was a large O gauge layout, combining a "figure of eight" circuit and an "oval" circuit. The upper floors of the building later briefly became Bananas night club.
The Louie Horrocks Park opened on Lytham Road in June, named in memory of the daughter of Mr James Walsh Horrocks - a Bolton mill owner who retired to Blackpool. Its bowling hut and other buildings were demolished in 1994.
A land drainage system was implemented for the discharge of water for the whole of the Moss to the Eastern Interceptor at Highfield Road.
Blackpool Cricket Club was one of the main instigators in the founding of the Northern League on the 10th of November.

©

Southworth's Outfitters, Jackson the Taylor and Viner's Shoes were operating next to the Tatler News Theatre on Church Street.
Devonshire Launderette opened at 9 Whitegate Drive.
Bookland was at 91 Coronation Street, both selling books and running its Tudor Lending Library. The premises are now occupied by a take away shop called King Kebab.
The Polish Air Force Association was formed in Blackpool.
In recognition of the Festival of Britain, a line of 22 trees was planted beside a pathway (Seed Drive) behind the boathouse in Stanley Park. Sadly, some are missing, but the trees now are:

1. English Oak – Blackpool Co-operative Society
2. English Yew – Blackpool Girl Guides Association
3. Unknown – tree and plaque missing
4. Jersey Elm – Blackpool Chamber of Trade
5. Unknown – plaque missing
6. Unknown – tree and plaque missing
7. Unknown – plaque missing
8. Double Pink Cherry – Pelham Mount Club
9. Unknown – plaque missing
10. English Oak – Blackpool and District Boy Scouts Association
11. Double Crimson Thorn – Blackpool Forum
12. Purple Leaf Plum - National Union of Public Employees Blackpool and District Branch
13. Maple – Players' Welfare Association
14. Purple Leaf Plum – The Blackburn and District Association
15. Unknown – tree and plaque missing
16. Unknown – tree and plaque missing
17. Pink Cherry – Blackpool and District Caledonian Association
18. Mountain Ash - Blackpool Gentlemen's Highland Band, James Macfarlane
19. Ornamental Crab – Blackpool North Shore Afternoon Townswomen's Guild
20. Unknown – tree and plaque missing
21. Unknown – plaque missing
22. Double Red Cherry - St John Ambulance Brigade (Blackpool Ambulance and Nursing Divisions)

Blackpool Easter Hockey Festival was first held, taking place annually at Stanley Park.
After having first appeared in Blackpool as the host of a strip show at Feldman's Theatre in 1940, "Uncle" Vera Lynn appeared at the Winter Gardens for a summer season show presented by the Bernard Brothers, after which the show transferred to London and her success was assured.

John Clark: was born in Blackpool on the 18th of September. He became the Director of the Roslin Institute, near Edinburgh, where he developed techniques for the genetic modification of livestock; this work paved the way for the birth, in 1996, of Dolly the sheep, the first animal to have been cloned from an adult.

John Sumner was born in Blackpool on the 14th of October. He went on to become an actor, playing roles such as "Herb" in the 2005 remake of King Kong.
Richard Suart was born in Blackpool on the 5th of September. He became an opera singer and actor, specialising in comic roles of Gilbert and Sullivan operas and in operetta. He is best known for his numerous portrayals of Ko-Ko in The Mikado.

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John Poucher, a reserve Police Constable, was killed on the 7th of January. He was on his usual bicycle patrol around Cleveleys, when he was struck by a drunk driver.
West View Council Estate began to be built in Fleetwood. There are now over 5,000 houses.
The Peter Rabbit Hotel was advertising in the Lytham St Anne's Express – *"a small first-class hotel for children only"*. The charge for babies was 1½ guineas a week and children over 2 years were charged 1 guinea. It was at 11 East Bank Road in St Anne's. After complaints from the estate of Beatrix Potter, the name was later changed to the Teddy Bear Hotel.
Pearson and Co, auctioneers, valuers, and estate agents, were at 35 The Square, St Anne's. They are now based at 50 Wood Street.

Sand Yachting at St Anne's: Fylde Sand Yachting Club was founded at North Beach by Eddie Dibdin. Members made a wooden yacht with wheels, borrowed sails and a mast from Blackpool and Fleetwood Sea Yachting Club and using this model they showed the potential by sailing it along the beach.
When Mr Denning joined the club in 1952, he took some councillors for rides on his coronation yacht in an effort to obtain permission to use the beach, and in January 1953, his wish was granted. Violet Clifton of Lytham Hall donated a cup and land, on which a club house was built north of the Ormerod Home. With council approval, the idea of a flying mile was advertised and word spread to Europe.

Norman Uttley, the Mayor, pushed the council to promote the sport, and by 1962, the first of many internationals was held, featuring up to 100 vehicles. In 1970, the World Championships were held there and in 1991, an American team brought over large yachts used for racing in the Nevada desert.

Sand Yachting was banned by Fylde Borough Council after tourist Carole Cruz was killed by a sand yacht on St Anne's beach, in August 2002. Despite a trial in June 2011, the sand yachts stayed away. A demonstration event was finally licenced by Fylde Council, and took place on the 13th of March 2015. 22 yachts were registered, and 17 raced on a three or four-sided 600-metre course.

Lloyd's Plumbers was in business at their showroom and works on North Warton Street in Lytham, with another branch at 1 Gordon Road in Ansdell. By 1957, they were also operating as Lloyds Fireplaces from the same address.
Snellgrove's bakers and confectioners was at 8 Station Road in Lytham. The shop is currently the Upper Crust Bakery.
An RAF Medical Training Establishment opened at Lytham/Warton in September, lasting until December 1955. Squaddies were given 11 weeks of basic training, before they were graduated as Nursing Attendants. The unit moved to Freckleton in January 1956 and then to Halton in the early 1960s.
The 2nd Kirkham Scout Troop was formed by Police Sergeant Kelly, originally meeting in a hut behind a shop on Poulton Street. Later on, they moved into another hut next to the Post Office public house in Freckleton Street and, later still, to another hut on Glebe Land where Ancenis Court now stands. The Group was registered on 25th of July 1952, at Imperial Headquarters. They now meet in huts on School Lane.

1952

Reeco, Blackpool: The Radio Electronic Equipment Company – REECO - was in business in Blackpool, having several shops around the Fylde coast. These were on the corner of Corporation Street and Carter Street, Victoria Street, Bond Street, Clifton Street, Westcliffe Drive, St James Road, Victoria Road in Cleveleys, Park Road in St Anne's, Lord Street in Fleetwood, Clifton Street in Lytham, Blackpool Old Road in Poulton, and Poulton Street in Kirkham etc. They also had outlets outside the Fylde coast.

©

The company headquarters was on Devonshire Road and the main shop was at 37-39 Waterloo Road (later the Pizza Palace at 37 and a branch of Santander Bank at 39). It boasted proudly that it was *"The centre of radio and television activities"*.
The service department was on Cornford Road until 1966, when it moved to Ribble Road.
The Eclipse electrical discount store opened on the 17th of August 1973, in the old Waterloo Road main store, and then in 1976, Pacemaker Sports shop was opened there, by footballer Kevin Keegan (the shop is now Mosna Classic Fashions). Pacemaker also had a shop at 1 Bank Hey Street (now the Orange Shop).

Next to the Grand Theatre at the time was Gerrard's Jewellers, then Selby's Optician's at 32 Church Street (and at 42 Clifton Street), and Hepworth's Gent's outfitters at 39/41 Church Street. Opposite was Rawcliffe's Outfitters (which moved to Birley Street in the 1970s).
On the corner of Carter Street and what was to become Matcham Court was Bolton and Heaton's sewing machine shop. They later expanded onto the corner of Victoria Street.
The Ballet Rambert appeared at the Grand Theatre in January.
Scout Motors bought out the excursion licence of Whittaker Brothers Coaches of Adelaide Street, allowing them to travel further afield.
Olympic Swimming trials were held at Derby Baths in June, as part of Blackpool Sports Holiday Fortnight, which also included events in Stanley Park and Yacht races at sea.
All 10,000 members of the Weaver's Union in Blackburn got a free day trip to Blackpool.

St Columba's Infant's and Junior Schools, Blackpool: in Bispham were built with money donated by the Bristol Aeroplane Company. Opening after the Easter holidays, its motto was "*Learning for Life*". The school has been extended and modernised in stages since then.
The school changed its name to Moor Park Primary School in September 1968.
In 2005, the infants and juniors amalgamated, a nursery was built, providing education for children from 3-11 years of age.

Bispham Market opened on the site of Harold Firth's butchers' shop and what had then become Waterworth's Fruit and Veg Market. The Village Café at the rear of the building was run by the Burke family for many years. On the first floor was a hairdressing salon.
M O'Loughlin's Extra Wide Smart Shoe Shop was at 5 Cookson Street. In 1981, Perlite Lighting opened their shop there.
The Westminster Bank opened on Corporation Street on the 7th of June.
Fielding's Builders erected semi-detached homes in the Kipling Drive and Skelwith Road area. Fielding's were taken over by Costain in 1969.
Costain's Builders constructed "superior houses" on Preston New Road, using land bought from the Co-operative Sports and Social Club next-door.
Arnold's Rock opened at 9 Cowley Road, with a stall on the Golden Mile.
The Record Mart was in business at 261 Church Street, boasting of stocking 30,000 records. The premises are currently occupied by Keystone Design Associates Ltd.

Febland and Capodimonte, Blackpool: Simman Febland started operating from a warehouse in Castlegate on Lytham Road, and first exhibited at the 1953 Harrogate Gift Fair. Simman had begun as an engraver in a stall on the forecourt of the Vancouver Hotel (now the Royal Carlton) on the Promenade in 1946. He first imported his New Capodimonte porcelain from Italy in 1954 - it was crafted by the Italian master sculptor Giuseppe Cappé (1921-2008), and the trademark "N" bedecked with a five-pronged crown was registered by Febland's in 1962.

©

Febland's moved to Hangar number 43 at Blackpool Airport in 1955, and the company was registered as the Febland Group Limited on the 27th of February 1963. The hangar was burnt to the ground in November 1973, and the company was temporarily housed in another airport building.

By 1964, Febland's Capodimonte store was on Bank Hey Street. Capodimonte was also sold from Little Italy shops, of which there were six around the Promenade, and from the Continental China and Glass Centre at 25 Queen Street.

Febland's warehouse moved to Clifton Road in Marton in 1975, on the corner of the newly-named Ashworth Road. It was the Chapel Road part of the old Windmill Appliance Works, where John Shepherd and Sons Ltd had made battery hen cages, such as the famous "Clean-Ezie" range, in the 1940s and 50s. In 1985, Febland Limited bought Spen Farmhouse on Clifton Road for use as a commercial centre. Other storage fronted onto Lee Road. The company also bought North View, next door, off Eaves' Builders, from where they had been manufacturing their own Italian-style reproduction furniture since 1979 – as Fabulous Furniture Ltd. They also traded from Prestige House on Cornford Road, until March 1998.
The Febland Group Ltd's new showroom was opened on Ashworth Road, by locally-born Disc Jockey Zoe Ball in April 2003.

Blackpool's first Magic Convention was held. For many years, the Convention ran for one day, at the Pleasure Beach Casino. As it grew larger, it moved to the Winter Gardens and is now the world's largest.
In Stanley Park, on the 22nd of July, 30,000 people attend the 2nd News Chronicle Stage and Radio Garden Party. There were appearances by Ben Lyon (Stage and Radio comedian), Frank Randle, stage, and radio star Bebe Daniels, Gordon Harker, Hal Miller, and Jack Warner (Dixon of Dock Green). The 3rd event was also held here in 1953.
Blackpool Council Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic opened on St Walburga's Road on the 29th of November. It was closed in the 1980s, to be replaced nearby by Layton Health Centre, being finally demolished in December 2008.
Blackpool Eye and Ear Clinic opened on Bennett Avenue on the 1st of March.
Freddie's Garage was at 2 Moon Street selling Ford vehicles.
RH Birch and Son were running their Arcade Salerooms on Red Bank Road.

Whittaker's Dance and Drama School, Blackpool: was established on the 11th of February by Beryl Whittaker, above the Trinity Methodist schoolroom. She soon moved her school to Coronation Street – above the Mayfair hairdressers, before settling into the old Terra Nova School at 135 Hornby Road in 1982. It is now known as the Whittaker Dance and Drama Centre.
Students have included Jacqueline Leonard and Cathryn Bradshaw.

Agnew Office supplies began, operating from the old Co-operative store on Watson Road until moving to Wareham Road, off Mowbray Drive in February 2003.
James Moon's grocery shop was at 11 Station Terrace (this is now the Marmaris Take Away).
S Riding was operating her newsagents and ladies' hairdressing salon at 272 Waterloo Road (now a Premier grocery store).
J Sayers' gents' hairdresser's shop was at 220a Lytham Road. This shop was later taken over by Thatcher and Walker, electrical retailer, who went into liquidation in June 1997.
Haley's Little Sweet Shop was at 3 Bloomfield Road (this later became Chris Moss's furnishing outlet).
The Yankee Snack Bar was on Lytham Road, opposite the Grand Hotel.

©

W Heyworth and Sons Ltd had a gents' outfitters at 122 Lytham Road (now the Discount Electrical and Lighting Centre).
M and L Viggers ran a grocer's shop at 274 Waterloo Road (now Mad about Pizza).
Fylde Demolition Contractors Ltd was established by the Felton family in April, working from Carleton; they now have a site on Talbot Road.
Layton Cleaners opened at 432 Talbot Road.
George Thompson's "Old established Pawn Shop" was at 42 George Street.
The first Blackpool Hockey Festival was held in Stanley Park at Easter.
The first "Miss Blackpool Hotel and Guest House Association" contest was won by Doris Collinson.
Blackpool Sports Holiday was held at Stanley Park in June.
The first edition of The Record was published. It was the bulletin of the Blackpool and Fylde District of the Law Society and appeared until 1970.
The film "Hindle Wakes" starring Sandra Dorne, Leslie Dwyer and Joan Hickson was part filmed at the Pleasure Beach and the Tower Ballroom.
At the 31st of March, there were 45,078 houses in the Borough and, the population was 147,300.
Tim Woolcock was born in Blackpool on the 2nd of May. After attending Arnold School, he went on to become a world-famous painter, whose works have been exhibited nationally and internationally, and are in private and public collections worldwide.

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Poulton High School, a private school, was on Lockwood Avenue, at the corner with Elletson Street.
Grundy's Ironmongers opened on Victoria Road, Cleveleys. The shop closed in November 2004, when the company took over the premises of John Ward in Poulton Street, Kirkham.
Police Constable Bill Wiseman became Welterweight Boxing Champion at the Albert Hall in London on the 3rd of May. He and his brother Tom were born in Thornton, but Bill moved to Australia.
Merlewood Caravan Park opened at Little Eccleston.
Harry Carlton opened his tailor's shop at 8 Anchorsholme Lane in Cleveleys.
Vera Ivell was running her ladies' hairdressers on Runnymede Avenue in Cleveleys, next to the Woodshop.
The Cleveleys Auction Mart was at 121 Victoria Road.

St Edmund's Catholic Church, Fleetwood: This single-storey red-brick Roman Catholic church was founded at 4 Melbourne Ave dedicated to St Edmund of Canterbury. The church was originally a Nissen hut but was later expanded.
It merged with nearby St Wulstan's in September 2010.

In February, Fleetwood trawler Jamaica caught a complete, new lorry in its nets!
Mornington Road playing fields in St Anne's were re-opened after re-furbishment.
George Ripley opened his gentleman's outfitters at 48 Clifton Street in Lytham. The shop had previously been Beatrice Fothergill's dress shop.
Bertam Mills' Circus appeared off Ballam Road in Lytham for a week. Their elephants were paraded through the town centre, holding each other's tails.

The Live and Let Live, Kirkham: This public house was at 87 Freckleton Street.
It was later named the Huntsman but had always been known locally as the "Top House", to which it was officially changed in February 2012.

A dedicated wooden shed was constructed at Three Nooks junction, where Lytham Road met Preston New Road at Clifton. The tiny shed was to house the police officers that were desperately need to control the
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influx of summer and illuminations traffic to Blackpool. Three Nooks was named after the nearby house of that name. An AA telephone box was opposite for many years.
On the 25th of March, a Canberra jet bomber, flying from Salmesbury to Warton, crashed into a field at Murray Trees Farm in Cottam, killing pilot Tom Benjamin of St Anne's. Nearby Canberra Lane now commemorates the event.

1953

The Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II: took place on the 2nd of June, and 25 new trams began service in Blackpool. The Corporation decided to call the new trams "Coronation Cars", though amongst the platform staff they were often referred to as *"Spivs".*
The Corporation threw a procession through town, with floats from various businesses, and a special public firework display on Central Promenade. A 21-gun salute was fired from Princess Parade by four AA guns operated by the 337 HAA Regiment, Royal Artillery, Territorial Army, at 10.26 am. The group was commanded by Major AR Grime.
In Fleetwood Marine Hall, 5 television sets were set up in the ballroom, to allow 1,000 local residents to watch the procession.
In Thornton Cleveleys, another 1,000 locals watched on TVs in the Pavilion Cinema, the Lecture Hall, and Sacred Heart School hall.
In Poulton the ceremony was watched on public TVs in the Rialto Cinema, the Church Hall, and at Hodgson Secondary School.
Two cannons were fired from Carr Hill House in Kirkham by its owner, Mr Eddie Sargeant. The cannons had been salvaged from a ship wrecked in the Ribble in the 19th century. Also, in Kirkham, Miss Elizabeth Lee was chosen as the town's Coronation Queen.

Red Cabs became Blackpool's first taxi company to operate a fleet controlled by radio. Red Cab Taxis Limited was incorporated on the 10th of August 1972, operating from 6 Caunce Street. They took over C Cabs on 2002, and now trade under that name.
The Bury Felt Company brought its whole workforce to Blackpool for the Coronation celebrations.
Mawsons submitted plans for the layout of grounds at the Convent of the Holy Child Jesus in Layton.
Mount Everest, the world's highest mountain, was scaled for the first time on the 29th of May. Blackpool travel agent, Alfred Gregory, was a member of the summit assault party that supported Edmund Hilary and Sherpa Tenzing.

St Monica's Roman Catholic Church, Blackpool: was consecrated on the 11th of May, in a corrugated asbestos hut, on Preston New Road, which had been built 20 years before for keeping chickens!

The current church was blessed and opened on September the 1st 1961. Many seats and other items were donated from the old Our Lady Church.

The church was finally consecrated by the Right Reverend TB Pearson the 11th of May 1973, having been rebuilt in brick, on what was by now called St Martins Way, Marton. The church is built of brick with narrow vertical and top lighting, and there are linked parish facilities. New art works were created for the building, including a crucifix of Lakeland stone by Kenneth Carter, and an abstract over the tabernacle, designed and given by the architect.

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Our Lady of the Assumption and St Cuthbert's Primary School, Blackpool: opened on Common Edge Road. The land had been reclaimed from the moss and "Pewit Dubs" ponds were filled in to create the playing fields.
The new school took infants and juniors, together with the infants from St Cuthbert's.
The school playing field was brought into use in the summer of 1955 – also shared with St Cuthbert's.
The school building has two storeys, with infant classrooms, a library and a computer room on the ground floor, and junior classrooms upstairs. There are separate infant and junior playgrounds, and extensive playing fields. There is a large assembly hall, and a separate dining room.
It is now known as Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic Primary School.

The Blackpool Housing Association was formed on the 1st of August by young men wanting to build their own homes instead of waiting for Council houses.

Grange Park Schools:
After the southern block of classrooms was opened in January, the full Grange Park Infant's School opened on the 26th of September this year.
Grange Park Junior and Infants Schools were officially opened on the 30th of April 1954, by Lord MacDonald of Gwaenysgor. The new buildings were designed to teach 480 juniors and 360 infants and were constructed by local builders Atherton Brothers (Blackpool) Ltd, at a cost of £170,000.
The infants were completed first, with their own entrance on Haslow Place.
The junior school entrance was on Dinmore Place. It had two floors and all its classrooms faced south, and the headmaster for the juniors was appointed in November 1951 – Mr J Walls.
The original school hymn was *"Father of men, in whom are one"*, and the school's houses were Hanover, Stuart, Tudor, and Windsor.

The nursery was planned to be on the ground floor, but it was finally set up in 1974, in the old school building on Gateside drive. It was Blackpool's first.
In April 1974, Herbie, the film star car, visited the school, as part of a road safety scheme.

In 2001, the schools changed their names to Boundary Primary School, which opened on Dinmore Avenue in September. A Police Office was officially opened inside Boundary Primary School on Grange Park in February 2009.
The original school on Dingle Avenue was demolished in November 2013. It had closed in 2003, and had been used sporadically as a pupil referral unit, and then as a temporary home for pupils relocated from Devonshire Road Primary after its fire.
Christ the King Primary School opened off Bathurst Avenue in Grange Park on the 4th of June 1973, having moved from its first home on Gateside Drive. The old, wooden, school building became known as *"the Hut",* later becoming the Grange Park Nursery, and then a community centre. It is now known as Christ the King Catholic Academy, and moved to Rodwell Walk, next to St Mary's School on the 3rd of September 2014, with 210 pupils. The old school was then demolished.

Bispham Parish Church hall – the Waring Memorial Hall - was opened. The prayer meetings that had been held in the adjacent converted shippon were now more comfortable affairs.
Staff landscaped Layton Station's gardens in August, turning it into a true "country halt".
Bailey's Farm at South Shore was demolished on the 21st of March.
HMS Eagle, a navy aircraft carrier, anchored off Blackpool on the 7th of July, and locals were given pleasure boat tours around the ship.

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Squadron Leader Neville Duke, watched by a crowd of 100,000, broke the sound barrier for the 1st time in Lancashire, flying a Blackpool-built Hunter jet (aircraft B1) over the Promenade on the 7th of September.
DC3 Dakota planes began flying up to 14 times per day to the Isle of Man.
On the Promenade by Talbot Square were W Lyons Exclusive Gowns Limited (inside Feldman's Arcade), Tobacco Kiosks Limited and Collinson's Grill and Coffee house. At 146-148 was Masters' gift store.
WS Slater and Company, rock makers, was established at 25 Woodpark Road, becoming limited on the 21st of May 1954. It later took over the Blackpool Rock Company and Handsworth Fudge.
The Fylde Coast Gate Company was founded Bert Jenkins and his partners, who established a small workshop at the back of Livingstone Road. They soon outgrew those premises and moved into an ex-ammunition works on Dover Road, where they stayed until 2006. The company then moved into new design and production premises on Amy Johnson Way. The Dover Road site began to be filled with new houses in 2016.
Pathfinder Coaches were based at 211 Central Drive. They have now evolved into Pathfinder Tours, working from Hornby Road.
Freddie's Service Station was at Moon Street.
Metro Carnival Novelties were based at 43 Queen Street.

The World Healing Crusade, Blackpool: Brother Mandus founded this church at 476 Lytham Road. It is *"dedicated to Crusade for World Brotherhood through Love and Faith in God*". The house at 476, is named "Calderbank", and was built in 1911 and 1912 by Jane Higgins and her neighbour, photographer Fred Ash, for his wife who sadly died before they could move in. It was later purchased by the Millington family before Brother Mandus bought it.

Louisa Merrifield was executed in Manchester on the 18th of September. She had poisoned Sarah Ricketts with phosphorous at her house at 339 Devonshire Road on the 14th of April. She was the last woman to be hanged in Lancashire.
Green's Car Radio suppliers started business, now trading from 81-83 Ansdell Road.
Anne's Toyland was in South Shore Market, selling Pedigree toys amongst others.
Anderson Radiators was operating from Rear Camden Road, later becoming Layton Radiator Services.
Cuddy Woods and Cochrane, solicitors were established on Springfield Road.
Lindy's handbag and gift shop was at 32-36 Topping Street (now an Entwistle Green estate agency).
Dayton House furniture and carpet store opened on Highfield Road. The store closed in June 2012.
T Hague's furniture store was at 59 Highfield Road.
Betty Cooper Gowns closed at 299 Church Street.
A fire, believed to have been started by a workmen's torch, burnt the Big Dipper Station to the ground at the Pleasure Beach. A new one was built, with the distinctive cupola topped station of today.
The Pleasure Beach opened the Sky Ride.
Blackpool Borough Rugby League Supporters Club was formed, to provide support for the then proposed professional team.
The Youth Hostel Association opened their local headquarters in the Wainwright Club on the 3rd of October.
The Blackpool Operatic Players were founded.
Blackpool Tower was given the nickname "Queen of the Lights".
Frank Sinatra appeared at the Odeon on the 26th of July and recorded an LP album "Live in Blackpool".

Ian Levine: was born in Blackpool on the 22nd of June. He went on to become a DJ and Record Producer and a highly influential figure in the growth of the Blackpool Mecca and of "Northern Soul".

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Larry Cassidy: was born Lawrence John Cassidy on the 18th of April. He became the singer and bassist of post-punk and electronic band Section 25. Having earned a first-class degree in sculpture in 1977, he returned to Blackpool and formed the band Section 25, along with his younger brother Vin on drums and Paul Wiggin on guitar.

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Colemans, of 10 Breck Road, Poulton, demonstrated the new Ekco 14-inch table television.
Woolworth's opened a store on Victoria Road West in Cleveleys on the 9th of July (where Boots now stands). This moved to a purpose-built store almost next door on the 27th of June 1968. The store closed in 2008, to be reopened as a Home Bargains store in June 2009. The building used to be the Savoy Restaurant and Ballroom.
The Cleveleys Lodge of the Freemasons (Mark Master Masons No 1176) was formed at the Norbreck Hydro, moving to the Fleetwood Masonic Hall in 1979. It moved to the Masonic Hall on West Drive Cleveleys in 2011.
Thornton Power Station was built for use by ICI. It was closed and its buildings demolished in September 1999, and the chimney was finally blown up on the 7th of November 2009.
Monarch Confectionery was started on Sidings Road in Fleetwood by Harry Bentley and Bob Sherman.
The first houses on the Kilnhouse Estate at St Anne's were occupied – number 78 Walter Avenue – was moved into in September. Building had begun in early 1947.
Oswald Darbyshire and Co "The Ironmongers" were at 4 St Davids Road South in St Anne's. Formerly James Cookson's butcher's shop, it was demolished in 1993, to be replaced by Noel Jones Court flats.
Marshall's bed shop was at 4 Park Road in St Anne's, with a large showroom on Back West Crescent.
Waldaire Ltd had their television shop at 51 Woodlands Road in Ansdell. In 1990, the shop was bought by Ruth Hartley, who opened The Hartley Beauty Salon.
Emily Nicklin had her toy shop at 51 St Davids Road South in St Anne's, and by 1934, she also sold hardware. Cookson's ironmongers occupied the premises by 1953.
Cryer's Landscapes were established, working from Lodge Lane in Lytham.
EH Mumford *"The Fylde's Most Fashionable shop"* was at 98 Clifton Street in Lytham, formerly the home of a Mrs Sanderson.
The Lytham Television and Radio Mart was at 79 Clifton Street in Lytham, offering a 24-hour repair service for all makes of televisions. By 1990, Lytham Galleries were in the building, selling "Distinctive furniture and carpets".
The house called "White Lodge" was built at the corner of Ballam Road and Peel Road in Westby, soon becoming the home of the Ballam herd of Landrace Pigs.
Wrea Green War Memorial and Gardens were dedicated at the entrance to Mill Lane.
The Fairfield Experimental Horticultural Station was opened at Greenhalgh on the 17th of April. Fairfield Farm had been bought by the Ministry of Agriculture 3 years earlier, as a government research centre for glasshouse tomato growing. It helped to develop new heating regimes for glasshouses as well as more efficient build designs and pest control systems for mushrooms growers. From 2004, it housed Universal Products Ltd, who had been founded in Lytham in 1976.
Oliver Etherington, a renowned hatchery manager, started selling chicken from "The Laurels", his home in Inskip, and his chicken produce soon became known as "Laurels chicken". In 1956, due to increasing demand, Oliver moved to Bankfield, which is still the home of DPS today. In 1972, the name DPS - "Direct Poultry Supply (Inskip) Ltd" was formally registered, and the company built a large factory on the extended site in 1987.
Hilton's shop was on High Street in Great Eccleston. It closed on the 12th of December 1981.
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1954
Severe storms damaged most greenhouses on Marton Moss.

St Paul's Infant School, Mereside: opened on Langdale Road, and in 1956, the original St Paul's Church of England School on Bowness Avenue and Ambleside Road was deemed to be too small. It was closed, and its pupils moved to the newly-built St Wilfrid's Church of England Junior School, which had been built on the site of what was by then called St Paul's County Infant's School.

The school was formally opened and dedicated on the 28th of May 1957, by the Archbishop of York, Michael Ramsey.
The vacant St Paul's building was soon badly vandalised but was re-furbished and opened as a clinic. *"The first session of the new clinic on the Mereside Housing Estate was held on the 20th January, and the joint official opening by His Worship the Mayor on behalf of the Health Committee and Libraries Committee took place on the 13th September 1958"*. The new Mereside Library moved from St Paul's School (where it opened in 1953 with 3,500 books), and was soon opened inside the clinic waiting room on non-clinic days. The building was knocked down in December 1988, and the library moved to a refurbished shop on Langdale Road. The war memorial tablet was then installed in the new Mereside Youth Centre. The library was moved again in 2011, when it opened, in a much-reduced form, at 4b Crummock Place.

St Wilfrid's became Mereside Infant School, its nursery opening next door on the 7th of November 1984. The infants merged with Mereside Junior School in January 1987, to become Mereside Primary School.

It is now called Mereside Primary School and Children's Centre. In June 2013, the enterprise was modernised and extended by the Eric Wright Group. Their work involved adding a new single-storey and 2-storey curved, feature classroom block, refurbishment of the existing 3-storey teaching block, along with associated external works and games pitch, and creation of a multi-use hall, kitchen, new administration offices to the ground floor, and 8 classrooms to remaining floors. There is also a covered walkway which links one end of the school to the other, and both soft and hard landscaping and hard play areas, plus the addition of a new multi-games area.

Princess Margaret visited the Squires Gate aircraft factories on the 9th of July, where there were 3,000 workers. She also visited Fleetwood.

The Long-Playing Record Library, Blackpool: was opened inside the former WH Smith's premises at Squires Gate Railway Station buildings by Ivan March, who had moved it from Liverpool. The library published its own catalogue, which became such an industry standard that in 1975, it was taken over by Penguin and became the Penguin Stereo Record Guide.
On the 13th of December 1999, the library was renamed as the Squires Gate Music Centre, which by then had branches in Manchester, London, Bristol, and America. In 2000, the business moved to 615 Lytham Road, where it became the work of Kathleen Singleton and Carole Riches. The business was struck off in October 2014, and Ivan March died in November 2018.

A third Woolworth's store (store 851 later known as store 2016) opened in Talbot Road on the 26th of August 1954. It was extended in 1956, 1957, and 1971, and converted to the General Store format in 2001. It closed in 2008, and then opened as a Home Bargains outlet on the 16th of June 2009.

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South Shore Corporation Coach Park, Blackpool: Chipperfield's world famous Circus and Zoo appeared at this new park, just off Waterloo Road in July. The site of the park (on Cartmell's Field) later housed a Go-Kart track and is now home to an Aldi store and the Ambulance Station.
The coach park boasted its own canteen – Sheila's Snack Bar – which was a converted bus body (Gondola 118). This had been transformed into an emergency canteen by BCT before being bought by a local entrepreneur whilst languishing inside the Marton Tram Depot.
Next to the coach park for many years was the Waterloo Road Car Park, which was a regular site for Billy Smart's Circus for several years from 1958, and had been the occasional home of cycle speedway races on a cinder track. The coach park stretched all the way to the site where Palatine School was later built and had an access circle leading onto St Annes Road opposite Marsden Road.

(John) Roland Robinson of Blackpool was knighted on the 1st of January. He was raised to the peerage as Lord Martonmere in 1964.
Methodists from Mereside held their first service in a hut at the Co-operative Employees Sports Ground on Preston New Road.

Lost Children's Centre, Blackpool: This was opened on the Promenade, in a "retired" 1937 Leyland Tiger bus, and run by Blackpool Council.
From 1957, another 2 buses were used, joined together, as a similar centre. Number 17 and number 9 were both Leyland TS7 buses from 1937. Without engines, they were towed onto the west of the Promenade each Easter by the corporation's Diamond T truck, staying until the end of the illuminations each year until 1967.
By 1977, the buses had been replaced by a white porta-cabin, which was sited opposite the golden Mile Centre, next to a blue First Aid post.

Next door to the Little Vic at this time, at 8 Victoria Street, was one of Beaverbrook's Jewellery stores, with the Windsor Restaurant (later the Majestic Restaurant and café) on its first floor. When it opened in the 1920s, the Windsor Restaurant filled the building, having a retail baker's shop on the ground floor. The building was the remnants of the Victoria Promenade, and at the other side of the pub was the Windmill Café. These buildings were demolished in the 1980s.

Blackpool Jazz Club: was founded by Alan Thompson and Bill Davies. In 1959, they started meeting every Thursday at 27 Raikes Parade, before moving into the first-floor function room of the nearby Raikes hotel. *"In 1969, trumpeter George Elliott and tenor sax man Jack Holland put money into a music library and launched the Blackpool Jazz Club Big Band"*. In its heyday, the club attracted such stars as Kenny Ball and his Jazz Men, Roy Castle, and Tubby Hayes, and in 1956, Count Basie became its Honorary President, later to be replaced by Johnny Dankworth. The club finally folded in 1990.

Miss Blackpool: The first official "Miss Blackpool" beauty contest was held at South Shore Baths, won by Elaine Smith. It was first called the "Blackpool Bathing Beauty Queen Competition".
The contest was later staged at the North Pier Sun Lounge, and even later, at Brannigan's Bar in Bank Hey Street. It changed from swimwear in the afternoon into club-wear for the evening.
The town went on to host the finals of the Miss United Kingdom from 1958. Sporadic beauty contests for a "Miss Blackpool" crown had been held during the 1920s and 1930s. A list of local beauty queen contest winners is given at Appendix Y.

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In the 4th RAC Rally, 164 of the 229 starters reached the finish in Blackpool. The winner was John Wallwork driving a Triumph TR2.
The British Giftware, Jewellery, and Finishing Federation formed a private limited company called Trade Promotion Services Ltd (TPS) to organise the first Blackpool Gifts Fair. It was promoted by Blackpool's Publicity manager Harry Porter, who had the idea of transforming an upper floor in Talbot Road Bus Station into an exhibition hall, which became known as the Talbot Hall. In 1957, the Blackpool Fair was changed to the International Gifts Fair.
The Joint Associations National Council formed a small private company to organise the Blackpool Gifts Fair. This was called Trade Promotion Services Limited (TPS)
Jack "The Weighman" was set up on Central Promenade, weighing tourists for tuppence.
Stanley Parr started his painting and decorating business.
Topwin, a football pools company, were in operation from 17 Links Road, Blackpool.

The Galleon Bar, Blackpool: opened in a basement on Adelaide Street. The house band for many years comprised Pianist Teddy Corvo and drummer Brian Leach. Soon expanding onto the ground floor and opening its own Dolphin and Galleon Restaurant, it closed in 2005, and was demolished in 2011.
The bar was then re-incarnated on Abingdon Street, in an old MacFisheries fish shop (closed in 1979), which had previously been the Lucy's II Bar and then, in 1994, Jack's Sports Bar.
The new Galleon Bar was opened on the 31st of December 2010, by Stephen Pierre.

The Blue Parrot Restaurant, Blackpool: was at 82 Topping Street, run by N and P Manoli, and offering *"A Fabulous Show with a Superb Meal"*. It then became the Glen Stuart. In the mid-1970s, the name was changed to Autumn Leaves, by new owner Frank Smithson, in which guise it remained for many years. It was a popular haunt of local entertainers, such as Les Dawson.
Later becoming Churchill's restaurant, in June 2009 it was changed into the Reggae Hut, and from July 2011, it briefly became Buddiez Grill. The restaurant closed in December 2015, changing into the Nour Lebanese Restaurant in mid-2016.

Tele-Radio opened their shop at 86 Layton Road.
A and B Carr opened their jewellers and pawnbrokers at 57 Waterloo Road.
Central Woodworkers Supply Stores (Blackpool) Ltd opened their store at 177/181 Central Drive, later moving to Revoe Street, where the mosque now stands. The shop was later occupied by Vogue Luxury Bedroom Furniture, various bargain stores, Clark's Shoes factory shop, Pendle Shoes, Mr Discount World of Fishing, Chand Cash and Carry (from December 2001) and, from March 2013, H Haven Foods Ltd. Pendle Shoes had other outlets on Abingdon Street and Mowbray Drive.
Tennant's lawnmower services opened their shop on the corner of Woodland Grove and Whitegate Drive, later moving into Woodland Grove itself.
Granville Coaches was founded on the 22nd of January in Blackpool. The company later moved to Freckleton, but bookings could still be made in Blackpool, at Gibbs Newsagents on Chapel Street, on Hornby Road and on Springfield Road.
Blackpool Borough acquired its own coroners' district, although in practice this was often administered by the Preston Coroner. The Blackpool and Fylde Coroners' District was established in 1968.
The Blackpool Schools' Boxing Association was formed.
The Blackpool Bowmen archery club was founded, and a purpose-built pavilion was built off Fleetwood Road, opened by Violet Carson in 1965. The current building was opened in 1992.
Blackpool and District Ladies Luncheon Club was formed.

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Personality Artistes Ltd was founded in the USA by American producer, artiste's manager, and composer Buck Ram, with artistes such as the Platters being signed. Since then, the company's head office has moved to Blackpool.

Ken Dodd: first appeared in Blackpool in October, in Frankie Vaughan show at the Queen's Theatre (not in 1955 as reported elsewhere), and in 1955 he was signed up for his first summer season on Central Pier. He was immediately signed up for 1956, and by 1958, he was topping the bill at the pier. This show-stopping beginning led to appearances at the London Palladium and on television, and later in 1958, his "Ken Dodd Show" was televised live from the Opera House.
By 1971, his "The Ken Dodd Laughter Spectacular" was rightly advertised as *"the best show in town"*.
Ken is now the Honorary Life President of the Blackpool Magic Circle.
During his career, Dodd has opened many Blackpool attractions, including the bank in the old Lewis's department store, the Coral Island centre, and the Comedy Carpet. He has also has starred in and hosted many television programmes in and about the town, and in 1967 he switched on the Illuminations.
It is thought that Ken Dodd has appeared more times in Blackpool than any other top-flight artist. Indeed, by 2008, he had appeared 2,250 times! He is now renowned for carrying on his show long after finishing time.
He has even started the careers of several local entertainers, and the 10-year-old daughter of Paul Freedman, Charlie Cairoli's "Auguste" was the inspiration for "Mick the Marmalizer", one of the first of Ken's famous Diddy Men.
Sir Kenneth Arthur Dodd passed away on the 12th of March 2018, at the age of 90.

Comedian Tony Hancock met his wife, Freddie Ross, when he was doing a show in Blackpool.

Carol Royle: was born in Blackpool on the 10th of February, while her father, the actor Derek Royle, was performing in a season of "The Devil a Saint" at the Royal Pavilion, Rigby Road. She went on to be a popular character actress in such TV series as "Life without George", "Heartbeat", "Doctors", and "Casualty".

Margaret Grundy of Blackpool won a bronze medal for the 220-yard breaststroke in the Commonwealth Games in Vancouver.

Lenny The Lion: Ventriloquist Terry Hall, while appearing at North Pier, visited the Tower Zoo, and was inspired by the almost human reactions of a lion there to devise a new animal character. A local properties man, Fred Drummond, made Lenny the Lion out of papier mâché and fur, with a golf ball nose and white-painted muzzle, for £150 at his workshop at Squires Gate. Hall later insured Lenny for £10,000.
On the same bill was singer Anne Shelton, who advised Hall to lose the puppet's realistic teeth, which only frightened the children, and soften the growling voice. The toothless, effeminately lisping Lenny was an unqualified success during the 1950s and 60s.
Terry Hall died on the 4th of April 2007.

A documentary for BBC television, The Blackpool Story, was made by Allan Prior (later to write Z Cars) about the growth of the town as a holiday resort.
The TV talent show "Top Town" featured a team from Blackpool – including eight-year-old John German of Broderick Avenue riding his unicycle. Fleetwood also appeared, on a different episode, playing against Paignton (they lost).

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The Highcross Hotel: opened on the corner of Longhouse Lane in Poulton, on the site of a small holding farm. It was re-modelled in 1962, and was later taken over by the Harvester chain. In September 2016, it became a Miller and Carter Steakhouse - part of the Mitchells and Butler stable of pub brands.

296 Sales Ltd opened their radio, electrical and television shop on Anchorsholme Lane East in Cleveleys.
The "Delicia" ladies' and children's dress shop was at 69 Victoria Road in Cleveleys. The shop became a travel agent's in later years, best known as a Going Places branch. It is currently run by Thomas Cook.
Witton's Carpet store opened at number 1 Anchorsholme Lane East in Cleveleys. It was replaced in 1967 by Andrew Curran's motorists' shop.
Hyde's Butcher's at 101 Victoria Road in Cleveleys re-opened on the 5th of July. The building is known as Crossbrook House, and was later a shop run by Elm Computing, and from 1995 it has been the Yum Sing Chinese restaurant and take away.
Bruce Taxis (Cleveleys) Limited were at 1 to 3 St Andrew's Avenue.
Dearden's Grocers were at 12 Beach Road, not only selling fruit and vegetables, but their own freshly-ground coffee. The premises have now been converted back into a private house.
Thornton Cleveleys Press Limited were in business at 2 Odeon Buildings in Cleveleys. As well as retail printing services, they also printed the "Weekly News and Advertiser".
High tides caused the sea wall to collapse in December. 128 patients from Rossall Hospital were rescued.
The firm of Wm Brown and Son (Coal merchants and carriers) Limited was operating from the goods sidings on Lawson's Road in Thornton.

Fleetwood Miniature Railways: the town got its own miniature railway, linking the Marine Hall gardens with the boating lake. It was financed by boxer Randolph Turpin, built by a Mr Dove of Derbyshire, and lasted for 4 years before going bankrupt.
By the marine pavilion nearby, was a small zoo. This opened in 1956, lasting until 1958, and Corrigan's fair occupied the site from 1960.

The first railway was replaced with a new American styled version in 1975. This was on the same site as the original and lasted until 1983, pulled by the "Rio Grande" locomotive.

A new automatic telephone exchange was built in Poulton Road, Fleetwood.
Gravel again began to be dredged from the River Wyre, when James Bennett Limited started to operate the "Wyrecrete" to gather the gravel and take it to the screening and washing plant at Wyre Dock.
Wyre Trawlers at Fleetwood was taken over by Associated Fisheries Limited.
Fleetwood and District Angling Club was founded, meeting at the Queens Hotel.

St Anne's Miniature Railways: a 15-inch gauge railway began to be constructed along the promenade between the open-air baths and level with the Parkwater Hotel. Operated by the locomotive "Princess Anne" (bought from the Lakeside Miniature Railway in Southport, and built by Barbour's), it opened in 1956 and ran until 1962.
The site of its station is now occupied by the Beach Café - then called Lulu's Café. The locomotive was returned to Southport.

The St Anne's Miniature Railway Company Limited was registered on the 10th of November 1972, and the current 10 ¼ inch gauge miniature railway, running around the outside of the Pitch and Putt course, was opened in 1973.

©

It still operational today, pulled by the "St Anne's Express" – built in 1973, and "Harry's dream" – built in 2005.

The Lancashire Hydroplane Club first held its championship at Fairhaven Lake in June.

Lytham Slaughterhouse: was off Station Road, between Lytham Brook and the railway line beside Park View fields. It was taken over from the local authority by the O'Callaghan family. The slaughterhouse had been owned originally by Lytham UDC. Local butchers had to pay them a fee to use its facilities.

The premises were later bought by Seafresh Anchor Brand, owned by Ken Buckley. Seafresh had transferred from John Holden's smaller Anchor Brand premises in Lytham centre, so they could process more of the potted shrimps that had been processed there for over a century. Seafresh had their *"own tanks for cleaning shellfish our weekly loads from Boston could handle thirty ton so the trade that was not lost when the tanks closed on the beach we carried on"* – Ken Buckley. Seafresh later dressed poultry for sale to hotels etc.
In 1964, the complex and its land was part of deal by Guardian Assurance to build their UK headquarters on the Clifton-owned area. The buildings themselves survived until 1968.

The Halifax Building Society opened in Lytham square. This is now Woodcocks the Jewellers.
T Hardman, upholsterer, was at 18 Market Square in Lytham, with his works at 9a Pleasant Street. Since 1978, the building – and number 17 next door – has been occupied by Poppy, a ladies' clothes shop. Poppy hold an annual fashion show in October.
The 8th Lytham St Annes Group opened their base at Station Road in Lytham. The wooden hut still stands.
The BAE (Warton) Flying Club was formed, flying out of Blackpool Airport.
Lytham Rambling Club was established, later changing its name to the Lytham St Anne's Rambling Club.
Summerdale Caravans Limited was working beside the level crossing and Moss Side Railway station. The company moved to Butts Road on the Red Marsh Industrial Estate in Thornton in 1955, and after being bought out by Stevenson's caravans in 1967, the company was wound up in March 1967. In its prime, Summerdale had manufactured touring and static caravans, and, from 1956, a few motorhomes.

Fox's Bakery, Kirkham: The Phoenix Cotton Mill on Whitworth Street in Wesham – known locally as Mosses – was purchased and re-fitted as the Phoenix Biscuit Factory by Parkinson's Biscuits Limited. It was officially opened by the Earl of Derby in May, becoming the long-time employer of many local people.

In 1965, the failing factory was taken over, to be run by Whiteside's (for one year only). However, on the 8th of October 1966, the factory and its fleet of motor vehicles was sold at auction at the Estate Exchange in Manchester. It was duly purchased by Fox's Biscuits Limited of Leeds as their Lancashire home, and renamed Wesham Bakery in 1967.
Fox's had been founded in 1853, by Michael Spedding, from his small bakehouse at 17 Whitaker street in Batley. He made what he called *"eatables"* and sold them and fairs around Northern England. His daughter Hannah's married name of Fox later provided the name for the company.
Northern Foods PLC took over Fox's biscuits in 1977.

During the 1990s, major construction work took place, and the site was changed into a purpose-built unit with three new, large ovens. Kirkham is now the home of the Rocky biscuit range and produces 1,700 chocolate biscuit bars per minute - over 10 million per week. The factory *"also produces 10 million party rings each week. Stacked on top of each other they would reach 50 miles high!"*. The range includes:

©

Crinkle, Chunky Cookies, Rocky, Finger creams, Bourbon, Party Rings, Mini Party Rings, Triple bars, Mini moos, Crunch creams, and Disney Bars. The factory makes own label biscuits for many national supermarkets.
In January 2013, Northern Foods was bought by the 2 Sisters Food group for £342 million.

Harry Ward's Rhododendron Cottage at Wharles was the destination of many coach trips from Blackpool and elsewhere, as his topiary garden was magnificent.
Wennington Hall was opened in Lancaster during September, by boroughs of Barrow-in-Furness, Blackpool, Burnley, and Bury, as a Residential Special School to accommodate 40 maladjusted boys. By the end of the year, 7 boys from Blackpool had been admitted to the school.

1955

The Royal Performances in Blackpool:
Blackpool has had the honour of hosting royal gala shows for a record THREE times – more than any other town outside London.

This year, Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip attended a Royal Variety Performance at Her Majesty's Opera House on the 13th of April. The Royal Box was specially built for the occasion (it was removed in 1989), and it was the first Royal Variety Show to be held outside London. The Royal Train was parked in a siding at Poulton for the night.

Those appearing included Reginald Dixon, Crazy Gang, Jewel and Warriss, Morecambe and Wise, Lauri Lupino Lane, George Truzzi, Tiller Girls, Kathryn Moore, Bill Waddington, Arthur Askey, Josephine Anne, Geraldo, Joan Regan, Alma Cogan, Lucille Millway, George Formby, Beryl Gray, Jack Tripp, Charlie Cairoli, Albert Modley, Wilfred and Mabel, Flanagan and Allen, Eddie Fisher, and Al Read.
Gracie Fields was booked to be the star, but sent a telegram from New York, excusing herself with a "health condition".

The royals attended another show in town, when a Grand Cavalcade of Blackpool Entertainment was held at the newly restored Grand Theatre on the 29th of May 1981, in the presence of HRH Prince Charles, the Prince of Wales. This show was advertised as a Royal Variety Performance but did not feature the head of state. Compered by Russell Harty, it starred showbiz elite such as Jack Smethurst, David Kossoff, Barbara Windsor, Nat Jackley, Anita Harris, Jimmy Jewel, Ziegler and Booth, and Danny La Rue.

The grand opening followed a two-week visit by the D'Oyly Carte Opera Company with their Gilbert and Sullivan repertoire. The theatre had reopened to the public on the 23rd of March with a performance of the Merchant of Venice by the Old Vic Company.
The second visit of the Royal Variety Performance was in 2009, when it was held in the Winter Gardens on the 6th of November. Its all-star line-up included: Peter Kay, Lady GaGa, Bette Midler, Michael Bublé, Katherine Jenkins, Miley Cyrus, Alexandra Burke, Roy Walker, Mika, and Whoopee Goldberg.
Singer Lady Gaga had famously called into the Devonshire Arms beforehand, to have a "big breakfast".

A severe winter saw snowfall of 5 feet in Blackpool in January.
A record crowd of 38,098 saw Blackpool FC beat Wolves 2-1 at Bloomfield Road on the 17th of September.
Fifteen Camping Coaches were stabled in the railway sidings at Squires Gate Station by British Rail. They were a cheap source of holiday accommodation and lasted until 1971.

©

The Bond Street bus garage was sold. It was soon to become British Car Auctions and in 1984 became an Illuminations Department workshop. The building was demolished in September 1998 to provide additional car parking space for the Pleasure Beach.
Yelloway joined Ribble, North-western, Standerwick, and Lancashire United (LUT) to set up the Fylde Coast Services Pool, which allowed a greater use of the members' coaches. It also provided better passenger facilities.
Withers' bedroom and furniture shop was at 122 Church Street, advertising their "Golden Key Bedroom Suites" from 19 guineas. They had a smaller outlet at 19 Caunce Street. By 1968, W Shoreman was running his cigarette lighter and shaver shop from the premises, which are currently the Mobile World telephone shop.
Sutton's Bakery was on Adrian Street. George Sutton's bakery became famous in 1958, after making a scale model of Blackpool Tower, commissioned to mark the re-opening in May that year of the Tower Ballroom which had been destroyed by fire 17 months earlier.

The Pink Elephant Club and the Ribble Club, Blackpool: (catering for the staff from the Bus Garage across Devonshire Road) opened at 128 George Street. In 1957, impressionist Joan Turner had a famous soda siphon fight there with Joan Rhodes, the strongwoman. It closed in 1960, when the owner, Eric Brownson, was declared bankrupt, and by 1966, had become the Aristocat Club. The club later became the GPO Club, then Club Graham, before becoming the Devonshire Club in February 1989, when it was opened by John Huson.

The Devonshire Club became a non-Limited Company on the 26th of June 1991, and the club closed on the 30th of June 2013.
When offered for sale in 2015, the building was described as having: *"Ground Floor: Double door entry into workshop (9.3m x 15.6m) approximately 1600 sq. ft; wc facilities; separate front entrance to Devonshire Club; snooker room; beer cellar; bottle store; office; First Floor: Open plan lounge areas 18.4m x 14m with reception office; bar lounge with raised upholstered seating areas, dance floor and full bar servery; Ladies and Gents wc facilities; kitchenette area"*.
In early 2016, the ground floor printing shop (operated as Brightprint) became a motor cycle shop called Freedom Motorcycles.

Martin's Bank and the Blackpool Plumbing Company Limited were on Lytham Road, opposite Station Road.
Walpamur Paints were at Stanley Buildings on Church Street, as were the Careers Office, and Peter Bevan's gent's outfitters (was first owned by his father, Arthur Bevan).
Ashworth and Lowcock were operating their carpet shop – selling "Fyldeshire" carpets - from Bickerstaffe Buildings, on the corner of Foxhall Road and York Street.
Ocean Garage was opened at 133-143 Dickson Road on the 7th of September, later becoming a National Tyres fast-fit outlet. A skating rink had filled the site in 1862.
Harrowside Motors was in business at numbers 51 to 55, near the railway bridge of the same name, on the site of John Bridge's garage of the 1920s and 30s, which had sold BSA, Daimlers, and Lanchesters. By 1968 the garage had become Volkswagen Services (Bpl) Ltd. Harrowside Motors went bankrupt in 1986.
Ken Graham started his dental repairs centre at 104 Caunce Street.
West Coast Motor Auctions was operating on Buchanan Street.
Wither's bed shop was at 222 Church Street (it is now a hairdressers) and 19 Caunce Street (demolished in the 1980s and replaced by the building currently housing Knight Rigging Services).
F Sykes and Son (Blackpool) Ltd was established at 78 Holmfield Road, as butchers.

©

Norman Musgrave was running "The Open Road Shop" at 90 Red Bank Road, selling and repairing bicycles. The shop is currently operated as the Dapper Man and Dapper Woman clothes shops, owned by Austin Jones. Part of the shop is used by a hairdressing salon called Hair by Nesarious.

Melody Ballroom, Blackpool: Ken Raynor and his wife Pat opened a School of Dance on Back Henthorne Street. They initially called it the Empire Ballroom, but in 1963, they relaunched it as the famous Melody Ballroom, which ran for more than 40 years. The Rayner's touted their venue as the *"Blackpool's largest and most luxurious school of dancing"*.

New Springfield Methodist Church, Blackpool: was founded at Greenlands on Bispham Road. The church had started in a Council House in Ardmore Road, just behind where the new church would be built in about 1954. Miss Edith Howarth had started a Sunday school in her home for the children of the estate and surrounds. The attendances increased so much that the Sunday school moved into the assembly hall of the adjacent Arnold School for Girls, and the church was built soon after.

Following Miss Howarth's emigration to Australia, Springfield Methodist Greenlands was built. The name was given to the new building by Miss Howarth, who had formerly attended the original Springfield Methodist Church in Blackpool. The single-storey main chapel building has *"comfortable, modern seating. A lounge adjacent to the chapel building is used for our evening services. There are several other ancillary rooms including a large hall and meeting rooms of differing sizes".*

The Pleasure Beach opened the Haunted Swing.
Two big productions this year were, "Song Stars Shine by the Seaside" starring Dicky Valentine and David Whitfield, and the "Big Show", starring Alma Cogan.
Morecambe and Wise topped the bill on Central Pier, in "Let's Have Fun". It was their first summer show and was followed by another two.
Comedian Billy Dainty first appeared at the Palace Theatre in October.
The Pleasure Beach unveiled the Haunted Swing by the main entrance.
3 Zebra Crossings opened on Preston New Road on the 5th of March, because of its increased traffic.
The Blackpool and Fylde Ratepayer's Association came into being on the 12th of November.
Blackpool Scooter Club was established. They now meet at the Clarence Hotel.
The boundaries of Blackpool Borough were extended to include part of Poulton-le-Fylde. As a result of this and earlier extensions, the area of the Borough increased from 2,358 acres in 1876, to 8,650 acres of land and 2,068 acres of foreshore and tidal water.
In a new low for the Golden Mile, on the day after the hanging of murderer Ruth Ellis in July, a waxwork of her was put on display in the Chamber of Horrors on the Promenade by an enterprising showman.

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S Street's bakers was at 120 Victoria Road in Cleveleys, having taken over from J West and Son. The shop is now the "Great Fortune House" Chinese restaurant.
William Brown and Sons (coal merchants and carriers) Ltd were working from Thornton.
The Thornton Cleveleys Estate was in the process of being built by Tailor Woodrow Ltd.

Cala Gran Caravan Park, Fleetwood: Ockwell's Caravan Site opened. This was later to become the Cala Gran Country Club, which was opened by the Ockwell family in 1967. It boasted its own ten-pin bowling alley and was later taken over by Haven Holidays Limited.
A swimming pool was built in 1974 (without planning permission, which was granted in 1985) – the pool closed in 1997. A popular feature of the caravan site for many years was Valentino's nightclub.
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The camp is currently called Cala Gran Holiday Park.

Two blocks of 3-storey flats were built on the West View Estate in Fleetwood.
Harry Banks's Estate Agent and Auctioneers was at 54 Adelaide Street in Fleetwood.
Elston's Carpets were in business at 286 Poulton Road in Fleetwood.
Fleetwood Tankers Ltd was formed in July, operating 6 small coastal tankers to transport diesel and fuel oil from the refineries at Stanlow and Heysham, around the Northwest. The Great Grimsby Coal Salt and Tanning Company (Cosalt) built several oil storage tanks at the docks. Fleetwood Tankers closed in 1976 after the closure of the oil refinery at Heysham.
Plans for a new "Super Cinema" in Fleetwood were underfunded, so the 1,600-seater venue never opened. It would have been built between the Ship Inn and the Crown Hotel.
Margaret's Florists was opened at 15 Wood Street, St Anne's, by Harry Wainwright.
Permission was granted for a children's playground to be built on the South Promenade at St Anne's, located between the gardens and the golf course.
The Halifax Old Folks Holiday Home was at "The Coppice", 267 Clifton Drive, in St Anne's. It is now a private house.

Lytham St Anne's High School: Lytham St Anne's Ansdell County Secondary School, Lancashire's largest school opened on Worsley Road on the 8th of September. The site had been farm fields previously, and had housed barrage balloons and temporary billets, which for several years housed tenants awaiting rehousing. They were finally provided house in and around Hilton Avenue.

The 11-Plus examination was introduced before the school was ready, and the first year's pupils were taught in the Ansdell Institute for several months. The school was officially opened on the 27th of April 1956, by Sir David Eccles, the Minister of Education, and the first headmaster was Mr AH Hall.

It later changed its name to Lytham St Anne's High School, and from 1997 has been a specialist Technology College. The current name is the LSA Technology and Performing Arts College.
"LSA is divided into six colleges, which are named after individuals who have shaped our learning or inspired us - and were chosen by our students: King, Whittle, Holmes, Lennon, Curie and Newton".

Lytham Sixth Form College opened in September 2015, as a partnership between Lytham St Anne's Technology and Performing Arts College and Blackpool and Fylde College. In March 2017, the school elected to discontinue its A-level provision from September 2018. Local students could then study technical and professional Triple Diploma programmes at the College's campus on Church Road. The sixth form college closed in June 2019, due to *"limited demand"*.
In February 2020, the school's name reverted to Lytham St Anne's High School.

Work began on the construction of a large sewage water pumping station off Park View Road in Lytham. The work was completed in late 1958, and the facility replaced the original, which was built in 1902. The new station was itself replaced in 1987, with a state-of-the-art facility which included an £800,000 anti-flooding system.
Kirkham's Queen Victoria Jubilee Monument was moved from the centre of the road at Town End to its present position, when the Rotary Clock was erected.

1956
The Tower Roof Gardens became the Roof Gardens Zoo.

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The Redman's Café disaster, Blackpool: Redman's Café at 6 Bank Hey Street collapsed during building works on the 29th of June, killing a woman passer-by and injuring 15 more.

After the disaster, Redman's re-opened their other café on the corner of Waterloo Road and St Bede's Avenue with a bakery behind it (currently a Cash Generator shop) – it had been recently been closed. A second bakery was on Amberbanks Grove. Redman's also had combined café and bakery branches at 46 Watson Road, on Talbot Road, two in Abingdon Street Market, and one in St Anne's Square.

Redman's Bank Hey Street Café reopened on the 26th of July 1957. They also had their own grocery, butchers, and café on the ground floor, a restaurant on the 1st, and a function room on the 2nd. The shop later became a Chelsea Girl boutique, after that shop had moved from Church Street (next to Littlewood's and formerly called Lewis Separates, with Robinson's Café and cakes above it). River Island later opened in the Bank Hey Street store.

The end of rationing saw the Marks and Spencer's café bars dwindle in popularity. The one at the Blackpool store was the first in the UK to close this year.

St George's Secondary Modern School, Blackpool: The school was opened officially on Cherry Tree Road on the 23rd of November, although the first pupils had entered on the 13th of September. Part of the lands of the Cherry Tree Gardens Hotel had been bought to make room for the school, Cherry Tree House old folks' home, and surrounding houses. The school's playing fields were on land bought from Agnes Johnson on the 14th of August 1953, and were opened for use in 1957. They comprised *"5 Association football pitches, 3 hockey pitches, a standard 440 yd. athletic track, complete with cinder high jump fans and long jump run-ups"*.

The school extensions were unveiled on the 27th of March 1965.

St George's Swimming Pool: In 1973, the school began building its own swimming pool in a separate building. The single-storey building consisted of a brick-built block, topped with a fluted, translucent, glass fibre canopy. Windows and doors were timber. Opened in May 1974, it had a 25-metre by 12-metre main pool with four lanes, and changing rooms. By 2008, the use of St George's Swimming Pool had declined drastically, and it was only used for swimming coaching, youth services and sub aqua. The popular Blackpool Polar Bears swimming club for disabled people - the largest of its kind in the region, founded in January 2000, and now with 72 members - relocated to Moor Park Pool on the 11th of May 2008. St George's pool was duly closed by the Council in September that year and began to be demolished on the 28th of November. Its site now forms part of the car parking facilities.

The school became a Voluntary Aided Church of England School in 2002, embarking upon a £6 million expansion programme. In 2013, St George's implemented a new "College" system. All staff and students were divided into one of 5 Colleges: Carlisle, Chester, Durham, Lincoln, or York.
Its current name is simply St George's School.

St Wilfrid's Church, Mereside: A temporary church was opened for use on the corner of Langdale Road and Newby Place in Mereside on the 22nd of July, as a church under St Paul's. This was after the last service had been held in the congregation's previous temporary base at Little Marton School. It was attached to the older vicarage and was built on land which had belonged to Brindle Hall Farm, before it was taken over years previously by Arnott Farm.

©

In 1964, a new church was designed by Tom Mellor with the assistance of an ICBS grant.
Another plot to the north-east, within the Mereside estate, had been considered, and plans show that a tall spire over the crossing with an illuminated cross, as well as a semi-circular Lady Chapel at the west end were originally envisaged. The spire was originally intended to be internally lit, so the church could be seen from Preston New Road. It was omitted from the original building on cost grounds, and the final roof had glazing over the sanctuary, where the spire would have been. The large concrete cross in front of the church was added as a substitute symbol. A date stone, laid by the Bishop of Blackburn, is set within the west wall.

The church was finally consecrated as a parish in its own right on the 3rd of July 1965, and a consecration stone was laid in the narthex floor. During the dedication service, a late 9th century, Anglo-Saxon, cross head featuring a pair of facing peacocks, gifted to St Wilfrid's by Ripon Cathedral, was installed on the east wall. The cross was discovered built into the fabric of Ripon Cathedral during works in 1832 and is believed to have been the oldest cross in Blackpool.
The church was completed in 1966, and a hall was added, to the west, in 1974. St Wilfrid's church hall was then opened on the 11th of January 1975.

In 2015, as the congregation had fallen to less than 10 people, the church was closed, with its last service being held on the 31st of May. After the closure, the Anglo-Saxon stone was stored at St Paul's Church in Marton, but it was returned to Ripon Cathedral after a blessing service at St Paul's in November 2016.

The Church of St Michael and All Angels, Grange Park: opened on the corner of Calvert Place and Dinmore Avenue on the Grange Park Estate, its foundation stone having been laid on the 7th of July. The vicarage was attached.
The church no longer exists, being taken over by St Mark's at Layton, and the actual building was demolished in 2004, to be replaced by flats.

Ramsden's cigarette and tobacco shop was at 101 Church Street.

The Newton Arms, Normoss: was built on the corner of Normoss Road and Staining Road, at the junction at which the old Finger Post was located. The pub opened on the 5th of May.
In June 2017, the pub was re-opened after a total refurbishment, as a Sizzling Steaks outlet.

The Blackpool Rope and Twine Co Ltd was operating at Tower Works on Clifton Road. The building was taken over by Sell-A-Vend in June 2013.
Green Star Garage was at 363a Lytham Road, run by the Green family. It later became BG Autos.
A Council Old Folks Home was opened on the 22nd of March, at "Goodwood" on Park Road.
John Higginbottom started his rock business in Back Swainson Street. He moved to Cowley Road in 1964, before selling that factory to Blackwoods in 1968 and moving to Clevedon Road.
Jim Wyers started his Blackpool Rock Label Company, making labels, tubes, and packaging for the town's rock makers.
Charles Edwards started trading in the international jewellery markets from Adelaide Street, and CE Edwards Sons Limited was duly incorporated on the 8th of March 1962. In 1981, the business was taken over by James Walker Ltd, and then by Signet. After aa management buyout in 2011, the company moved to Amy Johnson Way, but went into administration on the 1st of June 2017. The premises were closed for good on the 19th of June.

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Devonshire Road Surgery was established at number 467 Devonshire Road, later linking with the Glenroyd Surgery on Whitegate Drive.
Work began on the Moor Park council estate.
The National Men's Hairdressing Competition was in the Winter Gardens Ballroom on the 5th of March.
The Co-operative Insurance Society opened an office on Whitegate Drive on the 13th of July, having moved from 20 Queen Street. It closed in the late 1990s, moving to Preston. The Co-operative Bank at 73 Victoria Street had closed some years earlier in the 1980s, becoming Strawberry Moon women's clothing shop, after moving to 3 to 5 Clifton Street.
Wilkinson's Florists opened at 34-40 Talbot Road.
The London Fashion House had stores at 142a Waterloo Road (now the Full Moon Stores) and 44 Corporation Street.

The Gas Showrooms, Blackpool: The new buildings at 115 Church Street were opened by the Mayor on the 9th of November. The four-storey building had replaced a lodging house, and housed a small theatre on the first floor, which closed in 1992.
In 1995, the building became an Old-Time Music Hall (which had been above Yates's in Talbot Square since 1987) and was run by Patricia Higginbottom as Miss Patricia's Tavern until 2000.
In 2001, the Tavern was taken over and became Joe Longthorne's Music Hall Tavern. This closed in June 2003, to become the K2 Bar until November 2008. This closed in October 2012.
It briefly became the Sinless nightclub before being sold for conversion into apartments in 2014.

Dave Barron started Barron's Caravans in Westfield Avenue, Highfurlong. In 1967, Barron's Caravans merged with Gordon Hold of Partingtons, whose head office was at Newton Hall Holiday Park, Staining.
The Ascot Club opened at 53 Albert Road. It later became Oasis, Too Hot to handle, and then Fallen Angels Lap Dancing Club (which closed in October 2010).
Johnsons QSD was at 32 to 34 Bank Hey Street, selling sportswear.
Radio Rentals opened a shop at 210 Central Drive to relieve their Church Street store.
Highfield Music Stores Ltd was at 24 Highfield Road, run by C Dawson. By 1968, the shop was in the hands of EB Baker.
Reliance Engineering on Common Edge Road, next door to the Shovels Inn, was offering for sale "Good Sound Post-War Vans" for between £75 and £220.
The first official Illuminations tour by tram ran on the 6th of September.
Blackpool and Fylde Harriers went out of existence, and the Blackpool and Fylde Athletic Club was immediately reconstituted.
Blackpool's first dedicated driver training bus was the 1940 built Leyland Titan 25 on its retirement from passenger service in August.
Garlick's newsagents was at 143 Red Bank Road. Since 2002, it has been called Red Bank News at numbers 143 to 145.
Tuberculosis checking by X-Ray was now required by law, and in order to reach more people, during the summer months, the Council made the decision to *"use a Mobile Office in the form of a converted Double-deck Bus, situated on the Central Promenade to serve the town centre"*.
The Fancy Goods Fair (now called the Gifts Fair) moved to Blackpool from Harrogate.
Blackpool opened its arms to evacuees and refugees from the rebellion in Hungary. *"Guesthouses on Lytham Road, Mabel Court, Alexander Road, Woodside Avenue and many more were to be their homes for months while they learned to speak English at a school set up at the Winter Gardens"*.
Blackpool's first Whit Walk was held in Bispham.
The 6th RAC Rally finished in Blackpool, won by Lyndon Sims, driving an Aston Martin DB2.

©

Andrew Parmley was born in Blackpool on the 17th of October. Educated at Thames Primary School and then Blackpool Grammar, he went on to be named Lord Mayor of London in 2016. He was knighted for his services to music education in the 2018 New Year's Honours List.
Peter Chelsom was born in Blackpool on the 20th of April. He became a famous film director.
Peter Hennessey filmed his documentary "Holiday" on location in Blackpool, featuring flannel trousers, jazz bands, poolside beauty contests, sticks of rock, and Yates's Wine Lodge.
TV Talent Show "Holiday Town Parade" was filmed in Blackpool and other seaside resorts from now until 1962, coming from the Norbreck Hydro Ballroom.

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Poulton telephone exchange was rebuilt as an automatic facility.
Poulton Urban District Council was still concerned with the number of "shack dwellings" in the area. Normoss had 89 of them, as opposed to 11 in 1956.

The Broadway pub, Fleetwood: Built on the old clay pit of a farm, the pub was opened for business at the northern end of Broadway on the 16th of July. The Gazette described it as "a non-residential hotel". It was built for Duttons (Blackburn) Brewery as "an exciting new project for the West View area of Fleetwood". It originally had a piano bar.
It closed in 2003 and was demolished in February, to be replaced by a new health centre.

Fleetwood Power Station: was opened by the Mayor on the 14th of September on the site of a disused timber pond at the docks. Taking 5 years to build, it had been opened for use on the 11th of May. It had one 300-foot chimney and two 250-foot cooling towers.
The towers were demolished in 10 seconds on the 5th of March 1984, and the other buildings followed in a piecemeal fashion until the last was decommissioned in 1999.

The Record Centre opened on Poulton Road in Fleetwood. They later opened a second outlet in Poulton.

ERNIE: National Savings Premium Bonds were launched in November, and Sir Cuthbert Ackroyd, the Lord Mayor of London, bought the first Premium Bond on the 1st of November. The second was bought by William Crook, Mayor of Lytham St Anne's.

The first ERNIE machine was created this year, at the Post Office Research Station at Dollis Hill, by the same team of code breakers who had created the Second World War code breaker, Colossus, at the Government's top-secret Bletchley Park facility. The machine "was designed by Harry Fensom, one of 'the band of brothers' in a department run by Tommy Flowers, the designer of Colossus, and was built by a team lead by Sidney Broadhurst.

The first ERNIE (Electronic Random Number Indicating Equipment), was installed in C Block at its Moorland Road site in St Anne's. It was first used at 0915 on June the 1st 1957.
That first draw took place when ERNIE was started by the Paymaster General, Ernest Marples, and the first winning number was 1FK341150, netting its holder a prize of £1,000. It was drawn by Miss Preston, Marion Burgess.
The first ERNIE was about 11 feet long and weighed 1,500 kilogrammes. The 2019 version of ERNIE is a microchip the size of a grain of rice.

A staff social club was opened on the Moorland Road site in 1960, as was a purpose-built large office, housing up to 400 staff, for processing claims. This took the staff complement to almost 3,000.
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The second generation of ERNIE was created in 1973, decreasing the time it took to make a draw. Designed to look like part of the set of the Bond movie Goldfinger, ERNIE 2 could generate the necessary numbers in just a few hours, compared to the 10 days it was taking ERNIE 1 to complete the draw. That ERNIE machine was moved to a purpose-built site off Preston New Road in 1975.

1988 saw the arrival of ERNIE 3. New Logica CMG equipment produced 330,000 numbers per hour, five times faster than ERNIE 2 at the end of his lifespan.

In 1994, the 1-million-pound winner ticket was introduced, with "Agent Million" not only overseeing each draw, but personally delivering the winning cheques every month.

1999 saw the whole department outsourced by the Government to Siemens.

Ernie 4 was ERNIE 4 is unveiled in 2004. ERNIE 3 could not generate more than 10-digit numbers, and by 2004 there were so many customers that a new machine was needed that could generate 11-digit numbers. Again, developed by Logica CMG, the monthly draw now took ERNIE 4 2.5 hours, producing one million numbers per hour.

Most of the rest of the Marton complex closed in 2016. Its complete demolition began in February 2017, and the iconic, hexagonal, 120-foot-high central tower was dynamited on the 26th by contractors Pete Marquis Demolition. The tower had been constructed around a central plaza containing a pond and fountain.

The ERNIE 5 was introduced in March 2019, and computer remains in the nearby Moorland House, and is version 5 of the equipment. ERNIE 5 - unlike previous versions using thermal noise to produce random numbers - is powered by quantum technology, which uses light.

Rowland Homes began to fill the site with 115 3- and 4-bedroomed new homes in 2018. It is named Marples Grange, after Ernest Marples. In January 2020, Rowland Homes submitted an application to build another 90 houses on the remaining land. That development would comprise 2, 3, and 4-bedroomed homes including detached, semi-detached and mews-style properties.

The Links Hotel, St Anne's: was opened on Heeley Road, by C&S Breweries. On the 23rd of June 2011, a new company, Links Hotel (St Annes Limited) was formed, to try and turn around the pub's fortunes. The firm was dissolved on the 2nd of August 2016.
The Links is currently owned by the Mitchell and Butler brewery.

Daphne's Millinery Shop was opened on Alexandra Drive in St Anne's by Daphne Green.
Carryer and Hall Limited, High Class Furnishers, had a store at 7 to 9 Park Street in Lytham. After becoming Mulberys, the Hidden Gem, it is now Belladonna Shoes.
GA Wilding had an ironmonger's shop at 11 Church Road in Lytham. Since February 2008, the shop has been Chu's Cantonese restaurant.

Wrea Green Tennis Club: was founded on Mill Lane, after members of the Wrea Green Youth Club had managed by playing on a small field at The Villa for several years. The land was donated by William Birley

©

and one hard court was built, overlooked by a small pavilion. The court was opened with a demonstration match between Peter Marsh and Louis Pinto.
The new clubhouse was officially opened in 1975, by theatre and TV stars Joan Savage and Ken Morris.
The club now has three all-weather tennis courts and a pavilion, opened in 1999, which was built with the help of money from the National Lottery.

Rawcliffe's Funeral Directors was established in Lytham by Maurice Rawcliffe. The main premises were in Birch Street (then at 36 Albert Street by 1979), but c1997, the company began to rent 53a Warton Street (previously the Lytham Delicatessen) as an office. The room of repose and garages remained in Birch Street. The business closed in 2012 on the death of the owner.
Kirkham and Wesham Amateur Swimming Club was founded at Kirkham Baths.
The Newton with Clifton village hall committee was formed.
May's Mayfield Transport Café was in business on the western side of the A6 at Cabus. This was later transformed into the Crofters hotel and inn.

1957

British Home Stores, Blackpool: BHS and the attached West Street Car Park opened in Church Street on the 9th of May. It had been the site of the temporary car park and its open-air market. The new store covered 61,000 square feet and had a basement (with café, lighting department, and men's clothes – and a ladies' hair salon for the first few years), and the main, or ground floor (with food, ladies' clothing, children's clothing, toys, and public toilets). The café had a revolutionary conveyor belt for moving customers' meal trays along the counter.

There were two sets of stairs down to the basement – facing each other at the western side of the store. The car park was above the store too.
BHS went into administration in 2016, and the Blackpool flagship store closed on the 28th of August.
In August 2018, B&M Bargains opened the store to replace their outlet on Bank Hey Street (the old Woolworth's building).

Studio Cinemas, Blackpool: The upper floors of EH Booth's store and Italian Warehouse on Albert Terrace on the Promenade became the Northwest regional office for Prudential Assurance. In 1958, EH Booth closed the café and let it too to the Prudential.
The block was sold in 1972, and in 1975, The Star Entertainment Centre opened Studios 1-4 there on the 1st of May, accompanied by King Dick's bar, a top-floor German Jaeger Bier Keller (Hofbrauhaus) and Scamps discotheque in the basement. Studio 1 had 238 seats and opened with "Succubus". Studio 2 had 140 seats and opened with "Monty Python and the Holy Grail". Studio 3 had 222 seats and opened with "Emmanuelle II". Studio 4 had 140 seats and opened with "Kung Fu Fighting". From 1983, it showed movies only seasonally.

It was renamed Cannon in April 1986, but closed on the 28th of October 1987, with no warning. The Bier Keller (later the Hofbrauhaus) and disco continued for many years – briefly offering the "Stripperama" striptease show. It also hosted occasional live concerts by well-known bands of the time, such as Hanoi Rocks on the 11th of June 1984 and Dr Feelgood on the 9th of October the same year.
In 1997, Edwards Bar was opened in the old cinema, by Bass Taverns Limited. In 2011, only the disco remained (Edwards Bar using an entrance on the Strand) and became a nightclub named Flares, which is currently called Pop World.

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Meanwhile, in 1984, Bunters / Illusions: Bunters opened on the Strand, hosting live rock music (such as New Model Army on the 25th of May) and "adult" comedy, from stars such as Bernard Manning in the basement, while on the ground floor was **Stars** disco bar. Bunters became Illusions in 1986, and this closed itself in February 1996.

The Frim Fram Club opened in Jenks Bar at 124/130 Promenade on the 11th of May 1990, with two bars, later becoming Slums and Snobs. After a failed attempt to re-emerge at Just Ji's it moved to the Downtown Bar at the Station Hotel, and then later to Sequins on Central Promenade. At the time, Jenks Bar was on the top floor of the Illusions complex on the Strand. From the 12th of May 1990, it became host to Shaboo – which closed after just one summer. After Jenks had moved to Topping Street, the club eventually reopened as Edwards, but in summer 2017, it was changed into a new R&B club, the Urban Lounge.

The Piccolo coffee bar was next door to the Hippodrome on Church Street.
Beechfield on Whitegate Drive opened as a Spastics' Centre on the 23rd of August.

The Anchorsholme Hotel: was built by brewers Magee Marshal it cost £40,000 to build, and was opened on the 28th of June by the first owners, Frank and Marjorie Spencer.
It was later renamed the New Anchor Hotel and was taken over by Greenall's Brewery. It was demolished in 1996, to be replaced by a Lidl food store.

An Automatic telephone exchange was built opposite the Boars Head to replace the manual exchange at 253 Whitegate Drive.
Hanshaw's Motor Company was in business at 144 Talbot Road. The premises were later occupied by Tudor Cars. In 2012, that building, along with the Georgian Café, the Progress Taxi office (including Streamline Taxis), and Peter Jones Carpets were all demolished from the 29th of July. In 1954, Hanshaw's motor accessories shop was in the future taxi premises. Swainson Street ceased to exist.
Fell's Chip shop was on Whitegate Drive, near Devonshire Square.
Dennis Jackson began making kitchens from Hoo Hill Estate.
Nicholson's Drug Store opened on the corner of Squires Gate Lane and Clifton Drive.
Baron Road was known as the *"cabbage patch".*
The Pleasure Beach opened the Sky Ride and the Hurricane.
Norman Heap opened his first music shop, Northern Music on Carter Street, before opening a second, Heap's Music Shop, in St Anne's.
The Blackpool Light Craft Club was formed at the home of Stan Butler, and the first commodore, Mr W Entwistle, was elected. They applied for use of land at Starr Gate and, with Council approval, the compound was fenced off and a wooden hut put up as a clubhouse, replacing the old army guard hut that was built in 1939. The present headquarters was designed and built completely by the members and opened in 1970.

The Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes, Blackpool: This stylish Roman Catholic Convent chapel, designed by Frances Xavier Valarde, was opened on Whinney Heys Road on the 14th of May by the Bishop of Lancaster. It was a thanksgiving offering for the preservation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Lancaster during World War 2.
The foundation stone had been laid in 1955, on land which had been donated for the purpose by the builders, William Eaves and Company Ltd of Daggers Hall Works on Vicarage Lane.

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The chapel is of Portland stone externally, with a copper roof and fleche, and is ornamented with four statues, one at each corner, with a relief on the façade above the entrance – all by the sculptor David John. The statues comprise: a relief frieze of the Holy Trinity, and pinnacles at each corner of the building, depicting Our Lady appearing to St Bernadette, Christ appearing to St Margaret Mary, St Thomas of Canterbury, and St Edward the Confessor.
From consecration until 1968, it was attended by the Sisters of Adoration, who had previously had a convent next door. It then passed to the nuns of the Congregation of Adoration of Marie Reparatrice, and finally in 1994, to the Blessed Sacrament Fathers and Brothers until 1999. The Special Mission of the Shrine was then relocated to St Wilfrid's in Preston and the building was deconsecrated. The Shrine was transferred to the Historic Chapels Trust in 2000, and extensive repairs began in 2008. It is a Grade 2* Listed Building.

The European Police Swimming Championships were staged at the Derby Baths.
Yelloway Motor Services Limited and Premier Travel Limited, of Cambridge began a summer service from Blackpool to Clacton-on-Sea.
Enterprise Motors (Blackpool) Limited were operating from Red Bank Road.
The Whitley Way Motor Services, run by H Crossley, were operating their taxi and coach business from 21 Cavendish Road in Bispham.
The Carpet House was at 115 Red Bank Road. The property is now in the hands of AJ Cornall (Contractors) Ltd, who also operate as Windmill Windows.
The Norbreck Dairy was at 74 Norbreck Road, run by C and K Cornthwaite.
Ravenseft (Land Securities) bought what is now the Squires Gate Industrial Estate, which was sold to ING (a Dutch bank) in 2001. Ravenseft Investments retained the ownership of the units 1-1.
Charisse Fashions (Blackpool) Limited was established on the 20th of February, going bankrupt in 1986. They had one shop, on Bank Hey Street.
The Fylde coast branch of the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association was formed.
The Blackpool and Fylde Tape Recording Club was formed.
Crusaders Badminton Club was officially formed, with players from the Hawker Aircraft Social Club who played badminton in the canteen of the factory in Squires Gate Lane. After the factory closed, the men and women entered a team in the Blackpool and District Badminton Association (North League Division 4) and arranged their club and match fixtures at Stanley School in Marton under the banner of "Crusaders".
Tommy Steele's matinees caused riots by screaming girl fans in town on the 26th of July.
A young trumpeter called John Barry led his group in 24 shows at the Palace Theatre. He was to become perhaps the world's greatest film score composer.
The Daily Mirror held its Rock and Roll Dance Championship on the Central Pier – it was won by Alex Hurst.
Singer Ruby Murray met and married Bernie Burgess of the Jones Boys group in Blackpool whilst they were both appearing in local Summer Season shows. Murray *"later fell in love with locally-based Irish comedian, Frank Carson. When Carson, then married and a Catholic, refused to leave his wife, Murray sought solace in alcohol, her career taking a nosedive"*.
Squires Gate Airport held an International Air Display on the 10th of June. Opened by comedian Stan Stennett, the display featured aircraft from 1917 to 1957, and was watched by a crowd of 35,000 people.
"Holiday" was filmed by Edgar Anstey, in his "An Invitation to Travel" series. It showed a traditional holiday in Blackpool, with the zest and good humour of ordinary people set free from their usual routine. The lively atmosphere was captured by the music of Chris Barber's Jazz Band.
TV programme "Seeing Sport" was filmed three times in Blackpool, with table tennis from the Butlins Metropole on the 8th of July, riding from Bispham Court Riding School on the 29th of July, and judo from the Metropole on the 2nd of September.

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Fylde Borough Council opened a Child Welfare Centre in Staining Institute.

Carr Head Primary School, Poulton: opened on Carr Head Lane in June, with William Hudson as its first headteacher. The school can take 250 pupils.

H Wood and Sons of Hardhorn were operating a freight service. Next door to them was a depot of Brewer and Turnbull, who had 13 vehicles.
Poulton School and Child Welfare Clinic was built on Princess Avenue.

St David's Church, Fleetwood: opened on the corner of Larkholme Lane and Fleetwood Road, as a daughter church to St Peter's. The architect was James Rawlinson, and the building was erected by Fleetwood firm, Brown and Jackson at a cost of approximately £8,000. The Reverend James Cope was the first Vicar, and he was inducted on the 19th of June 1987.

Its Sunday school had started in January 1956, in the nearby Flakefleet Primary School, with 80 children. Supporters and potential parishioners bought virtual "bricks" for 6d to help in raising funds towards the new Church.

The original church hall or "the Hut" as it was known, was replaced in 1985, under a bequest from Mr Richard Wright, a founder member, and one of the original builders, of the Church. The new church became an independent parish in 1987 and was consecrated on the 31st of October 1989.
The last service in St David's was held on the 29th of December 2011, and in January 2012, the parishioners had to start sharing St Edmund's Church nearby, as their church was becoming dangerous. It began to be demolished on the 10th of October 2017, whilst worshippers were sharing St Peter's Church nearby.
A new £203,000 church centre, will then be built from extension work on the church hall on Larkholme Lane. It will be called the Church Centre of St David's and St Peter's, and will include a new chapel, new kitchen, and toilets for community use.

The church site will be used to build 4 semi-detached houses.

The Toyland children's amusement park opened on the esplanade at Fleetwood, occupying land which had been a gravel pit. It briefly changed its name to Joyland, and then became a Pitch and Putt course. It is now the sunken car park.

The Marine / Gullivers, Fleetwood: A new pub, called The Marine, was built on the corner of manor Road and Laidley's Walk in Fleetwood. It changed name to Gullivers in 1984 and was Whitbread's brewery house. Its tenants in 1994 were James and Christine McCoy, with chef Jean Miller. Gullivers became Coffler's pub, which was finally demolished in 2009, to make way for 23 apartments for the over-55s.

Richard Peck House was the first home bought by RAFA as a convalescent home. The large vacant house at 1 St Thomas's Road in St Anne's cost between £8,000 and £9,000 and was opened by HRH the Duchess of Gloucester in February 1960.
Halpern's Toys and Gifts were at 16 St Anne's Road West. The shop was taken over briefly by Bateson's of Blackpool before closing, and is now a branch of M and Co.
Marshall's "Distinctive Furnishers" were in operation at 4 Park Street and Back West Crescent in St Anne's.
The Fylde Coast Players was formed to encourage drama for all locals. They now perform at Lowther Gardens pavilion in Lytham.

©

HM Land Registry, Lytham: The department opened a new branch office at Birkenhead House at East Beach. The building was completed in 1961 and extended in 1978.
Their other local office, on Westgate Road, Squires Gate was vacated on the 4th of June 2000, with staff moving to Wray Brook Court at Warton.

Wray Brook Court had started to be built on Site 9 of the US Airbase at Warton in February 1999, and was opened on the 4th of December 2000. The Lilliput children's nursery also opened for staff, soon being taken over by the Busy Bees chain, and being opened up to outsiders. A ghost - "Black Bob" - reputedly a murdered US airman, whose ghostly apparition has been seen on the site, is said to have caused lights to activate spontaneously during the building's construction.

The Land Registry then closed its Birkenhead House at East Beach in September 2009, after moving the remaining staff to Warton.

Bickerstaffe Son and Eccles were working as builders and plumbers from their works and showroom on Victoria Street in Lytham.
The Lytham St Anne's Ladies Choir was formed by Margaret Holliday.
The Fylde and District Branch of the Pony Club was founded.

Kirkham Carr Hill County Secondary School: The Fylde's first secondary school was opened for pupils on the 9th of September. It was officially opened by the Duchess of Kent on the 22nd of July 1958. The school had been built on public ground off Chapel Walks, which began as Little Well Lane. The access road was named Royal Avenue.
Until it opened, the children of the Fylde had needed to travel to either Blackpool or Preston for their secondary education. Many of them had to stay at junior school until they were 14. For example, Wrea Green pupils went to the Ansdell Institute for their final year 14-15.

Its first headmaster was R Simpson, and the school originally housed 450 students in 19 classrooms. It had a science lab, a metalwork room, and a woodwork room, but extensions were added in 1964. A sports Hall was added in 1987.
There are now about 1,300 students in 50 classrooms, with 10 science labs, and sports facilities which include netball courts, an athletic track and sports dome, dedicated technology and art blocks, and a Learning Resource Centre.

Pupils first had to wear the special school blazer in 1989.

Carr Hill became a comprehensive in 1977 and is now known as Carr Hill High School and Sixth Form Centre. In June 2019, the sixth form centre will close, to limited demand. That leaves the Fylde with no state funded sixth form facilities whatever.

The Phoenix Cotton Mill in Wesham – known locally as Mosses – was bought by and converted into the Phoenix Biscuit Factory by Parkinson's Biscuits Limited. On the 8th of October 1966, the factory and its fleet of motor vehicles was sold at auction at the Estate Exchange in Manchester. It was duly purchased by Fox's Biscuits Limited of Leeds as their Lancashire home, and renamed Wesham Bakery.
Clifton Garage (Blackpool) Limited was established on the 1st of July, on Preston New Road in Clifton. After several name changes, it became Autologic car sales in 2014.

©

1958
The pedestrian subway below the promenade at Chapel Street was opened after a spate of road accidents.
"Billy's' Weekly Liar", a comic newspaper, published by Bolton's of Preston, started to be sold on the Promenade.
The "Diving Clown", Larry Griswold, performed at the Blackpool Opera House.
The RSPCA's Longview Animal Centre was opened on Division Lane on the 20th of August, by the international singing star Eve Boswell. On the 8th of September 2014, the home moved to 74d Old Toms Lane, Stalmine.

Holy Family Catholic Primary School, Blackpool: was opened on Seacrest Avenue, North Shore, to serve the Parishes of Holy Family and Sacred Heart. Archbishop O'Hara and Bishop Flynn of Lancaster officially opened it, on the 8th of June. It had been opened temporarily in 1957, and for pupils on the 22nd of April 1958. The site had previously been part of a farm and had been used recently as a riding school.
Arson destroyed much of Holy Family School in December 1993, but it has been re-built.

Paige's Ladies Fashion store was built on the corner of Church Street and Abingdon Street, on the site of Galloway's Cash Chemists. The Boston's Man's shop was next door on Church Street, and G and J Burton's Café on the other side, in Abingdon Street. These shops replaced Galloway's, and McAllister's Shoes amongst others. Burton's Café – later, the Oyster Catcher restaurant - is now the West Coast Rock Café, and Paige's shop (on the site of the Valette Studios) later became a Burton's, Next (with its first-floor café), and in 2011 a new Pizza Express restaurant.
Camera Corner was on the corner of Queen Street and Dickson Road. On the next corner down, at numbers 22 to 26 Dickson Road, was H Wiseman's Hi-Fi shop, which became a Cash Converters' shop. Wiseman's also had shops at 202 Central Drive, 24 Bond Street, and at 1 Lido Buildings, as well as others around the Fylde, including 111 Poulton Street in Kirkham (now Edwards Dry Cleaners).

Mereside Methodist Church: opened on Grizedale Road on the 18th of October. It had been designed by George Denbigh. It is a double-storey brick-built church, which was solemnised for marriages on the 18th of April 1963 (this was cancelled in March 2010). The first child to be christened there was Anthony Harding.
The church celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2008, but was then closed, to be used as a community hall.

In 2013, Methodist Action (North West) began to operate the Comfort Zone "drop-in" centre for homeless and vulnerable people in the building. This was a place for them to access food, refreshments, and professional support.
By 2014, this had changed, to become the home of the Mereside Link Up charity shop and drop-in centre.

Kitty Kirkham's cottage on Kitty Lane in Marton was demolished – the lane was named after her.
George Baguley started his garden centre at 153 Midgeland Road, living at number 202 nearby. He died in 2002, and Baguley's Garden Centre closed to the public on the 30th of November 2015. It was quickly demolished and in October 2019, work began on the construction of a 12-bungalow housing development known as Birchwood Gardens *"Exclusive Private Development with a Luxury Selection of 2/3 Bedroom Detached Bungalows with a selection of interiors"*.
Blackpool Sports Emporium was in business at 281 Church Street (by the 1980s, known as Sports Corner), with the Duple Social Club on the first floor. After going out of business in the 1990s, it then became the Dan Kerr wedding shop. At the rear of the premises from the early 1960s, was the Blackpool Billiard Works, who had moved from Fenton's yard on George Street. Dan Kerr (Brides) Limited ceased trading on

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the 19th of April and all their shops were closed. From the 21st of April 2016, number 281 became the Lulu Ella Brides wedding shop, owned by Craig Allen.
The famous tram livery of cream below and green above the "waistline" was introduced.
Blackpool buses first carried advertising on their central panels, administered by the advertising group Cowan Ad of Scotland. That company was dissolved in 1969 and adverts were then applied by BCT staff.
From Easter, for journeys as far as Fleetwood, double-decker trams were first allowed to travel on the stretch from Cleveleys after the fitting of a checkrail.
The "Progress" twin tram car 276 made its first official run to Fleetwood in April, with Mayor H Grimbaldeston at the controls. It was the first twin-car tram to be used in the town.
Barry Pimlott set up BP Insurance Brokers in Caunce Street. He later moved to "Marionette House" on Whitegate Drive and opened a second shop on Victoria Road East in Cleveleys.
The Lido Card Shop opened in the Lido buildings. It closed in January 2006.
Guest's Business College was in Queen Street.
Airey's Estate Agents and Auctioneers were operating from Dickson Road.
BS Iwanowicz was in business as a furrier at 3b May Bell Avenue.
Northern Neon Lights was founded, working from Mowbray Drive.
Drinks company Sun-Tipt was formed by the Pleasance family in a building at Bispham Lodge. Their cartons of fruit drinks were sold in many local cinemas. They soon moved to 27-29 Station Road in Poulton and to Poulton Industrial Estate in 1967. After moving to Chiswick Grove in Blackpool, the company name changed to Champion UK Ltd in 1994 and it was dissolved in 2002.
Blackpool and Fylde Radio Control Model Society was conceived in Sharpe's Paint Shop, Church Street in October. A Regatta was first held in 1961 and the club now flies at a site at Weeton.
The Blackpool and Fylde Mystics Society was formed by Bert Russell, Albert Davies, Laurie Gleeson, Ken Bowell, Brenda Russell, and Ken Ashburn. The first formal meeting of the society was held at the Claremont Hotel, later moving to the Sun Hotel. Probably its most popular meeting place was 23 Hull Road, the home of Cyril Critchlow. The final meeting place of the Mystics was his Coronation Street Theatre. In the Blackpool and Fylde Mystics were formally wound up, being re-founded on the 5th of August 2008.
Blackpool Garrick Players ceased to exist; many members joined the Marton Operatic Society.

The Wild Mouse ride: This compact wooden roller coaster was designed by Frank Wright and was built at the Pleasure Beach. It measured 1,266 feet in length and was re-designed by the Valere Brothers of California in the 1960s.
Passengers rode the ride two to a small car, and those cars were flung round sharp bends and angles, and up and down steep ascents. The rear-mounted wheels gave the feeling that the cars were going to fly off the tracks on every bend, and the whole ride was packed into a cube shaped design. It was the last "woodie" ride for the park and was removed in November 2017, to make way for the new Icon ride.

The 10th Blackpool Scout Group was founded at St John's Church.

Miss United Kingdom, Blackpool: The first event of this beauty contest was held in Blackpool – won by Eileen Sheridan.
Promoter Eric Morley had started the Miss World pageant in 1951, and, after not being impressed with the Miss Great Britain titleholders who competed during the first 7 years at Morecambe, created the annual Miss United Kingdom contest specifically to select the British representative to Miss World. The swimwear part of the contest was held at the open-air baths and the evening wear part at the Locarno ballroom.

©

Morley had long wanted to gain a foothold in Blackpool and worked with Publicity Manager Harry Porter to later open one of his Mecca ballrooms in town, as well as to film Come Dancing from here.

A unique, historic, and one-off recording was made, where five organists broadcast live on the BBC from five pipe organs to a live audience. They were the world-famous Reginald Dixon at the Tower Ballroom Wurlitzer, Horace Finch at the Empress Ballroom Wurlitzer, Watson Holmes at the Palace Ballroom Wurlitzer, Vincent Parker at the Opera House Wurlitzer, and Bobby Pagan at the Odeon's Conacher organ (moved from the Ritz at Southend). All five finally joined forces over the air waves to play simultaneously from the five packed venues to a combined audience of approximately 18,000 people.
The "Blackpool Night" show series was broadcast from the South Pier by the BBC.
Billy Smart's Circus appeared off Waterloo Road this year and for the next 5 years.
Following the Munich Air disaster, Blackpool Football Club were the first club to contact Manchester United to offer players to the club.
Blackpool Sporting Scooter Club was meeting in premises behind the Red Lion Hotel. As one member recalls *"we enjoyed social events, we organised outings, we went to rallies, had treasure hunts and scooter maintenance sessions. We entertained other scooter clubs from all over the country. There was always something going on and the premises became very popular"*.
The Blackpool Scooter Rally was held during the summer.
Blackpool was the unwelcome host to several gang fights – years before the infamous Mods and Rockers.
The centenary conference of the Order of Friendly Druids was held at the Winter Gardens.
The Corporation decided to stop shooting pigeons infesting parts of the borough: *"On the instructions of the Town Council the orthodox method of pigeon elimination by shooting was deleted from the list of control measures used by the department. Of the various methods of trapping birds, a large cage type of trap on loan from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Food, has proved the most satisfactory so far"*.
Caroline O'Neill was born in Salford on the 2nd of February, before moving to Blackpool, where she attended Devonshire Road Junior School, and went on to be a popular character actress.

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Cleveleys Royal British Legion Club was built at 9 to 13 Rough Lea Road. The grand opening was held in September, with the honours being performed by Sir Fred Parks. *"The ceremony began with a parade of legion members and guests from the Queen's Theatre to the new headquarters where Sir Fred took the salute"*.
The Fylde Coast Dance Festival was held at Thornton Lecture Hall in August, attracting over 2,000 competitors to the town. It was an annual event.
Town End Farm in Thornton was demolished from September.

The Cod Wars: The right to catch white fish in the fishing grounds off Iceland had become increasingly important to Fleetwood's deep-sea fishing fleets. After a period of rising tension, things came to a head at midnight on the 1st of September. Iceland's government decreed that their fishing zone would expand from 4 to 12 nautical miles. This then restricted foreign boats which were mainly British from Fleetwood. That struggle ended in 1962, and two more followed - in 1972/3 and 1975/6. Iceland pushed its fishing limits further and further outwards, and enforced them with gunboats.

When the limit was finally pushed out 50 nautical miles, with more restrictions, the final Cod War began. That proved to be the most bitter of all, and lives were at risk. The Royal Navy was ordered to defend our boats with over 20 frigates, whilst Icelandic gun boats threatened British trawlers, and started to cut away their nets and catches. Sadly, Iceland was allowed to set a final exclusion limit at 200 nautical miles. Fleetwood's deep-sea fishing industry died. It had been in decline for several years, but was still a massive employer of the town's menfolk.
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The last Cod War ended in December 1976, and saw a rapid decline in Fleetwood's fishing hauls. That began a similar decline in the fortunes of the town in general, and the town has never recovered.

On the shoreline to the east of the old fish docks lie the rotting hulks of 5 trawlers that were abandoned by their owners after the dispute decimated their trade. The owners were paid by the Government to scrap them. Locals know the place as the Boat Graveyard.

Boris Nets was started on Copse Road, Fleetwood, by Boris and Lilian Howard, and quickly became respected for their innovative use of materials and net design.

Charles Saer Primary School, Fleetwood: was completed on Grange Road on the 21st of April, opened for use on the 12th of May, and had its official opening on the 22nd of October.

The school began to be demolished in December 2012, to be replaced by a new building, accommodating 350 pupils. All pupils left and transferred to the new school which opened on the 7th of February 2013. Frances Cartmell and Eric Verity were the first ones to walk through the doors of the old school and returned to be symbolically the last to leave.
The new school is known as the Charles Saer Community Primary School and Nursery. It has 9 classrooms, reception, nursery, and sports pitches. The opening was carried out on the 21st of October 2013, by Charles Saer, grandson of the original.

Standerwick's purchased the business of George Moore and Sons of Lytham St Anne's, the only licensed excursion operator in the town.
Kirkham Town Council began their slum clearance programme.
The eight-mile Preston By-pass was opened (soon to be christened the M6 motorway – Britain's first motorway) on the 5th of December, by Prime Minister Harold MacMillan - another main route into Blackpool. A procession of Bond cars led the way.

1959
Blackpool was granted "Development Area" status by the Government in January, opening up the possibility of more employment. Strangely, the status was removed in 1961.
Blackpool's first ever Christmas Lights were lit on the 11th of December. I have managed to compile an incomplete list of the "celebrities" who have switched them on since:

1991 – Anna Karen (Actress) – outside the Town Hall
2001 - Bart Simpson and Adam Rickett (TV Actor) – moved to St John's Square
2002 - Ken Morley (TV Actor)
2003 - Tony Caunter (TV Actor)
2006 - Chico (X-Factor contestant)
2007 – The Cheeky Girls (Pop singers)
2008 – Atomic Kitten (Pop band)
2009 – Mr Hudson (DJ)
2010 – Joe McElderry (X-Factor singer)
2011 – Jonjo Kerr (X-Factor singer)
2012 - The Mayors of Blackpool and Fylde
2013 – Georgia May Foote (Coronation Street actress)
2014 – Britain's Got Talent stars Bailey McConnell and opera singer Lucy Kay
2015 – X-Factor winner Ben Haenow

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2016 – Barbara Windsor (Actress)
2017 – Jennifer Ellison (Singer and actress) – moved to Bank Hey Street
2018 - Emmerdale star Danny Miller
2019 – Reality star Scarlett Moffatt

Montgomery School, Bispham: The school was officially opened on All Hallow's Road, in the Churchtown area of Bispham, on the 14th of October, by Field Marshall Montgomery. The ground had previously belonged to Church Farm, and the school had already opened for 360 pupils in September 1958. The classrooms were supplemented by several science laboratories, woodwork and metalwork rooms, two domestic science rooms (one with its own flat), an art room, a commerce room (for typing etc.), a school hall, two dining rooms (a separate one for the fifth formers), and a separate gym and sports hall (erected in 1971 and replaced in the 1980s).

The original motto was "*be strong and of a good courage*", which was said to have been given to the school by Field Marshall Montgomery. The school houses on opening were Arnhem, Alamein, Normandy, and Tobruk, and current houses are Bloomfield, Stanley, Tower, and Grand. The motto from the 1990s has been "*Learning for Life*".

St John Vianney Catholic Church, Blackpool: was opened on Glastonbury Avenue in August. It was built at a cost of £51,000 with bricks costing £1 each. The site was formerly the clay workings for the Pye Brothers' Whitegate Brick Company, where emergency water tanks had been built during the Second World War. The church had been held in the lower hall of the nearby school since 1934.
The Presbytery in Glastonbury Avenue dates from 1966, and a new parish hall was built in 1974. The church consists of a west tower flanked by a porch and what was probably a baptistery. The Nave stands beneath three sail domes, transeptal chapels, and a semicircular roof.

Kingdom Halls of the Jehovah's Witnesses, Blackpool: A Kingdom Hall was opened on Fleet Street in July this year. Four more Kingdom Halls were built in 1997:

44 Mellor Road in Kirkham;
188 Victoria Road East in Cleveleys;
7 Allenby Road in St Anne's – since 1997; and
32 Station Road in Poulton (known as the Carleton Hall, this had moved from 7 Meyler Avenue, where it was formed in 1996).

Cameron's Scotch Bakery was at 88 Ibbison Street.

Blackpool Rugby Union Football Club: St Joseph's College Old Boys Rugby Union Football Club was born this year. The club had the "bottom field" at St Joseph's College as their home ground and they used the school for changing and refreshment purposes. In 1966, they moved to the changing rooms of Blackpool Rangers Football Club on Fleetwood Road in Bispham, and in 1969, they built their own changing rooms there.
In 1973, the name of the club was finally changed to Blackpool Rugby Union Football Club, and the Rugby Tavern was built soon after. Their clubhouse was refurbished in December 2008, and officially opened in January 2009.

New Hall at Bispham was demolished to make way for Warren Drive.

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The Picador Club, Blackpool: opened in December next to Blackpool Football Club (behind where the Number 1 Club sat for many years), in the old ice cream factory of Giuseppe Frankitt at 2 Henry Street. The Picador was a simple coffee bar at first, but later, being one of the few late-night clubs at the time, it became the haunt of many visiting stars. These included Johnny Kidd, Joe Brown, Billy Fury, Dave Berry (whose career started there) and the Tony Ashton Trio with Barriemore Barlow and Jeff Hammond - occasionally featuring Ian Anderson (later of Jethro Tull). Johnny Kidd apparently bought into the Picador in 1964.
Owned by Arnold Frankitt, the Picador featured beat music until 4 am on week nights, with strippers.
It closed around 1966 and became a garage – J Cunningham's cars.

GE Wilcock's Outfitters and Drapers stood on the corner of Abingdon Street.

The Church of St Anne, Greenlands, Bispham: the church and its neighbouring Clergy House and centre, were built on Salmesbury Avenue, Greenlands. The centre-stone had been laid by Lawrence Wright, the song writer and publisher. In 1961, the completed church and its hall were dedicated by the Bishop of Lancaster.
St Anne's became an independent parish in 1990.

A Dairy Festival was held at Rigby Road in June.
At Blackpool Cricket Club, a world record of 17 sixes in a match was set by Warwickshire's Jim Stewart against Lancashire on the 29th, 30th and 31st of July.
The determination and ambition of eight football clubs made the reformation of the West Lancashire League possible. They were Blackpool Mechanics, Blackpool Rangers, English Electric (Warton), Fleetwood, Lytham St Anne's, Springfields, Whitegate Juniors, and Wren Rovers.
The Fylde Netball League was inaugurated on the 2nd of July, with eight teams participating.

Marton Mere Caravan Park: Kirkham Developments leased Corporation land off Mythop Road to build a caravan site. The derelict land was bought by Bill Harrison of Kirkham, off Blackpool Corporation in 1970 and turned into the Mereside Holiday Caravan Park. This is now a 93-acre holiday complex.
The camp received its own bus service in 1988.

After being bought by Bourne Leisure in the late 1990s, it is now owned by Haven Holidays Ltd and is called Marton Mere Holiday Park. The park has indoor and outdoor swimming pools, and a large entertainment centre. There are now over 200 holiday units, with mixture of some lodges and mainly static caravans.

Collin's Wallpaper Warehouse opened at 36-44 George Street (on Belle Vue Terrace) in Georgie Blackburn's old shop. The area's oldest wallpaper stockist closed in November 2004 to make way for redevelopment.
Radio Cabs (Blackpool) Ltd started trading on the 16th of July 1959, being struck off in December 2010 whilst trading from 252 Church Street.
Palladium Jewellers were at 101 Waterloo Road. The shop (and the adjacent unit, number 99) from 2008 has housed Dolls House Are Us, a shop owned by Darren Thickett. The alternative address is 4 Royal Oak Buildings.
The Tape Recorder Centre was opened at 266 Waterloo Road, owned by C Braddock Ltd. It closed in 2016.
Coin Age Laundry was established at 195 Park Road.
The Ladies' Wear fashion shop was in business at 51 Coronation Street, with their Outsize Department at 116 Central Drive.

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A children's playground was opened on Bowness Avenue on Mereside in May – complete with a wooden replica of Little Marton Windmill.

Glasdon, Blackpool: Donald Sidebottom set up Glasdon Laminates at 119-123 Talbot Road. He later explained that *"At 17 I was selling my first product around the shops in Blackpool and Morecambe - plastic self-adhesive car stickers, together with Bakelite binoculars my dad had invented before the war"*. Those first sales helped to finance the building of an early glass-fibre sports car. The new business – "*convinced of the potential of plastic material, sold a 'halt' sign that never needed painting, to a local authority"*.
Don Sidebottom later also founded the Lakeland Motor Museum at Holker Hall in Cumbria.
In 1964, Glasdon Signs Limited was established on Poulton Business Park, making glass fibre equipment.

The company, by then called Glasdon Group Limited and Glasdon Manufacturing Limited, moved from Poulton to its new Headquarters, Glasdon House, on Clifton Road and Brittanic Way in Marton, on January the 28th 1983, having bought the land from the Corporation in 1973. The company is now called Glasdon UK Limited, and is the head of the international Glasdon Group.

The Bispham Bone Mill was still in operation at William Smith's Bridge End Farm in the Churchtown region.
Whiteside Carpets began trading at 103 Red Bank Road.
Hill's Motor and Garage Company Ltd were on Red Bank Road.
Blackpool Van Transport was started by Peter Haworth. Following the death of John Marsh, the chief of John Marsh and Son Limited (who started on Dalton Street in 1948), he took over the business and renamed it Blackpool Van Transport. At its peak, the company operated more than 38 tractor units and 100 trailers from the Marton Moss depot on Midgeland Road until it closed in 1996. It was finally dissolved in February 2006.
Lawton's Lingerie first opened on Anchorsholme Lane East.
Northern Scientific Industries Ltd (NSI) was at 91 Victory Road, manufacturing radio tuners.
Lowther Court and Duchess Court apartments were built on Queen's Promenade.
On Market Street, at the time, was the resort's jewellery quarter, with Hyman's (on the corner of Church Street), Leonard Dews, George Mason's, and Payne's (at number 45 since 1912). H Samuel's and Orry's were on opposite corners of Bank Hey Street (south west, and south east respectively). H Samuel's also had a store at the north-western corner of the same junction. That shop was known for its large clock on the Church Street wall.
On Lytham Road, near the Lido, were shops run by D Taylor, Greenhalgh's, and Frank Harbron, along with James Lee's Turf Accountants. At the other end of Lytham Road were many cafés, such as the Corner Café, the Regal, and Bob Dugdale's.
The Derby Racer, an indoor horse race similar to a Carousel, was built at the Pleasure Beach under the guidance of the then-general manager, Frank Wright. Originally designed by Frederick Church after a similar ride in Toronto, its diameter is 82 feet, and it has 56 horses in 4 ranks, which go back and forth and up and down at 25 miles per hour. *"The ride is set within a modernist polygonal shell lit by a thousand light bulbs and riders enjoy music provided by an organ bought from Antwerp"*
The Blackpool Christmas Pantomime at the Pleasure Beach was last held.
The first Blackpool LP Conference was held at the Norbreck Hydro in March, sponsored by the Long-Playing Record Library Ltd.
The Blackpool Cavalcade of Sport was held at the Tower Circus in December.
A TV documentary in the series Farson's Guide to the British, entitled "Blackpool" was filmed in town by Daniel Farson.
The Blackpool Girls' Choir won the Llangollen Eisteddfod (and again in 1960).

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Chris Lowe: was born on October the 4th, in Blackpool. He attended Thames Road School and then Arnold School, becoming trombonist and then pianist with local group "One under the Eight". He worked at the Solarium at Harrowside, before moving to London. In 1981 he formed the duo The Pet Shop Boys with Neil Tennant. They are listed as the most successful duo in UK music history by The Guinness Book of Records.

David Ball: was born in Chester on the 3rd of May. He was later adopted, and grew up in Blackpool, where he attended Arnold School. He danced to Northern Soul music such as Tainted Love at the Mecca (his own first and biggest hit), and sold ice cream on the Promenade. In 1977, he went to Leeds Polytechnic and met Marc Almond, with whom he formed 1980s pop duo Soft Cell. Their first EP was funded with £400 borrowed from Dave's mother – he repaid her by buying her a £40,000 house. The lyrics of his song "Say hello, wave goodbye" mention the Pink Flamingo club.

Robert Smith: was born in Blackpool on the 21st of April, and moved to Crawley when he was 3. When he was 16, he formed "Easy Cure" with schoolmates Lol Tolhurst (Bass) and Michael Demsey (Drums). They became "The Cure".

John Sykes: was born on the 29th of July in Reading. He moved to Blackpool aged 17, started the local band "Streetfighter", and went on to play guitar in Thin Lizzy, the Tygers of Pantang, and Whitesnake. He set up Berlin Studios at his home on Caxton Road in Bispham.

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The Morvern Private and Commercial Hotel on the corner of Coronation Road and 11/13 South Promenade at Cleveleys had its own integral garage. In 1969, by then called the Hungerford Private Hotel, it was transformed into the Morvern Care Centre.
The Enderley Rose and Tea Gardens in Hastings Road, Cleveleys, was demolished for house building.
Yeo's Television shop was at 186 Lord Street in Fleetwood. It is now the Rory Blair Hair Studio.
St Anne's telephone exchange opened on St Davids Road South.
The houses in the estate on and around Kilgrimol Gardens in St Anne's were built.
The Lytham St Anne's Morris Dancers appeared at Lytham Club Day.
Martin's Bank opened their Lytham branch at 83a Clifton Street. On the 15th of December 1969, it became a branch of Barclay's Bank, and remains as such today.
Johnny's off licence was opened at 9 Church Road in Lytham, and by 1965 a second shop was in operation at 1 Leach Lane in St Anne's - run by Johnny's (1959) Limited. 1979 saw the chain running shops at 70 Marton Drive, Blackpool, 21 Rossall Road, Cleveleys, 12 to 14 Breck Road, Poulton, and 103 Manor Road in Fleetwood.
Dudley Industries (established in 1942 at Stockport) relocated to Preston Road in Lytham, making pressed steel items.
David Green and Son Ltd had a "Bargain Goods" warehouse on Albert Street in Lytham, selling government surplus goods. The company had its own railway goods siding at the rear.
A Royal Navy Westland Dragonfly helicopter was first stationed at Warton aerodrome for use in air-sea rescue in the area.
The Chesdale Café was in business at 17 The Square, Great Eccleston, operated by Mr and Mrs Anderton. They also served take-away fish and chips and operated an off-licence from the premises. The building (Chesdale House) is now occupied by Jay-Cee's Wine Store and Post Office.

The 1960s
The Golden Mile was once more in its heyday and in full swing. People actually paid to gawk at attractions such as:
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- *"IT – That the astronauts could meet in Outer Space"*
- *"Monster"*
- *"Tarantula - Part Woman – Part Beast"*
- *"The Giant Rat"* – it was really an Asiatic Racoon.
- Gipsy Rose Lee (Central Pier) and Gipsy Ileana Petulengro (now on North Pier)
- Jeanette – *"She will guess your age!"*
- Orchant's Bazaar
- Prince Eugene's Tattoo parlour
- Tanya the *"Tattooed Girl"*
- The *"Apollo Space Walk"*
- The *"Dreaded Yette"*
- The *"Fattest Teenager you have ever seen"*
- The *"Non-stop Striptease Theatre"*
- The *"Palace of Strange Girls"* – or *"Le Palais des Filles Bizarres"*
- The *"Rotor"*
- The *"Sensational Severed Living Hands of Patma"*
- There were also many *"What the Butler Saw"* Peep shows – but the naked girls had to keep completely still to avoid contravening public decency laws.

Mods and Rockers regularly frequented Blackpool. The "Rockers" would hang around in the Shangri La café on Central Drive, the Buccaneer on Lytham Road (opposite the Grand Hotel), and the Hawaiian Eye café on Topping Street, whereas the "Mods" would use the Golden Nugget coffee bar on Topping Street. The very popular Beehive café was on Dickson Road, opposite the Odeon Cinema, and the Candy Box was next door to the cinema, supplying patrons with their sweets.
The Ivanhoe café on Sefton Street was a popular locals' haunt, and had swords, daggers, shields, and other armaments on its walls. The kitchen was in the basement.
The Record Box on Ribble Road was one of the places to buy new and obsolete records.
Popular clubs of the day were the Picador Club, the Horseshoe Club on Dickson Road, Beat City at the Palatine Hotel, the Pink Elephant on George Street, and the Ascot Club (later Oasis) on the corner of Albert Road. There was also the Anchorage at Lytham.
WT Clayton was a bespoke tailor working at 107 Topping Street.
Collette's fashion shop was at 35 to 39 Victoria Street and the corner of Temple Street, selling ladies' and girls' fashions and bridal wear. It was demolished to make way for the Hounds Hill Centre.
TV, radio, and record shop GD Hall and Sons was on the corner of 2 Sefton Street and Board Street.
The Bloomfield Public House opened a gym in its basement.
Go-karting became a town and national craze, with tracks at St Anne's Road, on what are now Palatine School's playing fields.

The Seafood Restaurant, Blackpool: James Walton started the Seafood Restaurant at 449/451 South Promenade (now a MacDonalds outlet) in the 1960s. Run by the Simpson family, the restaurant was on the first floor, with the Sea Horse Fast Food Restaurant on the ground floor. When that outlet closed – and moved to the corner of the Strand and Queen Street - a new operation, originally called the New Seafood was opened on Bond Street in the old Mayfair Restaurant/Mona Lisa premises (with the Cave Bar in the basement), by Laurie James, the then manager of the original.

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The Co-op Club, Blackpool: The Co-operative Sports and Social Club was built on Preston New Road, and soon moved from its original home on Victoria Street. It was moved in order to provide social facilities for Co-operative staff, including those at the nearby bakery (now a McDonalds outlet).

Its facilities included a snooker room with four tables, a lounge bar, and a function room with a small dance floor. Outside was a football pitch, two bowling greens, and a front car park. The original membership was over 2,000.

In June 1957, a War Memorial stone was unveiled in the grounds at the rear, by ex-employee, Frederick Lord. It was then dedicated by Reverend WT Hodgson. The stone was laid in commemoration of the many workers from the First Blackpool Co-operative Society who gave their lives in both World Wars.
The club closed in June 2013, with under 300 members, being unable to pay its debts. In 2015 the war memorial was relocated to the Fylde Memorial Arboretum at Moor Park Avenue, Bispham, and officially rededicated.
The Co-op Club was demolished in March 2017, with 53 new homes constructed on the site. Built by Lancet Homes, it has a mix of two and three-bedroomed terraced, semi-detached, or detached dwellings, with one bungalow.

Hampton Road Social Club, Blackpool: At an unknown date in the early 1960s, the British Rail Associations Club (known as the British Railways Staff Club) and its adjacent caravan land opened on Hampton Road, South Shore. British Rail workers were automatic members as their subscription fees were paid directly through their wages. Next to the club at the time was the Lido Riding School.
The club was associated with the railways until the British Rail Association took a step back in the running of the club in 1990. At that time, much of the land used for football pitches was sold leaving the club and a small caravan site. The club changed its name to the Hampton Road Social Club in 1998, after being bought from BR.
The premises were then bought and became the Hampton Road Caravan Park and Social Club. It has 27 pitches and is open all year round.

The town's first NCP Car Park opened.
Over 400 trains per week arrived at Blackpool, along with thousands of coaches and cars – adding up to over 16 million visitors per year. The 12 theatres sold 36,000 tickets nightly, as the increased popularity of television provided a ready market of new stars to see.

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The Ferry Restaurant in Fleetwood: was run by Billy Greenwood, before it was briefly taken over by British Railways. It soon became the Ferry Café, which retained its 1960s feel and look until it was closed in late January 2019. The then owner, Lee Preston-Stefani was forced to close due to falling customer numbers. His family had owned the café for many years and also owned the nearby Harbour Lights Amusement arcade and Fleetwood Pier. Harbour Lights closed at the same time.

Stanah County Primary School: was built on Lamb's Road, as two separate pre-fabricated buildings. The smaller of the two buildings was taken out of use in the early 1980s, as the number of pupils dropped. However, it was renovated, and reopened in the 1990s.
The infants' building now houses a pre-school nursery called Stanah Sunflowers.
Its name is now Stanah Primary School and can take up to 390 pupils.
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1960

Park School and Woodlands Special School, Blackpool:
Park School was a new school for *"educationally subnormal"* children, which opened for use in the grounds of "Norwood" at 158 Whitegate Drive in September. The official opening was in December.
It replaced previous unsuitable temporary premises in the old Christ Church and Adrian Street (Blackpool High) schools; Adrian Street previously being known as North Albert Street.
Its motto is "*Grow, Learn, Achieve*", and it soon started its own Brass band.

A Diagnostic Assessment Unit was opened as an annexe to the school on the 1st of May 1968. The Unit admits children aged five to seven years with marked learning difficulties, and other problems such as slow development.
In 1971, a "Terrapin" building was erected, for use as a replacement Diagnostic Assessment Unit.

Today *"The main building is on one level and comprises of a general-purpose school hall with a kitchen adjoining, a primary wing with four classrooms; a secondary wing with four classrooms; a science room; a technology room; and a food technology room. The main reception and offices and the staffroom are situated centrally.*

There are three outlying "teaching blocks": The Infants and Foundation Stage are based in the new purpose-built Jubilee Building which comprises of two classrooms, and additional specialist provision including a dedicated therapy base and sensory and soft play areas, which opened in May 2002. In April 2004, the refurbishment of a derelict stable building was completed at a cost approaching half a million pounds. The building provides a dedicated ICT suite, school library, three further classrooms and additional office space situated in a two-storey building. Most recently, in January 2012, after a 6 month closure a third out building, now known as the Diamond Building was completely refurbished to provide a superb new dedicated Art Room and Performing Arts Studio". A floodlit games area was installed in June 2006.
An adjacent building, Westbury Lodge, which was previously a residential care home for children, was refurbished to provide a new Sixth Form base within Woodlands School. This opened in April 2016 and was renamed Westbury Sixth Form Centre. It is a 3-storey building with Woodlands' scholars taught on the ground and 1st floors, and staff offices etc on the 2nd. It also has a lift. The new Woodlands facilities include 3 base classrooms, a life skills kitchen area, break out/sensory room, and access to a large outdoor space.
In September 2013, Park School became the Park Community Academy, and in October 2019, its Head teacher, Keith Berry, won the Gold Award for the UK's Best Teacher at the Pearson National Teaching Awards.

Woodlands School: Initially known as the "Junior Training Centre" *"In March of this year the new Centre, now known as Woodlands School, was opened, and all the children were transferred from the previous wooden structure, now being utilized as a Day Nursery, to a new modern building. This building was planned to take 80-100 children, and consists of single storey blocks. All classrooms face a little east of south and command an open view over the paved play area; maximum daylight and cross ventilation is provided in these rooms. The assembly hall is 1,140 sq. ft., adjoins the main entrance and leads direct to the dining hall of 840 sq. ft. these two areas are separated by a sliding and folding partition. If desired they may be thrown open for combined use and this arrangement is ideally suited to special school use or independent functions. Administrative rooms are placed near the main entrance"*. The school was officially opened by Lady Norman, the Vice-Chairman of the Council of the National Association for Mental Health, on the 1st of January 1972.

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On the 15th of November 1965, a Special Care Unit annexed to Woodlands School, began receiving cases which had been cared for by the Blackpool Society for Mentally Handicapped at 214, Whitegate Drive (now known as Miranda House, and housing the Ashcroft Day Nursery). Patients from there were then discharged to Belmont House on Lytham Road, which was a 30-bed hostel, opened in December 1961.

A swimming pool was built at the school in 1973.

Now known as Woodlands Special School, it was built beside Park School, to educate up to 100 children from ages 2 to 19. The school motto is *"shine"*.
The building now caters for 79 pupils, including 19 in the sixth form. They have learning difficulties and some are autistic.

Grange Park Branch Library opened.
Blackpool Corporation instituted its own local Chiropody service at the Municipal Health Centre in May.
The Whitegate Brick Company was wound up on the 18th of January. They had two brickworks and had operated the Blackpool Brick Manufacturers' Exchange at 20 Birley Street in conjunction with Fielding's Builders.
The Brunswick Café still stood on Central Promenade, trading as O'Hagan's fish and chip bar.

Napoleons Cabaret Bar, Blackpool: The block of shops was built on Waterloo Road between the Post Office and Lytham Road. They would later house the Co-op, Iceland, and a downstairs club which by 1973, had become Napoleon's at number 56 (downstairs). Comedy pianist Teddy Corvoe appeared regularly, both there and at the Galleon Club on Adelaide Street. Napoleons hosted many live acts such as the Dallas Boys. The club comprised a street level entrance with stairs leading down to the open plan club, and inside were a reception room, the main club area, two cellars, and ladies' and gents' toilets. In its heyday, it was Blackpool's first venue with "dancing girls" in cages, and in 1976, Napoleon's Variety Nite Spot had progressed to showing *"Topless Go-go Dancers"* with *"Dougie the Disque"*.

Above the Post Office nearby, was the Penthouse Club – later used for "designer" watch and jewellery sales.

Napoleons turned into Raffles Club and Disco, which closed in 1983 whilst known as Raffles Night Spot. It later became Willys fun club (c1987), Jokers Nightclub (c1992), Caspers Club, Bar Below, Bar 24-7, lastly The Club, closing in 2010.

SC Coope (Chemists) Ltd was at 201 Waterloo Road. The shop has been used in the past by DDS Domestics (from 2003), All Hours Plumbing and Heating, and Goodfillers sandwich bar.
The Green Dolphin Restaurant was at 165-167 Central Drive, run by Geoff Leitch. Later run by Diana Lawton, it advertised itself as the *"Rendezvous of the Stars"*.
Next to Nutbrown's Arcade was Hepworth's Cameras, and on the first floor above were Hall, Higham, and Company.
Gilbert's Hair Fashions was opened at 5 Temple Street, by Raymond Bessone, known as Mr Teasy Weasy".
By 1975, it has become Zorba's Greek-Continental Restaurant, and in 1980, Giggis Greek Taverna opened for business above 5 Temple Street and 21a Church Street, in what had previously been part of Zorba's.
Giggi's changed its name to "The Med" in March 2005.
Continental Imports (Blackpool) Ltd was operating from 90-92 Topping Street, retailing artificial flowers etc. The company later moved to Prestige House on Cornford Road in Marton, where they traded until

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being dissolved in 2002, setting up various similar subsidiary companies such as Mr Christmas, and The Victorian Garden.
Marton Forge was operating from Lomond Avenue.

Duple, Blackpool: Duple bought HV Burlingham Limited in August, taking over both the coachworks on Preston New Road and that on Vicarage Lane. The Burlingham name was retained until 1962, when it was changed to Duple Motor Bodies (Northern) Limited. Duple also operated a small factory and social club on Bond Street/Station Road until the mid-1970s.

Duple Coachbuilders Limited came into being in 1968, and when the company closed its Hendon works in 1970, it moved all coach production to Burton Road.
By 1973, Duple was making over 1,000 coaches per year. The chassis were stored at Preston New Road, taken to Vicarage Lane for the fitting of floor, roof, and sides, back to Preston New Road for painting, and then finished at Vicarage Lane. Their body-less chassis were often seen being driven along the Fylde's roads, en route to the finishing factories. The Duple factory site on Preston New Road was to become John Barnett's Car Showroom, which was taken over by Evans Halshaw in about 2003.
In 1980, Duple converted several cottages on Vicarage Lane into their offices, soon closing their factory next door, which was redeveloped as Kwik Save and Iceland stores.
The site on Vicarage Lane is still home to an Iceland store, but there is now an ASDA Local store next door. The site of the body shop is filled by Evans Halshaw car showroom and garage.

In August 1983, Duple was taken over by Hestair, and was renamed Hestair Duple Limited. Duple was bought out by Trinity Holdings in January 1989, and in July, the Vicarage Lane factory was shut down, with the coach-building equipment and designs being sold to Plaxton's. The company was a major local employer for many years.

Off Vicarage Lane today is the Dennis Eagle cab making factory, which is all that remains of the town's coach building tradition.

Pegasus Airlines began a domestic, scheduled service between Gatwick and Blackpool in October, for a cost of £6 10s. Unfortunately, it was short-lived, and the last flight was in December 1961.
When Blackpool played Bolton at home on the 10th of September, the match was the first in Britain to be televised live. It was for the new ITV series The Big Game. In what was Blackpool's 1,000th league match, Bolton won 1-0. Sadly, Stanley Matthews – the main attraction – injured his leg, and the ground was only half full - 17,000 fans. The Big Game had flopped and no more matches were shown.
Blackpool Football Club signed their first Asian player – Cheung Chi Doy.
Also, at Bloomfield Road, an all-star British football team beat an Irish League team.
Harry's barbershop was on the corner of Lytham Road and Shaw Road.
The GB Rally started in Blackpool and the 172 cars finished, 2,000 miles later, at Brands Hatch. This was the first rally to feature special, closed, and timed stages, such as mountains.
Harry Litherland opened an electrical shop on Cocker Street, moving to Caunce Street in 1964. He then moved to Moor Park Industrial Estate in July 1995 as HBL Limited – Blackpool's biggest trade supplier of aerial equipment.
Robinson's Demolition Ltd started at 3 to 5 Boothley Road, being dissolved in 1970. "Doc" Robinson had started his business there in the 1950s. Robinson's (Demolition) Ltd soon sprang up but was also liquidated on the 11th of May 1987. A similarly-named company, Robinson's Timber and Reclamation Ltd, then began selling DIY goods.
A block of shops was built on All Hallow's Road. It later housed a Tesco Express store.

©

Atherton's Carpets Limited was established at 202/204 Central Drive.
JT Youd and Sons Ltd were wholesale catering suppliers operating from 75 Station Road. They changed their name to HDL Ltd on the 9th of January 1992.
Sidney Meadows Ltd had a radio and television shop at 4 Royal Oak Buildings on Waterloo Road.
Helmsman Electronics was established, working from Faringdon Avenue.
The Pleasure Beach unveiled OD Hopkins' Cableway, linking both halves of the park – it last operated in 2000, when it was closed due to problems in high winds.
The Maze and the Turnpike were also built at the Pleasure Beach this year. The Turnpike was remodelled as the Grand Prix in the 1980s. It *"was situated next to the Tidal Wave and consisted of a group of cars linked together in a train being powered by drive motors positioned between the rails with two small tyres driving a blade mounted under each car. The cars also had a motor under each which, via a screw jack drive, tilted the cars inwards as they gained speed. The ride was delivered new in its most minimal form and GSR staff added crash barriers and a tunnel with flashing green 'go' lights and fixed red 'stop' lights"*. It travels on an elevated concrete track which meanders around the southern park.
Comedian and impresario Jack Storey set up his own entertainment promotions company on the 25th of August. He was living in his own hotel, Storeyville, at 44 Seafield Road, before moving to Warley Road.
Blackpool held its first Scout Camporee.
Charlie Drake's first film "Sands of the Desert" premiered at the ABC Princess Cinema on the 21st of July, but he would not attend because he was appearing on stage in Great Yarmouth. The film was released on the 8th of September.
Bernadette Nolan was born in Dublin on the 17th of October, moving to Blackpool at two. She was educated at St Kentigern's School and St Catherine's School, and grew up to be the lead singer in her family group, the Singing Nolans. She died on the 4th of July 2013.
Peter Howarth was born in Blackpool on the 3rd of May. He became the new lead singer with the group "The Hollies" in 2004, after the departure of Allan Clarke.

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When the Old Bull Hotel at Carleton was demolished, an ancient well was found under floor of the cellar.
The Fylde Coast Jazzmen was formed, under the name "Fylde Coast Stompers". Their first home was at the Royal Oak in Poulton (originally called the Old Oak). In 1966, the Jazzmen won ITV's "Opportunity Knocks". They were Allan Riley, Ronnie Stevens, Dave Lee, Willie Barrow, Duncan Reid, and Norman Wakefield.
H Wood opened his upholstery shop at Carleton Crossroads.
The British Dental Nurses and Assistants Society moved from Leyland – where it started in 1940 - to Poulton, and in 1978 it moved again, to Fleetwood.
Thornton Travel Centre was opened on Victoria Road East.
Thornton Catholic Club was on the corner of Heyes Street and Crabtree Road. In the early 1970s, it moved to Holly Road, where it became Thornton Social Club, and was also home to the Sandra Holden Dance School (closed in 2007). The club closed in about 1998, and is now the Starlight Stage school and the Studio 15 dance has also been based there since 2015.
Floss Mill was built on St George's Lane in Cleveleys.
Rowland's Farm, on Rowland's Lane in Cleveleys was demolished to make room for housing.
On the 26th of February, Fylde Builder's Supplies and Cleveleys Electric Laundry on Anchorsholme Lane were gutted by fire.

Corrigan's Fair, Fleetwood: Arthur Corrigan opened his static fairground and amusement arcade on the promenade, staying until the mid-1970s. The wooden marine pavilion had been demolished to make room. Originally called the Alfresco Pavilion, it had hosted a summer variety show and all-star wrestling for many years.
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With the arrival of Corrigan's Fair, the pier decided to host bingo sessions instead of trying to carry on with its own amusement rides.

Chatsworth branch library was opened in Fleetwood on the 9th of January, on the corner of St John's Road. It closed on the 22nd of August 2013, moving to space inside Flakefleet School on Northfleet Avenue on the 5th of September. The vacant building was demolished in June 2018.
Shirley Cycles was at 18 North Albert Street and 40B Victoria Street in Fleetwood. Around now, *"Above Shirley's was used as the Church Army Youth Club around about 1960 when the new club was being built".*
C and H Coaches were operating from Albert Garage on Albert Street in Fleetwood. C and H stood for Coupland (Roy – who lived opposite the garage at number 9) and Hayes (Archie). They provided the transport for the town football team.
Premier Footwear was opened on Dock Street in Fleetwood by John Holt. They moved to Premier Works on Garstang Road East, Poulton in 1963, and on the 8th of August 1969, they became Premier Footwear (Poulton) Ltd, building a staff canteen there in 1980. A sister company, PF Poulton Ltd, was founded in November 1950 and was dissolved in September 2007.
In Coronation Street, Florrie Lindley who ran the corner shop, retired to Knott End in December.

The Headquarters of the Football League: moved from Starkie Street, Preston to the former Sandown Hotel at 19 Clifton Drive, St Anne's. Buying it for £10,000, they spent another £30,000 converting it before occupying the building.
It closed in 1998, and was demolished in 2000, to be replaced by the apartments of Hardaker Court. Its famous entrance canopy was saved and later went to the National Football Museum in Preston.

Reliant TV was established in St Anne's, soon expanding onto Highfield Road, Blackpool and then in 1990, to the eastern corner of 67 Nutter Road and Victoria Road, Cleveleys, where they took over the vacant shop which had belonged to Kenneth Gardner Ltd since the late 1950s. The company changed their name to Reliant Direct in 2007, moving to Kincraig Road and maintaining just a single store on Highfield Road – which also closed in 2013. In 2020, they opened a large new showroom in Granary Buildings on Mythop Road.
Butcher's Farm on the corner of Kilnhouse Lane and Blackpool Road in St Anne's was demolished. It was soon replaced by a Shell filling station and a row of shops. Anne's Toyland was opened there in 1962 by Ron and Anne Read.
R Cross and Sons had their florist's shop on Regent Road in Ansdell, growing their produce at the Westbrook Nurseries on Division Lane in Marton.
Lytham St Anne's Civic Society was formed to monitor heritage changes in the towns. They also award Blue Plaques, which are listed at Appendix Z.
Shell Hill Cottages, opposite the Roman Catholic cemetery on Mythop Road in Lytham, were demolished about now.
All dustbin wagons in Lytham St Anne's borough were replaced with larger diesel models.
Two new blocks of public conveniences were built – one at Fairhaven lake and the other on the Promenade at St Anne's.
Manor House Farmhouse on Ballam Road near Westby was rebuilt.
Hodgson Electrical Engineers and contractors were established in Freckleton. The parent company, Brian Hodgson Ltd, works from Marsden Works in Kirkham.
Currency restrictions were lifted and travellers were then able to take as much they wanted abroad – increasing the numbers of people leaving the UK for their holidays.

©

1961

Lytham Road tramway closed on the 29th of October, and with it, the track down Station Road and Squires Gate Lane.
The tram track was cut short outside the Odeon Cinema to relieve traffic congestion. All trams had to stop there and reverse, after a new trolley reverser was installed.
The corporation converted one of its single-decker buses into a mobile publicity bureau. Sporting a model of the tower on the front of its roof, this toured the country until 1964.
The more powerful lifeboat "Maria Noble" replaced the "Sara Ann Austin".
On the 25th of January, a Dakota DC3 aircraft crashed in thick for at Squires Gate Airport. Fortunately, nobody was badly hurt as the plane, piloted by Peter Dunt of Harrington Avenue, bounced off the runway to land in a field one mile from the terminal.
Lane Ends Farm, on the corner of Clifton Road and Preston New Road, was bought by Blackpool Corporation and demolished.
A pedestrian's shelter was opened on the corner of Whitegate Drive and Preston New Road in May. Christened "Green Haven", it was demolished in the 1990s and replaced by a single seat.

All Saints Church, Anchorsholme: on the corner of Valeway Avenue and North Drive, was consecrated on the 28th of October, opening for use in 1962. It is known locally as *"the church with the anchor"* due to the large black anchor in front of the church. It weighs two tons and is about eight feet high.

The 5th Blackpool Scouts began using their new HQ at the corner of Newton Drive and St Walburga's Road on the 4th of September. The new facilities replaced two old cottages and a clay pit.
Traffic Wardens were introduced, to patrol the streets of Blackpool.
Ribble Motor Services bought out Scout Motors.
Tower Taxis Limited began trading from 6 Caunce Street on the 23rd of May. The company was first registered on the 5th of August.
AF Kershaw (Blackpool) Ltd, electricians, were in business at 85 Charles Street.
Dovedale Caravans relocated from Cowley Road, Marton to Mitcham Road, by Schweppes drinks. Corona Soft Drinks had a depot next door; their depot was, until recently, occupied by Next2nowt.com.
Thoburn's Newsagents was in business next to the Marton Tram Depot. It was bought by Shaun Duffy in the 1970s, and later became a handbag/wig shop (now a florist) and a beautician's shop. On the other side of the depot stood Broughton's painter's and decorator's shop, which is now Favourite Fillings, a butty shop.

Blackpool's first Chinese Restaurant: Michael Wan opened his Mandarin Chinese Restaurant above a greengrocer's shop at 27 Clifton Street. The shop had previously been Jays Furnishing Stores. Mr Wan was obliged to change his name, as his birth name means something rather obscene in English. The restaurant was possibly Blackpool's first Chinese restaurant, is Blackpool's longest trading one, and is certainly one of the UK's oldest.
The Mandarin opened a second outlet at 97a Clifton Street in Lytham in December 2008, and at the start of August 2018, his goddaughter Pauline opened the Wok Inn Seaside Noodle Bar at 118 The Promenade.
In October 2019, the Mandarin was awarded the title of Europe's Best Chinese Restaurant.

Whiteside's Knitwear shop was on the corner of Cambridge Road and Church Street. This was later an Airey's off-licence and is now a One Stop grocer's shop.
Kershaw's Printers was at 121 Saville Road, Blackpool.
K Products Blackpool was at Back St Helier's Road, manufacturing and selling their "Tele Aquariums".

©

King Fisheries was in operation at 5 King Street, operated by A Olson.
Martin Brown Paints Limited started trading at 265 Dickson Road, supplying car paints.
Alan Bell founded the Blackpool Folk Club and The Taverners Folk Group, performing at the Talbot Hotel. The club moved to the King Arms on Talbot Road in 1967, and started to issue its own newssheet, the Tamlyn, in July 1973. The club met every Tuesday evening.
Mr G Haslam established Gilberts (Blackpool) Limited, making domestic warm air heating grilles. The company now has sites in Clifton Road and Cleveleys, and in 1994, they donated four cast statues to Stanley Park, for display in the sunken gardens.
The Gorton Gate Company Limited, ornamental ironwork specialists, was at 124a Gorton Street.
The Paratrooper ride opened at the Pleasure Beach, on the site that the Dive Bomber had occupied for over 20 years. The Alice in Wonderland also opened, taking riders on an elevated concrete track through a world of Lewis Carroll characters. A new, 10-car, upright Paratrooper was built by Harry Steers for Lawrence Silcock in 1981. The upright version survived for only a few months before re-emerging as a lifting version.
The first National Coach Rally was held on the 8th of April. It started in Wigan and finished on the Middle Walk, where driving tests were held for fun after the rally. This became an annual event.
Billy Holmes won the final leg of the Cycle Tour of Britain in Blackpool on the 22nd of June. The race was known officially as the "Milk Race" since 1958 and had first been started and finished in Blackpool in 1960, doing so many more times.

James Hanratty: was arrested in the Stevonia Café on central Drive on the 9th of October, convicted of murder, and then hanged at Bedford Prison on the 4th of April 1962. He had shot Michael Gregsten and Valerie Storie on the A6 at Ampthill near Slough on the 22nd of August. Almost opposite the Stevonia at the time stood Kay's Butcher's (later the Granada Café). Shortly after the incident, the Stevonia was renamed to Wells' Café, but reverted later.

At the Queens Theatre, appearing for a week, was Jack Beckett and his TV Talking Shoes.
The first meeting of the George Formby Society was at the Imperial Hotel, with 56 members. They moved to the Winter Gardens in 1990 and then back to the Imperial in 2009.
The film "A Taste of Honey", starring Rita Tushingham, was made in Blackpool and Salford. A filmed visit to Blackpool where the cast enjoyed theatrical tableaux of half-naked women impersonating painted nudes by Van Gogh etc. was revolutionary at the time.

Ronnie Baxter: was born in Blackpool on the 5th of February. Playing at Marton Institute, he became the world number 1 darts player in the 1990s. His fast throwing style earned him the nickname The Rocket.

John Robb was born in Fleetwood on the 4th of May. Living in Anchorsholme, he went on to play in the punk band the Membranes (formed in 1977), and then form the band Goldblade, later becoming a renowned "Pop Pundit".
During the Labour Party conference, journalist Bernard Levin was thrown out of his Blackpool hotel for likening the town to an *"elephant's anus"*. At the same time, journalist James Cameron summed up the resort as *"the most hideous centre of human habitation"*.
The ITA system of spelling (Initial Teaching Alphabet) was introduced into some local schools. Designed to make it easier to learn to read and write, it actually led to many children being unable to read normal English for many years. Blackpool libraries still had ITA sections in 1986. It has, thankfully, died out completely.

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The Weeton Train Crash: At Singleton Bank, near Weeton, at 10:30 on the 16th of July, the 8:50 express from Colne to Fleetwood - a Class 105 Diesel Train - struck the rear of a slow-moving ballast train which had been doing track work. 6 passengers and the driver were killed, and 116 were injured. It was one of the first accidents to involve a diesel engine.

Hurst Lea Caravan Site opened on Cartford Lane, Little Eccleston.
The 4th Cleveleys Scout Group was started in October, by John Schofield. The group met in the West Drive Methodist Church. In 1967, the 4th Cleveleys amalgamated with the 2nd Thornton St John's Scout Group to form the 1st Thornton Cleveleys Scout Group. The group opened their new clubhouse and HQ on Marsh Road in Thornton on the 29th of April 1972.
A Radar Training Station, on stilts, was built on Fleetwood Promenade for the students at the Nautical College. It was designed by Lancashire County Council Architect's Department under Roger Booth, designer and architect in charge Eric Morris Hart, Assistant County Architect, and Clerk of Works Tom Dennis. It was built for the practical training of masters and crews of coastal craft in the latest radar technology. It now houses Fleetwood Nautical Campus' School of Maritime Operations. It became a Listed Building in 2003, to reflect its contribution it made towards Britain's communications technology revolution in the 1960s.
S Burridge's newsagents was at 204 and 206 Lord Street in Fleetwood, later opening a second shop at 24 Radcliffe Road.
The Gas Works Manager's House on Cop Street, Fleetwood was demolished in August.
Redifusion opened a television shop on Poulton Street in Fleetwood, soon supplying sets and fitting aerials to most of the town's houses.

Trinity Methodist Church, Fleetwood: was opened on Fleetwood Road, in buildings consisting of a multi-purpose church hall and several smaller rooms. From 2017, the church has been known as Fleetwood Methodist.

Albert Wilde opened his chemist's and optician's shop at 2 Grange Road in Fleetwood, assisted by his wife Evelyn. The premises now belong to JT Byrne, funeral directors.
Headroomgate Farm was demolished at the junction of Highbury Road East and Leach Lane (named after Leach Lodge) in St Anne's (Cohen's Chemists now stands on the site), and Mayfield Primary School was opened on St Leonard's Road East, on the farm lands. The farm's fields had been used for military drills and camps in World War 1, before Council Houses and King George's Recreation Ground were built between the wars. After the demolition of Headroomgate Farm, Common Side House was given that name (Common Side had been known as Greaves Farm between 1759 and 1881).

St Bede's Roman Catholic High School, Lytham: the only secondary school in town was opened on Talbot Road on the 9th of January. It admitted its first 260 pupils, to be taught by 11 teachers, led by first headmaster B McKenna.
The school project cost £124,000 and building had begun off Mythop Road in May 1959 - Ashton's Mythop Nurseries had stood on the spot.
The school's official opening was performed in May 1963, by the bishop of Lancaster, Rev BC Foley, who also unveiled a statue of St Bede in celebration.
In 1975, space for an extra 250 pupils was constructed at a cost of £148,000, and in 1978, the school became comprehensive.
Its motto is "*Fons Sapientiae*" – meaning "Fountain of Wisdom".

©

ALL my attempts to discover more about St Bede's have been met with a wall of silence, both from the school and former pupils - a great shame.

Lytham Catholic Club was in business on North Clifton Street. In December 2016, it held its own Beer and Cider Festival.

1962

The Marton Tramway from Church Street, via Whitegate Drive and Waterloo Road closed to scheduled services on the 28th of October. Tragically, a retired tram driver was killed at Rigby Road tram depot after driving a 1933 Balloon double deck tram (number 712) along the Marton Route for the closing ceremony. The tram ran him over as he disembarked: on some nights, ghostly rumbles and braking sounds are now heard around Rigby Road. Also, after all the regular trams have stopped running for the night, a phantom tram is reported to travel slowly and silently down along the rails along the Promenade. At the time, it was the last street tramway in Britain, and had carried 2.75 million people since it started.
The number 26 bus route opened on the 29th of March (closing on the 7th of April 2002), to replace the just-closed tram service. The tram shelter at Devonshire Square was demolished, to be replaced in 1965 by traffic lights and public conveniences.
The "Miss Sing Along" competition was held in Rigby Road Tram Depot on the 20th of September – allegedly the first time a tram depot had been used as a TV studio.

The Elim Pentecostal Church, Marton: was built on Fredora Avenue. The original temporary worship building on the site had been demolished.

In September 2001, the Elim Church opened a place of worship at Mereside, Clifton Christian Centre on Langdale Road being opened by the Reverend John Glass, general secretary of the Elim. It had been built on the site of the Clifton Labour Club. In 2002, the Elim Foursquare Gospel Alliance Church moved to the Blackpool Christian Centre on Waterloo Road, and the old church on Fredora Avenue became a nursery – Early Learning in Marton (Elim).
Beside the new church building, a Community Center (sic) was built soon afterwards.

Dun Cottage, next to the Shovels pub on Hawes Side Lane, was demolished.

Blackpool Gang Show: The first Blackpool Scouts Gang Show was held at Dean Street Memorial Hall. In 1964, it moved to the Co-operative Jubilee Theatre and in 1966, to the Royal Pavilion in Rigby Road. By 1970, it was at the Winter Gardens, where it stayed until 1980 (apart from 1972 at the Grand), moving to the ABC. 1981 to 1987 shows were at the Opera House, and those in 1988 to 1991 at the Grand. From 1992 to 1998, it was at the Winter Gardens, in 1999 at Bispham High School, and 2000 at Collegiate. In 2001, it went back to the Winter Gardens until 2004, and in 2005, it moved to the Globe Theatre at the Pleasure Beach.

Blackpool hosted the National Scout Car Races for the first time.

BAF Club, Blackpool: Taking over the now-defunct Hand in Hand Club, the Blackpool Artist's Federation Club (the BAF Club) opened at 73-75 George Street, going into liquidation in March 1983. It was re-opened in 1983, as the George Social Club, and was then run by Roy Cunningham. After the George Club closed, it was briefly the Glasgow Supporters' Club, until Little Fat Jack's Club opened there in 2001. Since the 30th of June 2015, it was called Carty's, but is currently for sale.

©

The auction guide states that it is *"of a brick construction with a pitched and tiled roof and set over two storeys. In summary, the ground floor has an entrance hall leading to the large bar area with a good-sized beer cellar and male and female wash room facilities. The upper floor comprises a large function suite with bar area, toilet facilities, a raised stage area and a kitchen"*.

The Leeds Permanent Building Society was on Clifton Street. It merged with the Halifax in 1995 and moved to 67-71 Church Street.
Slum Clearance in the East Topping Street area (18 properties), began in January, and during the year the houses were vacated and demolished. Housing provision was still a problem for Blackpool Council, although overcrowding was starting to lessen. Since World War 2, the number of Council houses built was:

Permanent -	1 bedroom	- 964
	2 bedrooms	- 656
	3 bedrooms	-1,920
	4 bedrooms	-106
Temporary bungalows		-343 (these were pre-fabricated buildings)

A "Meals on Wheels" service was started in February. Applications for use of the service had to be sent to the Director of Welfare Services, and the meals themselves were delivered by members of the Women's Voluntary Services for Civil Defence.

Brindle Lodge, Mereside: A parcel of land on the corner of Eastern side of Langdale Road and Clifton Road had been previously used as a Brickworks since around 1938 to 1962. Part of the site was previously formed of a pond which had been infilled by 1962. This year, the Council briefly used the space as a council depot, before beginning to build Brindle Lodge.
On the 12th of June 1964, Brindle Lodge Old Folks Home was opened by Gracie Fields. The new home could cater for 60 elderly residents in 44 single and 16 double bedrooms.
In 1993, Brindle Lodge was reopened by the Kensington Foundation, as Kensington Lodge, a homeless persons' Hostel. The Kensington Foundation opened their Charity Shop next to the hostel in 1995. This closed in 2008, for redevelopment and the whole complex was demolished in 2010. The space was bought by a house building company and was cleared in March 2017. A housing development of 16 houses and 15 flats is currently being constructed on the site by Berkshire Homes (Northern) Limited.

Bourne Travel was established when Eric Bourne opened the branch in the former post office premises at 160 Highfield Road. It was taken over by the Co-operative Travel in 2002.
The garage and filling station were constructed on the east end of Rigby Road. These buildings later became a Derek Woodman BMW garage, Harry Feeney's Nissan dealership, and finally, Kingston Mitsubishi at numbers 96 to 100. It was then bought by United Carpets, and when that store closed in 2012, it was bought by BM Platinum furniture sales. It became another branch of the Steals bargain clothing store chain in September 2016.
Blackpool's bid to house a Lancashire University on East Park Drive was turned down.
Greasy Joe's Burger Bar opened in a wooden shed on Central Promenade. Serving burgers, hot dogs and doughnuts into the early hours, owner Joe Kalgallon became a well-known figure on the Promenade. It closed in April 2004, when owned by G O'Hagan.
Ron Easter founded Grasmere Press Limited. A factory was built on Moor Park Avenue in 1971, and another, adjacent to the Grasmere Press site was constructed for Grasmere Business Forms in 1978.
The Tower Brand Nut Company Limited was on Mowbray Drive.
Bethesda Salerooms were on Bethesda Square, selling fireplaces, bathrooms, and kitchen at half price.
Blackpool Mechanics Football Club was formed, joining the Lancashire Combination League Division Two.

©

Alan Ball joined Blackpool Football Club. In 1966, he became the only player Blackpool player ever to appear in a World Cup Final.
A gust of 88 knots was recorded at Blackpool during the night of the 15th of December, the strongest since records began in 1946.
Fell's Chip Shop was trading at Devonshire Square. Across the Square, on Church Street was a Co-operative store, which was later bought by Thompson's Furnishers. Fell's was later renamed "Chish and Fips" for many years.
At Cedar Square, were the Fleetwood Fisheries chippy, Pat Murgatroyd's wool shop, and Dawson's Outfitters (this is now a jewellers) at number 3.
Halford's Motor Store was in business on Clifton Street. After a brief interlude on the Promenade, they now operate from Squires Gate.
The Blackpool Footwear Company was established in Wareham Road on the 10th of December. They were struck off in February 1982.
Kenyons (Blackpool) Limited, shoe shops, were formed.
Kemp's Car Parts was established in Westmorland Avenue, later changing to ESA Automotive. The owner had previously run Michael Davies's car parts shop on Ibbison Street.
Pembroke Court apartments opened on Queen's Promenade.
Blackpool Tower was climbed by a group of Manchester University students, who planted a huge flag in the crow's nest.
Billy Smart put forward plans for a 350-acre theme park on East Park Drive, as a replica of Disneyland, but the Corporation turned them down.

Tasker's and Trevor's, Blackpool: Tasker's (Blackpool) Limited: was established at their retail store at 163 Lytham Road on the 23rd of October. The building had been constructed in 1960, in place of St Chad's garage. They also had a food store at 7 Back John Street off Bloomfield Road, and a small warehouse on Moon Avenue. They have since branched out into nursing homes.
In 1974, Tasker's opened their retail and wholesale store on Back St Heliers Road.

After they moved from 163 Lytham Road in c1990, the premises became Fylde Aquatics – owned by John Fear, who moved to Division Lane soon afterwards. That move caused them to change the name to Fylde Water Gardens and Aquatics Ltd. On the 3rd of June 2005, the company changed its name to FWG Aquatics Ltd. They and their online arm Atlas Aquatics both operate from that address, owned by James Fullman and Mark Duerden.

The separate, but competing company, Trevor's Warehouses, was founded by Trevor Tasker and Ken Hitchin in Ribble Road in 1962, and became a Limited Company on the 19th of November 1963, selling to the catering industry. The building had earlier housed JT Youd's Ltd, and then Anderson's fruit and vegetable wholesalers – who moved to Cecil Street in 1961. The company later opened premises on Hawes Side Lane (next to the Lane Ends Hotel, before moving across the road) which shut in 2009. The company continues to operate as wholesale distributors from 40 Chorley Road, and has since expanded its premises at 106 Ribble Road into the adjacent Clinton Avenue.
The company's trading name is now Trevor's Foodservice.

Sally Mae Frocks was open on Abingdon Street, between the Post Office and the Market. It was renowned locally for its vertical name sign.
NorthWest Aerials was set up when Terry Neal from Darbyshire's Electrical on Deansgate formed his own - and Blackpool's first - aerial fitting company.
L Woodhouse opened an optometrist's practice at 62 Highfield Road.

©

Blackpool Flower Club was formed, meeting at St Christopher's Church hall on Haweside Lane, then Staining Village Hall, and briefly in the Imperial Hotel.
The Tuck Shop was in operation at 12 Beech Avenue, supplying sweets to pupils from all surrounding schools for many years. The shop remains as Beech Wines.
The Blackpool Pop and Jazz Festival, sponsored by the Melody Maker, was held at the Winter Gardens in June. The Blackpool Jazz Queen was Carole Redhead (19), and the festival featured acts such as Acker Bilk, Monty Sunshine, and Humphrey Lyttelton.
The Blackpool North Round Table was formed.
The 6th of March saw 2 students from the Royal College of Advanced Technology in Salford set off to try and climb the outside of the Tower and plant a Rag Week flag on the top. They actually got inside the ballroom through an open first-floor window, climbed various staircases to reach the roof, and then scaled the steel ladder up the leg to the public viewing platform before climbing to the crow's nest to plant their flag.
On the 10th of June 50 special holiday trains arrived at Central Station from East Lancashire towns.
Lancashire Automobile Club celebrated its Diamond Jubilee with a special event in Blackpool, on the 19th of October. It comprised a cavalcade of one car from each year of the clubs' existence from 1902 to 1962 along the promenade during the afternoon. This was followed by a Dinner Dance at the Casino Restaurant at the Pleasure Beach, and it was there that the idea of a run from Manchester to Blackpool emerged.
Local beat group The Atlantics were formed – some members joined the John Evan Band in 1965.
Moya Brady was born in Manchester on the 8th of September. She grew up in Blackpool. After attending Layton Hill Convent School, she went on to act in many popular TV series, such as The Bill and Doctor Who.

Paul Askham: was born in Blackpool on the 26th of October. He went on to become a competitive ice dancer, and with partner Sharon Jones, he became the 1985–1988 British national champion. The couple represented Great Britain at the 1988 Winter Olympics, coming 13th. They later went on to perform as principle skaters with Holiday on Ice, then becoming the World Professional ice dance champions in Jaca in Spain.

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Intercep Limited was established at Ream Hills Farm, Mythop Road, Weeton, when the Dutton family moved their right-hand drive car modification business from Stoke.

The Parish of the Catholic Church of the English Martyrs, Poulton: began this year, held in what later became the Presbytery.
The new church, at 154 Highcross Road first opened for Mass on September the 21st 1985, and was consecrated on the 12th of January 1986. The church is built of red brick, with a lead roof which is angled down around the entrance to add some visual interest and to create a welcoming atmosphere.
A link with the presbytery next door was constructed in 2010.

The Falcon Hotel, Poulton: had just opened on Hardhorn Way – it closed in 2009, and was demolished in August 2011 for housing.

The Thornton-Cleveleys Brass Band was formed, when Tom Birch was asked to do so by the local Council, who also supplied an ex-Civil Defence hut for rehearsals. In 1972, they opened their own band room on Holly Road, Thornton. There had been a band in the town 30 years before.
Kiddies Corner Fun Park opened at Cleveleys. It was to be operated by the Mason family for 42 years, until its forced closure in 2004.
Bartley's Cars was established in Cleveleys, later moving to St George's Lane.
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R Waring had a domestic electrical retailer's shop at 105 Victoria Road in Cleveleys, and a second shop at 62 Fleetwood Road in Thornton. The main shop at first sold only Bush equipment and advertised itself as the "Television Pioneers of the Fylde". It later became a Radio Rentals branch and is now a Subway shop.
The Victoria Sporting Club was formed at the Victoria Hotel in Cleveleys.
Robert Ratcliffe and Sons were running their undertaker's business from 87 to 89 Beach Road in Cleveleys, premises which have been operating as Le Bistro restaurant for several years now.
At 27 and 28 Rossall Road was another funeral director, TH Fenton, who is still in operation.
Dreem Kitchens were established. Their headquarters are now at Redmarsh Industrial Estate.
Fleetwood's sea defences were finally completed.
Callighan's Dance Hall was a popular venue next to the North Euston Hotel in Fleetwood, run by Florence and Joe Callighan.
Timothy Whites had a store at 174 Lord Street in Fleetwood. This shop is currently Wyre View Opticians.
Jim Morton started showing his performing animal act, Della's Dogs, in the little theatre in Fleetwood Marine Gardens. Bilton's Marionettes had performed there from when Mr Bilton had moved from his tent in the sandhills, where he had started, in about 1933, until 1961.
Nick Lancaster had a motor cycle shop at 48 to 50 Poulton Road in Fleetwood.

The Beatles: The Beatles appeared at Fleetwood Marine Hall on the 25th of August. Central Pier producer Peter Webster saw them and turned them down for the next summer season - he *"didn't think much of them"*! The band was nowhere near as well received as the local groups the Zeros, the Trespassers, and the Rainbow Rockets. The Dolphins did **NOT** appear.
The tale goes that George Harrison wore an eye patch and a few girls though he was mimicking Johnny Kidd – a favourite of the day.
Ringo Starr had only joined the group on drums on the 16th, before his first gig, at Port Sunlight, on the 18th.
The band had also just failed an audition at Blackpool's Philharmonic Club and had been turned down for a season at the Picador Club, next to the Bloomfield Road stadium.

The Beatles in Blackpool: Blackpool became the Beatles' most regular concert destination of the year, when the band played five Sunday concerts at the ABC on the 7th and 14th of July, the 11th and 25th of August, and the 8th of September, and two at the Queen's Theatre on the 21st of July and the 4th of August. The Queen's gigs saw the first hint of "Beatlemania", when 4,000 ticketless fans tried to get in.

The Beatles performed in Mike and Bernie Winters' ABC networked Blackpool Night Out show from the ABC Theatre on July the 19th 1964, supported by the Kinks and a group called the High Numbers (soon to be renamed as The Who). The group first played their song "Hard Day's Night" at the show. They then played the Opera House on the 26th of July and the 16th of August.
In 1965, the Beatles made their only British television appearance to plug their new film "Help!" The show, compered by Mike and Bernie Winters was shown live from the ABC Theatre on August the 1st and featured the world premiere of the song "Yesterday". The show, Blackpool Night Out", was filmed for ITV.

Chadwick's Garage, St Anne's: Heeley Road Garage was opened on the corner of St David's Road North and Heeley Road, by Mike and Kathleen Chadwick, selling and repairing Simca cars, with their own Motorist's Shop on the premises. The building was previously a Co-op grocers and butchers, with an old stable block at the back.
It was soon named Fairways Motors, and in 1966, it became Fairways (Volkswagen) Limited, a Volkswagen dealership. The 22nd of July 1968 saw the company become Fairways of St Annes Limited.

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By 1978, Fairways was owned by Joseph Turner and Sons (Preston) Ltd.
In 2003, they closed the Heeley Road complex and moved to Ashworth Road, Marton. That garage was later taken over by Dutton Forshaw as a Volkswagen dealership and renamed Volkswagen House. It is currently a Lookers Volkswagen outlet.
After choosing to Wind Up the company on the 8th of February 2006, Fairways of St Annes Limited went into voluntary Liquidation on the 4th of July 2016. An application to erect a 4-storey building with 38 apartments on the site was turned down in May 2017.
The garage on Heeley Road is owned by Town Manor Developments Ltd, but is still abandoned.

Sunday League Football: What was to become the Blackpool and Fylde Sunday Football League came into being in September, when a meeting was held at the Links Hotel in St Anne's. As a result, the Lytham St Anne's Junior Under-18s Sunday league was started.
The first teams were: Kilnhouse Rangers, Blackpool Sports, Catholic Guild, Highfurlong, Lytham Villa, Mereside, Palatine, and St Anne's Youth.
Mr Malcolm Melling donated a shield – still played for today. In the second season, Kirkham Corinthians and The Cleveleys joined, and the competition took off.

By 1968, the teams in the Blackpool Boys' Sunday League were: Layton Rangers, Wentworth Wanderers, Evington, Waterloo Wanderers, Bispham North, TSV Marton, St Nicholas, Swifts, Marton Celtic, and Blackpool Athletic Juniors.

Lytham Cycle Store was on Westby Street in Lytham. Previously known as Bowden's Cycles, and later as Hargreaves' Cycles, it is now Carrie's Hairdressers.
The Motor Cycle Depot (Lytham) Ltd established at 13a Pleasant Street in Lytham, by Mike Bowden, having moved from the smaller shop on Westby Street. In 1965, they expanded into the nearby building, storing up to 50 machines inside. The premises now house Lytham Tyres and Exhausts, who moved there from behind the Ship and Royal in 1989. Those premises had been built originally as the Ship and Royal Garage, belonging to the hotel in front; H Potts was its proprietor in 1936.
Clifton House "Ladies' Wear Specialists" was at 65 Clifton Street in Lytham. The shop now houses a greengrocer's run by Highleys of Lytham.
The Wrea Green RNLI was formed in July to raise funds for the Lytham lifeboat.

Kirkham Prison: Kirkham Open Prison opened in September, on Freckleton Road. Initially, it had a capacity of approximately 850 Category D male prisoners - this has since been reduced to 592. It is known as an "Open Prison" and was designed to house non-violent prisoners. No sex offenders are allowed. The prison had been opened on the site of a former RAF technical training centre, which had been taken over by the Home Office in 1961.

Prisoners were housed in the old RAF buildings, and two lines of single storied huts dominated the centre of the site, housing most of the inmates. In addition to reusing wartime billets for inmate accommodation a number of the hangars were adapted to house workshops, stores, and physical education facilities.

The prison is locally-infamous for its lax security, with many (documented) occasions when inmates would climb out at night, and go to Kirkham pubs, before returning to their bunks.

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The Mede housing estate was also built, to house prison staff. Their own Prison Officers' Club was constructed just inside the Mede Estate. In 2007, the club was brought inside the curtilage of the main prison, by a 6-foot fence.

One purpose-built block of six inmate billets was built in 1990, as the prototype living unit for the Kirkham redevelopment programme. That began in 1993, with the building of another six new 20-person accommodation blocks. Two ready-to-use units were constructed and occupied in December 1996, by life-sentenced prisoners and those serving long sentences. A further seven new 22-person blocks were constructed in 1999. In 2003, eight modern dormitory-style accommodation units were built, with 22 rooms each. All the old RAF accommodation has now been replaced.

The current "brochure" for HM Prison Kirkham states that *"Accommodation comprises of 24 dormitories of varying size. Every dormitory has its own telephone. 572 single room accommodation with own key, 9 rooms only are double occupancy i.e. 2 listeners suites and 7 double rooms in the ambulant dormitory individual own key. All rooms have Freeview TV access 3 dormitories have personal en-suite facilities inc showers. All prisoners have access to in-room TV"*. 65 acres of the 180-acre site are farmed on a commercial basis, and another 25 acres is set aside for wildlife conservation. The camp laundry has been taking in washing from outside since 1995.

Former inmates of note include Jan Molby, of Liverpool FC, and Ian Brown, of the band the Stone Roses.

The Plough Inn, Lea: was rebuilt on Blackpool Road. It was demolished in the late 1980s, to be replaced by a housing estate "Ploughlands".

1963

The ABC Theatre was opened on the 31st of May, with Cliff Richard and the Shadows starring in "Holiday Carnival". They arrived in the "Santa Fe Train" tram, which thus became the last tram to pass through the town centre. While he was in town, Cliff had his face modelled in wax for a puppet appearance in the film "Thunderbirds are GO!" He had appeared in town once before – playing the Odeon on the 8th of October 1958, with his band "The Drifters" – soon to become The Shadows.

Blackpool Tower's links with the Bickerstaffe family ended when it was sold to EMI.

The Tramway on Dickson Road closed on the 27th of October, as did the parcels and newspaper delivery service, by tram, to Fleetwood. Bispham Depot closed as a result. The last tram was driven by Bispham's Tom Leeming, and buses began to use the route the next day.

The first annual Manchester to Blackpool Veteran Car Run was held on the 21st of April. It took place during Blackpool's "Drive for Safer Motoring Week" between the 20th and 28th of April. The run had *"proper time controls, over courses of 54, 65 and 75 miles depending on class, in connection with its safety drive"*. Early runs ended on the Promenade, but today's events terminate in Stanley Park's Italian Gardens. Entrants compete for two trophies: the Blackpool Corporation trophy, and the Ken Hadley trophy, named after the Lancashire Automobile Club's late chairman.

Blackpool Corporation bought a "Southdown" coach from Brighton Council, and mounted a large model of the Tower on the front, using it as a mobile advertisement.

Central School Clinic, Blackpool: On the 9th of May, the new Central School Clinic was officially opened next to the Municipal Health Centre. The clinic had a Child guidance clinic, Speech clinic, audiology and lip-reading clinic, ophthalmic clinic, orthodontic clinic, and an ear, nose, and throat specialist's clinic. In

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January 1964, the Speech Clinic moved in, having moved from 125 Hornby Road, and the Central School Clinic was officially opened in May 1964, by the mayor, J Smythe.
The Clinic and Windmill House were both demolished in January 2008, joining the former Medical Centre in making way for a new Health Centre.

The Blackpool Council for Voluntary Service was set up, changing its name to the Council for Voluntary Service (CVS) in 1975.
The Marton Central School Kitchen was on Clifton Road. In 1989, Blackpool Council took on the responsibility for running its 36 school kitchens, supplying 43 schools. By then called the Lancashire Council Central School Kitchens, they were demolished in 1994. A new building was constructed and soon became the home of hairdressing equipment suppliers Salon Service, owned by Leroy Farmer.
The Strand Bingo Club was in operation on the Strand.
The Corporation had the sides of Talbot Road Bus Station and Car Park covered in steel in May.

St Catherine's Secondary School, Blackpool: In January, the Roman Catholic Girl's Secondary School opened on Yew Tree Road – the site of the Poulton Road Brickworks, in Grange Park. A Sister of the Holy Child Jesus – Mother Bernard Joseph was its head, and some of its intended pupils had been housed temporarily in Thames Road School. The school motto was "*Veritas*" meaning "Truth".
The school playing fields were passed fit for use in 1964.

St Thomas of Canterbury School: The Roman Catholic Secondary School for Boys opened on Yew Tree Road, Grange Park in 1968. Both St Thomas's and the nearby St Catherine's Girls (1963) had been built on the site of Poulton Road brick works, by RJ Warren's builders of 21 King Edward Avenue. The school's playing fields were opened for use in 1967. They comprised two soccer pitches, one rugger pitch, and one hockey pitch, along with ancillary athletic facilities.

The two schools were merged in 1977 to become All Saints Roman Catholic High School.

The Catholic church could not afford to keep two high schools in such close proximity (All Saints and St Mary's), and the All Saints site was better placed for more housing. Thus, in 1982, All Saints merged with St Mary's High School (as did St Joseph's), but years 3, 4, and 5 of the seniors remained at the All Saints site, with the sixth form at St Joseph's.
The All Saints buildings were finally closed in 1995, and all the school buildings were demolished in 1996 for the construction of housing on Bishopsgate, St Catherine Close, St Thomas Close, and St Mary Close.

Michael Marley of 30 Ibbison Street was selling oysters from a barrow on the beach.
The Pleasure Beach began work on bridging Watson Road, to link its two sites. It was completed in 1966 and the bridge now forms the town's only road tunnel.
Anchorsholme Library was opened on Luton Road, at the junction with Neville Avenue on the 11th of January. It replaced the old shop/library, which had stood at the corner of Anchorsholme Lane and Kelso Avenue. The old library site became home to a petrol station, opposite the Lidl store. In July 2017, a café was built inside the library. It is called the Anchor Café.
Anchorsholme Park was laid out about this time, complete with mini-golf and pitch-and-putt.
Blackpool became its own Deanery from the 1st of March, when the Fylde Deanery was split.
A group of holiday flat proprietors formed the Blackpool Self Catering Hotels Association, working from the Palladium Buildings on Waterloo Road. They later moved to the Bosley Arcade in the Yates's buildings off Clifton Street.

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Cole's Jewellers opened at 30-40 Highfield Road.
The Lytham Road Dental Practice was established at 374 Lytham Road.
Graham Clayton established his jeweller's shop at 22-24 Cookson Street, opening a branch at 15c St Davids Road South in St Anne's in 1987.
John Metcalf established J Metcalf and Company, Estate Agents in Cookson Street. In 1995, the office moved to 18 Topping Street, and then to 73 Topping Street in 2008.
Crewe Johns, drinks distributors, were on Ball Street in the premises vacated by Jenner and Butterworth, before moving to Leyland in 1984.
The Raleigh Rudge Runabout moped was launched at the Winter Gardens on the 16th of May.
Unicorn Chemicals Limited began, working from Unicorn House on Mowbray Drive.
Tyres (South Shore) Limited was established at 31 Brun Grove, Marton, later moving to 57 Cowley Road.
Falkus Property Company Limited began running the Newholme Caravan Park behind 211 Preston New Road in December.
Clearway School of Motoring was established.
Wards of Bond Street started business, later working from Fishers Lane, Marton.
A surface water pumping station was built at the corner of Midgeland Road and Moss House Road. There are now pumping stations at Marton Mere, and on Progress Way at Newhall Avenue. Two smaller stations are at Mossom Lane and Carleton Cemetery, and two further ones are on Highfield Road and Cornford Road.
Clifton Motors on Clifton Road, Marton ceased trading.
Honeycombe Leisure was founded in Blackpool by Brenda Wardman. The pub management company now operates from Beech Grove in Ashton, Preston.
Contract Floors was established, now working from Collingwood Place.
Matthews Engineering Limited was formed on the 5th of July, operating from Sycamore Trading Estate off Squires gate Lane. They later moved to Brinwell Road, off Clifton Road. They dissolved in 1997.
A two-wheeled trailer with a capacity of 5 cwt was introduced by Sands Engineering Ltd of Back Clevedon Road in August. The trailer was designed specifically to match BMC Mini cars and vans.
Clevedon Confectionery (Blackpool) Ltd came into being on the 13th of June on Clevedon Road. They had previously been known as Clevedon Sweets and became well known for enclosing photographic cards with their sweet cigarettes.
A dead Common Dolphin was washed up on the beach at Squires Gate on the 2nd of October.
The inaugural Round Table Blackpool Carnival was held on the 12th of June, coinciding with the finish of the annual Milk Race, which had started in town earlier.
The Six Nations swimming competition was held at the Derby Baths on the 19th of September, and on the 10th of October, British swimmers beat Hungary in an international swimming competition at the Derby.
The World Championship of Golf was played and televised at North Shore Golf Club on the 5th of July.

David Wheeler: was born in Blackpool on March the 20th and lived with his parents above their wallpaper and toyshop on Harrowside. He was given the nickname "Squee" by his mates at Highfield School, and briefly played in a local punk band called Door 66. After changing his name to David Thewlis, he became an actor best known as Professor Remus Lupin in the Harry Potter films.

The Rockin' Vickers were formed in Blackpool. They were first called the Reverend Black and the Rocking Vicars but modified their name when they started recording for Decca. Reverend Black is otherwise known as Harry Feeney, who went on to open a car dealership on Devonshire Road in 1987. Other band members were Lemmy (Ian Willis/Kilminster), Cyril Shaw, and Nick Gribbon (later known locally as Nick Unlimited).

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The Singing Nolans: After visiting the town many times since the late 1950s, the Nolan family (mother, father, and 5 girls) moved to Waterloo Road from their home in Dublin, and the family began singing around Blackpool's clubs and pubs. In 1970, they secured a season-long run at the Central Club with comedian Freddie Starr. There followed three summer shows at the Brunswick Club, as The Sweethearts of Song.
The Nolans moved to a former doctor's surgery at 4 Granville Road (the building ow fulfils its original function once more).
Following the accidental appearance of all 10 children on stage one night, they received a standing ovation. The family soon became known as "Blackpool's own Von Trapp family" after the stars of the Sound of Music film.
In 1972, as The Singing Nolans, they recorded a self-titled album, featuring the song "Blackpool", which was played before every match at Bloomfield Road for many years afterwards.
The daughters decided to split away from their parents in 1974, and made their debut at the Cliffs Hotel. There, they were spotted by its new owner Joe Lewis, who changed the name to The Nolan Sisters, and moved them to his prestigious London venue "The London Room". While performing there, they were spotted by singer Cliff Richard, who booked them to appear on all the shows in his "It's Cliff" TV series. Fame followed.
Five of the girls (Anne, Denise, Maureen, Linda, Bernadette), attended St Catherine's Secondary School, with the youngest, Coleen, being educated in London.
In 1979, the group renamed itself The Nolans, and their career continued with many changes of personnel and family fallouts, made worse by revelations of sexual and physical abuse of the girls by their father.
Bernie Nolan died on the 4th of July 2013.

The Bachelors singing group was "discovered" by Peter Webster, who gave them a last-minute spot at the Opera House on November the 30th.
Lonnie Donegan was filmed at his Blackpool show for the TV series "Putting on the Donegan".
PC Peter Walker won the annual Blackpool Police Central Pier to North Pier swim.

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The Tram Shelter at the junction of Victoria Road and Rossall Road at Cleveleys was converted into a tram workers' staff room in December.
Edwards Taxis were in operation at 53 Marsh Road in Thornton, operating as the Thornton Taxi Service. They also hired Pullman limousines.
T King's pharmacy was at 162 Victoria Road in Cleveleys. After being known as Card Corner for several years, it is now the Economeyes spectacle shop.
John Whitby Ltd, plumbers and decorators, of 108 Victoria Road in Cleveleys, closed down on the 23rd of February. It was then the oldest building in Cleveleys.

Great Arley Special School, Thornton: opened on the 2nd of October in Holly Road, to cater for up to 120 children. It is a *"day school for boys and girls between the ages of 4 and 16 years, who have moderate learning difficulties and more complex needs"*. The school is all on the ground floor to provide good internal access.
A swimming pool was added in 1973 and made available to the public from that December.
It is now known as simply Great Arley School.

Cardinal Allen Roman Catholic Secondary School, Fleetwood: Built on an "attractive, open site", Fleetwood's first Catholic Secondary Modern school was opened on Melbourne Avenue on the 2nd March
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by the Catholic Bishop of Lancaster, Reverend B Foley. It cost £157,000 and could hold 450 pupils. The school had started as a primary school on Luton Road in Anchorsholme in 1939.
A statue of Our Lady was erected in the new chapel in 1963, presented to Sister Melanie by her Form Group 1A. In 2010, Bishop Michael Campbell opened a new Chapel at the centre of the school, in the middle of the garden of remembrance.
Major extensions were opened 1974, 1996 and 2003.
Each student is given the chance to visit the school's outreach project in Castlerigg in the Lake District.
Now with 850 pupils, it is currently known as Cardinal Allen Catholic High School and the school colours are cherry red, royal blue, and gold.

Fleetwood Docks came under the control of the British Transport Docks Board on the 1st of January. The BTDB was privatised in 1982 and became Associated British Ports – ABP.
Auto Spares, a motor cycle dealer, closed at 35 North Albert Street in Fleetwood.
Holidaymakers travel agents opened at 63 Poulton Road in Fleetwood. It closed on the 13th of November 2009. It is now Sue's Dog Grooming parlour.
The Star Laundry Services Limited was in business on Albert Street in Fleetwood.

St Aidan's School, Preesall: The Fylde's first Church of England co-educational secondary school opened on the 12th of September.
In 1972, the Lancaster Wing of the school was opened.
The school was further extended in 1974, and in September 1976 it became a comprehensive high school.
From an intake of 206 in 1964, the pupil population rose to 640 by 1988, and it became a Technology College in 1994. The school motto is "*That they might have life*".

Guardian Royal Assurance/AXA, Lytham: Harry Clifton sold the last of the Clifton family's holdings to Guardian Royal Assurance. Two years later Guardian bought the Hall itself. They built their own headquarters offices nearby, on the site of the town slaughterhouse, and became Guardian Royal Exchange in 1968. They have been a major local employer ever since. The slaughterhouse remained for several years, before being demolished to make way for further Guardian development. The first block of offices was constructed by the junction of the newly-built South Park, and Ballam Road, and has now been replaced. The old football ground was also built upon.
The Guardian Sports Club was built in 1973.

The company built the AXA Data Centre, a revolutionary print works, on Westcliffe in Lytham in 1988. The site was originally that of Lytham gas works, until that moved to Eastham. It then became a metal works and the Corporation yard (complete with weighbridge), and then the Golden Glow peanut factory. In 1987, the AXA building was built to house staff leisure facilities, including a swimming pool, but the builder became insolvent and the building became the print works instead. This was demolished in 1998, to be replaced by a housing development.
In 1999, the Guardian group, by then owned by AXA, was bought out by Dutch insurer Aegon, who continue to trade as AXA UK Services.
AXA closed their Lytham offices in 2016, and the site may be turned into 97 flats.

The Blossoms, Ansdell: was built at 1-3 Woodlands Road on the corner of Blackpool Road, on the site of an apple orchard and allotments. Owned by Dutton's Brewery, it had 3 bars – one of which was "men only" – called Squires Bar - and had a snooker table.
The Blossoms is now owned by Mitchell and Butler Ltd and is operated as a Sizzling Pub.

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A local myth says that the pub was named after a horse of that name which used to use the field.

Brook Farm on Heyhouses Lane had been demolished to make way.

Mayfield Primary School, St Anne's: was opened on St Leonard's Road East. An open-plan school, it is constructed of red brick and has 12 classes. The later Pre-school operates from pre-fabricated buildings in the grounds of the main school.
Mayfield currently teaches 323 pupils.

The Queensway, Heyhouses: This public house was built at 15 Blackpool Road North this year by Whitbread's brewery.
The brewery ran it as a Beefeater restaurant from 1974 for many years, but in November 2006, it became part of the Harvester chain of pub/restaurants. This closed on the 22nd of April 2017, to be converted into a Miller and Carter Steakhouse by owners Mitchell and Butler, which opened in June 2017.

St Anne's Lawn Tennis Club was opened on Avondale Road by Fred Perry.
An ROC (Royal Observer Corps) monitoring station was opened in the southwest corner of the compound of a pumping station at the junction of Inner Promenade and St Paul's Avenue at Ansdell in May. It was closed in September 1991.
Sandhills were still being removed from the Promenade at St Anne's by bulldozers, in order to make more room for flat play and walking areas.

Pudding Pie Nook, Wrea Green: Mrs Moore's cottage was demolished on the 7th of December to make way for pedestrian access to the new Beverley Close estate. Built in the late 17th century it had been a clay-built, 3-bay cruck cottage and was the village's oldest. It was 37 feet long and 14 feet 9 inches wide. The walls were 6 feet high, but the ridge of the roof was 14 feet. The single front door opened into the main house, and contained the fire. The southern bay contained the buttery and the bed chamber used by the adults. In the corner of the chamber was a steep stair, which led to the children's sleeping room or loft. The northern bay was used as a workroom. The roof was supported by 4 timber A-cruck trusses, which sat upon walls that were 1 foot thick.

Other examples of cruck cottages in the Fylde included Hill cottages at Larbreck, Newsham Hall cottage at Woodplumpton, the Old Cottage at Great Eccleston, Catterall Hall cottage, Brook cottage at Inskip, Grange cottages at Pilling,

Out Rawcliffe village hall was opened on the 23rd of November, on the site of a former brickworks.
Eddie Topping started the Northwest's first garden centre in the grounds of Barton Grange. The Barton Grange Garden Centre moved to a purpose-built 50-acre site at Bilsborrow in 2008. It now holds its own annual Food and Drink Festival every September. In 2017, work began on the Barton Grange Flower Bowl development, which will contain only the UK's second dedicated curling rink, a cinema, and restaurants.

1964
The last train ran from Fleetwood to Blackpool North.
Albert Road Multi-storey Car Park was built.

Lewis's, Blackpool: The iconic Lewis's Department store opened at 50 the Promenade on April the 2nd. Designed by Duke and Simpson, and built by Costain's builders, using a steel girder method (supplied by

©

United Steel), it occupied a full town centre block. The Mayor of Blackpool cut the ribbon on the doors on the Promenade.

"from the time the site was cleared the new building was completed in the specified eighteen months and was one of the first multi-storey projects programmed on computer by the Critical Path Method to assess the relative importance of each individual operation. The exposed position prompted the designers to place all plant such as boilers and ventilation equipment on the roof rather than make a sub-basement and, by means of mechanical fans, the air throughout the store is changed every eight and a half minutes".

There was just a single run of asymmetrical windows and had a rooftop café and garden above its distinctive bright blue honeycombed exterior, which dominated the promenade skyline for many years, and lit up green at night.
The store had five floors, all served by escalators. The Basement housed the Food Hall. The ground floor's main attraction was its large perfumery and make-up department with glamorous brand demonstrators a regular sight. The first floor was for fashions for both sexes, and the second floor had a beauty salon, ladies' hairdresser, and a branch of Martin's Bank – managed by Mr D Barnie. Its sort code was 11-82-90, and it was opened by comedian Ken Dodd. The Wardroom Restaurant was on the third floor, with a popular record bar nearby. The Wardroom was a locals' favourite, and the only room with windows facing the sea – one of them 80 feet long.

Lewis's was named after its founder David Lewis, who started the business in Liverpool in 1856. The store became famous with local children for its window displays of toys of the time – Action Man, Sindy, Lego, Dinky etc. Santa Claus visited every year, and the Lewis's grotto was locally famous. In 1967, the theme was changed to Batman and Robin!

In the 1980s, the store's popularity began to wane. Several parts were closed, including the roof garden and the self-service café. The dawn of the 1990s witnessed even further decline, when the store turned into the Lewis's Discount Store. Sadly, though, Lewis's closed on the 9th of January 1993, and its top two store were removed prior to rebuilding into separate shops.
It was then completely re-modelled, to re-appear as the current red-brick building. Woolworths and various other retailers soon moved in.

On Abingdon Street were Melia's Bakers (moved to number 44 from number 18 and what is now called the Abingdon Barbecue), Salisbury's Handbags (now on Bank Hey Street), The English Leather Company, the Cumberland Restaurant, Dewhurst's Butchers, and several shoe shops, including Stylo and Curtess.
There were several travel agents in town at the time, hoping to profit from the new liking for foreign package holidays. Some of these were: Luxitours on Topping Street, English-Continental Travels on Talbot Road, and Frames of Abingdon Street. There was also Percival's on Red Bank Road, and Howorth's of Victoria Street and 2 Warrenhurst Road, Fleetwood (established in 1937).

The Twisted Wheel, Blackpool: this famous club was founded by brothers Jack, Phillip, and Ivor Abadi as a blues and soul live music coffee dance club. It was run by their father and was upstairs over a block of shops, at 71 Coronation Street with an ordinary café on the ground floor. The club advertised itself as Blackpool's "boss scene".
Champion Jack Dupree appeared there in 1965, and in 1966, the John Evan Band played there on the 12th of June. The members were John Evans –keyboard, Ian Anderson – vocals, Barriemore Barlow – drums, Jeffrey Hammond-Hammond (or Derek Ward) – bass, Jim Doolin – Trumpet, Martin Skyrme – saxophone, and Chris Riley – guitar.

©

The building later housed Fothergill's Quality Gifts and Toys, which closed in 2015.

The Dinmore Pub, Grange Park: opened on Dinmore Avenue for Christmas. The two-storey building had Vaults on the left-hand side, the lounge in the middle room, and the concert room / function room (the Starlight Room) was on the right. The basement was used for storage of barrels etc. The pub also had living accommodation on the first floor, and was originally owned by Magee Marshall, but was later bought by the Greenhall Brewery.
The pub became quite infamous for being one of the roughest pubs around but was loved by many estate residents.

By now renamed the New Dinmore, it closed on the 14th of July 2013. It was then sold at auction for £250,000 in 2014, after owner Calco Pubs went into administration. In November 2013, Eugene Ferguson was found dead inside the pub. An inquest later heard Mr Ferguson, from North Shore, was wanted by police, and had fallen down some stairs after breaking in.
Sadly, it then became a magnet for vandals, and was finally demolished by the council in October 2017.

The Gaslight Bar was opened at the Pleasure Beach.
Ron Simpson's ironmongery was on Moor Park Avenue.
Nurses from the Marie Curie Memorial Foundation first began working in Blackpool on the 1st of October.
Clifton Labour Club bought their premises on Langdale Road on the 16th of October.
Robert and Lawrence Chard opened R and L Coins in a penny arcade in Dale Street. Later becoming Chard's Goldsmiths, they moved to 521 Lytham Road, and in 2015, moved into the old Co-op building on Harrowside Bridge.
Mr and Mrs Holt opened their clothing shop at Spen Corner.
Lyons Coffee Shop was in the Feldman's building on the Promenade. Another one opened later on the corner of Albert Road and Central Drive.
I and C Aerials started in business on Daggers Hall Lane.
Built-in Floors Limited (Armstrong Flooring) was at 443 Waterloo Road. The building later housed Studio D Photography, then Willow World, and finally, a Smiley supermarket.
Piano Services (Blackpool) Limited had a piano and organ shop at 31 Central Drive. After being the Polski Sklep shop, it is now Beach Babies baby shop (formerly called Booties).

Abbey Road Clinic, Blackpool: The council had decided to replace the old and unsuitable Thames Road Clinic (opened on the 10th of March 1959, in hired rooms at the Thames Road Unitarian Church). *"The Abbey Road Clinic was opened in April, the Thames Road Clinic (a Church Hall which had been hired for one day a week) was discontinued. The Abbey Road Clinic now accommodates health clinic sessions previously not catered for through lack of space, and also incorporates a dental suite, offices for field workers, and rooms for lectures, demonstrations, and other meetings. Car parking space for patients and staff is provided and also a large covered area for prams"*. The full clinic was finally opened in May 1967.
The buildings were demolished in 2011, after the construction of the South Shore Primary Care Centre on Lytham Road.

The first Blackpool Lions Carnival was held, featuring a procession along the Promenade, followed by a fair on Lawson Road. It is now held on the first Sunday of every August.
The first annual international dance tournament, known as The Junior Dance Festival was held in the Tower Ballroom.

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Billy Butlin drew up plans for a holiday camp, zoo, and leisure complex off East Park Drive, near Marton Mere, but again, the Council turned them down.
Great Britain was beaten by the Soviet Union in a Swimming match in the Derby Baths on the 16th of April, and on the 4th of June, Great Britain swam there against Holland.
The Blackpool and Fylde Combination football league was launched, in an alliance of the Blackpool and District League (born 1897) and Fylde League (1901).
Oceans XI Football Club was formed. They first met at the Ocean Room at the Tower and then at the Boars Head pub in Marton. They were initially known as Rangers Football Club.
Kendon Drug Stores began business, opening a shop on Westcliffe Drive, Layton, called Kendon Unit 5 in the early 1970s. The shop is now a Costcutter supermarket.
Oscar's club, later known as the Top Hat, was on Topping Street.
Blackwood's Rock obtained the licence to produce official Beatles rock, sweets, and lollipops. Palace Rock made official Beatles records made of rock, and Excel Fancy Goods of Back St Heliers Road manufactured Beatles 3D television lamps.
The International Motor Police Rally was held in town.
Symphonia Records opened on Cookson Street. They provided competition for Ray's Melody Inn - later to be called Melody House at 53 Bond Street (later moved to Bolton Street to replace the Pot Shop), where rare records could be bought. Ray's Melody Inn also had shops in Market Street, Blackpool – with Graffiti Records on the first floor. Graffiti Records also had shops at 7 Market Square in Kirkham – now the Kirkham Pet Centre, and at 27a Wood Street, St Anne's. Just around the corner on Church Street was the Record Mart (Smokey Joe's, as owner Joe Darby was known).
The number of ice cream manufacturers in town was now 30. By 1971, this was 27.
The Blackpool Night Out shows ran for two series, from the 5th of July to the 13th of September 1964, and from the 20th of June to the 12th of September 1965.

The Rolling Stones Riot: The Rolling Stones endured a riot amid 7,000 fans at the Empress Ballroom on the 24th of July, when hecklers spat at them and they had to run from the stage. Apparently, the *"suggestive"* concert ended, when angry fans smashed crystal chandeliers, tore up seats, smashed a Steinway grand piano, and threw bottles and stones. 50 fans were taken to hospital, and the outraged Council banned the Rolling Stones for life from appearing in Blackpool - a ban finally overturned in March 2008.
Local band The Executives supported the Stones, who had spent the afternoon playing snooker at the Police Social Club.
The group had already played the Opera House on the 3rd of March, but with no trouble.

Cilla Black sang at the Queen's Theatre for the first of many solo appearances in town. In September 1962, she had passed her driving test at her first attempt in Blackpool, whilst appearing at the ABC in Holiday Showtime. Her first car was a Mini, bought from Loxham's Garage on Whitegate Drive.
The Comedians Little and Large first appeared in Blackpool at the Queen's Theatre.
Rock and Roller Gene Vincent appeared at the North Pier on the 5th of July. This was followed by appearances by many famous musical acts of the day, like the Yardbirds and Dave Berry and the Cruisers on the 8th of August 1965, the Yardbirds and the Troggs on the 3rd of July 1966, the Spencer Davis Group for the season beginning on the 8th of July 1966, and the Hollies on the 31st of July for one month.
The Senators cabaret band was formed in Blackpool by Mike Carew. They are currently the town's longest-lasting function band.

March of the Mods: This now-world-famous hit tune (despite rumours, it is nothing to do with the Finnish "Finnjenka Dance"!) was conceived by Reg Powell. Peter Fielding, of local band the Executives, added the

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minor modulation key change to it, and local producer Tony Carr added the connecting phrases to the theme and arranged it to manuscript. His son Roy Carr was singer with the Executives, who further adapted and recorded the song in 1964 – Joe Loss later released the song after being sold the rights to it. Glen Cornick of the Executives later joined Ian Anderson in Jethro Tull.

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The Roman Catholic Church of St Martin de Porres, Carleton: A Catholic chapel of Ease was built on Fleetwood Road, and was dedicated to St Martin de Porres by the Bishop of Lancaster, Brian Foley on the 2nd of August. It was known at first as Carleton Church. Mass had previously been held at the Scout Hut on Poulton Road.

Meanwhile, various possibilities for a new building for a Church of England in Carleton came to nothing, their congregation continued to hold family communion services in the school hall of Carleton Church of England School on Bispham Road. Anglican services held in Carleton School since September 1983 were presided over by the curate from Church House on Roylen Avenue (opened in 1981).
In 1995, the Carleton Church of England congregation was invited to use the building for its services. The first mid-week Eucharist in St Martin de Porres Catholic Church took place on the 6th of September, and on the 11th, a service of unity and commitment was held on the occasion of the blessing of the shared church of St Martin and St Hilda. The service was led by the Catholic Bishop of Lancaster, Jack Brewer, and the Anglican Bishop of Blackburn, Alan Chesters. Social links between the two churches grew, resulting in a Link Committee being formed in March 1996, by which time Carleton Church had been renamed the Church of St Hilda of Whitby.
In June 1998, St Martin's officially joined with St Hilda's, and a portakabin was erected to house the Sunday school and social events – replaced in red brick in 2008.

Sandra Holden established a dance school in Thornton, at the age of 17, later moving to a permanent base on Holly Road.
The new rehearsal hall of the Thornton Cleveleys Amateur Operatic Society was opened on Ritherham Avenue in February by Violet Carson.
Alysia's ladies' hairdressing salon was at 32 Church Road in Thornton.
GV and E Bale and Sons had their drapers and boys' outfitters at 8 Rossall Road in Cleveleys. The premises are currently occupied by Duke's Pizza and Kebab house.
David Owen was running his news agency at 104 Victoria Road in Cleveleys, complete with its own record bar at the rear. The shop later became Contessa (ladies wear) Ltd and is now a YMCA charity shop.
The John Slater Foundation was set up by Elizabeth Slater of Cleveleys.
W Whitby and Son Limited were running their plumbers and decorators store and yard at 122 Fleetwood Road in Thornton, specialising in Leyland and Dulux paints.
At 321 Fleetwood Road in Thornton was E Boocock's newsagent's and tobacconist's shop. This is now known as Bourne Newsagents.
George Pilling's grocer's and confectioner's shop was at number 64 Fleetwood Road, next door to Len Jones's Windmill Paint Stores at numbers 61 and 62.
At the "Linden Avenue Shopping Centre" in Thornton were six shops: The Linden Avenue Off Licence at number 23, J and E Morris's Wool Shop at 25, Noblet's Hardware at 27, J Boyd's newly-opened newsagents at number 29, Clough's SPAR self-service store at 31, and at 33 was NW Lever's greengrocer's and fish shop.
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Northfold Junior School, Thornton: Westmorland School opened for pupils in September at Ringway (by Westmorland Avenue). Re-named Northfold Junior School it was officially opened to 142 pupils in January 1965. An Infants School was added in 1969, but closed in 1981, due to falling numbers.
It is now known as Northfold County Primary School and has up to 200 children in 7 classes.
Haven Short Stay School operated from a building attached to Northfold, providing placements for 16 permanently excluded pupils or pupils at risk of exclusion. It was closed in 2011.

Lakeland View was built on Laidley's Walk in Fleetwood, as a home for the physically handicapped. The Lancashire County council-run home was closed in September 2008, and rapidly demolished.
Larkholme Mental Training Centre opened in Fleetwood.
The pirate radio ship "Radio Caroline" (the renamed "MV Frederica") was anchored off Ramsey on the Isle of Man from the 13th of July and gave reports of ships entering Fleetwood docks. The station was closed down by the Dutch on the 3rd of March 1968. The ship's tender "Essex Girl" was later be found in Fleetwood Docks, having been converted into a house-boat and renamed "The Roving Swan", which was broken up at Skippool in about 2000.
Windy Harbour Yacht Club was rebuilt.
Builder Roland Bardsley of Weeton founded a company in his own name. He built it up to be the Northwest's largest independent house builder.
The Queenborough Hotel on Clifton Drive South in St Anne's was demolished, and a block of shops and offices was built by Mitton Developments. The main part of the ground floor soon became Cooper's supermarket, with Walmsley's ladies' fashions occupying the corner unit from 1970. Above the supermarket was St Anne's House, which was built to order as offices for the Board of Trade. This accommodation was later used by the HM Customs and Excise pensions branch, and then more recently by ITSA. The supermarket later changed to Victor Value, then Tesco, Kwik Save, and finally Somerfield, which closed on the 21st of October 2006. Marks and Spencer opened a "Simply Food" store in the premises on the 27th of February 2007.

St Albans Church, St Anne's: St Albans Catholic Mission and Presbytery was founded, as a temporary chapel and daughter church of Our Lady Star of the Sea, at 64 Kilnhouse Lane. It replaced Cross Lane Farm, which had been demolished in 1963. The church we see today was first used on the 2nd of May 1965. Worshippers had celebrated mass in the Queensway pub since the 29th of September 1963. The building has rendered and glass walls, and a shallow pitched roof. The adjoining parish hall is built in a similar style but has a monopitch roof.

In December, the Second England Trial was held at Fylde Rugby Club, and Sir Laurie Edwards, President of the Rugby Union, officially opened the pavilion extensions.
Knott End and Preesall's thriving shops at the time were:

- On Wyre View – Lord's Bakery at number 4, J Gudgeon (butcher), J Brown (pharmacy), Parkinson's china and toys at the Post Office, J Stringfellow's footwear at number 6.
- On Lancaster Road – Gladys Gee (hairdresser) at number 20, Knott End Dairy at 26, Joyce Houldsworth's clothing at 54, Garner's Bakers at 16, Cartwright's newspapers, tobacco, and toys at 22 and 24, and Green's grocers and confectioners.
- At Preesall - J and ME Wilkinson, selling groceries from the Post Office, Ken Moon (joiner and undertaker) at Windy Corner on Sandy Lane, TP Shepherd (electrical appliances and repairs) at "Electric House" on Park Lane, Charlie Melling's cycles at Preesall Park, John Warbrick's joiners and undertakers at Cartgate, and Hallett's Household Stores on Sandy Lane.

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The Black Knights Sky-diving team was established by a group of ex-service men at Bank End Farm in Cockerham. They soon developed their own small airfield.

1965

The RNLI began using D Class inflatable inshore rescue boats at Blackpool.
The Marton line from Waterloo Station, (South Station) across the Moss to Kirkham closed to regular traffic and closed completely in 1966. The track bed later became Yeadon Way and the M55 motorway.
A Safe Driving Rally for the Civil Defence Force was held in Blackpool on the 4th of April.
The Winnipeg Estate was built on Bispham Road.
Double Yellow Lines first appeared on the streets of Blackpool.
Welsh Brothers, wholesale fish dealers were at 275 Dickson Road, between North Shore Bingo and the famous Derby Supper Bar. Since then it has been M and K Furniture, and Julie's Beauty Holistic Salon, amongst others. It has been empty for several years.

TJ Hughes / Owen Owen, Blackpool: TJ Hughes opened their store at 12 Bank Hey Street.
In 1972, the company was taken over by Owen Owen Limited (who also owned Lewis's), and the Blackpool shop was sold to remove competition. It later became a WH Smith's store and Travel Centre.
Owen Owen were previously next to Redman's Café at 8 Bank Hey Street from the 1950s until 1965 (the store was fully revamped in 1963 and operated for a few months from Market Street).

TJ Hughes opened in the old Woolworths store on Bank Hey Street on the 16th of March 2010. It closed in 2011, along with the Wallis shop next door, to be replaced by a Poundland store, which opened on the 29th of September 2011, after vacating their Church Street store.

Mecca Ballroom, Blackpool: The Mecca Locarno "New World" Ballroom and Highland Suite, with the Top Rank Bowling Alley, the Carousel Club Bar and Buffet, and a multi-storey 1,000-vehicle car park (with Car Wash and Amoco garage) opened on Central Drive on the 22nd of February. The building was erected by Laing Construction Ltd.
An "Opening Celebration Ball" was then held on the 31st of March. The "Grand Opening Dance" didn't take place until the 3rd of April, and music was by the David Ede Orchestra and the Ross Mitchell Four.
The new venue hosted its first annual Western Night on the 10th of September, soon following it with George Hewitt's International Rodeo, in a vain attempt to launch itself as a country and western venue.
The Locarno advertised itself as *"an essay in tasteful modernity and elegance"*.

At the time though, the Mecca (founded by Eric Morley) was at the cutting edge of nightclub entertainment, and the club, holding 3,500 people – 2,000 of them dancing, had indoor palm trees and a revolving bandstand, which entered the ballroom to the tune "Time is Tight" by Booker T and the MGs. It was so popular, that the management put on free coaches to ferry customers from throughout the Fylde.
The main ballroom, the Highland Room (originally called the Candlelight Room) – with its Grill Room and Long Bar, was linked to the Bali-Hi Bar which was guarded by bouncers. Artists who appeared there in its heyday included Little Stevie Wonder – in 1966, and the Sweet, Slade, and Bob Marley and the Wailers in 1973. The banquet hall could accommodate 1,300 people. The venue also contained the Carousel Club Bar and Buffet.
Opening to the public before the dance hall was completed, the Top Rank Savoy Bowl bowling alley boasted 30 lanes on 3 separate floors and closed in May 1970. The ally became the Commonwealth Sporting Club from April 1977. Owned by Poulton Snooker professional David Greaves, the grand opening was by World snooker champion Joe Davis. The venue had an indoor arena to seat 350 people, 25 snooker

tables, 5 squash courts, a boxing gym, a second gym, a bar, a restaurant, and a sauna, and from October 1987, also housed an indoor golf driving range. The gym later became Tony's Muscle Junction Gym, and Daphne's Kitchen café was opened.
It became the Premier Bowl in 1989 and is now closed and demolished.

From 1971 until 1979, the Highland Room became the centre of Northern Soul music. Local DJ Tony Jebb founded the Soul Sessions at the venue, and Les Cockell, late of the Twisted Wheel Club on Coronation Street, helped him. Another popular DJ was Billy the Kid, and the sessions regularly attracted over 1,000 fans to the first-floor dancehall.
The Soul Nights did not last long, as a club called the Torch in Wolverhampton briefly offered an alternative.
The Twisted Wheel in Manchester and the Torch closed in 1973, and the fans returned en masse, to listen to music played by DJs Colin Curtis and Keith Minshull. Minshull was soon replaced by local DJ Ian Levine, whose parents ran the Lemon Tree at Squires Gate.
Curtis and Levine soon began hosting "Blackpool Mecca All-Dayers", with such renowned Northern Soul favourites as *"Junior Walker, JJ Barnes, Crown Heights Affair, Brass Construction, Al Hudson, the Miracles, Sylvester and Two Tons of Fun, Edwin Starr, Manchester Ritz with Tavares, Archie Bell"* etc.

Live groups and singers (such as Wishbone Ash on the 10th of December 1970, Slade on the 28th of July and 11th of August 1972, the Sweet on the 9th of February 1973, and Bob Marley and the Wailers on the 22nd of November 1973) appeared downstairs. On the 19th of December 1972, the Ballroom hosted FIVE big groups – the Edgar Broughton Band, Medicine Head, Quiver, Pink Fairies, and the Roy Young band.

In 1974, the Mecca ballroom was refurbished, and was renamed Tiffany's. The new club featured the first videotape machine to be used in a British nightclub. The various house bands were the Al Robbins Band (1966 to 1972), the David Ede Orchestra, the Terry Reaney Showband (who, with Look Twice, became Sound 16), and the Cavaliers. There was also "Blackpool's own Star Dance Team" – The Silhouettes. On the 20th of December 1977, Fairport Convention played there, featuring locally-born singer Maddy Prior. Tiffany's ballroom (including its Bubbly Bar) closed officially on the 4th of December 1977, with a farewell Northern Soul all-dayer. The 1979 tour guide of the pop group, The Tourists (later to become The Eurythmics), states that they played Tiffany's on the 29th of October 1979. On the 1st of December 1980, heavy rock band Uriah Heep were booked to play, but Samson ended up filling in for them.
The venue was briefly known as Big Night Out, and upstairs were the Blue Note Bar, the Crescendo Bar, the Brass Bar, and the restaurant. It closed in 1981 and remained closed until a £750,000 refurbishment in 1990 when it became the Night Out Theatre Restaurant. By December that year it had closed again, although later in 1991, it hosted the Mekka Rave club. It was reopened as Some Place Else in 1998, but closed in early 1999, becoming a linked bowling alley and the Rhythm Dome nightclub in the July. It was eventually derelict for several years.

The 1977 Blackpool Mecca Soul Festival was organised in conjunction with Ian Levine and Colin Curtis, featured the US band Brass Construction, and was attended by 3,200 people. The Mecca Soul Club officially ran from 1967 until 1979.

On the ground floor of the building at various times were the Matador Amusement Arcade, Wedding World (later Work Wear), and Mike Quinn's domestic appliance repairs. Mike Quinn's later moved to Caunce Street, closing in 2012.

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On the opposite side of Rigby Road was the Phoenix City café which attracted late revellers after the Mecca Closed. This later became the Vunderbar Grill, a plumber's shop, a kick boxing school, and then Blackpool's first mosque.

The complete block of buildings was bought by Blackpool Council in 2008, and was demolished in 2010. The plan had been to construct a new campus for the Blackpool Technical College, but the money could not be found. An estate of housing began to be built on the site in 2014. Developers Hollinwood Homes started the 400-home Foxhall Village estate, and 126 homes had been built by March 2016.

Blenheim Lodge, Blackpool: This 1930s building at 162 Whitegate Drive was taken over on the 22nd February, by the Blackpool Society for Mentally Handicapped Children as a centre providing employment for adult mentally handicapped girls. Ashburton Road Clinic, had fulfilled the same purpose for adult males since 1964. Both centres could accommodate 16 persons.

In 1967, the building was opened as a day school for *"severely maladjusted pupils"*, and in March 1969, its ground floor was turned into the new Council Day Nursery. In 1970, the Council Medical Officer stated that *"This is intended as a temporary arrangement only pending the construction of a purpose-built Day Nursery to replace the original building, now demolished"*.
In November 1995, the school moved to the newly-converted Blenheim House Child Development Centre on Newton Drive, being opened officially by the Duke of Westminster. It was originally built between 1891 and 1895 as two semi-detached properties Ingle Dene (147) and Ivy Villa (145). They were both grand, red-brick houses, and housed various well-to-do people in their time. The home was then run by the Blackpool Carers Centre.
The old lodge became Beeches centre for the mentally ill, and then the Hope House drug rehabilitation centre. It is now closed and for sale.

Blenheim House Child Development Centre relocated from Newton Drive to Whitegate Drive in 2014, and vandals wrecked the empty building, leaving it in a bad state. However, after being donated for the purpose by the Beaverbrook Charitable Trust, in July 2016, Blenheim Lodge was redeveloped by the BBC TV programme "DIY SOS: The Big Build BBC Children in Need special", with the help of time given freely by many local tradesmen. It greatly extended building was re-opened, as Beaverbrook House, on the 21st of July, with the programme shown in the week commencing the 14th of November.

A First Aid Post was provided on the promenade during the holiday season by "ASPRO". During the season 2,931 cases were treated at the converted caravan. *"A breakdown is as follows; Cuts and Grazes 995; Ears and Eyes 306; Headaches 304; Insect Bites 197; Sprains and Bruises 159; Burns 92; Referred to Hospital 72; Nausea and Vomiting 40; and Other 766"*. The post was used annually thereafter.
Blackpool Pleasure Beach opened the Ski Jump ride and the Paradise Room. The Ski Jump was replaced by the Calypso ride in later years – a ride of 4 sets of 4 spinning cars, surrounded by alpine skier figures.
Executive Lighting opened its shop on Market Street; the Tidswell family taking over a former fancy goods and lighting shop. It was demolished in 2006, along with the adjacent China House restaurant and Studio 19 to make way for a Wetherspoon's bar, the Layton Rakes, opened in 2011.
Jim Kelly Insurances was established at 251 Church Street.
Keswick Road Filling Station Limited started business on the 26th of March on the site of Smith's Stables. When William Hilton started the business, after hearing about the chance to rent the land from Jet, it was just a petrol station, with six pumps. The garage closed on the 30th of September 2007, to be replaced by modern terraced houses.

©

Hebden Autos was established behind 9 Durley Road, South Shore.
The Capri Grill was in operation at 23 Squires Gate Lane. The building is now occupied by the Lee Raj Indian Restaurant, who soon expanded into number 21 next door.
Firth and Price opened their car spares wholesalers at 42 Elizabeth Street.
A sweet shop, called "Ye Olde Nutty Shoppe", run on North Pier by Messrs Hartley and Sharples, closed in October.
The Blake School of motoring was operating from 9 Hereford Avenue.
Moss Hey Boarding Kennels opened on Chapel Road, Marton.
Frith's bakery was at 394 Midgeland Road, later being replaced by Harvey Silver's bookmakers and then Bridge Saddlery, before becoming Welcome Pets.
Abrams Ashton and Company (Financial Services) Limited were established at 340 Lytham Road.
Bill Thompson's House of Secrets was in business at 12 Caunce Street, inventing and supplying magic tricks and equipment.
W Newton, furniture dealer at 38-44, George Street went into liquidation. He also had a shop – Newtons – at 57 Victoria Street.
The North Lancashire Parachute Club began operating from Squires Gate Airport.
Several new warehouses were built on Squires Gate Industrial Estate. They were occupied by B&M Bargains until 2011.
The signal box by Pontin's camp was closed in March.
In the Lancashire Schools' Athletic Championships held at Kirkby on the 20th of June, both the boys' team and the girls' team won the Championships.
The Compere Cup's first football final was between winners YMCA and Wren Rovers at the Co-operative Sports Ground on Preston New Road.
The International Motorcycle Exhibition was held in the Winter Gardens.
The British Lambretta Owners Association held its Blackpool Rally in May.
On the 27th of June, the Rainbow Theatre hosted a Sunday Special featuring Gene Vincent, Joe Meek, and Manfred Mann.
Members of the Blackpool Girl's College founded the Blackpool Ladies Choir.
Karen Muir, of South Africa, became the youngest person to break a world record when she swam the 110-yard backstroke in 1 minute 8.7 seconds at the English ASA Championships at the Derby Baths on the 10th of August. She was 12 years, 10 months, and 25 days old.
Coleen Nolan, of the Singing Nolans group was born in Blackpool, on the 12th of March. She was educated at St Kentigern's School, and at St Catherine's School, and then briefly at Baines High School. Her sister Bernie was born in Dublin but raised in Blackpool.
Simon Bryan was born in Blackpool, being educated at Arnold School. He was the recipient of a local authority grant to fund his education. He trained in the Law and became a QC in 2017.

Lester Ellis: was born on the 15th of March in Blackpool. He became a boxer, who moved to Melbourne, Australia. He was world boxing champion in the WBF Welterweight division in 1993, IBO Light Welterweight (aka Super Lightweight) division in 1994, and IBO Lightweight division in 1995.

Comedian Jimmy James – a Blackpool favourite – died in town on the 4th of August, of pulmonary congestion.

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Poulton St John Ambulance Brigade HQ was opened on Station Road by Lord Cozens-Hardy.
The New Look Coffee Lounge was at number 3 Rossall Road, run by Eric Bates. It is now Elaine's Chippy.
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Rossall Road Post Office, incorporating the Card Select, was at 52a Rossall Road in Cleveleys, run by Frank and Eileen Townsend. In 1912, it was in the hands of the Marsden family, who also offered home-baked bread and cakes for sale.
Thornton Pottery and Arts/Crafts Centre opened in Potter's Barn (c1720) on Fleetwood Road.
Fleetwood ROC (Royal Observer Corps) station opened in June, between the sea and the Boating Lake. It closed in September 1991.
The Fleetwood Fish Transport Company Limited was formed.
A dead Minke Whale was washed up on the beach at Rossall Point on the 30th of August. Its skull is displayed in Fleetwood Museum.
The Rotary Club of over Wyre was formally established on the 9th of August.
Chris Catterall established his pigeon transport company at the rear of the Breck on Carr Lane in Hambleton. A new entity, Chris Catterall Pigeon Transport Limited, was incorporated on the 2nd of March 2011, having moved to Eccleston near Chorley.

Stephen Tompkinson: was born in Stockton-on-Tees on the 15th of October, and moved to Ashley Road in St Anne's, where he attended Holy Family Primary School, St Mary's at Blackpool, and finally, St Bede's High School in Lytham, when he lived in St Patrick's Road North. He went on to become a famous actor, after training at Blackpool Technical College at Bispham.

The first Freckleton Half Marathon was held on the 19th of June. It was won by British Olympic marathon runner Ron Hill in a time of 65.44 minutes.
The TSR2 aeroplane - Warton's hope for the future was scrapped, prompting fears of job losses.

Strike Lane Primary School, Freckleton: The closure of the RAF Kirkham County Primary School prompted the building of a replacement, and the new school on Strike Lane was opened. The majority of the pupils on opening were the children of RAF personnel stationed locally. Phase 1 opened on the 26th of August 1965, with 2 junior and 2 infant classrooms, the hall, kitchen, and staff rooms. Phase 2 did not happen until 1968, with 2 more junior classrooms, and Phase 3 saw another infant classroom and the infant play area. The completed school was finally opened on the 11th of March 1970, the Lord Lieutenant of Lancashire, Lord Rhodes.
In August 2011, an extension and a covered walkway were opened, and the grounds incorporate a large playing field, a wildlife area with a pond, and decorative willow structures designed to stimulate questions.
The Orchid Children's Centre is also based at Strike Lane.
It is the only non-church school in the area, and currently has 190 pupils.

St Michael's Over Sixty's Club was formed, to provide a recreational afternoon in the Village Hall for residents of the village who were over 60.
The Winter Hill television transmitter opened at Rivington near Bolton on the 3rd of May, supplying Blackpool with clear pictures for the first time.
The Post Office Tower was opened in London on the 8th of October, replacing Blackpool Tower as the UK's highest building. It had been finished on the 15th of July 1964.

1966
Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother visited Blackpool on the 5th of April.
The "Thrift Tram" ran this year (Car 158) to celebrate the 50th anniversary of National Savings.

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Pleasure Beach Monorail: Britain's first commercial Monorail system opened at the Pleasure Beach, with four trains, each capable of carrying 60 passengers. They had bought the Monorail from the World's Fair in Lausanne in Switzerland where it gave visitors a taste of "transport in the future". The one-mile-long system had stations by the main car and coach park, and in the centre of the park. It was held aloft by the figure of a smiling Gulliver giant. It originally ran past Noah's Ark, but was re-routed around the casino building in 1978. The monorail closed to the public in 2012.

The Duple Club, Blackpool: Duple moved their Social Club to the warehouse floor of Boots Cash Chemists (later a Co-operative store) at CVH Buildings at 96a Bond Street, from its original 1930s' home on Liverpool Road. The premises had previously been used by the Northern Counties Social Pool (Tote) Club. The club moved to this site to accommodate workers from Duple's factory next to the Pleasure Beach - located on the spit of land between Bond Street and the railway line to the west, just south of the junction with Balmoral Road.

Blackpool Supporters' Social Club: opened next to the football ground on the 1st of September, later becoming fondly known as *"Morty's Bar"*.
It was replaced in 1974 by the Club Tangerine across the road – with their resident group, the Roger Kendrick Four. That then became the Tangerine Nightclub, with resident DJ Darren Nelson, and finally, the Tangerine Nightspot, which was demolished in 2002.

Sandra Henstock opened her hairdressing shop on St Heliers Road.
Rydal Lodge Old Folks Home opened in Ferguson Road on March the 30th. It was a mental health hostel with 30 beds for the aged and was built on the site of the former Ferguson's Nurseries. Blackpool Council shortly opened the Phoenix House centre opposite. The rebuilt Phoenix Centre was opened on the 13th of July 2007 as a half-way house for mentally disturbed people.
Lancashire won the Inter-Counties Cross Country race in Blackpool on the 20th of January.
The Blackpool and Fylde Social Club was formed on the 6th of December.
The Langley School of Theatre and Drama was established at Warbreck Drive by Ruth and Joan Langley before moving to Hornby Road and finally to 38 Coronation Street. The name was changed to the Langley Dance Centre and the school moved into the vacated United reformed Church on Plymouth Road roundabout, renaming as the Langley Dance and Theatre Arts Academy, on the 7th of October 2018.
Roy's Hairdressing was opened on the 23rd of October 23, at 133 Red Bank Road. Roy Dunstan worked in the shop until 2015, when illness forced him to retire. The shop closed at the end of 2017, but Roy's son, Paul Dunstan re-opened it in the former Slice sandwich shop in June 2019.
Ivy House Holiday Centre on Common Edge Road opened a petrol station.
Kenyon's electrical services were established behind 230 Church Street, before moving into the main shop in 1984. The business closed in 2018.
Smith's Skip Hire was established in Blackpool, now working from Bracewell Avenue in Poulton.
Midgeland Road Garage was established at number 518. It became a Limited company in 1992, and was dissolved on the 14th of April 2014.
Britannia Confectionery (Blackpool) Limited was wound up in July.
Leyland Paints opened a wholesale outlet in Fenton's Sawmill building off Caunce Street. The shop closed in 2011 to be replaced by 50 houses, including the 13 Sawmills flats.
Blackpool Town Band (Not the Tower Band) was formed at the Belle Vue Pub. In 1973, it became the Dutton Forshaw Motors Band. From 1985, it was sponsored by Marton Mere Caravan Park, and from 1990, reverted to the name of Blackpool Brass. In June 2007, they opened their own rehearsal room in the changing rooms behind Marton Institute; these had been built in the 1950s for Blackpool Tennis Club.

The “Edwin Hicks All Laughter Show” was showing in Stanley Park Bowl.
An Auster aircraft crashed at Squires Gate on the 6th of February, killing two people, including Russell Whyham, chairman of ANT Navigation and Trading Company.
Howcroft Hotspurs Football Club was formed at the Sands Casino Theatre Club in Hawes Side Lane, named after the then manager of the club. They later became Sands Casino Football Club.
In October, the Flying Scotsman railway engine came to Blackpool with a special nameplate reading the “Blackpool Belle”.
A young David Bowie and his new group, the Buzz, performed at South Pier on May the 29th. David had recently changed his stage name from Davy Jones (his real name).
Jethro Tull returned home and played at the Tower’s Planet Room on the 22nd of February. They also played at the Winter Gardens on the 5th of March 2006.
The first ever It’s A Knockout show was broadcast live on from Morecambe on the 7th of August. Blackpool took on Morecambe in a programme hosted by MacDonald Hobley, with Eddie Waring as referee, and Charlie Chester as Master of Ceremonies.
The “Blackpool Show” was broadcast from the ABC theatre from June, hosted by the likes of comedian Tony Hancock and Dickie Henderson, and shown on ITV.
The TV detective “Adam Adamant” was featured in an episode on the 30th of June, called “Death has a Thousand Faces”, which took Adam to Blackpool where the owner of the Horror Museum planned, with the Illuminations Officer, to blow up The Golden Mile. Its director was Ridley Scott who went on to direct many blockbuster films.
Keith Moon of The Who premiered his revolutionary double bass drum kit at South Pier on the 28th of May.
Blackpool gained its own “all-numeric” telephone STD Code – 0253, which was changed to 01253 on the 16th of April 1995.
The Moody Blues played the Winter gardens on the 25th of January, returning to the Opera House on the 2nd of December 1984.

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A Royal Observer Corps observation post was built on a hilltop south of Preese hall in Weeton, opening in March. It closed in October 1968.
Poulton Photographic Society was formed. They first met at the Luncheon Club, and in 1975 moved to the Geography Room of Poulton-le-Fylde College. When the college closed in 1982 the Photographic Society moved to premises in the Methodist Church on Queensway.
Four Lane Ends Garage was opened by Don Adshead on the 24th of October in Thornton. The site had formerly housed the Cross Roads Garage of S Wroe.
Kilgour Industries was established, working from Redmarsh Drive, Thornton.
Fleetwood’s first Car Ferry sailed to Douglas. The “Manx Maid” was a side-loading ferry.
Fleetwood operated its first stern-fishing trawler.
The Teon Belt Works on Kemp Street at Fleetwood closed. Run by the company of Fleming, Birkby, and Goodall Ltd, it had manufactured vulcanised rubber belting since before 1910.
Beach Road Garage (Fleetwood) Ltd was incorporated on the 9th of February at number 61. It was owned by Colin Murray (a racing driver from 1950 to 1960) and from 1959 was the sole British distribution agent for Maserati cars.

The Cutty Sark pub, Fleetwood: was built and opened by Bass Breweries, on Chatsworth Avenue. Infamous for many years as having a reputation for fights, it was loved by its regular patrons.
It closed in 2006, to be demolished in 2007.

Lancashire Cheese Makers Limited on Poulton Road in Fleetwood was closed. It had been started by Stanley Bamber.
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RR Thomas was selling cycles, scooters and mopeds at 26 Radcliffe Road in Fleetwood. In 2000, the premises were purchased to become Trimmers gents' hairdressers.
Whitehead's record shop was at 169 Lord Street in Fleetwood. After several years as a bargain shop called Allsorts Cheaper 4U, the store is now an off-licence called Booze.
E Johnson's butcher's shop was at 69 Addison Road in Fleetwood. Since 1996, the premises have been a private house.
Copse Road was opened at Fleetwood on the 26th of January.
The Knott End Sailing Centre was constructed from the remains of Spring Bank Cottages.
The Red Bank Surgery opened at 52 Ashton Gardens, St Anne's.
Lytham St Anne's Private Clubs Darts League was formed.
Colonel Frederick William Jones of Lytham was made High Sheriff of Lancashire.
Ashworth, Treasure and Co, chartered accountants, were at 27 Park Street in Lytham. The shop is now owned and run by GR Hardwick (Optometrist), who started business in 1982 in Cleveleys.
The Elizabethan Club was in business above the Co-operative store on Poulton Street in Kirkham.
Kirkham Service Station was in operation on the Kirkham Bypass, at the crossroad junction of Freckleton Street and Freckleton Road. It had replaced the Jubilee Café and Garage. In 2010 Ice Blue Developments built 12 apartments and 20,000 square feet of office space at the former Texaco petrol station.
Lamaleach Caravan Park was established on Lytham Road in Freckleton by M and J Lancaster. Now having 208 static caravans, it has built its own club house and is known as Lamaleach Park.
Foldside Farm in Freckleton was demolished. It stood to the north of the village centre, off the road to Kirkham.
Great Eccleston Tithe Barn was demolished in July – by then being used as a simple barn.

1967

Anchorsholme Primary School: was opened handful of pupils in June, and was then opened fully on Eastpines Drive in September, to house up to 630 pupils.
The teaching areas are arranged so that the infant and junior departments are integrated, but still keep own identity. There are 21 classrooms, each with its own practical area, sink, and storage space. There are toilet and cloakrooms for each class base. The school has 2 assembly halls, an ICT suite, a multi-purpose training room, a purpose-built library, a reading room, a drama and audio-visual aid room, a medical room, a curriculum resource area, and a print room.
A purpose-built early years' unit, housing 3 classrooms, was built in 1999, and a 5-classroom extension in October 2001. The school is now known as Anchorsholme Academy.

During the year 40 houses in the Middle Street/Kay Street Area owned by the Corporation and certified by the Medical Officer of Health to be unfit for human habitation were demolished, the tenants having been previously re-housed by the Corporation. Also, a slum clearance order was obtained to demolish a further 79 houses in Larkhill Street. This was completed by 1970, when the space became a temporary car park.
Whitegate Manor Old Folks Home was opened at the corner of Ferguson Road and Whitegate Drive on April the 22nd. John Ferguson's Nursery and house had been demolished on the site, and Ferguson Road named after him. His home was called Cumberland House, and was a solid, red-brick, 3-bedroomed property with a large garden and its own breeding kennels – it stood at number 46. He once owned Ashton Gardens at St Anne's.
The terminus of the old Marton tram route was removed from Talbot Square. The three parallel traffic islands (running east to west) were replaced by a large island and a little one. All bus stops were also removed from the square, to allow the increasing amount of traffic to move more freely.
Traffic Signals were first installed on the Promenade this year.

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Central Station site, Blackpool: The site of the old station was finally cleared and tarmacked – apart from the toilet block.
The large empty space needed filling, and the Council allowed fairground rides to be erected. Marshalls from Brighouse provided their Dodgems, Big Wheel, and Continental Hurricane Jets, and Doubtfire's supplied one of their smart Waltzers.
The rides changed almost yearly, with some newcomers being Joe White's upright Paratrooper and Octopus, then Brinley Gore's platform Twist, and also, Lawrence Silcock junior's Mack Ski Jump. There was also a travelling ghost train, called The Bogey Run.

The Blackpool Dolphinarium opened on the site in 1969, by Joe Raber's Marine Mammals International, for a seasonal temporary show for just that summer. Three bottlenose dolphins were brought from South Africa. One animal died before appearing, and the other two went to other UK shows before being exported to Malta. Those were called "Sinbad" and "Pronto".

A revolutionary ride was installed in 1976, and even featured in the World's fair of that year: "*Marshall's Everest. One of only four manufactured by French firm Reverchon the ride was certainly spectacular. It had 16 cars travelling over an undulating track. As the ride picked up speed the operator used air rams to tilt the cars - it was a cross between a Mont Blanc and a superbob. The centre over the ride had three-dimensional scenery of an alpine scene and was covered in lights. Although this type of decoration was commonplace in Europe it was a complete novelty for this country at the time*".

The World's longest Log Flume – at 2,500 feet - (and the first outside of the USA) opened at the Pleasure Beach. It was closed on the 3rd of September 2006, with its 24 boats being sold for £25 each.
Radio Victoria, the hospital's own radio station, began broadcasting in August.
Blackpool's branch of the Multiple Sclerosis Society was formed.
HR and J Threapleton began their printing business, soon opening their print works at rear 36-38 Keswick Road. The company later moved to Unit 3, Burton Road Industrial Estate.
D Kitching opened a home brew shop at 96 Caunce Street – Blackpool's only dedicated shop. It closed in 2010 to be converted into a house.
Cylben Carpets Ltd opened at 47 to 49 Talbot Road on the 24th of January. The name was a combination of Cyril and Reuben (Lefton), and the company was finally dissolved in October 2010. The shop was bought by Woolworth's as one of several, to build their new store, and is now part of the Home Bargains Store.
Vin Craven founded NST (Northern Schools Travel) as a coach tour operator for schools. They merged with ETS Travel Limited in 1997 and worked from Chiltern House on Bristol Avenue since it was built for the purpose in 1992. That building was later used by Health Call and then First Call.
Warbreck Radio and Television Ltd were at 103 Bispham Road.
C Whiteside Carpets Limited was at 103 Red Bank Road.
Sutton's Atelier opened at 262 Whitegate Drive, run by Fleetwood artist, Keith Sutton. Nearby, at number 256 was Whitegate Music (in Gartside's bread and confectioners' old shop), and across the road at 331 was Marlene Parkinson's Whitegate Wools, which opened in January 1977, closing in 1989 (now a tattoo shop). Suttons' shop became Marton Galleries and then Audio Sound Advice in September 2011, when that shop moved from 2 Newhouse Road. Keith also ran a shop on Styan Street in Fleetwood.
Motocare Ltd was founded by Eric Woodhall in Manchester, before moving to 35 Bond Street (into the Cookson's Building – built in 1889) in 1970. That shop closed in 2009. A second shop was opened at 102 Red Bank Road in 1972, closing on the 30th of November 2019.
Marton Cycles was in business on the corner of Mereland Road and Preston Old Road, being run by the Turner family who sold it to the Bettisons who still run it.
Record Rendezvous at 77 Lytham Road went into liquidation.

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The Lonsdale Bargain Box opened by the Palladium on Waterloo Road, selling collectable toys. It closed in 1994 to be replaced by a disability scooter shop.
Trident Printers Limited was established on Threlfall Road.
Northern Citrus Products began their operation on Back Henry Street in June, manufacturing soft drinks and carbonated pop. They supplied their NCP carton drinks to Blackpool schools for many years. They later moved to Northern Citrus Products House on Cocker Avenue, on Poulton Industrial Estate. Director John Schofield was a big supporter of Blackpool Football Club, his most notable contribution being when he personally paid the wages for rising star Trevor Sinclair. The John Schofield Memorial Trophy is now presented to the Player of the Season each year.
Ivell's Bookmakers went bankrupt. They had premises at 34 Red Bank Road, 8a Princess Street, and 91 Bond Street.
The Lace Shop was at 19a Market Street, run by William Owen, who had previously run the Swiss Chalet ladies' outfitters at 8 Birley Street. The Birley Street became the House of Sears in the early 1980s. This was a "Unisex" clothes shop and had its own "unisex" hair and tanning salon on the first floor.
St Mary's Preschool Playgroup first opened on Mayfield Avenue.
The Bispham and District Advertiser, a free weekly newspaper, was first issued on the 7th of October.

Jacqueline Leonard: was born in Blackpool. After attending the Greenlands High School and the Whittaker Dance School, she went on to appear in the TV shows "DIY SOS", "Coronation Street", Peak Practice" and "Doctors".

Les Dawson: appeared on Opportunity Knocks and landed a contract for his first Blackpool summer season – at Central Pier. He enjoyed it so much, he moved to Islay Road, St Anne's, where he lived with his wife Meg – with whom he had three children. She died in 1986, aged 48, after being ill for some time with cancer, and in 1989, Les married his second wife, barmaid Tracy Roper, at the White Church in Ansdell. Les lived in Islay Road until his death from a heart attack on the 11th of June 1993. His first Blackpool shows had been in May 1964, for the Lobster Pot Group.

Jimi Hendrix in Blackpool: Hendrix played at the Odeon on the 15th of April, on the same bill as Cat Stevens, Englebert Humperdinck, and the Walker Brothers. He stayed in a guest house on Dickson Road.

At the Opera House on November the 25th, the Jimi Hendrix Experience played two sets, where Jimi played Sergeant Pepper's Lonely Hearts' Club Band, Fire, Hey Joe, The Wind Cries Mary, Purple Haze, and Wild Thing. During Wild Thing, he set fire to his guitar on stage – one of only two times he did this. The tour director later recalled *"The Opera House manager had generously given us camera positions in the royal box, in the orchestra pit and allowed us access to the stage. Meanwhile, the sound man had his problems. No one had ever tried to make a 'live' recording of anything like the volume at which Jimi Hendrix played, which was like trying to tape an artillery bombardment. Hendrix gave me a fraternal greeting and told me to watch out for Keith Emerson, playing with one of the support acts ['Nice']: "He's doing everything on keyboards that I do on guitar".* Also, on the bill were Pink Floyd, The Move, Amen Corner, new Irish band Eire Apparent, The Nice, and Outer Limits. Tickets cost 2s and 6d.

One of the Odeon sets was filmed to be featured on BBC's "Late Night Line-up" in December, and became Peter Neal's film "Experience". That gig was originally to be held at the Winter Gardens, but was moved due to demand, as the Odeon had hundreds more seats. Hendrix later said in an interview, *"Although I wasn't scared starting my first big tour, we did wonder how they would accept us, there being so many*

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different acts and us probably the most extreme of all". Jimi's bass player, Noel Redding, wrote in his diary: *"Audience was terrible both shows, but the sound was exceptionally good"*.

The band was booked to stay at the Carlton Hotel on North Promenade, but some considerable time after the show, Jimi was seen wandering drunkenly down Dickson Road after the show, looking for his hotel. Redding's diary says of that incident *"Mobbed! Jimi lost hair and Mitch nearly lost his leg"* and *"Stopping in a club, we saw Jayne Mansfield. This cheered us up, until she left with Engelbert. We took a couple of pills and headed for the hotel. But we couldn't remember which one the tour was booked into, and no other hotel would take us. At five in the morning we gave up and crashed in a B&B. Next day we discovered everyone else just around the corner. Was it the banana skins we'd smoked? I sort of doubt it"*.

The Gazette wrote: *"musical equipment belonging to five top pop groups was damaged by an intruder at the Opera House after Saturday night's beat show...they left their guitars, amplifiers and electrical equipment on stage before going to their hotel. When they returned yesterday morning, they found leads had been ripped, amplifiers damaged and one guitar trampled on and its strings cut"*.

The next gig was in Manchester, but two nights later, allegedly, bands and media descended upon Blackpool to join in on Jimi's 25th birthday celebrations. This is completely untrue, as he was actually in Belfast for his 25th birthday.

Contrary to popular belief, Hendrix did **NOT** play the ABC.

The Small Faces played the Odeon on the 27th of March, with Cat Stevens and The Jeff Beck Group. On the 15th of April, the Odeon hosted Englebert Humperdinck, supported by Cat Stevens and the Walker Brothers.
The Beatles film "Magical Mystery Tour" was released. Paul McCartney later confirmed that it had been based upon their bus tours of the Illuminations.

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Andrew Curran opened his motorists' discount shop at 1 Anchorsholme Lane East, Cleveleys.
Kimberworth Garage was on Princess Road in Cleveleys, selling Singer cars. It was later Charnley's Garage – Rover dealers – until 1992, Cleveleys Supermarket (The Bargain Store) and finally B&M Bargains.
Dennis Forsyth opened a lighting and gift store on Victoria Road in Cleveleys on the 15th of May. They later opened a second Forsyth's shop 61/63 Clifton Street in 1975 (in the bedding shop of J Forshaw and Son), and then at 31/33 Queen Street, before moving the Cleveleys shop to 2 Rossall Road - into the old Fylde Kitchen and Bathroom Studios building (built in 1961, as a Co-op furniture store). The company formed another offshoot, Intalite Lancs Limited, in June 1982. The Cleveleys store was closed at the end of October 2019.
Martins Bank opened a new Cleveleys branch at 2a Crescent East, to replace the old building on Victoria Road. On the 15th of December 1969, it became a Barclays Bank branch and remains so today.
Alfred Bontoft was operating his Bontoft Motors on Dorset Avenue in Cleveleys.
Kneps Farm Holiday Park was established adjacent to the Wyre Estuary Country Park at Stanah, east of Thornton-Cleveleys, by the Porter Family.
Calder and Grandidge Limited established a creosoting plant and depot at Fleetwood Docks, for the import and handling of telegraph poles and railway sleepers.
The Stella Morris Convent at Fleetwood closed.
Soroptimist House opened at 21 Mount Road, Fleetwood. It provided sheltered accommodation for elderly retired business women in 5 self-contained flats run by the charity housing association. The facility closed in 2005.
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The Gourock Ropeworks closed on Fleetwood's Wyre Dock. It had stood next to the Fleetwood industrial Co-operative Society office and the Yarmouth Stores Ltd's fisherman's outfitters shop (built in 1913) since the 1880s.
BJ Gore's family butcher's shop was at 169 Poulton Road in Fleetwood, offering "*Deliveries to your door*". The premises are now a private house with its front door on Wolsey Road.
The Trafalgar Restaurant was opened at 40 to 42 North Albert Street, Fleetwood, by Mike and Dot Smith.
Welbeck Gardens, old people's flats, opened in Fleetwood.
Fleetwood Football Club held whippet racing competitions at their Highbury Avenue ground.
JA Redman opened his insurance agency at 14 Lancaster Road, Knott End.
G-Line Coaches was started in St Anne's by the Bradshaw family, operating from 54 St Davids Road South.
Lavell's newsagents were in operation on St Anne's Road West. They were taken over by Martin the Newsagent PLC in 1984, by John Menzies Limited in 1987, and became WH Smith's in May 1998.
Autocars (St Anne's) Ltd were in business on St Davids Road South in St Anne's, selling Reliant and Bond cars and motorcycles.
The TV show "It's a Knockout" was filmed at Fairhaven Lake on the 14th of May, featuring a match between Lytham St Anne's and Southport. Lytham won and went on to represent the UK at Jeux Sans Frontières at Brussels on the 28th of June. A water ski ramp was in the centre of the lake at the time.

Clifton County Primary School, Ansdell: opened on Clitheroe Road. The building was destroyed by fire in 1991 but was rebuilt.
It opened again in 1993, taking 248 pupils, and is now called Clifton Primary School.

Abbeyfield Lytham Society Ltd opened their first sheltered house in Cecil Street, Lytham in October. They acquired three further houses (two of which were adjoining semis), sold the original house, modernised the rooms, and extended the houses to add flats. They have another property at 1 Park Avenue.
Ribble Lodge in Henry Street in Lytham was demolished. Number 24 was converted from its stables.

Freckleton Sports and Social Club: was formed in October, by Frank Eaton, and the clubhouse was built at 41 Preston Old Road. Previously, the site had variously been home to a linen factory, a tan yard, and an egg packing station.

Catforth Fuel Services Ltd was established on the 8th of December. They had developed the site of the old village dance hall and opened their oils distribution depot at the Garage on Catforth Road. They went into liquidation in July 1983. They also traded under the names Arndale (Catforth) Ltd, and PDC Fuels (Fylde) Ltd, finally closing in May 2011. Also, in 1972, Tate Fuel Oils Ltd began business on School Lane in Catforth.

1968
The Monster ride was bought by Leonard Thompson, at Expo 67 in Canada. It soon opened at the Pleasure Beach. The black ride spun round while moving up and down - each car spun while 6 giant arms move up and down in a circular motion. Riders experienced the feeling of weightlessness when rising and dropping. The Monster was closed in 1995, when it was replaced, for one year only, by the Scrambler (Twister), and finally, by the Playstation Ride.
Jean Robinson became the town's first woman Mayor. For her mayor-making ceremony, she *"was wearing a two-piece robe, which was designed and made in the Technical College and School of Art, of which she was a governor"*. Mrs Robinson came to Blackpool with her husband in 1934, and *"they set up a stall in Abingdon Street market, which they managed for 27 years"*.
Mains sewers came to the Moss, beginning in Midgeland Road.

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The Coal Carbonising Plant on Clifton Road was closed, and Marton's second Gas Holder was commissioned in November.
The last scheduled steam passenger train on British Rail – the 8.48pm Preston to Blackpool, hauled by Black Five Number 45212 - ran into town at South Station on August the 2nd, leaving on the next day, and the passenger line to Fleetwood closed.
EMI bought the Blackpool Tower Company and restored the Grand Theatre - for Bingo!

The Golden Mile Centre, Blackpool: The Blackpool Tower Company built and opened the Golden Mile Centre in the old Funlandia building on Central Promenade. It was Blackpool's first purpose-built amusements arcade.
On the fully-carpeted ground floor, was a set of miniature gallopers, a set of Comet Jets, which were surrounded by slot machines. An escalator to the first floor revealed a funfair, complete with Dodgems, a new Waltzer, built by H P Jackson, a full-size set of Gallopers, a double-decker Ghost Train, and a square lattice Helter Skelter called the Skyline Slip.
Reminiscences by a former rider of the ghost train describe: "*This was the first instance of 'dayglo' paint being used on the exterior that I remember seeing. It was called the 'Roller Ghoster' and had Supercar 'bubble' cars. Again, the first time I'd seen these before they became popular. A large spider, with red flashing eyes, in its web graced the back wall behind the drop and large eyes were dotted around the whole frontage including the one balcony on the right-hand side*". "*In later years the drop was taken away and a new frontage covered it. After it eventually closed a more traditional travelling style 'flat' ghost train was erected next to it before the Sea Life Centre took over*".

In 1976, the Space City exhibition opened in part of the Golden Mile Centre, displaying models and memorabilia from TV's Space 1999, by Gerry Anderson. Space City was transferred from the Golden Mile Centre to the Pleasure Beach and was renamed "The World of Gerry Anderson". When the exhibition closed, its models went to Alton Towers.
In the southern part of the centre, Mr T's amusement arcade opened, but in 1978, the Cubbins family took over the fair, renaming it Mr B's amusement arcade, and the Waltzer, Dodgems and Gallopers (bought by Blackpool Pleasure Beach) were all removed. A new Dodgem ride, an American Scrambler Twist, and a Looper ride were added.

Blackpool Sea Life Centre: In 1990, this attraction opened in August, on the site of Luna Park and the Golden Mile Centre. It temporarily received the entire stock from the Tower Aquarium into Europe's largest aquarium tank. The new centre could benefit from the building's directly-pumped sea water supply. Its official opening was carried out on the 9th of August by comedian and naturalist Bill Oddie.
In 1999, a startling new frontage to the whole building was designed by Roche Design and installed.

In 1998, the Exhibition of the Universe was set up by David Boyle in the Golden Mile Centre to display information about extra-terrestrial activities. It was updated and opened as the "Alien Base" in June 2010, was closed on the 28th of October the same year. It had opened when the previous exhibition – The Doctor Who Centre was closed on the 8th of November 2009.

In June 1991, the Movie Magic Exhibition opened in the building, with a model of King Kong on the front elevation.

Alfer Aluminising started business in Blackpool, before being taken over by TI Cheswick in 1971. They later became Cheswick and Wright, who were major employers of local engineers for many years. Their Lytham factory closed in 1990.

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Arcon Sheet Metal Company Limited was established on Harley Road.
The North Bank Hotel was at 320 North Promenade, going into liquidation in January 1968. It is now part of the New President Hotel.
Battle Silencers opened at 98-100 Dickson Road. They had another outlet at 10 Rawcliffe Street.
On Temple Street were JN Diggle's Temple Toys shop, Temple Carpets, and the Temple Grill restaurant (Morning Coffee, Afternoon Teas, and High Teas) – all of which made way for a car park when the Hounds Hill Centre opened. On the corner of Church Street was Stone-Dri weatherwear (now a Pound shop) – with Gilbert's hairdressers and school above, advertising its free car park. Stead and Simpson's shoe shop was next door on Church Street, now replaced by an Anne Summers lingerie shop. Diggle's had opened on Temple Street in the 1950s, then moved to Waterloo Road, moving from there in the 1960s, when that shop was demolished. They then moved to the corner of Albert Road and Winifred Street, next door to Prescott's Shoes (which closed in 1998).
Mothercare had a store on Abingdon Street. This moved to the Hounds Hill Centre when it opened in 1980, and closed in 1996, to be replaced by an Internationale clothing and gift store

The Langdale Adult Training Centre, Mereside: was officially opened by the Mayor on the 5th of October, although it had been in operation since May. Located on the western side of Langdale Road, opposite Brindle Lodge, it was a purpose-built centre for 100 mentally handicapped adults, and replaced various premises provided by the Blackpool Society for Mentally Handicapped Children.
It soon became known as the Langdale Centre, but by then known as the Mereside Children's Centre, in October 2011, it was moved into Mereside Primary School to save money.
The building was then turned into a café and day centre for old folk, but closed in October 2012, and was demolished in February 2013. The site is currently empty, but in December 2018, planning permission was granted for the construction of the 48-place Lotus School. The new school will cater for children with special needs and is due to open in 2020.

The Council's Lostock Gardens complex opened in Lostock Gardens and Clayton Crescent off St Annes Road. Comprising 34 1-bedroomed bungalows for retirement and sheltered housing, there is also a lounge, dining room, garden, and a community centre.
John Harrison opened the Bloomfield Bakery Ltd on Palmer Avenue. The company became the main supplier of Sunrise Bread to the area. It closed in 1998 on the retirement of Mr Harrison, but was re-opened in May 2001, by Dave Hobson. The new business lasted just over a year due to lack of orders, but still had time to found its own football team – Bloomfield Bakery Celtic.
Payton's Jewellers opened at 29 Whitegate Drive, on the corner of Leeds Road, in the former Kent's Grocery shop. It is now MacDonald's Estate Agents.

Whiston's Carpets / Talbot Salerooms, Blackpool: Whiston's Carpets opened on Whitegate Drive. It closed in 2006, moving to 290 Devonshire Road. Leslie Whiston had opened his carpet business on Birley Street in 1969, before quickly expanding to Waterloo Road and Egerton Road (where he had owned the carpet shop in the 1950s).

In 1970, his Talbot Salerooms opened their carpet retail warehouse on Talbot Road, on the site of the Blackpool Laundry, which had briefly been Layton Bingo. That company was struck off in 1976 but re-emerged soon after.
The building was destroyed by a major fire in May 1990, and a fireman, John Singleton, sadly lost his life when the roof collapsed, after gases inside had ignited. The company reopened at number 440 in 1992,

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under the slightly different name of Talbot Showrooms Limited - incorporated 15th of June 1973 - selling carpets, and furniture.
The business finally closed in September 2015, and the building soon became home to a large re-cycling shop owned by the Trinity Hospice.

Harry Feeney car sales, Blackpool: started in business on Rigby Road. He soon opened another dealership at Kingsway Garage in Ansdell, and then moved from Rigby Road to the Ribble-Standerwick bus garage site on Devonshire Road in 1987, selling Nissan cars. It became a Toyota Dealership in 1992, and moved to 251 Vicarage Lane in 2010.
Harry's wife, Valda, ran a ballroom and children's dress shop at 12 Topping Street until 2011; Thorpe Chambers is above the shop.

Bourne Travel was established, working from Highfield Road.
Finsbury Carpets opened on the corner of Finsbury Avenue and Ansdell Road, in Frank Harbron's old grocery shop. They soon changed their name to Finsbury House and moved to 64-70 Ansdell Road.
Blackpool Airport became the last place to use Douglas C-47 Dakota aircraft.
Freeman Brothers were operating their furniture business from Caunce Street, also having outlets at 92 Lord Street in Fleetwood and 33 Wood Street in St Anne's.
Gayline Blinds were at 127 Central Drive – latterly known as the Car Boot Shop.
Plans were drawn for the Ocean Edge Caravan Site, Happy Lands, Squires Gate, on land adjoining the Ocean Edge Car Park.
The "Sleep at Ease" Bed Centre opened on Clifton Road, Marton. It closed in February 2012, to become a rehearsal studio owned by West Coast Rock café.
The Centenary Trades Union Congress was held at the Winter Gardens Opera House from the 2nd to the 6th of September.

Telefusion, Blackpool: New ITV Television Regions were commissioned. The Yorkshire contract went to the Telefusion TV rental group (based on Cherry Tree Road and incorporated in April 1943), on the understanding that it was merged with the Yorkshire Independent Television consortium to become Yorkshire Television.
Telefusion already had several local retail outlets, such as on Church Street (later to become Mickey's Fashions), at 56/58 Talbot Road (now Victim Menswear), 57 Waterloo Road, 18/20 Bond Street (now the Red Ass takeaway), Clifton Street in Lytham, St Anne's Road West in St Anne's, and 108 Lord Street in Fleetwood (now the Ex-Catalogue Outlet). Most of those shops had their own "Record Bars" in the 1960s, where customers could listen to their prospective purchases in store, and they all offered "Blackpool's Lowest Colour TV Rentals" for 26/11 per week.
They also had a workshop on Squires Gate Industrial Estate, and were taken over in 1986 by Visionhire, by which time the retail outlets had been re-christened "Connect".

The Civil Service Sports Ground opened on Common Edge Road on the 1st of June. The Civil Service Sports Club relinquished its lease in October 2000, when the ground began to be used by teams from the Blackpool and Fylde Sunday Football Alliance.
Kingsfield Football Club was founded, from the joining of the Highfield and Kingscote teams.
Blackpool Sports Council's first Cavalcade of Sport was held in the Stanley Park Oval.
Fleetwood Mac played Central Pier, supported by local band Purple Haze.
The band Complex was formed in Blackpool. They were lead guitarist Brian Lee, lead vocalist and drummer Tony Shakespeare, bass guitarist Lance Fogg and rhythm guitarist Tony Fisher. By 1972 the line-up was

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Brian Lee, Tony Shakespeare, Lance Fogg, and Steve Coe on keyboards. They released their psychedelic rock, classic, eponymous album in 1970 – it now has cult status.
Darren Mathews was born in Codsall Wood, Staffordshire on May the 10th. He moved to Blackpool at the age of 15, where he began wrestling at the Pleasure Beach. He later became "William Regal" a wrestler with the WWF.

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In March, the Post Office finally re-numbered all the houses on Staining Road in Staining. For many years, various short and long terraces of houses had joined the solitary cottages on the road, and each terrace, although named, began with number 1.
Poulton's Tithe Barn was demolished. For over 200 years, in the bathing season, visitors from Blackpool had gone to see theatrical shows there. A car park replaced it in 1969.
Queensway opened in Poulton – a new town centre link road.

Breck Primary School, Poulton: opened on Fouldrey Avenue. In 2013, an extra classroom was added, together with a kitchen extension. It is now called the Breck Community Primary School and has space for 340 pupils.

The southern section of a new road past Thornton way opened, later named Amounderness Way.
Thornton Medical Centre was built on Church Road.
The League of Friends of Rossall Hospital was formed, expanding in 1970 to cover Fleetwood.
Fleetwood docks began to receive timber imports once more. The company of Calder and Grandidge Ltd set up a depot and creosoting plant on the dock, to process the many Scandinavian trees, used for telegraph poles and railway sleepers.

Fleetwood Hovercraft: The Fleetwood Railway Station site had been redeveloped into a passenger terminal with a concrete pier attached, and Sir John Onslow brought a "hovercraft", the D2-001 sidewall vessel "Denny Enterprise", to the new berth. It arrived on the 4th of July, to run from the Fish Dock, which had been bought and adapted by Fred Tyrer, but it was unreliable and lasted only months, to be replaced by the "Stella Marina" cruise ship. The only return trips to be made were on the 19th of August, as the vessel was found only to be suitable for short, 30-minute pleasure trips, not the ferry service for which she was intended.

The Norwest Hovercraft Company Ltd had applied to run a hovercraft from Fleetwood in 1963 but had been refused. The berth was again adapted from 1969, for use by side-loading ferries, and these started again in 1971. The Norwest Hovercraft Terminal closed, and the company folded in February 1971. After the short-lived service stopped, the hovercraft terminal building became a pub, club, and restaurant – variously called the Mariners Bar, Bibby's on the Quay, the Quayside, and Planters - before being demolished in 2005.

The Cove Café was opened on the corner of North Albert Street and Kent Street, by Mike and Dorothy Smith. The café later became the Trafalgar Café.

Jane Couch: was born in Fleetwood on August the 14th. Couch became a barmaid *"in one of the main fishing pubs from 14. "Working in the Kings was where I learned to fight. It was coming towards the end of the fishing, but it was still quite rough in there"*.
She became the first British woman world champion boxer when she beat welterweight title-holder Sandra Geiger of Strasbourg in Copenhagen in 1996. On the 23rd of June 1998, she became the first licensed
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woman professional to fight under the jurisdiction of the British Boxing Board of Control. Her nickname was "*The Fleetwood Assassin*".

Hesketh House was opened on Broadway, Fleetwood as a computer centre for the Ministry of Health. The building was designed by architects Leach, Rhodes, and Walker, and construction had begun in 1966. Larkholme Farm was demolished.

Larkholme Junior School, Fleetwood: opened for use by children in September, but was officially opened on Windermere Avenue on the 2nd of July 1969.
The school was extended in 2013 with an extra building being constructed. It is now known as Larkholme Primary School.

Fleetwood Social Services Department was formed.
Calders and Garndidge opened their timber depot in Fleetwood Docks.
Fleetwood Flower Club was formed, meeting at the Senior Citizens Hall on Warrenhurst Road.
Lytham St Anne's Nature Reserve was established off Clifton Drive on the 2nd of July and a group of natterjack toads was released onto the reserve to try and establish a working colony of the animals - 25 on the 22nd of June, and 57 on the 3rd of September. Its 39 acres is the best remaining example of a sand dune habitat in the County. A small visitor centre was built in 1993, and after being disused since 2002, this is now the base for Fylde Council's Sand Dunes officers for the Sand Dunes project, monitoring of local nature reserve, and a base for volunteer groups.

Anthony House, St Anne's: was opened by the Mayor, John Taverner, in May on St George's Road. It was an attempt to attract office work to the town, by designing a revolutionary building. The site was originally the location of the tennis courts opposite Ashton Gardens, where 4 Porritt houses were later built. The *"revolutionary"* 5-storey block was designed by local architect William Cowburn to *"blend in with existing properties and enhance the street"*.
The first tenants were the Department of Health and Social Security (DHSS), but HM Customs and Excise soon moved their GO 12/30 Deposits branch into the building, as major tenants, moving from Moorland Road. They were later joined by a Job Centre and Department of Energy typists.
After a lifetime beset by constructional and design problems, the building closed finally in 2007 and was demolished in June 2012 to make way for a new Aldi store. Years of concrete cancer had finally triumphed.

Inenco was established at Vulcan House on Orchard Road in St Anne's. From 2010, the environmental and energy consultants were based at Petros House on St Andrew's Road North in St Anne's, which was vacated by HM Customs and Excise in 1996. The firm moved to Ribble House in Lytham in April 2014.
The St Anne's Morris Dancers and the St Anne's Majorettes teams of young girls were performing at all the local field days.
The Lytham Kitchen was opened at 9 Market Street in Lytham, in the premises formerly occupied by decorators Whalley and Haddow. It was café-cum-restaurant and also provided a take away service. The outlet was re-launched in 1989 after a full re-vamp.
The Quest gift shop was established at 69 Clifton Street in Lytham.
The Ardrossan High School for Young Children was at 94 Park View in Lytham, having been at 16 Clifton Drive South since before 1934.
Kirkham Box Company started trading from Richards Street.
Fylde Citizens Advice Bureau was opened on the 20th of May in Kirkham Council Offices.

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Rayner's Garage Kirkham was trading in the Market Square, and Church Street Garage was on the street of that name.
Kirkham Evening Institute on Royal Avenue was providing evening classes.
Taylor's Garage on Preston Old Road at Clifton was opened by Ron Taylor in October.
A prototype English Electric Lightning (number 53-690) crashed at Pilling on the 4th of September, whilst on a test flight. The plane wrecked outbuildings and a garage at Holly Bank Cottage and Willow Cottage, injuring inhabitants Bill and Marjorie Lawrenson. The pilot, John Cockburn, ejected to safety.
Pilling Pottery was established on School Lane, by Jim and Vi Cross in 1968. It is now run by their son Adrian Cross, who runs both Pilling Pottery – the shop - and Northern Kilns Ltd – a kiln manufacturer. At their peak, they produced over 1,000 hand-thrown stoneware objects daily.
The current Cockerham Parish Hall was built by the village sports field, being greatly extended in 1980. A committee room was added in 1971, and in 1980, the lounge, bar, and kitchen were extended. It now comprises a main hall, a committee room, a bar, a lounge and refreshment area, a kitchen, and two sets of toilets. The original hall was on the opposite side of the road.

1969
Blackpool County Borough Police Force was amalgamated with Lancashire Constabulary on the 1st of April, prompting the closure of the headquarters at South King Street.
In recognition of the successful moon landings, the Pleasure Beach opened the Astroswirl ride, which was based on the weightlessness machines used to train US astronauts. It was renamed the Millennium Bug in 2000, and removed in 2004, to Southport's Pleasureland, where it was renamed Sandstorm.

Warbreck Boys' High School, Blackpool: This boy's only school was opened on Warbreck Hill Road on the site of the Warbreck Brickworks. *"The first all-weather pitch to be provided in Blackpool came into use"*. And *"A battery of excellent tennis courts and the gymnasium were also completed, and the extensive playing fields will be available next year"*. A sports hall was completed in 1972, with a second being added in 1979.

In 1999, the school was transformed into Beacon Hill School. Greenland's County High School for Girls also changed, into Bispham High, and with effect from September 2000, both began to take both boys and girls. In 2008, the number of pupils on the roll was 808.

Beacon Hill became known as Unity College in September 2011, and on the first of September 2013, the school became known as Unity Academy and began a £9 million development.
Unity Academy was officially opened by Jimmy Armfield on the 11th of September 2014.

Ron Reddy's butchers was established on Topping street. The business closed in 2016, but was taken over and re-opened by Martin Gregory. The shop finally closed its doors for good on the 4th of September 2018.
Cunliffe's Garage was established at New Road Garage on Poulton Road by Peter Cunliffe. In 2013, the car showroom closed to become a Londis supermarket (the Texaco garage is still standing).
Blackpool began to receive supplies of Natural Gas.

The Hoyle House Resource Centre, Blackpool: was built by the Council on Argosy Avenue, in Grange Park. It had about 20 beds to provide respite care for people, including elderly residents leaving hospital. In 2011, it changed from being an old people's home to a family support centre. By then called Hoyle House, the centre closed in 2013, with the service being scaled back and relocated to Mansfield House in Layton. The centre buildings were finally demolished in November 2016. In January 2018, construction began of 6

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two-storey semi-detached houses, 2 semi-detached bungalows, and 3 two storey mews homes, all run by Blackpool Coastal Housing. There will also be an assistive technology centre to help people live independently. This will be attached to 7 self-contained flats, and a staff communal area.

The Townsman Club: The Kingsland Chinese Restaurant was at 96 Topping Street, offering a 3-course lunch for 5/6. It was later to become the Townsman (Nite) Club, and then various nightclubs and bars, including Jack Diamond's town centre cabaret club, the Emerald Club, Blinkers Nightclub, Aphrodite's lap dance club, and then Connolly's Irish bar. The Townsman pub reopened there on the 20th of November 2010, with its owners The Townsman Limited being struck off on the 12th of May 2015. It is currently operating as Townsman's Karaoke Bar.

Avesco Car and Van Rental opened at 100 Gorton Street. They had another outlet on Dickson Road and had started business as Avesco Cars in 1960. Avesco was wound up on the 19th of July 1990.
Grosvenor Stationery started business, later opening a large showroom at Bridgeside, by Squires Gate Bridge, which was taken over by James Andrew Prams and Nurseries in March 2014.
Derek Woodman opened a garage on Bloomfield Road. It moved to Vicarage Lane in 1986, and then to the Whitehills Estate at Peel in 2006. Woodman was a motor cycle racer of note, coming third in the 125cc World Championship in 1965.
Singleton and Sons, building contractors, were at 15 Shaw Road.
Whirlpool Laundry opened at 304 Devonshire Road.
The Arts Ball in the Empress Ballroom, on the 21st of March, starred Pink Floyd, who had already appeared in town twice – at the Empress Ballroom on the 26th of May 1967 and on the 25th of November 1967 at the Opera House.
Britain won the Six Nations swimming contest at the Derby Baths on the 18th of September.

Freddie Davies: This popular comedian, known as "Parrott Face" co-owned the Bird in the Hand restaurant/café on Springfield Road. Known affectionately as the *"Duff Budgie",* it was downstairs below Trendsetters hair salon and popular with hippies and beatniks. Freddie was entertainments manager at Butlins Metropole Hotel from 1960, and he became a Blackpool resident, living on Knox Grove and then at 94 Warbreck Hill Road. From 1968, he had his own radio series, The Golden Parrot Club which was recorded at the Co-operative Jubilee Theatre.

BJFF (Bispham Junior Football Federation) started, when Bispham Boys merged with Bispham Rebels, Bispham Juniors, and Bispham Colts. The club still plays at Bispham playing fields, by Horseman's Hill. Its clubhouse on Kelvin Road was opened by footballer Bobby Charlton in November 1973. In 2015, that building was converted into an indoor 5-a-side facility, on the opening of the new club house on All Saints Road. That building was formerly the Whiteholme Community Centre and is now called the BJFF Community Hub.
Christ the King Football Club was formed, playing at Grange Park Junior School.
The Sunday League Cup Final (the Gledhill Trophy) was first played at Bloomfield Road on the 25th of March. Oceans XI Football Club defeated Sands Casino Football Club 5-0. By 1972, Sunday football had several cups: The Melling Shield was for 1st Division clubs, then there were the Howcroft Cup, the Queen's Cup, and the Gledhill Trophy.
The Preston and Blackpool Cat Club first held their annual show at the Winter Gardens, having moved from Woolworth's Café. The club had been formed in Preston in the 1950s, moving back there in 2008.
The Lancastrian Volunteers' D Company at Preston formed a detachment at Blackpool from the 4th and 5th (T) Battalion of the King's Own Royal Regiment on the 1st of January.

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Blackpool's censorship board met for the last time.
The Skinhead Moonstomp record album by Symarip was released by some Blackpool "boys" – swiftly becoming a cult classic.
The Illuminations switch-on was ruined as a spectacle, when the Canberra bomber that was meant to drop a flare over Talbot Square, missed and lit up Gynn Square instead!
The "Honeybus" released a single entitled "She Sold Blackpool Rock" on Deram records.
Damian Eadie was born on the 15th of August in Blackpool. He went on to become the series producer of the game show Countdown. He first appeared as a contestant on the show on the 13th of July 1994, before going behind the scenes.

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Ian Cookson founded his removals firm in Poulton, now operating from Poulton Business Park.
Parkinson's Corn Mill in Queen's Square, Poulton, was demolished. Its millstones are now displayed in front of Marsh Mill at Thornton.
Breck Farmhouse and its shippon were demolished in Poulton.
The parish of Hardhorn-with-Newton was rechristened as Staining.
The 14 Beach Chalets on Cleveleys promenade were available to rent from the Council at 10 shillings per day. Each had electricity, water, and basic kitchen facilities.
New Image bridal wear was established, working from St George's Lane, Cleveleys.
The Cleveleys Supermarket (The Bargain Store) was on Derby Road. It later became the home of B&M Bargains.
The Thornton Cleveleys Amateur Radio Society was formed in October.
Hallett's ('The ironmongers') was at 49 Devonshire Avenue in Thornton. After several years of being used as a hairdressing salon, it is now a part of the One Stop shop on the corner of 71 Rossendale Avenue.
Cockle Hall was demolished near Wardleys Creek. It was actually a simple cottage but at times housed up to 13 people. It had been named after the nearby cockle beds.

Fleetwood Folk Club: was formed, at the Queens Hotel on Beach Road. The founder members were Roy Jenkinson, Sue Whittaker, and Janice Hignett.
Later, Ian Gartside took over as club organiser and resident singer. Under his leadership the club attracted audiences of over 80 on most nights, and also attracted famous guests such as Mike Harding and Barbara Dickson. When Ian Gartside left, Dave Cooper, and his group Woodbine Lizzie took over, then, Scolds Bridle stepped in, also as resident singers. Lastly, Dave Ryan and Mike France formed Spitting on a Roast, and took over, becoming both club organisers and resident band. SOR are still running the club and are still the resident group.

After several moves, caused mainly by the redevelopment of the pubs, it finally found a home at the Steamer in 1991.

The Fleetwood and District Choral Society was established.
The newly-rebuilt Welbeck branch library was opened on Poulton Road in Fleetwood. It later became the McPhee Education Centre.
Wing Wah's Chinese restaurant and takeaway opened at 126 Poulton Road, Fleetwood, where Chadwick's fish and chip shop had been for many years - previously the Ocean Chippy.
Fleetwood Model Centre Ltd was formed by Graham Brown, opening his shop at 185 Lord Street. It was dissolved in October 1993, and the building was taken over by Video House, a video rental business. On the 11th of January 2017, the premises became the main office of Northern Cremations Ltd, a funeral service owned by Ashley Wright and his mother Debbie.
Gilbert Taylor's menswear shop was opened at 13-15 Garden Street in St Anne's, closing in 2005.
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The Knights Hotel at 365/7 Clifton Drive North in St Anne's was hosting party nights in its King Arthur's Room. The hotel later became a care home.
The Fylde District Camp Site was leased from Guardian Royal Assurance from the 1st of July. Dormitories were added in 1985.
The shoe store of Jamieson's of Lytham was at 12 Market Square, proclaiming the *"If Jamieson's Can't Fit You, Nobody Else Can"*. After changing to an Estate Agent's offices, the building became the Mango Lounge Indian Restaurant in 2009, and is currently a ladies' clothes shop called Top Drawer.

Lytham Creek Railway and Motive Power Museum: was opened on Dock Street by Jim Morris of founding company Helical Springs. It had been built on the site of the Lytham Shipbuilding and Engineering Company premises. Its exhibits included veteran and vintage cars, 10 steam locomotives running on the museum's own tracks – called the Lytham Creek Railway, a large model railway, and an aeronautical museum.

Helical Springs had been founded by Morris in 1962, to manufacture precision springs for engine makers such as Rolls Royce. He also founded Lytham Engineering. By then, called the Lytham Motive Power Museum, it closed in 1991, and the stock and almost all the exhibits were sold at auction on the 1st of March 1992. Some of these were transferred to the new Fleetwood Locomotive Centre, which had been set up one of the old outbuildings at the Power Station site on the 21st of November 1984. The Fleetwood centre had many engines in its collection, such as Stanier Black Five number 45491, and ex-GWR class 4-6-0 number 4979 Wooton Hall. The company was finally dissolved on the 15th July 2003.

Helical Springs was re-named Helical Technology in 1996. In 2012, Helical Technology, bought the Fourecia Exhaust Systems Technical Centre based in Warton.

The stock that was moved to Fleetwood was taken back to Lytham in 2003, and is now kept inside the Helical technology factory there. Those are: *"three standard gauge steam locos (two saddle tanks, and the steam crane locomotive), and two-foot gauge one steam and one diesel"*.

As of 2013 *"the site is now called Helical Technology but the loco and running line out side the factory is still there and used. And for something different there is a Red Arrow Gnat hanging from the factory roof"*.
The Helical Technology website stated in 2018 that *"The Lytham Motive Power Museum, based at our Lytham HQ, is our homage to the feats of engineering that have made Britain great – and a daily inspiration for innovation. It houses a fascinating collection of classic trains, planes and automobiles including a self-built Bluebird K777 working replica jet speed boat, as well as various steam engines and special models. A dedicated engineering workshop restores, manages and maintains the vehicles"*.

Barney Campbell set up Campbell's Caravans near Preston, and soon moved into the old Tower Batteries (then Hartley's caravans) location on Blackpool Road near Ribby Corner at Kirkham. Campbell's moved out in 2013 to consolidate at their Clifton premises. The building had been used as a night club and as Milsons Toffee Factory in the past. In 2015, it became Motor World – a car sales and hand car washing outlet.
Lancashire's first Health Centre was opened in on Moor Street, Kirkham in July, followed shortly by one on Church Road in Thornton.
David Coupe opened his solicitors' practice at 48 Poulton Street, Kirkham.
Threlfall and Smith, commercial motor body builders, were in operation on Preston Street in Kirkham.
Kirkham's population was 6,380.
St Michael's gala was first held. Its duck race has become an annual tradition. Nowadays, an annual village is also held in early September.

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1970s
All the following is, strictly speaking, hearsay and anecdotal, but I have included it for the sake of interest:
On Whitegate Drive during the 1970s, were the following shops:

- On the stretch between Hornby Road and Gainsborough Road - Elizabeth's, Margaret's, Brigden's, a pram shop (which later became Kentucky Fried Chicken), Walmsley's men's outfitters, Relyea's Sweetshop and Tobacconists, Birite, Foster's Butchers.
- On Leeds Road - Edna King's Hairdressers and Davies's Sweets and Tobacco shop, and on the corner with Whitegate Drive was Payton's Jewellers - in the shop which had been a fruit and vegetable shop called Kent's.
- On the stretch of Whitegate Drive between Hornby Road and Reads Avenue was the Modern Library (which sold sweets and chocolate at the front of the shop and had books at the back), and Rostron's Hardware Store. Hermann Clottu's sweet shop was at number 48, across the road, and he had two other shops, at 38 Bond Street, and 33 Corporation Street.
- At Devonshire Square - Karen's Corner Shop, Pollock's Chemist (now one shop – Designer Nails beauty and nail studio). The newsagents, that is now D and M, was Leadbetter's, then Sheppard's, then Gorill's.
- At the other end of Whitegate Drive were Norman Parker Carpets, Thomas Motors Showroom, Marlene Parkinson's Wool Shop, the Candy Box, and Bradbury's Chemists. Opposite was Thomas Motors garage, Whitegate Music, Pauline's Grocers, Nuttall's Bakery, Halifax Building Society, and Thompson's Chemist.

In the 1970s Scunthorpe-based amusement firm Franklins secured nearby ground at the rear of the Golden Mile. They installed Gallopers, Ark Speedway, Waltzer, and Dodgems – all bought from the Golden Mile Centre. Later, Tommy Messham briefly brought the Wall of Death to the site where Silcock's fair was later situated for some years.

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Fleetwood council opened a new tip on Jameson Way. The 63-hectare site was taken out of use in April 2017, after County Hall's contract for residual waste disposal moved to a facility in Accrington and the operator of the Fleetwood landfill decided it was not viable to keep it open. The tip must be restored to green land in 2033.

1970
John Smith's Brewery at 29 Back Ibbison Street was demolished.
The Tower's Oriental Lounge was demolished and replaced by the Apollo Playground in the wake of the NASA Moon landings.
Blackpool Crime Prevention Panel was set up in December.

B&M Bargains, Blackpool: opened its first store on Preston Street in Kirkham late this year, before opening a second at 19-23 Highfield Road. The company was set up by Brian Nayman and Malcolm Billington.
It soon opened a second store in a run of converted garages in Cleveleys (later to move to the site of Kimberworth Garage/Charnley's Garage/Billy's Market/Georgie Blackburn's), and then at 39 Wood Street in St Anne's (this was briefly on Park Street). In 1976, it was established as a Limited company.
A larger company, B&M Retail Limited was then formed on the 14th of March 1978 and was based on Squires Gate Industrial Estate.
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B&M was acquired by Simon, Bobby, and Robin Arora in December 2004, when it had just 20 stores. It is now known as B&M European Retail Value SA, has another 49 stores in Germany, under its JA Woll and HAFU brands, and has over 570 stores, employing over 22,500 staff.
The Arora brothers transformed the business, and in 2016, were worth a combined £1.92 billion.

The Top Rank Bowling Alley on Central Drive closed in May.
The Grange Park Community Centre opened on Argosy Avenue, Grange Park. It has since been known as the Argosy Club and the Blackpool and Fylde Football and Sports Club. The Argosy Sports and Social Club became a non-Limited Company on the 26th of June 1991. Locals knew it as the Top Club. The Argosy Club was demolished in 2006 and has been replaced by a terrace of 6 houses built for the Manchester Methodist Housing group.
Colton House, *"a group home providing eight permanent places for the mentally handicapped"* was opened for use on Ambleside Avenue, Mereside on the 3rd of September. The home was later re-developed into 3 self-contained flats for 2 people each. In December 2019, a decision was taken to convert the building into *"respite care for young adults with learning difficulties and autism who would otherwise have to be looked after at a higher cost out of the area"*.
Stanton and Novelty Confectioners Limited was started by William Thorp, who had bought Stanton Confectionery from Harold Jessop and Novelty Confectionery from Ronald Hunter. The factory is on Warwick Road. Thorp merged two of his former companies after a successful period in the shirt industry.
The lifeboat "Edgar Orlando and Eva Child" entered service.
Blackpool's Samaritans were founded, but the Samaritans service on the Fylde coast did not begin until New Year's Day in 1979 when the first director, Jeff Sharman, secured premises on Edward Street.
FC Rangers Junior Football Club was started by Malcolm Richardson and Harry and Mary Stanley. The club started as RAOB Rangers, based at Layton's RAOB Club. It changed its name to Poulton Rangers in 1976 and finally to FC Rangers in 1977, when they played at the British Rail Club at Hampton Road.
Birkdale United Junior Football Club began. County Authorities were approached for permission to build a Clubhouse, and the land at Bispham was leased for 30 years from the 1st of April 1973. The club then changed its name to Blackpool Rangers Junior Football Club.
The 1st Bispham Boys Brigade was reformed in October after first appearing briefly in 1900.
The 1st Bispham Company of the Girls Brigade was also formed on the 20th of November.
Mark's Furniture Warehouse was operating from the Raikes stables building, next to the Grosvenor Hotel. The stables were previously used as a garage.
The British Sprint Championships were first held on the Lower Walk, when round four was staged on the 14th of June. Tony Harrison won it, in a 4.7 Lola-Ford T70L Mark 2.
Blackpool Sound Centre was at 22 Caunce Street. Mike Carew (ex - The Senators) was equipping local groups until the 1990s. The building was demolished in 2008.
Black's haberdashery store opened on the corner of Deansgate and numbers 2 to 8 Edward Street. It closed in May 2019.
Jeanette's Florists opened at 33 Highfield Road.
The Paramount Chinese restaurant was opened at 77 Highfield Road by the Chow family.
Eccles Danish bacon shop was on Grasmere Road from now until 1980.
The Kavanagh Brothers' joiners' shop and workshop was in operation at 15a Preston Old Road
Hexan Ceilings opened, now trading from Holyoake Avenue.
The Buttery restaurant and cocktail bar was at 105 Red Bank Road. It was locally renowned for its 3-course lunch for 45 pence. It later became the Thai Beach restaurant, which ceased trading in June 2008.
Jackson's Coaches was established, trading from Jackson House on Burton Road from 2006. Jackson's had run holiday tours by coach from their booth at 273 the promenade for many years previously.

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Karl Smith Car Sales opened, now trading from 185 Waterloo Road, in what was previously the John Barnett car saleroom.

The Waterloo Social Club, Blackpool: had been recently built at 44 St Anne's Road. It had two bars, an open plan function room, and open plan games room, together with a kitchen, cellar, office area, and WC facilities. It is a single storey building.
I am aware that the original club was nearby, as per this directory entry from 1934 "Waterloo Social Club (Blackpool), Ltd., St. Annes rd, S.S.".
As the Waterloo Sports and Social Club, it closed for the last time in 2014.

Clarke's Butchers was established at 7a Layton Road.
Longfellow Office Supplies was founded by Bill Sewell, later moving to 295 Whitegate Drive. They became a Limited Company in 1995.
The National Provincial Bank at 2-4 Corporation Street became the National Westminster. The National Provincial also had a branch at 1 Clifton Street.
Smith's Equipment Hire Limited was established in October, having taken over the rear part of the old Marton Tram Sheds in 1963. The coal depot was owned by the Smith family, and the business originated from a coal merchant's operation run by the family from the Marton Depot. By the end of 2017, Smiths Hire had 11 centres in the region and has its head office at Squires Gate.

Vernon Humpage, Blackpool: the shoe shop moved to 123 Church Street, on the site of Brown and Mallalieu's Sunbeam car showrooms. The shoe shop had moved eastwards from number 89-93 - next door to the Brown and Mallalieu Garage, which by 1967, was the Gingham Kitchen, briefly Fatty Arbuckle's, and then Bar Red, which closed in 2010. It opened as the Theatre Bar and Gourmet Burger Restaurant on the 20th of February 2015.
Next door for many years was John King's Rainwear shop (offering *Rainwear at Wholesale prices*). Vernon Humpage, and its Danish Kitchen Café (now Quilligan's), closed in 1996.

Westside Polythene Limited started on Wakefield Road, Bispham, making polythene bags, and coverings.
The Ketch Inn and the Philharmonic Café were on Princess Street, opposite California Hosiery.

The Bier Keller, Blackpool: this small club opened downstairs at 114 Talbot Road in March. It later changed its name to the Mardi Gras and became a Rock Club, hosting live local groups such as the "Lastic Band" and "Rainbow Cottage".

The club was later called Just Ji's, Swallows (including the Rave On club on Mondays), the American Experience, the Touchdown Tavern, Li Lo Lil's, then the Mardi Gras again (incorporating Brandy's Bar), and currently Stillies Showbar.

The 007 Club, Blackpool: Brian London and Ronnie Hunter opened the 007 Club on Water Street. Local boxer Brian had ploughed his retirement funds into the venture. By May 1971, it had moved to the former Water and Transport Worker's club on Tower Street and had been enlarged. Downstairs was the Gold Room (the VIP area). Upstairs was the Continental Room, a small restaurant with a small dance floor, and also the main 007 Disco, complete with dancers in cages.

London soon opened the 008 Club on Topping Street, and in 1977, the Gold Room was added upstairs, with the disco being downstairs (holding 250 people). When the 007 was closed in 1978, the numbers were

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switched briefly, with the 007 moving into Topping Street. It was then on two floors, with the Cabaret Room on the ground floor, and the Basement Disco downstairs. The 008 quickly moved to the old Liberal Club building on Victoria Street - complete with its own Gold Room cabaret bar, go-go girls, and Watney's Ales. London had called it Schoey's 00 Club until the 008 moved in. The 008 moved back to Topping Street in 1979, when the 007 was moved to Victoria Street.

The 007 on Victoria Street still had the Gold Room for cabaret, the 007 discotheque with DJ Pete Schofield, and the Continental Room where people could "Wine and Dine".
The Hunter/London group also owned Pepe's Bar at 94 Talbot Road. Pepe's had opened in 1969 in the space vacated by The Barn coffee lounge and Northern Soul dance venue but had developed into Blackpool's plushest gay bar – the Dutchman on Central Promenade being the most intimate. Next to Pepe's from 1976, was the Bargain Hunters store, owned by Steve Hunter.
The company also ran Barbarella's Club on the corner of York Street and Foxhall Road (now a William Hill's bookmaker's shop). This club advertised "continuous striptease" from 12 midday until midnight.

A free local weekly newspaper, the Blackpool and Fylde Journal, began to be issued from offices at 200 Church Street until 1973.

The Blackpool to the Isle of Man Race: This was first held this year, to find the fastest way to travel either from the top of Blackpool Tower, or the top of Snaefell.
It was founded by Dave Bagot, Trevor Smith, Peter Sanderson, and Roy Hinton of the Garstang and District Motor Club. The races *"attracted a huge amount of interest and enjoyed sponsorship from both Heineken and Whitbread. A Viking longship entry was entered by Leyland Air Training Corps in Lancashire, who also entered a Meteor jet aircraft that could apparently fly from Squires Gate Airport, Blackpool, to Ronaldsway, in under seven minutes. Another team attempted to tread-roll across on a large beer barrel and some snorkelled their way over in skindivers suits. A Fleetwood taxi firm tried out using one of its fleet and Nicholas Lancaster, of Pilling, opted for a Penny Farthing. Helicopters were also used and there was a yachts class as well. The BBC took great interest in the event and the prizes were presented at Blackpool's Winter Gardens by Frank Bough, of Grandstand"*. The TV programme Blue Peter even entered presenter John Noakes one year.
There were several categories of competitor: helicopter, parachute, piston-engined aircraft, scheduled air-line, power-boat, and sailing craft. There were also special prizes for the fastest, most enterprising, round table, first lady competitor, and fastest coast-to-coast crossing.
In 1973, the start was moved from Snaefell to the top of the Manx Radio building in Douglas.
The fastest crossing was 25 minutes 39 seconds, by M Bell in a Bell vertical take-off jet helicopter.
The race was held annually until 1974.

Deep Purple, Free, and the Supremes played the Arts Ball at the Winter Gardens on the 13th of March. Hawkwind, Medicine Head, Mighty Baby, and Innocent Child played at the Lemon Tree Casino South Shore on the 21st of May. Hawkwind returned to play the St Anne's Tennis Club on the 12th of September, and Lowther Gardens on the 25th on the 25th of November 1971. They had first appeared in town on the 21st of November 1970, at the Palatine Hotel – where Lemmy's first venture, the Rockin Vickers, had been residents.
A "Blues and Progressive Music Club" was held on Thursday nights at The Downtown Bar at the Station Hotel. It featured such soon-to-be famous bands as the Groundhogs, Black Sabbath, Van Der Graaf Generator, May Blitz, UFO, T2, Gnidrolog, Mogul Thrash, High Tide, and Genesis.

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Ozzy Osbourne and Blackpool: Black Sabbath and Stackwaddy also played the Pleasure Beach Casino on the 1st of April, in what has become a legendary rock concert. Tickets were available from the Record Salon on Church Street.
Black Sabbath singer Ozzy Osbourne returned to the Norbreck Castle Niteclub on the 3rd of September 1980, for his first ever concert without Black Sabbath, playing a "secret" warm-up gig for a new band called Law, with Randy Rhoads on lead guitar, former Rainbow bassist Bob Daisley, former-Uriah Heep drummer Lee Kerslake, and keyboardist Lindsay Bridgwater. They were supported by Cumbrian band Necromandus. Ozzy later changed their name to the Blizzard of Oz.

Wishbone Ash, Barclay James Harvest, and Writing on the Wall played the Mecca Locarno on the 10th of December. Barclay James Harvest had also played the Odeon Theatre on the 12th of September, when they were supported by Quintessence and Quatermass
Hylda Baker and Jimmy Jewel started the first national run of their "Nearest and Dearest" stage show at the Grand Theatre.
The BBC filmed "Blackpool by the Sea", a documentary on the holiday resort and the working lives of those who go there, directed by Heather Holden.

Zoe Ball: The well-known television presenter and DJ, was born on the 23rd of November in Blackpool (near Cleveleys). Her father Johnny Ball was staying at his parents' house in Cleveleys with his wife while he was appearing in one of his regular summer shows on one of the piers.

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The Carleton Green estate was built in the village of the same name.
Pool Brow Caravan Park was in business on Pool Foot Lane in Little Singleton, owned by Mrs D Gregson.
Poulton Youth Football Club was formed, playing at Cottam Hall playing fields. They are not connected to Poulton Town or Poulton St John's.
In an expansion of Poulton shopping centre, a large building was erected next door to the Co-op store on Tithebarn Street. The Co-op then moved into the new building and their previous home at numbers 9 to 11 (1 Church Mansions – George Charnley's cycle shop in 1926) became Quick Save discount store and is now Peacock's. Upstairs, Loveday's Restaurant opened, later becoming the Yellow Bird. Rico and Jon then founded Rico's Italian Ristorante in 1989.
Cleveleys Taxis were established at 13 Rossall Road on the 25th of September.
Tesco opened a store on Victoria Road West in Cleveleys. It was a two-storey shop, with food on the ground floor, and Tesco Home and Wear on the first floor, which was reached by an elevator. By then, a Tesco Metro store, the shop closed on the 4th of November 2018, and was re-opened on the 22nd of October 2019, as an Iceland store. The opening was filmed by Channel 5 television for screening in November 2019.
The Beach Croft Private Hotel at The Crossway at Thornton Gate in Cleveleys was demolished. It had been built in the 1930s, as the home of TG Lumb, to a design by Edwin Lutyens.
The Probus Club of the North Fylde was formed on the 5th of March at the Hazel Grove Hotel at 90 Beach Road in Cleveleys. The Hazel Grove was built in the 1950s, run by Mr H France, and advertising itself as "The Hotel that Never Closes". It later became the Musketeer, then the Hazel Grove again – with its public lounge bar "The Contemporary". In the 1980s, it was renamed briefly to Follies, and then back to the Musketeer once more. It is now the Travellers Rest public house.
Blades furniture store was opened in February, on the corner of Adelaide Street – opened by TV star Hughie Green. This later became Preston's store, New Day furnisher's and finally, Browser's bargain shop. It has now been demolished, revealing Stage Garage, home since 2006 of Stage Autos.
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Preesall Fire Brigade: Preesall Fire Station was built on Sandy Lane, housing "retained" officers.
It was rebuilt and was then opened on the 3rd of November 2010 by the Fire Minister, Bob Neill MP.
The station premises are shared with the Lancashire Constabulary, whose small station opposite was decommissioned at the same time.

Motorcycle racing and scrambling meetings were regularly held on the sands at Pilling.
The St Anne's Parish Opera Society was formed, meeting and rehearsing at the St Anne's parish Rooms on Headroomgate Road. It was instigated by the then vicar of St Annes Parish Church, Canon Clarke and parishioner Barbara Haylett. Several church members then formed a committee and an inaugural meeting was held for prospective members. The first show 'Oliver' was performed in 1971, at St Anne's Pier Pavilion.
Fylde Inter Varsity Club was founded.
The South Park estate was begun in Lytham by Guardian Estates Limited. An unusual and short-lived feature was a pedestrian subway near Alder Grove, which was the first stage in the planned separation of pedestrians from traffic on the whole estate. There were six different house types: the Stretton, Cheviot, Mendip, Pennine, Chiltern, and Cotswold.
Lowther Gardens began featuring big-name bands, such as Wishbone Ash, Quiver, and Marmalade.
Graham Russell was running his plumbing business from 29 Preston Road, in Lytham. In 1998, the business was incorporated as Russell's Plumbing and Heating Engineers Ltd and are now based at Shell Hill Farm on Saltcoates Road.
Don Haworth opened Lord Street Garage at 12 Lord Street in St Anne's.
Kirkham Taxis were operating from the Railway Arches on Station Road, owned by F and SR Benson.
JH Boulton Ltd had their fishing tackle and gun shop at 8 Preston Street in Kirkham. The shop is now a private house.
One Ash Restaurant was in business in Elswick, owned by the Smith family. It is now dissolved, having been a staunch competitor to Bonds of Elswick for many years.

1971

Gerry Richardson: This bravePolice Superintendent was shot dead in an alley off Sherbourne Road (Back Clifford Road) on the 23rd of August trying to stop an armed robbery at Preston's jewellers at 14 the Strand (by Frederick Joseph Sewell). Gerry was overheard to say to the gunman *"Don't be silly lad"*. After the shooting, he told a colleague *"This is silly. He's shot me in the stomach"*.
The five robbers had stayed at the Silverdale Hotel on Holmfield Road to plot the robbery, and their van was found abandoned behind Derby Baths.

On the 26th of August, 100,000 people lined his funeral route, which went from his home in Oakland Avenue, Norbreck, via a service at St John's Church, to a burial at Layton Cemetery. His grave is inscribed *"Good men must die for the cause of justice and the law, but death cannot kill their names"*. A midnight benefit concert was held at the Winter Gardens shortly afterwards.

Born in Blackpool on the 2nd of November 1932, he remains the most senior police officer to be murdered on duty. The Superintendent Gerald Richardson Memorial Youth Trust was set up in 1978 to raise funds to help young people realise their sporting dreams. A plaque to Supt Richardson hangs on a wall in the Memorial Room at Collegiate High School (he attended Blackpool Grammar as a boy). Superintendent Richardson was posthumously awarded the George Cross in 1972, as was his colleague, PC Carl Walker who was also shot and wounded in the groin, in Back Egerton Road. Four others constables received the George Medal for bravery, including PC Ian Hampson, who was shot in the shoulder4.

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Richardson Street, near the new police station, was named after the deceased hero in 1976, and the new Police Headquarters in Marton was built on the specially-created Gerry Richardson Way.

Whit Weekend, the traditional time for the visitor influx, was official re-named the Spring Bank Holiday, and was officially declared to be on the last Monday in May every year.
Blackpool's team won BBC Television's "It's A Knockout" competition and went on to be the first British team to win Europe's "Jeux Sans Frontieres" competition on the 15th of September.
At the Royal Pavilion cinema, a ghost was reported. When "contacted" by a medium, the spectre claimed to be a 1920's coach driver. Evening workers had previously reported seeing flickering lights and walking through cold spots.
The Pleasure Beach opened the Goldmine ride. It closed in November 2011 to be replaced in April 2013 by a Wallace and Grommit themed "Thrill-o-matic" dark ride.
Pearson's Cottages on Common Edge Road had to be demolished after a lorry ploughed into them. The cottages dated back to before the 1830s.
The Council's Family Group Home Number 1 for the mentally handicapped opened in January on Ambleside Road. It was occupied by 8 residents on the 3rd of September, from which time, they were under the care of 2 "house parents".
The British Rail Camping Coaches were finally removed from Squires Gate Station. Enthusiasts at the Keighley and Worth Valley Railway now maintain and show the last example of these.
Fylde Tramway Society held its inaugural meeting in May.
Falkus Estate Agents were established in King Street.
Bond Street Fabrics opened. After being rebuilt following a major fire in 2004, it closed down in June 2010.
Norgems opened their jewellers' shop on Bond Street. They moved to Wood Street in St Anne's in 2007 and finally to 87a Clifton Street in Lytham in 2010, trading as Timothy's.
Blackpool's first Kentucky Fried Chicken restaurant was opened by Jim and Kathleen Atkinson on the corner of Reads Avenue and Whitegate Drive. The premises had been a pram shop, and were previously Nick Lancaster's Motor cycle shop, then Whittaker's motorcycle shop – run by Richard Isles, who later also had an outlet on the corner of Cookson Street and Buchanan Street. The KFC closed in 2010, and was replaced by a bookmaker in 2011. The KFC franchise was brought to Britain by Blackpool student, Raymond Allen, who had studied Courtfield catering college. He opened the first outlet in Preston, and Blackpool's first KFC was built on Central Drive in an old betting shop next to Taylor's Toys.
The Shahi Grill, an Indian takeaway and chip shop, opened on Church Street, next to the Gas Showrooms. The shop had previously been a Burton's bakery. When the grill closed in the 1980s, an Ethel Austin clothes shop opened in its place. Next door until 1977 was a small Tesco supermarket, now William Hill's bookmakers.
Dunn and Co, gentleman's outfitters, were at 24 Church Street, which later became Cookies Café.
Shuttleworth's electrical services were established, now working from 18-20 Woodland Grove.
John Stevenson was running his own dental practice at 345 Whitegate Drive. He was followed by David Horn and the premises are now a private house known as the "Old Surgery".
The Fylde Caravan Company was trading from their display ground behind "Gorsey Lea" at 22 Whitegate Drive, which were built in 1877 as a stable block for the Raikes Hall Tavern. The company was owned by JN Stewart and Company (Blackpool) Ltd, who had their works on Mitcham Road, and also owned the Maryland Caravan Park on Preston New Road at Peel. In 2001, Lawsons, Samuels, Capaldi, solicitors, opened new offices in the premises. A lemonade factory had vacated its premises, which had also housed businesses including a ladies' outfitters and a TV repair shop. The small house behind the Whitegate Drive premises is now home to the Blackpool Physiotherapy Centre.
Fairbuys Discount Store was on the corner of Springfield Road and the Promenade.
The Dragon Place Chinese restaurant opened at 162a North Promenade.

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Streule's Toy Centre was at 65to 67 Red Bank Road, with a second shop at 22 Market Street.
Windmill Housing was formed, to provide affordable housing for Blackpool and Fylde people.
Dawson's Travel was formed in Cleveleys. They became a limited company in September 2005 after taking over Sands Galaxy Travel.
Barrons Motor Company opened at 43 to 47 Caunce Street, owned by David Barron. It occupied Bernard Greenwood's former Lancashire Car Sales building. When the company closed, the building became a Heald's Day and Nite supermarket, then a One Stop shop, and in 2005, a Tesco Express store.
Bernard Griffith Car Sales was at 179 Vicarage Lane. The site was later taken over by MGM Car Sales, then became an Enterprise Vehicle Rental outlet, before reverting to a garage in January 2018.
South Shore's last remaining cottages were demolished in December. The four dwellings had stood on the corner of Britannia Place for many years. The site is now a car park.
The England football team played Northern Ireland in a Youth Tournament at Bloomfield Road on the 6th of March.
Wren Rovers Football Club was reformed. They were founder members of the Northwest Counties League in 1990 and later changed their name to Blackpool Rovers.
The Fylde Coast Cricket Society was formed at a meeting at the Savoy Hotel.
Emerson, Lake, and Palmer played the ABC on the 21st of March.
Marmalade, Mott the Hoople, Gentle Giant, and Collosseum played the Arts Ball at the Empress Ballroom on the 19th of March. Mott the Hoople returned on the 14th of April 1972, for the Arts Ball, with their Rock 'n' Roll Circus. A guest act was Max Wall.
Genesis played the Tower Theatre on the 17th of January and the 4th of March, returning on the 8th of April 1980 at the ABC.

The Who played the Opera House on the 22nd of October. A fan at this, the band's last ever gig in Lancashire, stated *"The concert was superb and Roger Daltrey with his flowing long hair was incredible, as was the volume! I remember seeing something fly through the air so I ducked out of the way, not realising that Keith Moon had launched one of his drumsticks into the audience. Someone three rows back got a great souvenir!"* That lucky person was **ME!**

Four West Ham footballers were involved in an incident in Brian London's 007 Club on the night of the 1st of January. They were Bobby Moore, Jimmy Greaves, Brian Dear, and Clyde Best. Newspapers called it a fight (wrongly), but it contributed to West Ham's 4-0 defeat to Blackpool the following day. Moore said in 1985: *"It was a completely innocent couple of hours. We only drank two or three glasses of beer. Clyde Best drank orange juice".* Less than three hours later and hardly the worse for wear, the players were safely at their hotel, but they had been spotted by West Ham supporters.
Steve Barker was born on the 4th of April, in Blackpool. He became a film director and writer, known for Outpost (2008), Outpost: Black Sun (2012) and The Rezort (2015).

Jacqui Scott: was born in Cardiff (Jacqueline Crichton), moving to Blackpool when she was a baby, where her father became Mayor. She started singing in Uncle Peter Webster's show on the North Pier aged 6, won a local heat of the BBC show "Rising Stars" at the ABC, and went on to be a leading lady in many shows. After representing the UK in the 1980 Eurovision Song Contest, she later married ventriloquist Keith Harris and lived with him in Poulton.

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St John Southworth Roman Catholic Church, Cleveleys: was opened at the corner of 4 Ripon Close and Northumberland Avenue on the 9th of September. The opening, by Bishop Foley, took place on the 9th of September.
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John Southworth (from Ribbleton) had been condemned to death under Oliver Cromwell and hung at Tyburn. He declared on the scaffold *"I am a Lancashire man and my only crime is being a Priest and professing the Roman Catholic Faith and I willingly die for my Catholic Faith. My faith is my crime".* In St John's there is a striking stained-glass window which simply states *"My faith is my crime"* alongside the Southworth coat of arms.

James Cocker of Cleveleys climbed Everest at the age of 85.
Fleetwood began to receive imports of fruit and vegetables from Spain, when the Castaner y Cortiz/Golfo Line started a twice-weekly service. It lasted for just three years.
Scanda Pine was established at Unit 10, Harbour Close estate, off Copse Road in Fleetwood, manufacturing bespoke pine kitchen and dining furniture. The company was dissolved on the 4th of January 2008.
A washed-up Blue Whale was displayed on the back of a lorry in the Marine Gardens at Fleetwood in June, in the Giant Whale Roadshow. The creature had been *"coated in tar to preserve it"*, and customers could "*walk inside its mouth"*.
Stanah Pumping Station was built. The two Archimedes Screw pumps constructed nearby on River Road are the largest in Britain and lift water from the confluence of the Hillylaid Pool and Royles Brook systems into the River Wyre.
The St Anne's-on-Sea Probus Club was formed on the 25th of February at the YMCA building.
Guy Penn and Company Ltd was established by (Edward) Guy Penn, as an independent insurance brokerage, on the 3rd of August. The company started at Montauban Chambers, 339 Clifton Drive South in St Anne's before moving to Coverpoint House, on the corner of St Davids Road South and Hove Road in May 2004.
Powney and Ray at 31/33 St Davids Road South in St Anne's was dissolved as a partnership on the 7th of July, when Albert Ray retired. Anthony John Powney carried on the business in the name of John Powney. They sold records and retailed and serviced electrical appliances from their P&R Sound and Vision Centre.
Raymond Wallbank opened his music shop at 45 Woodlands Road, Ansdell. His first shop had been on the corner of Windsor Road and Bazley Road. He played the organ at North Pier for 31 years consecutively from 1966. He had been educated at Ansdell County Primary School and King Edward VII School.
Lytham Lifesaving Club was founded.
Preesall Baths were opened. They closed in August 2007, and were demolished in November 2008.
Knott End library built at 26 Lancaster Road. The original library was housed in the old cinema called the Verona. There was one room for the library, and no staff amenities. To go to the toilet, the library had to be closed and staff would then dash across the road to the public toilets. The building is now the Knott End Squash Club.
Taylor's Newsagents was at 88 Freckleton Street in Kirkham. This is currently a Bargain Booze outlet.
Harnells, a ladies and teenage fashion shop was at 79 Poulton Street. The shop is now Palace Newsagents.
"The Garage" was on Ribby Road at Kirkham. It was a petrol station, spares shop, and a Skoda dealership.
John Aldred and Son had a furniture store at 94 Poulton Street in Kirkham. They went into receivership in 1983, and the shop was demolished in 1997, to make way for a Morrison's store.
Church Street Garage was off the Market Square in Kirkham, selling second-hand cars.
Stephen Cross opened his butcher's shop at 69 Station Road in Kirkham.
The outdated sewerage system in Kirkham and Wesham began to be completely replaced. *"During the year work commenced on Phases I and II of the Fylde Rural and Kirkham Urban District Joint Sewerage Scheme. The estimated cost of these two phases of the scheme to the Kirkham Urban District Council is £343,520.00. The scheme provides a new Trunk Sewer with Rising Mains and Pumping Stations conveying sewage from Kirkham and the adjoining south Fylde Villages to the Preston Corporation Disposal Works at Clifton Marsh replacing the Joint Trunk Sower and settlement works of the Kirkham and Wesham Joint Sewerage Committee. With the completion of Phases I and II the majority of properties on Blackpool Road*

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previously on septic tanks will be brought onto the main sower, and the re-construction of the Wrongway Brook Culvert will eliminate periodic flooding at Milbanke Avenue and The Coppice".
The Newton DIY and Garden Centre was on Bryning Road in Newton.

1972

Blackpool Zoo: After a press opening the previous day, the town's new zoo was officially opened on the 6th of July, by Johnny Morris of TV's Animal Magic, who rode in procession in front of the Mayor's car, on Tower Circus elephant Katsula. 3,543 visitors attended the event.
The zoo had been built upon the site of Stanley Park Aerodrome, and originally housed 2 Asian Elephants, 3 White Rhinos, 2 Giraffe, Sea Lions, Gorillas, Chimpanzees, Orang-utans, Lions, 2 Giant Tortoises, and a Free Flight Bird Hall. It now houses over 1,500 creatures.

Elephants Crumple and Kate had been rescued from southern India and moved to the new zoo on the 2nd of July 1971, sponsored by the Hotel and Guest House Association. A zoo keeper, known only as Dennis, was sent to India in 1969, to source two baby elephants, and had rounded the Cape of Good Hope with them in June, on the MV City of Gloucester. Crumple was put to sleep in 2009.

The zoo offices and an education classroom were housed in the old air traffic control building, with hangars being used to house the elephants, and for food storage, quarantine, and site maintenance (this one was demolished in January 2017). In the previous year, the Children's Pantomime Committee had presented the zoo with two elm trees, which were planted at either side of the entrance. Until October 2017, only the Elephant House remained of the original zoo buildings. The new accommodation "*has been specially designed, with sand floors to a depth of one metre, a building height suitable for bulls and cows, high-level feeding baskets, suitable environmental conditions, and a flexible layout with protected areas for keepers*", and Katie was moved into the interior part on the 17th of October.

On the 24th of March 2018, the Project Elephant Base Camp was opened. It is the first stage in a 7-acre re-development for the elephants at the zoo. Base camp has a first-floor indoor viewing area and an eye level outdoor area, to allow visitors to view Kate – the original - and her two new companions, Tara and Minbu, from Twycross Zoo. One of the zoo's last -remaining WW2 hangars was demolished to make room.

Blackpool Miniature Railway Company Limited began running a western Miniature Railway around the Zoo.

The first school to enjoy an educational visit was Stanley Infants, on Wordsworth Avenue, Marton, which was so close that the children walked to the new zoo – a tradition still carried on today.
In 1974, the zoo was supplied with a small herd of Barbary sheep by Glasgow Zoo.
Blackpool Zoo was taken over by the Council's Parks and Recreation Department in 1982.
The Zoo entrance was rebuilt 100 yards eastwards in 1993, with the original building being used as the Education Centre for a few years.

In 1998, the zoo's seventy-year-old tortoise "Darwin" was confirmed as a Seychelles Giant. This was a surprise, as until two were discovered in the Indian Ocean islands in 1997, they had been thought to have been extinct since 1850. "Darwin" is the only known European specimen, and as of the time of writing, is the sole remaining inhabitant of the original zoo compliment.

Also, in 1998, half of the car park was leased to Victoria Hospital for staff parking due to expansion. In 1999, the zoo rescued Asian elephants "Indra" and "Marcella" from a German circus that went into liquidation in Holland.

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Blackpool Zoo was taken over from the Corporation in 2003, by Grant Leisure Limited who own and operate Bournemouth Oceanarium and the Aquarium of the Lakes. Also, in 2003, the zoo's original gorilla "Kukee", a 30-year old Western Lowland Gorilla, died at the zoo on the 7th of January.
In 2006, the zoo office/education block was converted into a 66 place children's day nursery, called the A-Zoo Nursery. It was thought to be the only nursery with a 32-acre zoo in its back garden anywhere in the world. Also opened there, although on a temporary basis, was the "Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy" exhibition in the zoo's entrance foyer.
Aardvark Adventures Playbarn opened on the 18th of April 2008, in one the original aircraft hangars - it was known locally as "Arnie Ardvaark's". Also, that year, the new Giraffe House was opened on the 9th of July.

In 2010, the zoo was declared the best tourist attraction in Lancashire. Blackpool Zoo's Children's Farm was officially opened on the 28th of May 2011, by Blackpool Footballer Gary Taylor-Fletcher and Blackpool Mayor Joan Greenhalgh.
On the 18th of July 2012, the zoo opened their wolf enclosure "Wolf Ridge", to house four Iberian wolves.

On the 13th of April 2017, the zoo welcomed its 15 millionth visitors - Julie and Sharon Splaine, sisters-in-law from Manchester, with their daughters, Lucy and Maisie.

The zoo opened a new themed eating establishment in the first phase of its multimillion-pound Project Elephant developments. The eatery serves Indian and oriental dishes, and was named Nawala Street after a street in Sri Lanka where one of the zoo's nominated conservation charities is based.

Blackpool Model Village: This popular attraction was opened by comedian Jimmy Clitheroe and the mayor, Edmund Wynne on the 6th of July, on the site of the Corporation tip.
The 1/12th scale village is set in 2 ½ acres of landscaped gardens and boasts features such as a miniature Scottish castle and an airport with flying planes.
It was the brainchild of former Blackpool councillor Len Broughton, who ran it with wife Catherine for 22 years before selling it. Joiners Tony Cocker, Fred Wilson, and Bob Monkhouse made the buildings, the majority being constructed at Barton Grange and then moved to the model village.

The Magnolia Café was opened at the Pleasure Beach, next to the Ice Drome. It became Bourbon Street in 1987. At the time, the Pleasure Beach was also operating its own ice cream factory.
The small Gyro Tower was erected at the Pleasure Beach, later becoming the central part of the Information Bureau. It lifted children about 25 feet into the air.
One-man single-deck trams began operating from Starr Gate to Fleetwood on the 30th of October, funded by a 50% grant from the government. The new cars were painted in sun yellow and crimson.
Crichton House, in Crichton Place, opened as a unit for 35 people with physical disabilities. It was demolished in 2001 to be replaced by 8 bungalows. The home had been twinned with HMS Crichton.
The Standard of the Blackpool branch of the Old Contemptibles Association was laid up in St John's Church on the 9th of July. This was done in memory of the Blackpool men who served in France from the 4th of August to the 22nd of November 1914, in the battles of Mons, Marne, Aigne, and Ypres.
Layton Hill Convent School stopped taking in boarders.

The Adam and Eve Club, Blackpool: The Time and Place nightclub opened at 1A/1B Chapel Street. In 1974, it became the Adam and Eve Nite Spot, run by Ian Sharples. This was completely re-furbished in 1987, and in 1989, it was bought by Paul Andrews. The club had a distinctive metal dance floor, and hosted a long-running It's a Rockout competition. A food serving hatch was installed on the ground floor in 1995. The

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club later became an Indian restaurant. In 2002, a new door and fascia was erected, to enter proposed a new club, which eventually became the Wicked lap dancing club. This starred drag act Sensational Sadie and male lap dancers called the Wicked Warriors. A gift shop called Superchoice followed this, and from 2016, the building has housed The Sea fish and chip shop.

The Viking, Blackpool: The South Shore Hotel at 479-483 the Promenade – then a WM Youngers' pub, with its Beach Bar and Vaults - was transformed into The Viking, with its Talk of the Coast cabaret bar, which featured comedy host Jack Diamond for many years (followed by George King and Buddy Lee).
The vaults, at the back in Montague Street, were later renamed Montague's, then the Backstreet Bar, and were the one-time home of the South Shore Motor Club.
The Viking is now an "adults only" venue.

The first Blackpool Pigeon Show was held in the Winter Gardens in January. Each year, the show attracts over 25,000 visitors, with 3,000 pigeons. From 1977, the show also encompassed the National Pigeon Show, which had moved from Doncaster.
The Palace Shield launched its junior cricket competition.
Lancashire Automobile Club held their first Manchester to Blackpool Run.
Blackpool's first all-over bus advert was when one was painted for Greenall Whitley in May. Blackpool's first all-over tram advert was seen in 1975.
Finigan's Discount Store was at 11 Birley Street, selling jewellery and fancy goods.
Da Vinci's Italians Restaurant was established on King Street. It was Blackpool's first true Italian outlet, although EH Booth's café and Italian Warehouse had sold Italian foods at times since 1847.
The Regency Club was above numbers 3-5 Clifton Street, changing its name to Centaurs in the 1980s. The ground floor is currently a branch of the Britannia Building Society.
Unit Design set up in business, soon moving to Sycamore Trading Estate, making fitted furniture.
Roshseal Limited was established on the 29th of November, and had their wholesale jewellery warehouse off Walker Street, before later move to Positive House at 140 Mowbray Drive. The company was dissolved in 1997.
RSM Antique Restorations was begun by Robin Stone in the Stables on Back Eaves Street.
The Rotary Club of Marton was founded as one of the 75 clubs in Rotary International District 1190, meeting at the Savoy Hotel.
The Empress Ballroom was briefly renamed "The Stardust Gardens" nightclub. It has been described *"The ballroom conversion, however, could be described as a tarting-up job of plastic foliage and garden furniture. A stage apron and two walkways were built on the ballroom floor with tables and chairs all round. A crew of lovely girls, including two former Miss Blackpools, served drinks and light meals from airline-style trollies"*. A bar was installed belatedly in 1974, but the idea was dropped in 1975.
Haworth and Ackers, optometrists, were in business at 7 Milbourne Street.
Gilbert Haslam started Gilbert's Metals, now trading from Clifton Road.
Woodings Optometrists opened at 57 Whitegate Drive, later expanding, and then moving to 101a Red Bank Road.
Fylde Coin Equipment was established on Lytham Road.
Clover Leaf Garage was opened at 297 Squires Gate Lane. It was previously known as Stanley Road Filling Station as that was the old name for the road between St Anne's Road and Common Edge Road. Clover Leaf Garage became a Limited Company in 1999.
Windmill Park, a caravan park for 12 residential units, was in business on Preston New Road, opposite Clifton Road, Marton, located behind Isherwood's Garage. Isherwood's had another service station on Laycock Gate.

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Layton Woodworkers was opened at 18-22 Layton Road, replacing a sweet shop and a junk shop which had been knocked into one.
Dave Ashworth opened his Citroen garage on Cowley Road.
A second Kentucky Fried Chicken outlet was opened on Talbot Road, by the Atkinson family. The site had previously housed the Co-operative meat depot.
Blackpool Corporation installed its first kidney dialysis machines into patients' homes.
The Council's Ashfield court old folk's complex was built off Ashfield Road in Bispham. There are 20 1-bedroomed retirement and sheltered housing flats.
Bispham Laundry was in business on All Hallow's Road.
Alan Heptonstall and Co, auctioneers and estate agents, were at 212a Red Bank Road. The premises are now occupied by Lindel Property Management.
Plans were made by the Council for the building of a new Swimming Baths building on the now-empty Larkhill Street site, but although tenders were received, the plans were never implemented. An indoor bowling centre was built there instead.
Devonshire Court was built at 225 Talbot Road. Proving sheltered housing, its controlling company, Devonshire Court (Blackpool) Ltd was registered on the 29th of September. The *"development consists of three elevated apartments blocks: Torbay Court, Newquay Court and Dawlish Court which comprises of thirty spacious apartments each having two bedrooms their own balcony or patio, security intercom system"*.
Argosy Court day centre was built on Argosy Avenue in Grange Park. Run by the Council, it is a retirement and sheltered housing complex of 40 1-bedroomed flats. There was accommodation for non-resident management staff and community alarm service, together with a communal lounge, dining room, and a community centre. In 1981, A new warden's accommodation block was erected, and in 2009, a derelict area next to the complex was landscaped for use by residents.
FC Milnes was operating his hearing aid shop at 2a Alfred Street.
Granny Smith's Greengrocers was established at 9 Layton Road.
Blackpool Trim Shops Limited started business on Brun Grove on the 29th of March.
Blackpool Aerials Limited started business from Highcroft Avenue.
Whitegate Motors opened at 101 Whitegate Drive.
Kipling Court, a Council-run retirement and sheltered housing complex of 21 flats was built on Kipling Drive. Each flat has 1 bedroom. The complex includes wheelchair standard properties, with a communal dining room, and a garden.
A bus turning circle was constructed on Langdale Road in Mereside.
Royal Lancastrian Pottery opened a workshop on the Promenade, relocating from Kearsley and employing some Poole designers, but only lasting until 1975.
The Harold Hoyle Centre for the Blind was opened on Warren Drive by Prime Minister Edward Heath, on the 10th of October. It closed in 1998.
Clifton Labour Sunday football club was formed.
The Blackpool Transport Angling Club was formed.

Victoria Hospital murders: The hospital's eye specialist, Jordanian Ahmad Alami, stabbed two nurses before stabbing four 2-year-old children in a ward on the 17th of February. Three children died - Deborah Carson (aged 4), Martin Langhorne, and Nicolas Scott. Darren Quamer survived his wounds.
Alami was schizophrenic and was sentenced to serve time at Broadmoor High Security Unit.

Pontins Air Crash: On the 29th of June, an HFB-320 Hansa Jet, registration D-CASY, crashed on take-off from Squires Gate. The pilot attempted to abort but over-shot the end of the runway. The aircraft crossed over

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railway lines and continued into the Pontins camp, demolishing 15 chalets and catching fire, before coming to rest on the putting green.
2 crew members and 5 of the 6 passengers were killed, but nobody in the holiday camp was hurt. *"The only survivor was pulled clear of the wreckage by one of the young chefs at the camp – assisted by England's number one table tennis player, Denis Neale, who had been playing exhibition matches at the camp"*.

Queen, a newly formed band, played the Blackpool Arts College Ball at the Winter Gardens. They also began their first UK headlining tour in the same venue on the 1st of March 1974.
Slade played the Winter Gardens on the 2nd of June – the first of 6 Blackpool appearances.
The film "Nearest and Dearest" was partly filmed in Blackpool, when the main characters, played by Hylda Baker and Jimmy Jewel came to Blackpool on holiday.

Curtis Jobling: was born in Blackpool on the 14th of February. His family moved to Warrington when he was 2 years old, and he went on to become a renowned illustrator and animator – the creator of children's character "Bob the Builder".

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F Houghton and Sons were running their "one stop self-service store" at 67 Chain Lane in Staining. It had its own Bendix launderette and ladies' hairdresser. The shop later became a Co-operative Foodstore.
Poulton and District Primary Football League was formed, to promote junior football throughout the Fylde.
Cobweb Records opened in the Teanlowe Centre at Poulton. They later opened a second shop on Victoria Road Cleveleys, which did not last long. The Poulton shop closed in 2007.
Brian Wolstenholme's Leisureline Coaches was working from Poulton, also hiring wedding and funeral cars.
Barker's Butchers opened at 46 Green Drive, Rossall. Owner Phil Barker was a popular local historian.

The Thornton Cleveleys Sports Centre: was opened on Victoria Road East on the 6th of October. It had facilities for 15 different sports, as well as a soft drinks lounge and the licensed Sportsman's Bar.
After an extensive re-furbishment in 2014, its new facilities include ten pin bowling, an indoor skate park, outdoor 3G pitches, a spa, and health and fitness suites with gyms and purpose-built studios.

The North Fylde Music Circle was started in Cleveleys, by Bob Heelis. It opened formally in January 1973.
Fleetwood Open-Air Pool closed.

The Fylde Folk Festival: On the 12th and 13th of august, folk singers Allan Bell and Graham Wallwark organised a charity walk along the Wyre, from Abbeystead to Fleetwood. The Wyre Walk raised over £600 towards a new Fleetwood lifeboat. An afternoon of outdoor folk music and morris dancing was followed by a celebration in the North Euston Hotel on the evening of the 13th. The Fylde Folk Festival grew from that event.
In the following year, on the 7th and 8th of September, the first official festival was held in Fleetwood. The main venue was the North Euston Hotel, but other local hotels were also used. It was organised by Allan Bell, and from the following year it was held at the Marine Hall. When Ball retired in 2014, the event was altered into the Fylde Folk and Blues Festival. This was itself superseded in 2015, by the New Folk 'n' Roots Festival.

Mayer Newman Limited set up new scrap metal handling and loading facilities at Fleetwood's Wyre Dock, mainly for exporting to Spain. The last consignment left in 1985.
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The Yachtsman Retirement Home was opened at 41/42 Laidley's Walk in Fleetwood, run by Rob and Vicky Saunders.
Fylde Ski Club was founded by members of the Fylde Mountaineering Club.
The Fylde Coast Muzzle Loaders Society was formed, now shooting at Weeton Barracks.
Heyhouses Farm in St Anne's was demolished.
Our Lady Junior Football Club was founded, later changing their name to St Anne's Football Club.
Fylde Speakers Club was founded in St Anne's.
Alderman William Pickles lived in Clifton Hall and at 101 Ballam Road, where he died in 1976. In 1961, he donated funds for old folk's flats in St Anne's, which were opened on the 8th of November. The Leylands (which had been built as Woodville, and had its name changed by its new owner – chairman of Leyland Paints) and other large houses on West Beach in Lytham were demolished at the same time. The YMCA sports field was later named in his honour.
The Lytham Promenade Orchestra was formed.
Kirkham Flax Mill was demolished. It had stood on Mill Street in the Barnfield area since 1732.
Kirkham Boys Football Club was founded. They changed their name to Kirkham Juniors in 1974.
Kirkham was twinned with the French town of Ancenis. It signed another twinning agreement in 1995, with the German town of Bad Brückenau.
On the 2nd of January, Kirkham girl Elizabeth Foster was murdered by Blackpool bus driver Brian Ball off Bryning Road in Wrea Green. After questioning 35,000 people, and taking saliva samples from 10,000 men, Ball was arrested and found guilty of manslaughter.
Mrs Glover's café was at 16 Poulton Street in Kirkham. The café later became Bistro 16 and is currently called Pudding and Pie.
Birch's shoe shop was at 50 Poulton Street in Kirkham. In 1986 Fylde Domestics opened in the premises, opening a second shop in Nutter Road, Cleveleys in 2006. They are currently called Preslec. Preslec was established in 1976, in Preston, as a family run appliance store.
Maurice Davies had his menswear shop at 2 Market Square in Kirkham. In more recent times, the shop has been the Cobble Stones café and restaurant.
The Bon Aimee Café was at 38 Station Road, on the corner of Billington Street East, in Wesham.
The Smithy Restaurant was on Cartford Lane, Little Eccleston, located in the local smithy building. It had previously been a café and went into liquidation in 2005.
Michael Taylor opened the Sunset Holiday Park in Hambleton. In June 2015, the Taylor family invested in five two and three-bedroom holiday lodges, and in June 2017, they opened a new entertainment complex, known as The Puddled Duck. It has a pub and restaurant, a sports bar, coffee shop, outdoor children's play area, indoor Xbox and toddler play area, a small fitness zone, and a beer garden.

1973
Blackpool Tower was declared a Grade 1 Listed Building on October the 10th.
Bank Hey Street became Blackpool's first pedestrianized zone, after a successful experiment in 1973.
Blackpool broached the signing of a "Twinning" agreement with the German town of Bottrop in October. This was finally signed in August 1980.
The Tom Sawyer Raft Ride opened at the Pleasure Beach in September, taking the place of the Turnpike. It was removed in 1993 to make way for the "Big One" roller coaster, and in December 2016, work began on a new ride, initially called simply "Construction 2018", which will be based on the site of the lake and will then run around the whole park.
Kipling Manor Old Folks Home opened on Kipling Drive on March the 14th. It was demolished in December 2004 after being sold by the Corporation.
Whitegate Day Nursery opened on December the 14th.
Next door to Duple on Preston New Road was Empire Pools, who had moved from Dover Road.

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The "Friends of the Grand" was formed, to resist the demolition of the theatre. Their Grand Theatre Trust bought the theatre in September 1980.
The first Taekwondo club in the Northwest was opened by Craig Waddington. First based at Thornton Sports Centre, it later moved to Stanley Park Sports Centre where it remains.
Brian Simmon's Pet Supplies was at 248 Church Street, specialising in fish, exotic pets and dogs and cats.
The British Numismatic Trade Association was founded at 521 Lytham Road.

The Albany Club: was above 24 Bond Street, with the Kismet Restaurant next door. The Albany Club was later called the Last Chance, and then Chaplin's. An Ethel Austin store later took over the ground floor.

Romanoff's "International Gift Shop" was at 6 Red Bank Road. The premises are now a part of the Hart's Amusements arcade at units 6 to 10. The amusement arcade was originally called Queen's Amusements.
Kameracraft, a photography and camera shop, was at 260 Church Street. The premises are now occupied by The Wedding Place.
The Blackpool and Fylde Sub-Aqua Club took out a lease on the former Sea Water Works (used to distribute cleaned seawater to hotels etc for bathing) at 149 Dickson Road in November. The club left the building in June 1997, now meeting at Clubhouse 2 on Dover Road.
Regent Court flats were built at 204 North Promenade and the corner of Banks Street (named after Richard Banks, the owner of the land in the 1850s). The first flat was let in November 1974.
"Joyce", a ladies' fashion shop, was at 86 Dickson Road (this later became the 9-bedroom Dixon Hotel), with a companion shop at "Edna Rothwell", 52 St Annes Road (currently Empath, a beauty shop).
Blackpool and Fylde Area Pool League started to organise 8-ball pool matches in the area.
Owens Removals started at 227 Talbot Road, later opening a self-storage facility on Coleridge Road.
The Northwest Cleaning Company was established.
The Chocolate Bar was at 129 Red Bank Road, selling English and Continental chocolates. The shop is now occupied by Sandwich Express, a take-away food outlet.
Continental Furs was at 512 Church Street, owned by J Swezda. The Polish owner, made and sold his own fur coats.
Livingston Road Chippy was in operation, later changing its name to "Joyce and Arthur's" after the owners.
Jack Heyes's furnishers was in operation at 52-54 Caunce Street, later occupied by Champion Accountants.

Tiffmans, Blackpool: Begun by Talbot Mansell, Tiffmans Textiles were in operation behind number 440 Talbot Road, before moving to the corner of Alfred Street and Church Street. By 1984, they also had a store at 28 Topping Street, but this closed after a few years and the business was consolidated on the corner of 125A and 125B Church Street and 7 to 11 Alfred Street, as Tiffmans Beds Ltd.
In 2010, a new company Tiffmans Limited was formed, but this too was dissolved on the 25th of March 2014, but not before yet another version, Tiffmans Beds Ltd was formed on the 28th of February 2014.

The Alpine Climbing and Ski Centre opened at 193-195 Church Street, having been established in 1971. It closed in December 2012. Opposite from the early 1980s was Sport and Leisure, at 202 Church Street. That company had begun at 7a Park Road in St Anne's in the mid-1970s, before buying a second shop at 3 Church Road in Lytham.
Armstrong Plumbing was at 111-114 Buchanan Street. The building was later used by Leabrook Soft Toys of 88 Ribble Road, and later became a *"swingers"* club called Passion. It is currently a warehouse.
The Young Generation fashion boutique was in business at 106 the Promenade.
Baubles the Jewellers (later Baubles Bangles and Beads Ltd) opened for business at 21 Coronation Street, in the former Smart-Fit men's tailor's premises. They later opened another shop in the Grand Buildings at 37

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Church Street (precinct). The shop site had previously been occupied by Hepworth's Tailors, Selby's Opticians, and Gerrard's Jewellers. They also, briefly, had a small shop at 9 Topping Street.
The Green Shield Stamp shop on Albert Road changed into an ARGOS outlet in July, after the chain was rebranded by founder Richard Tompkins. The shop had previously been on Coronation Street (now the Who collectables shop). ARGOS moved to 8 and 8 Albert Road shortly afterwards.
Girl Talk, a "perfume boutique" was at 5 East Topping Street, where they could attract customers leaving St John's Market. Since the market was demolished, the premises are now a vacant unit.
Crane's Piano and Organ shop was on Queen Street.
RA Swann's toyshop and newsagent was at 4 and 5 Cocker Square. The shop is now occupied by Big Size Menswear.
G Taylor and Son were running their fruit and vegetable shop at 29 Red Bank Road, with a second shop at 50 Victoria Road West in Cleveleys and another at 124 Lord Street in Fleetwood.
Hesketh's garage opened on Mowbray Drive, before moving to Church Street, Talbot Road and then to Cleveleys, where they now trade as the Hesketh Select Car Group.

Hovercraft trips, Blackpool: The first hovercraft service operated for one year only, from Starr Gate. Operated by Hovertravel, Hovercraft number SR.N6 022 flew between Southport and Blackpool from the 23rd of May until the 28th of September. It also did some other pleasure trips.
A contemporary newspaper report described it thus: *"The first flight left the Ribble terminal at Starr Gate in the morning and then went to near St Anne's Pier to pick up the Lytham St Anne's party. The St Anne's detour will not be part of the normal runs. The trip to Southport took 16 minutes".* The Southport terminal was on Marine Drive, and a return trip cost £1.
As the service had made a loss, an offer by Blackpool Council of a berth by South Pier in the following year was declined.

The national final of the "Coal Queen of Britain" beauty contest was first held at the Winter Gardens, after having moved from Skegness, where it began in 1969. It lasted until 1983, and was run by the National Coal Board, sponsored by Coal News. The contestants stayed at the Imperial Hotel and often took part in a fashion show organised by the Co-op. The winners are listed in Appendix Y.

Alfie Boe: was born in Blackpool on the 29th of September. His family moved to 75 Shakespeare Street in Fleetwood on the day that he was born, and he attended St Wulstan's and St Edmund's School. He then went to Cardinal Allen School before working at TVR and going on to become a world-famous tenor.

Barrie-Jon Mather: was born in Wigan on the 15th of January, but soon moved to Tarn Road in Thornton. He later attended Arnold School, and went on to represent England at both Rugby League and Rugby Union – the first player to do so.

Radio One DJ John Peel came to Blackpool to record a one-hour special on Northern Soul with Ian Levine, who was by then the most famous club DJ in the country.
Although Blackpool was still attracting political party conferences, enthusiasm was waning. MP Alan Clark wondered in his diary that it was *"Impossible to get even a piece of bread and cheese, or a decent cup of tea; dirt, squalor, shanty-town broken pavements with pools of water lying in them – on the Promenade".* Also, the Winter Gardens and the Norbreck Castle complex could each hold 4000 delegates, but the town had only 900 hotel rooms with private baths! The writing was on the wall.

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Parkinson's shop in Carleton was demolished to make way for the new road Wyvern Way.
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The Teanlowe Centre, Poulton: opened this year. It was named after the *"Teanlay – or tinley - Night"* festivities which had been performed on the site on every All Hallow's Eve in October. A field, known as *"Purgatory"* (now the car park) was used every year for Teanlay, by a circle of local men standing with bales of straw raised high on pitchforks. Teanlay fires had also been lit on a cairn at Hardhorn and on Westby Hill for centuries.
To make way for the new centre, the row of shops on Bull Street (now called Blackpool Old Road) was demolished – including the Sportsman's Arms pub.
The £1.75m Edwardian-style Village Walks extension to the Teanlowe Centre opened in 1988, and in 1992, an escalator was added in a £500,000 revamp.

A fire in the Teanlowe Centre in Poulton on the 18th of January 2010, destroyed several buildings including Club Monaco, where the blaze started. Club Monaco had previously been called the Hub, the Peppermint Lounge, and Ampersand.

The Village Walks shopping centre was renamed The Market Hall in March 2011. Its stores on opening were: The Souk, Victorian Arts and Crafts, Lol and Co, Pandora's Box, Soap Fairy, Red Elephant, The Fish Plaice, Joseph Franks Hairdressing, Cheeky Chops Too, Modern Iware, Sarnies Café, Darbyshire's Gas and Electrical, Goffers Sweet Shop, and Furniture Solutions 4U.

Poulton Auto Spares opened at 35 Breck Road.
Poulton Chaddeans were established, when the vicar of St Chad's Parish Church brought together several church organisations to perform concert parties.

The Sandpiper, Cleveleys: this public house was opened in August, on Cleveleys Avenue. It had been built by Whitbread's Brewery and had opened for use a few weeks previously.
In 2009, neighbours of the pub protested to the Council about excessive noise levels. The pub's owners, Enterprise Inns, threatened to close the premises. In 2015, Enterprise announced that they were to dispose of the venue, and it eventually closed in 2017.

A Kentucky Fried Chicken outlet opened at 150 Victoria Road in Cleveleys on the 7th of July.
The Thornton Cleveleys Courier free newspaper was launched on the 14th of September.
The flats at Tornetum Court in Thornton were built and began to be occupied. They were built on what the locals called the "Butterfly Field", by the railway sidings.
Campbell Motors were operating a British Leyland car saleroom and garage at 40 Victoria Road West. The shop was earlier occupied by the Cleveleys Glass and China Store (in 1964), and later became Cleveleys Market. It is currently a Card Factory outlet.
Ann Irvin, from Thornton Cleveleys, won the British Ladies Amateur Open.
Ferrymasters (Ireland) Limited started a new service between Fleetwood and Larne which commenced operation in June. The port had been expanded to handle large freight containers.

Larkholme County Secondary School, Fleetwood: As Fleetwood needed more pupil space, this new school was opened on Broadway to take 950 pupils. On opening, only years 7 and 8 were admitted, with the rest of the school being completed in 1975.
Larkholme merged with Hesketh High in 1987, to become Fleetwood High School.

Fleetwood Sports College was officially opened on Broadway on the 2nd of September 2002, on the site of Larkholme. It reverted to the name of Fleetwood High School in 2010.

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AM Seafoods was formed by David Appleby and Peter Merrick at Fleetwood. The central geographical location was a key factor in sourcing daily supplies of fresh king scallops, queen scallops and whelks from locations such as Wick, Campbeltown, Shoreham and Brixham, for processing and distribution.
The NatWest Bank branch on Warrenhurst Road in Fleetwood closed on the 7th of September.
The Vac Shop was opened at 69 Poulton Road in Fleetwood.
The Wyre Water Ski Club was formed, skiing out of Stanah. By the next year it was called the Wyre Water Ski and Power Boat Club. The club held annual competitions and in 1985, became the first club in Britain to erect an "all-steel water-ski ramp for tidal water". This was designed and built at the club, and a special rigid polyurethane structural foam, supplied by the Tyfoam Group Limited, Swansea, was used to fill the sponson, or buoyancy tanks.
HM Customs and Excise moved into Petros House on St Andrew's Road North in St Anne's, to administer VAT for the Fylde coast. In 1996, HM Customs and Excise relocated from both Anthony House and Petros House to the new departmental headquarters in Salford, ending a 66-year presence in the town. The Income Tax section of HM Revenue and Customs left Petros House in spring 2009. In September 2019, Petros House became the Tustin Heights development of 36 apartments, complete with a gymnasium and parking.
Westmorland House was built on Orchard Road in St Anne's to house the Department of Health and Social Security. The Westmorland Hotel had been demolished to make room.
The Braxfield Court apartments were opened on the corner of St Anne's Road West and Clifton Drive in February. The Braxfield Holiday Flats had been demolished to make way – they had begun life as the Braxfield Hotel.
The Davy Lamp boutique was open at 57a The Square in St Anne's, run by brothers Ben and Tony Davies.
Ken's Meat Market was founded by Ken Hellewell at 132 St Albans Road, St Anne's. A second shop was at 17 Poulton Street in Kirkham. In 1996, the company was taken over by Clifton Quality Meats Ltd (formed on the 9th of march 1978), and relocated to a state-of-the-art building on Cornford Road, Marton. In January 2003, the company merged with R Benson Catering Meats Limited, and was taken over by the local Rigby family. 2009 saw them open a second wholesale outlet in Normanton. The business went into administration on the 24th of August 2018, with the loss of 70 jobs.

Lytham Hall Park Primary School: opened on South Park. The school was built with an open plan design. Lancashire County Council created an additional 6 classrooms, built a second school hall, and further developed the school grounds.
Its nursery was added in 1996, and the nursery and out of school club operate from the nursery room, and the Millennium Hall in the primary school.

David Illingworth (born in Lytham) discovered that by removing triglycerides with high melting points from cream, spreadable butter could be made.
Pack Leader guitars was set up in Kirkham. Terry Pack and Roger Bucknall only made 70 Pack Leaders, and the firm ceased production in 1978, but carried on under the name Fylde Guitars (who moved to Penrith in 1996). Roger had started out on the Crescent in St Anne's (below Ernest Flowers gents' outfitters) in 1973. The guitars have been used by such luminaries as Peter Townsend, Bob Dylan, and Paul McCartney.
Benstead's West End Garage was on Blackpool Road in Kirkham.
BW Travel Centre was in operation at 4 Poulton Street in Kirkham, later being taken over by the national Thomas Cook travel agency.
The Handyman's Friend DIY shop was at 12 Preston Street in Kirkham.
Walker's Newsagents were at 92 Poulton Street. In 1891, there were 4 Irish mill workers, and 2 English ones listed as living at the address - some of many hundreds who worked in the town's mills. The building later became home to the Pisces Fish and Chip shop.

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Freckleton Library: was built on Preston Old Road, on the site of the Primitive Methodist chapel. It was opened officially by Sir Edward Gardner MP in 1981. It replaced the mobile library, which used to stop on the same site.
The original village library had been started in the Hodgkinson Institute, and when this became too cramped, it was moved to *"the site of the old school on Lytham Road next to the Holy Trinity Church"*.
In 2012, the defunct library was turned into a meeting point for the local police officers to deal with community problems. It was closed on the 30th of September 2016, due to council budget cuts, only to be re-opened with community support in February 2018.

1974
Blackpool ceased to be a County Borough on the 1st of April, becoming controlled by Lancashire County Council. The post of Alderman ceased to exist.
The Blackpool, Wyre, and Fylde District Health Authority was created.
The multi-storey car park on Chapel Street was opened, and Central Drive open-air car park was opened on the railway site.
Whitbread's sponsored an air race from Blackpool Tower to Douglas on the Isle of Man.
Blackpool's "FR" and "FV" Car Registration letters were transferred to Preston.
New Bonny Street was opened to link the Promenade with Central Drive.
The Methodist chapel on Bank Hey Street was demolished, and a new chapel was constructed on Adelaide street west, replacing several shops, and incorporating new shops underneath.
Jefferson's (Blackpool) Ltd opened their Nissan and Datsun car dealership and garage on Buchanan Street.
Mereside Lodge Old Folks Home was built in Clifton Avenue.
Bispham Community Centre and Clinic was opened on Bispham Road, and Bispham Photographic Society then moved there from the tram sheds. Local celebrity resident Violet Carson was instrumental in raising funds in her post as chairwoman of the Bispham and District Community Association.
Jack Ratcliffe's garage and car saleroom was on Fleetwood Road in Little Bispham. He had moved there from All Hallow's Road, where he had started up in a wooden shed, doing repairs, and later selling fuel. By 2010, the Fleetwood Road premises had become Total Car Care, and this changed into an Enterprise Car Rentals outlet in 2014.

Undersea Gas: Gas and oil were discovered 25 miles off Blackpool, and British Gas drilled the South Morecambe Discovery Well in September. Commercial development began in January 1985, when the South Morecambe gas field came on stream, and it now supplies 10% of the UK's gas. Operated by Hydrocarbon Resources Ltd, it was followed in October 1994, by the Morecambe North gas field - discovered in 1976. Blackpool Airport is the base for the rigs' supply helicopters, and Fleetwood docks soon became the supply hub.
South Morecambe was developed with six steel platforms – a central production platform and five "remote" platforms, which are not normally manned (NNM). The gas from the five NNM platforms goes to the central platform, and from there via a 24-mile, 36-inch pipeline to the South Morecambe terminal at Barrow-in-Furness. North Morecambe has just one steel platform, also piping gas to Barrow.
At the time of writing (February 2019), platforms DP3 and DP4 will soon be de-commissioned.

The Pleasure Beach opened its Cyclone roller coaster, using single car trains, it closed in 1987, being the second ride to use the name.

Football fan killed: Kevin Olsson, of Blackpool, was fatally stabbed at the rear of the Spion Kop whilst attending the Second Division 'derby' game against Bolton Wanderers on the 24th of August. He was,

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sadly, the first football supporter to be killed in that manner at an English football ground. A memorial plaque to him was unveiled in the stadium in 2009.

Norman Small started the Federation of Small Businesses (FSB) on the 15th of September. The FSB moved to Sir Frank Whittle Way on Blackpool Business Park on the 27th of September 2001.
St Anne's Travel Agents (Blackpool) Limited was started on July the 23rd, working from 7 Lido Buildings. Business Travel Plus was founded in South Shore. It now ranks as one of the leading travel management companies in the UK.
Briloy Confectionery (later Fylde Coast Confectionery) was started by Dougie Loynds on Holyoake Avenue.
The Rock Factory was started on Back Keswick Road.
LCR opened their cash register shop on the corner of Church Street (197) and number 1Park Road. The shop had previously been a branch of Burton's Bakers, and the bakery ovens were removed in 1985.
A Kentucky Fried Chicken outlet was opened on Lytham Road by the Latham family.
Marton Mere was enlarged to 40 acres when embankments were built, enabling its water level to rise once more. The modern inlet to Marton Mere drains low-lying land in Layton, passing under the ornamental lake in Stanley Park in a 1 metre diameter pipe, and then on to the mere. Spen Dyke is now fully culverted and empties into the sea at Manchester Square Pumping Station.
Land on either side of Highfield Road, between Midgeland Road and Common Edge Lane, began to be built up into a large housing estate. A large surface water retention tank was also needed, and this was built to discharge into the Highfield Road culvert. Many homes were built to the West of Walker's Hill over the next decade.
Death to Pest started business, now operating from Sycamore Trading Estate.
Judge Ceilings was established at 330 Queen's Promenade.
Mike Tudor opened his car dealership, Tudor Car Sales, at 168 Talbot Road. It closed in May 2012, to make way for the Gateway development, moving to Fox's Business Park on Warley Road.
Fox's Garage opened on Warley Road.
The Camera and Organ Centre was opened on Central Drive by Stephen Austin.
J Cabs Limited started business at 156 Central Drive on the 28th of November, taking over Duxbury's organ and music shop. After taking over Radio Cabs Ltd, they began trading as Radio J Cabs Ltd.
Whitegate Gas was established at 65 Whitegate Drive. The shop had previously been a branch of the Co-op Chemists.
Dawson's Yankee Overalls opened at Cedar Square, selling workwear.
Anne Gerald's ladies' hairdressers was in operation at 28 Edward Street.
Paolo's hair design opened on Dickson Road.
David Wadsworth started his veterinary practice on Norbreck Road.
Pond Marsh Solicitors was established at 249 Church Street by Hugh Pond and Howard Marsh.
Rock group Queen kicked off their first headlining tour, to promote the Queen II album, with a show at the Winter Gardens on the 1st of March. They were supported by Wolverhampton band Marie Celeste, Bob Kerr's Whoopee Band, and Manchester band Royal Variety Show.
Rory Gallagher played the Opera House on the 5th of December.
Nick McCarthy, later to become lead guitarist with group Franz Ferdinand, was born in Blackpool on the 13th of December.
Child singer Lena's Zavaroni made her first performance before a major audience at the Opera House. She had been discovered on "Opportunity Knocks" at the end of 1973, and with her song "Ma, He's Making Eyes at Me", she was the youngest artist to appear on BBC Television's "Top of the Pops".
Miss Dance of Great Britain was first held in the Winter Gardens. The annual finals are organised by the IDTA (International Dance Teachers Association).
The Fylde Sport magazine was first published in April.

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Dedicated to the former Blackpool Football Club star, the Harry Johnston Trophy was first awarded to the winners of a football competition for local secondary schools, organised by Marton Rotary Club. The inaugural winners were St Joseph's College. Harry Johnston owned a newsagent's shop in town.
Blackpool Corporation instigated the Quayle Trophy, awarded to the most outstanding local sportsperson between 14 and 21 years of age. Winners include:

1974 C Shaw
1976 Andrew Bestwick - Ice Skater
1978 Cheryl Brazendale - Swimmer
1980 Alister Gibb - Swimmer
1982 Sarah Medley
1983 Louise Horland - Greenlands High School
1984 Stuart Brookes - Collegiate High School
1986 Susan Eccles - Elmslie Girls School
1988 David Heaton – Fencing - Whiteholme Youth Club
1989 Linda Topham – Judo - Collegiate Sixth Form College
1992 Philip Wolsencroft - Sand Yacht Club
1994 Richard Topham – Judo - Lytham St Anne's YMCA
1995 Katherine Livesey - Queen Mary School
1996 Christopher Hanson - Blackpool Sixth Form College
1997 Jenna Hodson - Moderate Pentathlete - Blackpool Sixth Form College
1998 Carly Webster - Cross Country - Blackpool Sixth Form College
1999 Ciaran Donnelly – Soccer - Warbreck High School
2000 David Stevenson – Soccer - Montgomery High School
2001 Brian Rose – Boxing - Blackpool and Fylde Amateur Boxing Club, and
Samantha Jones – Footballer
2002 Carl Myerscough - Athlete
2003 Carl Myerscough - Athlete
2004 Karl Kirkham – Boxing - Collegiate High School
2005 Charlene Mills - Highfurlong School
2006 James Radcliffe – Montgomery High School
2007 Hannah Dickson - Athletics (high jump)
2008 Steven Mason - Pentathlon, Biathlon, and Athletics
2009 Sarah Lucas - Swimming- Collegiate High School
2010 Adam Fawl – Swimming – Palatine School
2011 Eleanor Cardwell – Netball – St Mary's College
2012 Justine Moore – Wheelchair fencer
2013 Not awarded
2014 Not awarded
2015 Ellie Spooner - Footballer
2016 Katy Wyper – Athlete
2017 Imogen Hill – BMX Rider
2018 Katy Wyper – sprinter and coach
2019 Erin Green – Paralympic wheelchair fencer

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Wyre Borough: was formed on the 1st of April, and was granted its own Coat of Arms on the 3rd of December 1975:

ARMS: Or on a Pile Azure between five Roses Gules barbed and seeded proper issuant from Water barry wavy of four Argent and Azure a Lymphad sail furled Or flying flags and pennon of St. George.
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CREST: On a Wreath of the Colours within a Circlet of four Sprigs of Heather proper and four Escallops reversed Argent alternately a representation of a Fylde Windmill proper.
SUPPORTERS: On the dexter side a Wolf Argent and on the sinister side a Lion Or each gorged with a Collar Azure charged with a Barrulet wavy Argent pendent therefrom a Pentagon that on the dexter Or charged with a Martlet Azure that on the sinister Gules charged with a Cinquefoil Ermine.
MOTTO: "*Ultraque Parte Fluminis*", meaning "on either side of the river".

Fleetwood Civic Society was formed, meeting at the North Euston Hotel.

St Nicholas Owen Church, Thornton: The church of St Nicholas Owen was built on Raikes Road.
Nicholas Owen, known also as 'Little John', was a skilled creator of priest holes, and for this was tortured and martyred in the Tower of London in 1606 (after the discovery of the Gunpowder Plot). He was canonised in 1970.
The first Mass was offered on May the 31st and the building was officially opened by Bishop Foley on the 2nd of July.

The Bird's Nest unisex boutique was in business at 134 Victoria Road in Cleveleys.
The Wyre Levee Stompers folk group was formed by Andy Gardner and friends from a Big Band night-school class. Their first residency was at Thornton-Cleveleys Rugby Union Football Club and after a few early years wandering, they settled at the Gardeners Arms in Thornton.
Fleetwood's indoor YMCA Pool opened on the 27th of March, on the Esplanade. A sports hall was added on the 12th of May 1984, and a fitness studio in 2008. In January 2015, the council began its demolition, in order to replace it with a modern "Splash Zone" facility. It is now called the Fleetwood Health and Fitness Centre – aka Marine Splash.
Fleetwood and District Amateur Swimming Club was formed.
The Miss Wyre beauty competition replaced the Miss Fleetwood contest.

The Fylde Country Life Museum: The Fylde Country Life Preservation Society was formed. From 1990, their Fylde Country Life Museum was at South Wood's Hill Farm near Nateby, Garstang.
In 1996, they moved to Farmer Parr's Animal World on Rossall Lane, and the museum is now called the Fylde Country Life Heritage Centre.

2000 Taxis was established at 64 Dock Street in Fleetwood.
Former professional boxer Wally Trowill started a boxing club at Fleetwood Gym.

Fylde Borough: was formed on the 1st of April, by the merger of the borough of Lytham St Annes, Kirkham Urban District, and Fylde Rural District. The new council was also granted a new the coat of arms:
ARMS: Vert a representation of a Fylde Windmill Or between two Maunches barry wavy Argent and Azure.
CREST: On a Wreath Or and Vert in front of a dexter Arm in armour embowed proper the hand gauntled also proper and grasping three Roses Gules barbed and seeded and conjoined on one stem with three leaves proper three Mullets Gules.
SUPPORTERS: On the dexter a Lion Argent gorged with a Wreath Argent and Azure pendent therefrom a Hexagon Azure charged with a Cross flory Argent and on the sinister a Lion Or gorged with a like Wreath Or and Azure pendent therefrom a Hexagon Azure charged with a Dove volant the dexter wing inverted holding in the beak a Branch of Olive Or.
MOTTO: "*Gaudeat Ager*" - from Psalm 96, meaning "Let the field be joyful" or what is now

©

translated as "Let Fylde Prosper".
This motto was directly transferred from the coat of arms of the previous Fylde Rural District Council.

The Blue Fountain Café at 12-14 Market Buildings on St Davids Road South in St Anne's was a popular local biker's haunt, which opened in around 1967 and closed in 1982 to be replaced by a take-away called Chicken George. Jenny Eclair (Hargreaves) was a regular. The nearby supermarket was then a Co-op and later it changed to Kwiksave. The Blue Fountain had been built inside Moore's Bus Garage. The Tendertrap on St Andrew's Road South was another popular café which had a hairdresser's above it – the Monkey on Wood Street was another.
The Oldroyd Publishing Group started business at Keenan's Mill, on Lord Street, in St Anne's.
An old stone horse trough, with the legend "*Be Ye Merciful*", was dismantled and removed from St Anne's North beach in February.
Central Records had a shop at 10 Orchard Road in St Anne's and another on Park Street in Lytham.
Ansdell Medical Centre was opened on Albany Road on the 1st of April.
J and JH Lane were running their hardware business from 55 Warton Street in Lytham.
A match in the National Inter-County Football Championship was played at the William Pickles sports ground in Lytham. Lancashire played Cheshire on the 23rd of November.
George Bragg was operating George's Taxis from 27 Station Road in Kirkham.
Williams' newsagent's shop was at 26 Poulton Street in Kirkham. The shop had previously been EC Johnson's newsagent's and toy shop, selling Triang, Bayko, Airfix and Meccano toys. The Johnson family also operated a Catholic Repository from the premises. 2001 saw it become the Simply Natural health food shop, which had moved from the smaller shop which the company opened in 1996.
The Candy Box was at 31 Poulton Street in Kirkham, owned by AT and B Robinson. In 2006, the shop became the second premises of Richard Wilson's estate agency.
Jubilee Stores (Kirkham) Ltd was at 38 Poulton Street in Kirkham. The shop's latest incarnation was as Kirkham Sports.
J and M Box were running a Mace grocer's shop at 1 Poulton Street in Kirkham. This is currently a branch of Barclays Bank.
Thomas Prew's building yard was at 23/25 Moor Street in Kirkham, also providing funeral services. Mr Prew retired in 2000.
Great Eccleston held its first open-air market in the Square on the 3rd of April. Proposed by local councillor Bill Anderton, it initially had 36 stalls.

1975

The M55: Blackpool's own motorway opened on the 3rd of July, linking the town to the national motorway network. 376 fatal accidents had occurred on the A583 to Blackpool since 1959. Neil Carmichael, the Under-Secretary of State at the Department of the Environment cut the ribbon.
On the 15th of June, the main contractors, McAlpines and Faircloughs, made the motorway available for a sponsored walk for charity organised by the Preston Lions and Cheshire Homes in which hundreds of people took part.

The Ministry of Defence and British Aerospace were allowed to use the unfinished motorway in April, and although the new road still lacked its final surface, it was used as a temporary take off point for a Jaguar Jet GR Mark 1, number XX109, piloted by BAC test pilot Tim Ferguson. Taking off from nearby Warton airfield on the 26th of April, the Jaguar landed on the motorway, loaded four cluster bombs, and took off again. The manoeuvre was the first demonstration of the aircraft's ability to operate away from its normal environment.

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The M55 is 19.6 kilometres long, and many areas needed to be reinforced, as the peatland was too weak to support such a structure. The largest area, at Mythop Moss, was over 4,000 feet long, where the peat was over 30 feet deep in places, being underlain by soft alluvial silt and clay. The total volume of peat excavated at the moss was almost 400,000 cubic yards, and the sand used as backfill was obtained from a borrow pit which was opened-up between the existing and disused railway lines. Some of the material for the backfill nearer to Preston was brought from the disused airfield at RNAS Inskip, where the runways were broken up. More base material came from the Tootle Heights quarries in Longridge.
In total, twenty-one overbridges, nine under bridges, the widening of an existing underbridge, a reinforced concrete box culvert, a farm underpass, two pedestrian subways, and two retaining walls, were required.

The opening of the M55 provided tourists with even better access to Blackpool and the Fylde. It also freed up the previously over-used main roads for more leisurely activities.

The Space Tower, Pleasure Beach: The 48-metre-tall "Space Tower" was opened at the Pleasure Beach in May. A time capsule had been buried underneath it on September the 10th 1974, during construction.
"Four vertical guides and external lifting cables raised and lowered the observation passenger car, which slowly rotated as it moved to the top and revolved a few times before descending. Passengers entered at ground level through a "base station" that encircled the foot of the tower. The annular observation car was 8.4m in diameter, and passengers were seated facing outwards, listening to a guided commentary played throughout the ride. The exit route led directly to an amusement arcade that straddled Watson Road on a bridge deck".
The tower proved so popular, that soon, a smaller version for children was built next to the original. This was called the Junior Space Tower.
In order to make room for the Big One ride, the tower was moved to Pleasureland at Morecambe in 1993 and renamed the Polo Tower. Pleasureland was closed in 1998, and after staying on site to be used merely as a telecommunications mast, the tower was finally demolished in June 2017.

Blackpool Cricket Club was a finalist in the National Knockout competition.
The Corporation began asking for voluntary contributions towards the cost of the Illuminations, when the "Lights Appeal" started with collecting boxes along its length.
The Coronation trams were scrapped. Although popular, they were too expensive to run.
Wimpy opened a burger café at 73-77 Bank Hey Street (next to Dixons electrical shop which they took over in 1981), with other cafés on Corporation Street, West Street, Clifton Street, Victoria Street, Squires Gate Lane, and Bond Street. The company had come to the UK in 1954. The Bank Hey Street shop is now a Poundstore outlet.
The first British Closed Dance Festival was held in the Empress Ballroom in November. The name has now been changed to the British National Dance Championships.
Layton Villa, south of St Mark's Church, was demolished to make room for the flats which now stand at numbers 1 to 5 St Mark's Place.
A pedestrian bridge was opened on the 16th of March, across the Promenade from Coral Island. In 1977, the walkway was extended to reach Albert Road car park. The bridge became a bit of a "white elephant" and was hardly used. The western part of the bridge was demolished on the 15th of July 2009, and the rest (across Bank Hey Street) was demolished in July 2018.
Various Atlantic 21 lifeboats on trials replaced the 1965 all-weather lifeboat.
Midgeland Indoor Riding School was established at 460 Midgeland Road.

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On the 21st of July, the first official ascent of the outside of Blackpool Tower was made by members of the Langdale Ambleside Mountain Rescue team. The previous first attempt would have been by George Formby in 1939, when he accepted a £500 bet to do it, but was forbidden by his insurers.
Enterprise Coaches of Tonbridge in Kent opened a booking office on Knowle Avenue. They already had one on the Promenade just to the north of Red Bank Road.
The Blackpool Civic Trust was formed, later issuing blue plaques to sites of historical relevance. These, and many others, are listed at Appendix Z.
Peter Jones Carpets opened a store at 140-150 Talbot Road, on the corner of Cookson Street in April, in the old Kirtley's television and radio store. It moved to Unit 2 at the Woodman Centre on Vicarage Lane in 2011.
Fylde Gas Installations and Gas World jointly ran a discount gas showroom at 151/152 Talbot Road. In 1907, the building was occupied by Joseph Pickering's butchers, who also had a shop at 154 Lytham Road.
Brewood College was at 550 Lytham Road.
J Smith and Sons Limited was in operation at 279 Devonshire Road. They were electrical engineering contractors and lift engineers. The company became Smith Electrical ltd on the 27th of August 2003, then Smith Group UK Ltd on the 13th of June 2006, and were finally taken over by Imtech Engineering Services North Ltd in 2011. The company now operates from St George's Park in Kirkham.
The Blackpool Carpet Manufacturing Company bought land and premises at Mowbray Drive from the Corporation on the 22nd of August. They had started in 1953 and were dissolved in January 1990.
Central Tiles began trading from 161 Central Drive, in 1979 they moved to number 153, soon moving again to 140 Mowbray Drive.
Lytham Road Plumbing and Heating Supplies opened at 199 Lytham Road.
A small shop, known locally as the "Flower Stalls", opened on Preston New Road to the east of Peel Corner. The Plant Emporium opened on the site in 2019, but closed in 2020. The site is now a tarmacked area.
The Violin Shop was opened in Royal Bank of Scotland Chambers on Talbot Square, by ex-Hallé Orchestra violinist Harry George.
The NorthWest Beer Festival was held in the Horseshoe Bar at the Pleasure Beach Casino in November.
Barry Stott bought an optometrist's practice on Talbot Road and soon moved to Springfield Road, later expanding to St Anne's in 1981 and Fleetwood in 1997.
Jack Rosenthal produced a BBC TV play "The Evacuees" which was set in Blackpool, mirroring his own experiences in the town during the Second World War. Parts were also filmed in St Anne's.
Blackpool Spanish Club was formed.

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The Scorpions rock group played the first gig of their first UK tour at Poulton's Teacher Training College.
Marsden Chemicals opened on Bracewell Avenue in Poulton, becoming part of the Jeyes Group in 2000.

Carleton Green Primary School: was opened on Arundel Drive. It now takes up to 300 local children. The school is now known as Carleton Green Community Primary School.
In December 2013, retiring head teach Alison Johnstone planted a tree and buried a time capsule with pupils in the school grounds, as a lasting legacy of her time at the school.

The Ice Cream Parlour was built on the corner at the Promenade end of Victoria Road West with return frontage to Rough Lea Road, Cleveleys. It was operated by Terry's until 2010.
Economic Car Parts opened at 51 Rossall Road in Cleveleys.
JB Masters Instruments Limited was established in Thornton, manufacturing and supplying surgical instruments. They now operate from Dorset Avenue, Cleveleys.
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RoRo at Fleetwood: Fleetwood's deep-water Roll-On/Roll-Off (RoRo) berth opened on the site of the original quays. It was now called the River Wyre Terminal. A regular car ferry service to Larne was begun by Pandoro, replacing the Lo/Lo service operated by P and O Ferrymasters since 1973 – the crossing took 7 hours.
The new "Linkspan" berth was the busiest in Britain by 1985, and Pandoro used it to run 3 vessels per day, 6 days per week. The first ship to Larne was the MV Bison (started in February, and later replaced by the MV Jaguar), and she was joined by the MV Buffalo in April, which sailed to Dublin.
In 1976, the new terminal was enlarged from 12 acres to 15 acres.

Soon afterwards, B and I Lines Limited joined the operation when an additional freight-only service from Dublin to Fleetwood was established as a joint venture with Pandoro. 1978 saw the addition of the MV Melbourne on the Larne service, and in 1979, they added the MV Ibex and the MV Tipperary to the fleet. In 1980, more buildings on Copp Road had to be bought to deal with the increased trade, and MV Union Melbourne was bought and renamed MV Puma.

In 1989, all ships were repainted in the new Euro Blue livery. B&I eventually pulled out of the Dublin route, but in 1990, Pandoro began to operate with Merchant Ferries Ltd on the Fleetwood to Warrenpoint route instead. Sailings to Warrenpoint ended briefly in 1993, but Stena Line finally closed their Fleetwood to Warrenpoint service on the 24th of December 2004.

Pandoro introduced a new RoRo service from Fleetwood to Dublin on the 1st of January 1998. The MV Leopard could carry 95 trailers and 45 drivers on the eight-hour voyage.
The Pandoro maintenance depot on Dock Street in Fleetwood closed after they had sold their Fleetwood to Larne route to Stena Line.
Stena Line closed the Fleetwood to Larne ferry service on the 24th of December 2010, ending all contact with Northern Ireland. As a result of the closure, all dredging of the channel stopped.
The 15-acre trailer park is now a vacant space.

A dedicated Animal Feeds berth was opened at Fleetwood docks.
Sheard Stubbs Limited built metal grain elevators on Fleetwood's Wyre Dock, for European imports. These were dismantled in 1988.
The tram scenes used in the film Who Killed Julia Wallace? were filmed in Fleetwood. This was made by Yorkshire TV and screened on October the 29th.
Fleetwood Life Saving Club was established, and from 2004 incorporated the Fleetwood Life Guard Unit, working out of the YMCA on Fleetwood Esplanade.
A flower stall was opened on Preston New Road at Peel; Mariclough Nurseries later became the Plant Emporium Limited.
Fylde Council took the decision to start selling the sand from its beaches. This year, the council *"appointed a negotiating team to meet firms interested in taking up the offer. The sand to be sold will come from the areas between the high and low water marks where it has been deposited up to ten feet deep over the last few hundred years. "We could start by taking off about three feet of this", said chief technical officer Mr Derek Hisley*.
Hoyle's Promotions was started in St Anne's by Derek and Jean Hoyle, to promote antique fairs and some of the country's first car boot sales.
The Summerfield Day Nursery opened at 74-76 St Anne's Road East in St Anne's.
Dean Kelly was born in St Anne's on the 30th of November. He attended the Old Vic Theatre School and changed his name to Dean Lennox Kelly, appearing in "Shameless", "Sorted", and "The Invisibles" on TV.

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Disc Jockey Noel Edmonds brought the Radio One Road Show to St Anne's for the first time, rather than visiting Blackpool. The show was broadcast "live" from the Open-Air Baths. Two other shows followed in 1976 (with Ed Stewart) and 1977 (Emperor Rosko).
The Freckleton Choral Society was established. It changed its name to the Freckleton Village Singers in 2005, rehearsing at the Methodist Church Hall on Kirkham Road.
The Hambleton Choral Group was formed in April, rehearsing in Hambleton United Reformed church hall.

Broughton High School: was built on Woodplumpton Lane as a three-form entry 11-16 school. It was the first purpose-built comprehensive in the Preston area. It opened on the 8th of September, with its first headteacher being Terry Harris. In 1977, the school was extended, to handle a 6-form entry.
Famous alumni include Helen Clitheroe, UK long-distance running medallist.

1976

Blackpool Centenary: Blackpool's Centenary Year was celebrated with grand carnival parade from the Star Hotel to Gynn Square on the 12th of June. The Centenary Queen was local girl Barbara Smith. Other events on the day were a dance and firework display at the Norcalympia.
The "Tour of Britain Milk Race" finished on the same day, and an episode of the BBC's Seaside Special was broadcast from the ABC.
On the 8th of December, Ken Dodd starred in a Christmas Centenary Show at the Opera House.

Many buildings between Victoria Street, Adelaide Street and Coronation Street were demolished to make way for the planned new shopping centre. The area had been a warren of small gift shops, cafés, and fashion shops – such as Carter's Surgical Appliances shop and Fagin's "Flower Power" basement clothing shop, owned by Colin Hartley!
The Blackpool Borough Lottery began.

Coronation Street Theatre, Blackpool: Cyril Critchlow took over the Trinity United Methodist church hall at 75 Coronation Street on the 4th of August. He then opened his "Museum of Entertainment"- an exhibition on show business, called "Cavalcade of Greasepaint", where he displayed his 2,000-item collection. He called the whole enterprise The Magic Palace.
People used the Witches Kitchen café on the ground floor, and toured the exhibits in the basement, which included a Meccano replica of Blackpool Tower, a talking kettle and Magna – the Golden Mile's Robot Man.
In 1977, he opened the 186-seater Coronation Street Theatre (later renamed the Queen's Theatre) on the first floor, to keep the spirit of Blackpool variety and music hall alive. A small night club called The Box Club was held upstairs for a short time.
Cyril, a lovable but eccentric character, lived at 23 Hull Road, then at 9 Sharow Grove. In later years, he called himself "The Memorabilia Man", and he died in May 2008, aged 85.
The theatre building later housed Javid Fashions.

Leonard Thompson died and his son Geoffrey took over as Pleasure Beach Manager. He opened a 50-vehicle Vintage Car Museum, called Autoworld, in an inflatable tent. A Caterpillar Ride was also erected (vintage 1924) but was burnt down in 1987. Geoffrey Thompson was devoted to retaining the "feel" of the old Pleasure Beach, and once declared that rides would never have coloured lights as *"we are NOT a fairground"*.
Paupers Steak House at 215 Church Street was taken over by the Fielden Family from Richard Larson. It closed on the 14th of February 2006, to be replaced by the offices of Check In cabs, which closed themselves in 2009.

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Northwest Discount Furnishers (later known as NDF) opened in Charnley Road, in the former Blackpool Co-operative Industrial Warehouse. NDF closed the site in 2007 when they moved to Bradford.
Burns Brothers Taylors Ltd – Syd and Sonny Burns - and Arthur Swann's footwear store were in business at 78 Topping Street, having started on Victoria Street. They called the Topping Street shop the "Continental Suit Centre". It is currently the main branch of the Allitt's estate agency, which was founded in 1990, by Kevin Allitt, who soon opened a second branch in Victoria Road in Cleveleys. Both Allitt shops closed on the 20th of October 2017.
Basil Newby opened a fancy goods shop on Chapel Street, calling it "Gone Gay".
Squirrel Glass Limited opened at 219 Bispham Road. It moved to Mowbray Drive in 2010.
Il Corsaro Italian restaurant opened at 36 Clifton Street. It is now the Sapori Italian Restaurant, owned by Ignazio Maniscalco and Vincenzo Papa. "Sapori" is Italian for "taste".
Cyril Howarth moved from Farnworth to open his Furniture Warehouse at 92-98 George Street. It moved to 434/436 Talbot Road (the site of the Fox and Tootle haulage depot) in 2005, and the George Street shop was replaced by a block of flats, called George House, in 2007.
Blacktax Radio Taxi Association opened on the 1st of April, at 85-87 Red Bank Road, Bispham, later moving to number 71 - the old Martin's Bank building.
The Photex Drug Store opened at 74-76a Coronation Street.
Pickersgill's DIY shop opened at 59-61 Rectory Road, in the old Co-op store and butchers. Ardron's used to have a shop on the southern corner of Crossland Road (number 67) in the 1970s. In the 1930s, the 4 shops on the eastern corner of the junction were occupied as follows: number 75 was John Stretton, confectioner (now the Farmhouse Pantry), 77 was Greenwood's fishmonger and fruiter (now split between Karen Peters hair salon and MAH financial advisors, and 79 by E Hulme's newsagent and tobacconist (now a beautician).
BDA International started their Private Investigators practice on Milbourne Street.
Kitchen units began to be manufactured and sold from 70 Glastonbury Avenue. The building was demolished in 2000, to make way for the new houses at numbers 70 to 76.
The Manor licensed restaurant was at 41 to 43 Albert Road.
Saddle Antiques opened at number 1 Preston Old Road (built in 1895). They later changed their name to Saddle Records before moving to 6 Onslow Road in Layton, where they closed in 2005.
The Council's Lennox Gate complex of 40 retirement and sheltered housing flats was built. There are 1-bedroom, and 2-bedroom units, with resident management staff and community alarm service, and a lounge, dining room, guest facilities, and a community centre.
Over 1,000 Civil Service jobs were transferred from London to Norcross and the Fylde this year.
The North Bank Hotel on Dickson Road became the President Hotel, with the Night Owl night disco and cabaret bar downstairs (later called Clicks).
The first FAANCON (otherwise known as the first World FAAN Convention) was held in the Gresham Hotel, over the weekend of the 20th and 22nd of February. Many annual Science Fiction conventions followed at various venues.
5The film "Second City Firsts: Summer Season" was set in Blackpool.
"Hindle Wakes" was filmed for television in Blackpool, starring Donald Pleasence and Rosemary Leach.

Daniel Whiston: was born in Blackpool on the 21st of November. After being educated at Baines High School, he went on to become an international star ice skater. After retiring from competition, he went on win the 1st series of ITV's Dancing on Ice while partnering actress Gaynor Faye, he then won 5th series with former Emmerdale actress and local girl Hayley Tamaddon, and the 8th series with Olympic gymnast Beth Tweddle. In 2017, with ex-ice skater Karen Barber and other business partners, he opened Clip n' Climb Blackpool, an indoor climbing and activity attraction on the Whitehills Estate. He still lives in Blackpool.

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Cheryl Brazendale: The young Bispham swimmer became the first British woman to swim 100 metres in under a minute. At the national championships at Crystal Palace, 13-year-old Cheryl clocked 59.58 seconds. She trained in a 20-yard hotel pool and in 1977, won a bronze medal in the 4x100 yards relay at the European Swimming Championships.

Guitarist and singer Eric Clapton appeared at the ABC on the 15th of August.
In the hottest summer on record, Blackpool baked in higher temperatures than Majorca. It was the hottest coastal resort in Britain, with a thermometer peak of 33.7 Celsius at Squires Gate on the 3rd of July.

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MAJ Models (Poulton) Limited was formed in January, making scale models for model railways.
The Hirst and Danson Group Limited, electrical contractors was established, working from Butts Close in Thornton Cleveleys. They changed their name to Ameon in 2009 and took over rivals Electrical Installations Northwest.
Fiona Gordon's "centre of fashion" was at 112 Victoria Road West in Cleveleys. The Chinese restaurant Treasure City opened at the address in 2000.
Kay's Fish and Chip shop opened at 8 Rough Lea Road in Cleveleys.
The ferry "Lady of Mann" began to run seasonally from Fleetwood to Douglas, continuing until 2005. It could carry up to 1,600 vehicles and 400 passengers.

Fleetwood Maritime Museum: was opened, when a local history collection began to be housed in the ground floor and basement of the Dock Street Library at the Whitworth Institute. The Margaret Rowntree Room was first established there, as a permanent showcase - Margaret Rowntree was Fleetwood's first female mayor. In 1981, Lancashire County Council *"engaged deep sea fishing enthusiast David Buckley. His task was to look for and collect suitable items for display. Then advertised as Fleetwood Maritime Museum, the collection opened in May 1982 in the basement and ground floor of Dock Street Library".*

The museum moved to the old Custom House on Queens's terrace in 1991, and the collection of items was moved there during 1992 and 1993. The Fleetwood Museum Friends group began in 1991, and provides volunteers to staff the venue.
A coffee shop – Sir Peter's Coffee House - and gift shop opened in 2010, when a stained-glass window from the old Fleetwood Grammar School was re-used. The window was commissioned as a tribute to the 25 former pupils who lost their lives in the Second World War.
Lancashire County Council withdrew all funding from the museum in April 2016, but it re-opened in 2017, supported by community subscription and run by volunteers. April 2018 saw it beginning to be run by the Fleetwood Museum Trust, with an admission charge being levied.

Amongst the museum's displays are two historic vessels: the sailing smack Harriet was built in the town in 1893, and prawner Judy in 1904/5.

Seaplant Exchange International was set up in Fleetwood. It is now the world's largest online Marine Equipment and Services Directory.
Fleetwood Health Centre opened on London Street.
Fleetwood Dental Laboratory was opened at 145 Poulton Road, by J Christopherson.
T & C Cartledge were running their Garden Sundries shop at the corner of 167 Poulton Road and Wolsley Road in Fleetwood – giving Green Shield Stamps. The shop is currently functioning as the Hair of the Dog canine grooming studio.
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The Priory Court apartments were built at 37 St Anne's Road East in St Anne's, on the site of the St Gabriel's Convent School (closed c1974), whose pupils had worn red blazers. The school had been the Convent of the Cross and Passion in the 1930s.
Fylde Car and Van Hire were on Kilnhouse Lane in St Anne's. The company became Limited on the 30th of January 1990, but is now dissolved.
On the 4th of August, hovercraft number SRN6 130 arrived at Lytham St Anne's for a British Gas seismic survey in Morecambe Bay, and on the 8th, it started its three-month operation.
John Clark opened his butcher's shop in Lytham Square.
Newfield Construction, builders, was established at 5 Fleet Street, Lytham.
Universal Products Lytham Limited opened on Boundary Road as a contract filler and assembler of personal care preparations. In 1982 Universal was granted an MCA licence to manufacture pharmaceutical liquids. By the 1990's Universal employed over 100 people and was rapidly outgrowing its facilities in Lytham, so in 1995 a new 16-acre purpose-built factory was developed at Greenhalgh.
The Fylde Garden Centre was on Moss House Lane in Peel.
Northwest Tree Services was established by John Tootill, on Moss House Lane in Peel. In 1984, he and his father expanded the business and set up Maple Farm Nursery Garden on the site. They built a future local landmark around the corner on Preston New Road in the 1990s, when they constructed a life-sized working model of an Austrian chalet-style weather station - complete with moving man and lady figures.
The Kirkham and District Local History Society was formed in November.
The British Aerospace sports ground was opened at Warton in July, with the adjacent football fields opening for the 1977/78 season.
Freckleton Health Centre was built on Douglas Drive. The clinic was rebuilt during 2005, and finished in March 2006. It has a Co-op pharmacy inside.
Wyresdale Concrete Products Ltd was established on Bradshaw lane in Pilling in January.
Garstang Effluent Treatment Works was opened in Churchtown.
The Isle of Man steamer King Orry was blown away from her mooring outside Glasson Dock on the 9th of January. She was carried a mile further upstream and not re-floated until the 16th of March, after which she became a short-lived tourist attraction in Glasson while being re-fitted.

1977
The Silver Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II was celebrated by hundreds of Street Parties, and the top of the Tower was painted silver by its famous "stickmen" as part of the celebrations.
The Blackpool Silver Jubilee Airshow was held at Squires Gate Airport on the 28th and 29th of May.
The Grand Theatre reopened on the 25th of July, with Noel Coward's play "Fallen Angels".
Stanley Parr, Blackpool's Chief Constable of police, was sacked on the 20th of December, after being found guilty of 26 charges, including using his official car for private journeys, and interfering in criminal cases involving his Masonic friends.

Blackpool Tower Company Maintenance Depot: After the demolition of old buildings to make room for the new Hounds Hill Shopping Centre, one of the largest buildings left standing was this large depot on Tower Street.
In its heyday, the depot had 4 floors of workshops comprising: A Basement, with oil and scaffold storage, Ground floor, with the garages, joiners, plumbers, and fitters, the First floor, with its stores and the upholstery store, the Second floor, with upholstery, and the Third, where there were the sign shops, spray shops, decorating department, and a "French polishing floor".
The large building displayed the letters BT Co Ltd above the main doors, and it was finally demolished in 2011.

©

Gales and torrential rain caused severe flooding in Blackpool south, Fleetwood, and the Fylde. In Rossall and Fleetwood, 1,900 houses were flooded to over one metre above floor level. The storms of the 11th and 12th of November also caused major inundation in the Anchorsholme area, with flooding up to one kilometre inland affecting hundreds of properties. The sea defences at Rossall were fully re-built as a result.
Warburton's Brinwell Road bakery opened. The company had previously taken over Burton's Baker's. The bakery closed on the 1st of February 2013.
The Council's Bostonway old people's complex opened off Vicarage Lane. It comprises of 43 retirement and sheltered housing flats, which have 1 or 2 bedrooms. There is accommodation for resident management staff and community alarm service, and there is a lounge, dining room, guest facilities, and community centre.

The Casino at the Pleasure Beach: was rebuilt, with the addition of the UK's first exterior glass lift – the Crystal Elevator. A Carousel ride was erected; an antique ride moved from Porthcawl. The Steeplechase ride was also unveiled, being opened on the 2nd of September by racehorse Red Rum, who also became the first animal to switch on the Illuminations. The Steeplechase had three parallel tracks, on which up to 24 model horses could race each other. Also new, was a Go-kart Track near the Space Tower (being removed in 1989), a model railway exhibition in the main station of the Pleasure Beach Express, and a scooter track.

Joe Riley's Snooker Hall was at 66-74 the Promenade. When it moved to the old Regent Cinema on Church Street in the 1990s, it became Centre Cue, Route 66, and finally opened as Laser Quest in 2012.
The Blackpool Herald newspaper was first published.
Nigel Holmes opened his men's clothing store at 105 Church Street in July.
CKS (Commercial Kitchen Services Limited) was founded on Cornford Road by Hugh Chatterton. It has now moved onto Cornford Road in Marton.
Collins Trademarket was opened in Marton by comedian Bruce Forsyth in April.
Ward Damp Proofing Limited was established at rear Kirby Road.
Gynn Gallery started business at 305 Dickson Road.
Fylde Wines Limited started on the 28th of February on Robson Way Poulton, before moving to Burton Road in Marton. They were taken over in 2004 and ceased trading in 2011.
Party House was established, later operating from Mowbray Drive, and closing in 2007.
The Baked Potato café was on Birley Street, with the Hot Potato Café arriving later on Market Street, which became the Bella Italia, and is now the Frying Squad chip shop.
Newtons Mini-market was on Topping Street – in the old Tiffman's suite centre premises. The market held such traders as Rings 'N' Things.
The first Blackpool Chess Conference competition was held at the Winter Gardens in March.
The National Savings computer centre, ERNIE, moved to Marton. Land at Mythop Road had been bought from the Corporation by the Post Office in 1969.
Clifton Rangers Junior Football Club was officially formed. They had been played unofficially at Kipling Drive from the 1st of April 1976, and in 1987 the club bought a scout hut on the site, rebuilding it into a clubhouse in 1994. The club stayed there until 1999, when they moved to the ground behind the Co-operative Sports and Social Club on Preston New Road.
Springfield Methodist Preschool was opened by Christine Hall.
The first "pay as you enter" double-decker bus was introduced by Blackpool Corporation – a Leyland "Atlantean" vehicle.
The Tram shelter at Spen Corner was fully refurbished to its original splendour, although the toilets were closed. The small parkland behind it is the only remaining "unenclosed" part of Layton Hawes.

©

The JPS (John Player Special) Rugby Final was held on the 22nd of January. Blackpool Borough lost 25-15 to Castleford.
Blackpool Basketball Club was formed, when the Bury team moved to Blackpool. They withdrew from the league in 1981.
The first United Kingdom Snooker Championship was held at the Tower Circus, with Irishman, Patsy Fagan taking the £2,000 first prize.
British Homing World's Show of the Year first came to Blackpool. For 5 years previously, it was in Doncaster but Great Britain was chosen to host the International Pigeon Olympiad and needed a larger venue. The Winter Gardens was chosen as it had hosted Blackpool's own show until now.
Vogue Football Club was formed.
The Gledhill Cup was first organised, for teams in the local Sunday Football League.
South Shore Youth Football Club was formed from the ashes of British Rail Football Club. Initially based at Hampton Road, the club now plays at Palatine High School.
The Blackpool branch of Soroptimists International was formed.
The Blackpool and Fylde Barbershop Harmony Club was founded, now meeting at the Brun Grove club.

Hayley Tamaddon: was born in Blackpool on the 24th of January. She attended Norbreck Primary School and Montgomery High School, before being trained at the Phyllis Davies School of Dancing in Thornton. From 11 to 16 she studied at Phil Winston's Theatreworks in Blackpool, went on to play Delilah Dingle in "Emmerdale" and took the ice-skating show "Dancing on Ice" by storm with local lad Daniel Whiston in 2010. Daniel also won in 2006, with actress Gaynor Faye, and in 2012, with gymnast Beth Tweddle.

The film "Valentino", based on the life of the famous ballet dancer Rudolph Valentino, was partly filmed in the Tower Ballroom and at the Illawalla in Thornton, starring Rudolph Nureyev.
John Inman starred in an ITV series called "Odd Man Out", playing a Blackpool chippy owner.
Skrewdriver, a groundbreaking punk band was formed in Blackpool by Ian Donaldson. They were later reformed by Ian Stuart and became associated with racist, far right politics. Blackpool council banned them from ever appearing in the town.
The rock group AC/DC played the Imperial Hotel ballroom on the 20th of February, as part of the High Voltage Tour - their first proper UK tour. They were followed on the 9th of June by UFO, as part of the hotel's short-lived attempt to be a rock venue. Other bands to appear there included the Stray Cats, Saxon, Screaming Lord Sutch, Sad Café, the Tom Robinson Band, and Gary Glitter. The Imperial Bar, at the rear of the hotel, began hosting well-known rock bands of the day, such as Judas Priest and Magnum on the 25th of May, UFO on the 9th of June, Caravan on the 23rd of October, and Colosseum II on the 6th of November. Joy Division appeared on the 27th of July 1979 and recorded a live LP.
Stanley Park was fortunate enough to persuade the makers of the James Bond film franchise to send the "Wetbike" from the film The Spy Who Loved Me to the park for a publicity display. It was accompanied by Bond Girl Caroline Munro. Previously in the year, the set of a submarine interior used in the film was displayed in the Olympia.

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Poulton Probus Club was started, sponsored by the Poulton Rotary Club.
Abbey Garage Doors was established, now operating from Aldon Estate in Poulton.

Red Marsh Special School, Thornton: was opened in September on Holly Road. The school caters for up to 50 Boys and Girls. They are all aged between 2 and 19 and have severe learning difficulties.

D-Fit opened their factory at 57 Red Marsh Drive in Thornton, making bespoke bedroom furniture.
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Alan Jones established his surveyor's practice in Thornton, moving to premises in Church Street, Blackpool in 2000.
Allcool (NW Limited) was established on the Red Marsh Industrial Estate at Thornton by Mike Talarczyk and Bob Richardson.
The Baker's shop owned by D and M Barrow at 143 Victoria Road West closed. In 1981, the shop was taken over, and knocked through to form the new Cleveleys Carpet Centre.
The El Patio coffee bar was at 1a Victoria Road in Cleveleys. This later became Wurzel's Florists, and is now the Capello hair and beauty salon, run by Hayley Kemp and Beth Hadcock.
The Job Centre opened on Lord Street in Fleetwood.
Redman's Engine Centre Limited opened at 1 Copse Road, Fleetwood.
Spirit of Youth football club was formed by Alf Hearsum in St Anne's. After starting at Leach Lane, they are now based at Common Edge Playing Fields in Blackpool.
The Ashton Theatre was burnt to the ground in St Anne's in September.
The Clifton Hotel at 49 South Promenade in St Anne's was demolished. Its place was later taken by today's De Vere Gardens and De Vere Court apartments.
CM Freeman were in business at 13 Clifton Street in Lytham, selling cameras, collectable stamps, and porcelain figures. Number 13 was occupied until 2017 by the Philola hairdresser's shop.
RS Printing Services was in business at 42 South Clifton Street in Lytham. Since 2007, the premises have been used by Lytham Funeral Services Ltd, owned and run by David and Gillian Pope.
Freckleton Memorial Hall was opened in September, on the site of the old Hodgson Institute.
The Scroll Bookshop opened at 66 Poulton Street in Kirkham, replacing Clarkson's tobacconists.
Elswick Gala was resurrected for Queen Elizabeth's Silver Jubilee. Sadly, it had gone again by 1996.
The Blinking Owl Restaurant on Brock Road/Holmepool Lane near Great Eccleston added a public bar in March and began to host Fylde Folk Music nights. The Blinking Owl was owned by Keith and Heather Marsden. It closed in November 1998 and became a house.
The Ranch House restaurant on Head Dyke Lane in Preesall opened a public bar next to its established restaurant. The venue closed in 2009 to be converted to housing in 2016.

Chris Allen Ford: Chris started his own breakdown and recovery business in Preesall. In 1978, he acquired premises in Hall Gate Lane in Preesall, before taking over Preesall Park Garage in 1984. As a publicity stunt, he hoisted a new Ford Escort car onto the top of Preesall Windmill. The premises soon became Preesall Park Ford and bought additional premises on Aldon Road in Poulton. 1990 saw the business take over Lighthouse Ford in Fleetwood. They gained a Mazda franchise in 2006, and in 2008, opened a Ford and Mazda saleroom and garage at Amounderness View.

1978
The Corporation decided the Illuminations would be extended to run for eight weeks yearly.
Blackpool Corporation opened a "Play Bus" on the Promenade from July until December 1980.
There was a large fire at Woolworth's on the Promenade on the 24th of November.
Mexford House was opened by the Department of Social Security. It was a 3-storey detached office block arranged around a central courtyard on a 2.67-acre site. The "F" shaped building was constructed of traditional brickwork clad elevations beneath a flat felt covered roof. There was external car parking space and a separate building comprising a row of 6 garages. The DWP left there in December 2008, and the whole building was closed in 2009. Plans for it to be redeveloped into 92 new homes, with 30 ground floor flats, and 31 flats on the first and second floors, together with parking for 131 cars were submitted in February 2019.
Whitegate Court apartments were built at 195-197 Whitegate Drive, replacing a few old Victorian houses.
Les and Margaret Sargeson set up their plumbing equipment business at 124 Layton Road.

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Willow World was established on Dickson Road, later trading at 443 Waterloo Road in the premises vacated by Studio D Photography when they moved to Church Street. Willow World closed in September 2008 and was replaced (along with Waterloo News next door) by a Smiley's supermarket.
Commercial Street Garage was established.
Northern Cash Registers started business at 197 Waterloo Road, later operating from Metropolitan Business Park. In 2010, an Islamic group set up their Noor-A-Madina Mosque in the premises. They also broadcast their Ghousia TV from the address after taking over an additional 5 properties adjacent to the original, filling numbers 189, 191, 193, 195, 197, and 199. They were moved on in 2015, for opening a mosque without planning permission, and by that time, the "mosque" contained *"a main prayer hall, a daily prayer hall, a ladies prayer room, multi-cultural centre, and a Quran classroom"*. The venue was advertised as a "Multi Cultural Centre".
Lewis Motors, BMW specialists, began trading at 562 Lytham Road, in the old Esso service station.
The Electric Organ Shop was opened on Central Drive by Stephen Austin and John Nunns. The shop had previously been owned by Florrie Ward. The two men also owned the Camera and Organ Centre on the opposite side of the road.
The Carpet Gallery was established at 435 Lytham Road, changing its name to the Carpet and Curtain Gallery in 2006 when it was taken over by the Whalley family. It closed in 2016.
Volkservice garage was established on Clifton Road, Marton.
Blackpool Skip Hire Limited started business on Dickies Lane.
Fylde Hydraulics Limited started working from Cornford Road, Marton.
Allan Burton's bakery and confectionery was in business at 8 Common Edge Road. He was famous on the Fylde Coast for his hot pot supper catering. After his shop closed, the premises became Nanu Bhai's Spice – a take away, and they are now occupied by the Simon's Plaice fish and chip shop.
Wimbourne Riding School was on Bambers lane in Marton. In 2000, Blackpool Raiders Ice Hockey team moved from Thornton sports centre to Blackpool's first indoor, inline hockey rink and skateboarding park at Wimbourne Leisure (by then on Cropper Road). Then on the 18th of February 2001, Wimbourne opened a proper Skater Hockey rink. Blackpool Raiders and Blackpool's West Coast Wasps A and B teams all play there. Then in 2002, they revamped the skateboarding section into Ramp City, an indoor skate park. It has the UK's largest vertical ramp standing a mighty 13'3" and boasts its own restaurant – the Wimbourne.
Balti Spice, an Indian takeaway, opened at 155 Lytham Road.
A parcel was delivered to an office in Osborne Road on the 6th of October. The bomb was disguised in a cigar box, addressed Mr Brian Greenhalgh, whose secretary was slightly injured when it exploded.
F Benfell Limited was in business at 14 Grasmere Road, selling car and home stereos, and becoming a Limited Company on the 31st of March. They had moved from their original home at 17 Cheapside. The Grasmere Road premises had been built for grocer Harold Walker in the early 1930s, and when Benfell's left, it became Winserlee Clothing, who opened a second shop at 12 Highfield Road in late 1986. From 1986, Fred Benfell also had shop in St Anne's and at 11 Queen's Square in Poulton. By 1987, they had moved to 78 Westfield Road, and finally, they moved to Durham Road, to be dissolved in 2008.
F and B Smith were running their fruit, vegetable, and fish shop at 153 Lytham Road. They were also well-known local florists. The shop was converted into a lock-up shop called the Phone Box until 2013.
Drummer's House of Jokes was established at 13-17 Central Drive.
Oak Tree Antiques was at 42 Waterloo Road, with a showroom at 35 Caunce Street.
Kestrel Window Systems (KWS) began trading. They later opened a showroom on Layton Road.
Derek Dearden (Car Sales) Ltd was in business at 213 Dickson Road.
Abelglass was started by David Kaye, later operating from Blackpool Old Road.
Andrews Footwear was opened on Holmfield Road by Ken Andrews. The store was the only specialist orthopaedic store on the coast and closed in 2005.
CTR Furnishings on Cookson Street ceased trading on the 15th of November.

Weston's Fashions was opened on Church Street, by Marjorie and Alfred Weston. In 1984, they bought a greengrocer's shop on Common Edge Road and lived above the premises, which eventually became Marjorie's Dress Agency.
Jack and Christine Hayes opened their Mojoes fancy dress shop on Central Drive. Taken over by daughter Jennifer in 1995, it moved to Red Bank Road in 2001, to close in March 2018.
The National Market Traders' Federation first held its annual conference in Blackpool.
The Blackpool Funk Festival was held in May.
The Superintendent Gerald Richardson Memorial Youth Trust was set up, to give hundreds of thousands of pounds to help youngsters realise sporting dreams.
An inquiry – additional to the Osmond Report of 1976 - was set up into corruption in the Lancashire police force – focussing on the activities of the Blackpool Chief Constable Stanley Parr.
Stuart Sykes, a Blackpool policeman started up a local group offering the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme. By the time he retired in 1989, hundreds of local youngsters had been through the award. The Windmill Group began after he took out a lease on Little Marton Windmill.
Blackpool Hockey Club was founded, playing at Stanley Park.
The music magazine "Blackpool Rox" was first issued by John Robb.
BBC TV's "Songs of Praise" was broadcast from St John's Church on May the 30th.
The TV series "Paul Daniels' Blackpool Bonanza" was broadcast from the Norbreck Castle theatre.
Keith Chegwin hosted the TV programme "Swap Shop" from the Beach during summer.
The band Section 25 was formed in Blackpool in April, by Lawrence and Vincent Cassidy, but unlike the majority of their peers, the group survived.
John Kirkham died in Victoria Hospital on the 3rd of October. The Layton man's heroism in World War 1 made him the first member of the Lancashire Fusiliers to gain the Military Medal. He was made a life member of Layton Institute in 1919, in recognition of his feat.
Joanne Appleby was born on April the 7th in Blackpool. She lived on Tarn Road in Thornton and, as Jo Appleby, became a soprano in the classical singing group Amici Forever.
At the Nook rest home on Seventh Avenue, Catherine Weaver (known as kitty Weaver) was murdered.

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Baines Boys Grammar School in Poulton became a co-educational comprehensive.
The Jade Garden restaurant opened at 12b Blackpool Old Road, Poulton.
Thornton North End Football Club was formed, playing on Brown Street. The next year they changed name to Thornton-Cleveleys Juniors and moved to the Thornton Sports Centre.
M and J Seafood was established in Fleetwood by Marion and Jeff Archer, and it grew to become the UK's largest independent seafood supplier by the 1990s.
Lighthouse Post Office was opened on North Albert Street in Fleetwood by Derek Eaton. When the Post Office was closed in 2001, he converted the premises into Lighthouse Stationery. The business closed in February 2017 due to diminishing trade.
Something Brewing, a homebrew shop was opened on St Albans Road, St Anne's.
Newfield Jones Homes was formed in Lytham St Anne's.
Allenby Road Garage was established in St Anne's.
The Hole in One public house was built on Forest Drive in Lytham. It opened on the 1st of March 1979 and closed in late 2014.
Shone and Hartley were in business as men's outfitters at 17 to 19 Clifton Street in Lytham. The shop closed in June 1986.
CE Atkinson's hardware store was at 1 Park Street in Lytham.
The Keyhole Boutique was at 3 Clifton Street in Lytham. The shop is now a dental practice run by Martin Kenyon.
The Northwest Tractor Pullers' Club was founded at Great Eccleston.
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The sea wall was built at Pilling between now and 1982.

1979

Co-op Hypermarket, Marton: The Blackpool Hypermarket – Blackpool's first - opened on Cherry Tree Road in September, on the derelict site of Eaves Brickworks (the "brickie"). The site had been purchased in December 1975, by Woolco (part of Woolworth's) and then bought by Normid.
It had its own self-service restaurant and a free car park for up to 950 cars.
The store was the first in Lancashire to issue itemised till receipts, and had its own car saleroom, Normid Motors, which sold Daewoo, Proton, and Hyundai vehicles - newly introduced to the UK. The Normid Motors site later became a Co-op Travel branch.
Long-established swarms of midges plagued the store for the first few months until exterminated.
In 1984, it got its own dedicated bus service – the number 44, and by 1996, the site had become the largest retail park in Lancashire.

ASDA bought the Normid Co-operative Hypermarket in 1998. The Co-operative Travel Agents were retained (now Thomas Cook), as was the pharmacy – which was then taken over by ASDA in 2014.

Fine Fare, Blackpool: This large supermarket was opened by TV's "The Goodies" on the 22nd of May at Talbot Road and Dickson Road on the site of Blackpool North Station. It was later Food Giant, then Gateway, then Kwik Save, which closed on April the 26th 1999. Kwik Save had already opened a new store on Vicarage Lane.
In March 2000, became the UK's largest Wilkinson's department store. Above the store is a car park for 460 cars. The retailer re-branded all its stores to Wilko in March 2014.
In July 2017, plans were passed which will allow the demolition of the store, and the building of a new 5 Star hotel, run by Hilton. Wilko will close on the 31st of March 2020. Plans to re-locate the store to Tower Street are in abeyance.

Trinity Hospice, Blackpool: Brain tumour patient Brian Wyers died on the 1st of May. His suffering and the lack of a local place of specialist care, prompted Doctor David Cooper to found the Trinity Hospice campaign. Soon, "*a group of four nursing Sisters and a social worker, based in an office above a shop in Devonshire Road, became the nucleus for what is today's Clinical Nurse Specialist team, who visit patients across the community*".

The Trinity Hospice on the Fylde first opened to patients, in Low Moor Road, Bispham on the 3rd of June 1985. The site was previously occupied by the Windmill Dairy, who ran electric milk floats with a dark and light blue livery.

The Day Hospice was opened by Princess Diana in 1992. It was named after Louise Woolcock of Poulton, a dedicated fundraiser. That building is now a Day Therapy Unit.

Brian House, a purpose-built hospice unit dedicated to children, was opened at Trinity in December 1996, being named after Brian Wyers.

The hospice then opened its Linden Centre in 1999, to house a Palliative Care Team. The centre is sited across the road from the main buildings.

©

In 2001, Low Moor Manor Council Home on Low Moor Road was sold to Trinity Hospice for demolition and redevelopment.

The Irn Bru Revolution ride opened at the Pleasure Beach. It was claimed to be the first ride in Europe that turned its passengers upside down, but Schwarzkopf actually pipped it by putting the Looping Star onto the German Fair circuit the year before. In 1996, a memorial to children killed at Dunblane in Scotland was placed under the ride. The Revolution was relocated to Brean Leisure Park in Somerset in 1997.
The White Tower Restaurant opened at the Pleasure Beach, becoming one of Blackpool's most prestigious eateries. It closed in January 2009. Also, at the Pleasure Beach, Diamond Lil's bar was in operation, with its mechanical piano and an "automatic coin beer dispenser". Diamond Lil's ran weekly roller disco sessions.

In the Pink, Blackpool: Basil Newby (first names Joseph Warren) opened the Flamingo Night Club in a disused warehouse above the Beaumont Brothers Garage at 175 to 182 Talbot Road, and opened Blackpool's first gay nightclub in 1980. He soon introduced Blackpool's first male strippers. Newby soon opened The New Flamingo at number 176.
The building had been built as a fire station and was turned into a car battery shop. Darbyshire's bread then bought the ground floor, and a "gambling" club was opened upstairs owned by Walter Thompson (who also owned the Galleon Bar). The club entrance was between both premises. Newby bought the property in 1982, and it was the only place in Blackpool that boy band "Take That" ever appeared (January 1989).

Mr Newby soon moved into a house at Singleton, called The Cottage, (formerly Knowle House), which he renamed Mallard Hall. In July 1995, Newby set up In the Pink Leisure Limited to run his gay portfolio. It was buoyed up by the local "pink pound" until it was wound up in 2013. In the Pink was sold to Funny Girls Ltd for just over £4 million on the 24th of April 2014. At the time the assets comprised: Funny Girls, Flamingo's and Buzz Bar all at 5 Dickson Road, Roxy's at 23 Queen Street, The Flying Handbag at 44 Queen Street, and Pepe's Bar at 90 to 92 Talbot Road.

Funny Girls club opened at 1 to 9 Queen Street on the 4th of July 1994, and featured transvestite cabaret shows, and. The site had previously housed Sacs (then PL Spring's) furriers, Pye's hairdressers, and (briefly) Mad Harry's pub. Funny Girls also took over the adjacent Indian restaurant in 1995.

In March 2002, Funny Girls moved from Queen Street to the recently-vacated Odeon building on Dickson Road. In April 2002, its old home became the Walkabout Australian-themed pub.
Actress Joan Collins was guest of honour on Funny Girls' opening night. Flamingo's was re-opened on the first floor, continued to offer drinks etc for a predominantly "gay" clientele, but in February 2006, was relaunched around the corner on Queen Street, by pop star Toyah Wilcox. Flamingo's was bought by Blackpool Corporation in December 2004 for demolition under the resort's "Masterplan".

The disused Flamingo Club and the Flying Handbag were demolished in November 2007, to make way for the Talbot Gateway Development.

In September 2018, the Funny Girls venture collapsed, owing over £4 million, and in January 2019, the Blackburn brewer Thwaites became the new owner and operator of the Queen Street complex. By this time, it featured Flamingo's, The Flying Handbag, Buzz Bar, and the Whippet Inn. Flamingo's was bought

©

back by Newby in summer 2019. The Flying Handbag will close on the 12th of January 2020 for re-furbishment by Thwaites.

The Council opened their Lowmoor complex, off Low Moor Road in Bispham. Designed for retirement and sheltered housing, it has 41 1-bedroomed flats. The complex has its own communal lounge, dining room, guest facilities, and community centre. The Corporation's Low Moor Road Children's Home closed on the 1st of August 2000, to be demolished. Part of the site became the Mountford Centre, a council-run centre for "educationally diverse" children.
The Council also opened their Kilmory Place complex off Kincraig Avenue. This is 37 retirement and sheltered housing 1-bedroomed flats, and has a communal lounge, dining room, guest facilities, garden, and community centre.
The Nature Conservancy Council designated Marton Mere a "Site of Special Scientific Interest".
Marton Congregational Church Hall opened on the 3rd of November on Wordsworth Avenue.
Keith Park's hardware shop opened at 185 Preston Old Road. This became Howarth's Hardware Store in 2007 and Marton DIY in 2008, becoming La Belle Beautique beauty salon in October 2013.
Miners pushed a bed from Blackpool to Scarborough, raising £25,000 for the Year of the Child.
Action Records was established at a market stall in Blackpool, before moving to Preston.
The Vinyl Drip Club was upstairs at JR's Club on Victoria Street (above Boots). Vinyl Drip Records was started in Blackpool by John Robb at the same time, before moving to 87 Anchorsholme Lane, and then to Liverpool.
FM Curtain Design was established in the Town centre. David Burridge's company soon became a successful retail curtain-selling outlet.
The Golf Discount Centre opened on Caunce Street in Ashworth's Office Equipment's old store. It closed in late 2015, to be converted into "Furniture Matters", a council outlet for selling furniture recycled from the Bristol Avenue waste facility. The new shop opened on the 27th of July 2016.
Kitchen Supreme was at 68 St Anne's Road. The shop later housed the Blazes fireplace centre.
Country Fresh greengrocers opened on Whitegate Drive. It closed in February 2015, to be subsumed by the Fylde Telecom next door. Next door for many years has been the Saddle Chippy, which was called Skippers for a few years during the 1990s. The chippy had taken over the old sweet and ice cream shop in the 1950s.
Michael S Bridge opened his furniture shop on Whitegate Drive.
West Coast Transmissions started their gearbox repair centre on Preston Old Road, later changing their name to West Coast Motor Services. The garage had previously been Pausey's.
T Print started business as a small sea front company applying transfers to tee-shirts. The company became limited in 1984.
Tower Models opened their shop on Cookson Street on the 2nd of January.
The Med wine bar was opened off Cookson Street.
Wrygges fashion store opened on Bank Hey Street. It was an early first British attempt at lifestyle retailing.
Central Wholesale opened on Bolton Street, supplying fancy goods. Nearby was Shaws Surgical Shop (now CJ's Barber's Shop).
Bateson's brewery suppliers were in business on Pier Street.
Latusport were at 79 Lytham Road, Stan Mortensen's old house. They had a second shop on Lord Street, in Fleetwood.
May Copeland's music shop was at 200 Central Drive. The shop has since had many owners – such as Retros barbers but is currently an international grocery called European Super Market – catering for the recent influx of eastern European immigrants to the area.

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Blackpool Amateur Swimming Club was established at Newton Hall Caravan Park Pool and is now based at Moor Park Pool in Bispham. In January 2010, Blackpool Aquatics ASC (Amateur Swimming Club) was formed by the merger of Newton Hall Blackpool ASC and Blackpool Borough ASC.
In August, in 10 hours 9 minutes, fifteen-year-old Julie Bradshaw of Layton became the fastest junior to swim the English Channel. On the 6th of August 2002, she again completed the gruelling 22-mile swim in 14 hours and 18 minutes, this time recording the fastest ever crossing using the Butterfly stroke.
Blackpool Basketball Club was formed on the 8th of June.
Blackpool Stanley Rugby League Club were formed. Having no permanent home, they played at Stanley Park and the De Vere Hotel for many years, until moving to a disused changing room at Kingscote Park in 2010. Their first home match was played at Kingscote on the 22nd of March 2015.
Jersey European Airways was formed and began scheduled flights to Blackpool.

Abby Essien: was born in Blackpool. After attending Greenlands and then Blackpool Sixth Form College, she went on to become a Sun Page 3 Model in 1999, and the first British girl to appear in the "Perfect 10" magazine. She was also runner up in the Miss United Kingdom contest in 1997, and won the Miss Model of the World contest in 1998, as Miss Great Britain. She lived on Preston New Road.

Barney Harwood: (christened Barnaby) was born on the 7th of November in Blackpool. He went on to be a TV presenter well known for his work with the CBBC channel and joined Blue Peter in 2011.

Jodie Prenger: (pronounced Prenjer) was born on the 12th of June. Living on Newton Drive, she was educated at Elmslie Girls School before going to the Blackpool and The Fylde College. Jodie was also the first female winner of The Biggest Loser on Living TV in 2006, for which she won £25,000. She then won the BBC's "I'd Do Anything" talent programme on the 31st of May 2008, to star in a new West End production of the musical Oliver and was rewarded with a Civic Reception in Talbot Square on the 7th of June 2008. In 2018, she won the Presenter of the Year award at the Stage Debut Awards.

Blackpool group Tunnelvision first came together as The Pose at Blackpool Roman Catholic School. The line-up was Chris Shea, Chris Anderton, Phil Barnard, and Paul Swindles. The band changed their name to Tunnelvision early in 1980, after Shea decided to leave. They performed their first gig under the new name at Jenk's Disco on the 11th of February 1980.
The Fits, punk rock group, formed in Blackpool in October, with an initial line-up of Mick Crudge (vocals), Andy Baron (bass guitar), Kevin Halliday (drums), and "Big Bill" (guitar). They played their first gig only four days after forming, supporting Section 25 at Bispham Community Centre.
U2 played at the Gaiety Bar and at the Mardi Gras.
The Lane Ends Hotel saw the formation of a new ceilidh band and folk group, Thistle. They are a five-piece band of friends, several of whom were in its original incarnation, Thistledown since the early 1960s.
The science fiction novel "Blackpool Vanishes" was published by Richard H Francis in January.
The first MEP (Member of the European Parliament) for the area, Michael Welsh, was elected.

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Trilanco Limited, an animal health and equine products wholesaler was established, moving to Bracewell Avenue in Poulton in 1981. In July 2017, they completed a move to a purpose-built 110,000 square foot warehouse and headquarters at the Mill Farm complex, close to AFC Fylde's football ground.
The Thornton-Cleveleys Relief Road was opened to traffic by MP John Horam on the 12th of February, extending Amounderness Way. A charity walk had been held along it on the 5th. The completed A585 was declared a Trunk Road on the 1st of April. Construction work had started in January 1978, costing £1,887,944.
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Mr Ernest had just opened his "Super Salon" at 23 Beechwood Drive in Thornton, after moving from Fleetwood and Poulton.
Abelglass Company (Thornton) Limited was established, now trading from Highfurlong.
ABC Garage Doors was established, working from Lyngarth on Anchorsholme Lane in Cleveleys.
The Fleetwood Fishing Vessel Owners' Association was dissolved. The forfeiture of the Icelandic fishing grounds had resulted in a massive decline of the port's trade, and by 1985, only the inshore fishing fleet of about 70 boats was working.
A block of shops was built on Chatsworth Avenue in Fleetwood.

The Emmanuel Christian School: was established in Fleetwood in January. For many years, it was based on the same Fleetwood site as the Emmanuel Christian Church, on Lofthouse Way whose ministers help set it up. The school was the first in the UK to use Accelerated Christian Education (ACE), a method aimed at reintroducing Christian standards into the classroom.

The school moved to Singleton Hall in September 1996. It housed up to 100 pupils and closed for a short time in 2000, before moving to the former Fylde Community on Normoss Road, in September 2002. The private school specialised in the education and care of children with special educational needs.
Dales House there closed on the 8th of October 2004, and the main school closed on the 16th of July 2010.
The Normoss buildings were demolished in 2012 for housing.

Hadfield's DIY shop opened at 143 St Albans Road in St Anne's.
Lacks of Lytham was at 34a Clifton Street in Lytham, selling paintings and framing services. Since 2009, the premises have been occupied by estate agents the Coastal Property Group.
Lloyds Home Improvements centre was on Park Street in Lytham.
Peter Woodcock's jewellery shop was at 1a Clifton Square in Lytham. In 2011, an armed robbery took place at the shop, and on the 24th of November 2014, thieves smashed the front window and escaped with over £16,000 worth of jewellery. Peter died in 2016 and was succeeded by his daughter Karen Papangelis.
The Grosvenor Pharmacy at 108a Warton Street in Lytham was run by TA Smith. This is now Smith's Pharmacy.
Fisher's florist was at 11 Bath Street in Lytham. In 1983, the shop was opened as Rutherford's Scottish Knitwear. Until May 2018, it formed part of a charity shop run by the North West Air Ambulance.

Carl Myerscough: was born in Hambleton on the 21st of October. Affectionately known as *"The Blackpool Tower"*, he later became the British record-holder for the shot putt, but was banned from Olympic competition in 1999 for drug offences. He won the British title 10 times in succession between 2003 to 2012. In the 2002 Commonwealth Games in Manchester, he won Bronze in the shot put, and in the 2010 games in Delhi, he won bronze in the discus throw.

The chapel of St Francis of Assisi, Hambleton: was opened in March.
On the 9th of July 1967, Holy Mass had been celebrated in the village, for the first time in over 400 years. However, the sitting room of the Bolangaro family was found to be too small, and so future masses were held in the village hall. It was soon realised that the local Catholic community needed its own chapel, and a field opposite to the village hall was bought in 1975.
On the 31st of March, the Bishop of Lancaster blessed the new chapel and celebrated the first Mass.

Benson's Crisps moved their factory from Blackburn to Wesham, taking over the Crown Crisps enterprise that had been started on Marquis Street by James Johnson – Crown had been briefly known as Marquis

©

Crisps. Johnsons Food Products (Kirkham) Limited ceased to exist. Benson's ceased production on the 7th of November 2001 whilst under the control of Snackhouse Ltd.
The Port of Preston closed to shipping, and with it, another supply avenue for Blackpool. Its formal closure came on the 31st of October 1981.

1980
Blackpool signed a "Twinning Charter" with the German town of Bottrop - a mining community in the Ruhr valley area of Germany - on the 28th of August. It was signed by the Mayor of Blackpool, and the Oberburgermeister of Bottrop.

The Hounds Hill Shopping Centre, Blackpool: Replacing much of Blackpool's old shopping area, this large modern centre was officially opened on the 29th of August by the Bürgermeister of Blackpool's new "Twin Town" Ernst Wilczok, and Blackpool Mayor Colin Hanson.
It was a three-acre site with 40 shop units, including Goldberg's department store (What Everyone Wants opened in the unit in January 1991, and Bewise opened its biggest UK store there in April 2003, What Everyone Wants store having closed in December 2002), Beatties toy shop, Lawleys china, Timpsons shoes, Finesse shoes, Benetton etc.

Blackpool could now offer visitors and residents over one million square feet of shopping space.
Adorning the centre's Victoria Street entrance was a risqué stone frieze of comic postcard scenes, sculpted by Skipton artist Judith Bluck – this was taken down in 1996, during the re-modelling of the entrance, and was then relocated to the Pleasure Beach in 1998. Council "worthies" did not approve of it for several years.
Miss Hounds Hill for the day was local girl Beverley Cowburn.
Top Shop, on the new Victoria Street, was opened by TV star Lewis Collins.

The whole centre was bought in 2015, by New Frontier, a Mauritius-based investor, and then, by Blackpool Council, in November 2019.

In 1980, The Tower was sold by EMI to Trusthouse Forte, along with the Winter Gardens and much of the Golden Mile.
The Pleasure Beach opened the Tokaydo Express, which was a Pinfari/Super Train ST40-manufactured powered coaster. In 1988, a canopy was added to protect the workings of the ride from the elements. A figure-of-eight, steel roller coaster, it reached up to speeds of 40mph. The Tokaydo Express was removed in 1997, due to a death on the ride, and was sold to Brean Leisure Park.
The Haunted Hotel was opened at the Pleasure Beach. The Tidal Wave rocking pirate ship also opened, between the Fun House and the Water Chute. This 45-seat Huss Pirate Ship was later moved to the South Park, next to Cine 2000, and lasted until 1997, when it went to Southport Pleasureland. For the park's staff, a social club and dining room was opened. Also, the short-lived "Hardluck Bears Show" was built next to the Virginia Reel. *"The show was about 15 minutes long and had a bear band on the middle stage, two bears on the left stage and Grandma with her sidekick on the right side-stage. It was made by Creative Engineering Inc. who also made the Showbiz Pizza Place animatronics"*.
Also, at the Pleasure Beach, the Astro-Liner was installed on the South park. This was a replica of a large jet plane, which reproduced the sensation of flying using VHS technology. It did not last long.
Scanlite Electronics was established at Data House on Mowbray Drive, making signs.
Briggs Shoes opened at 34 Albert Road on the 7th of May.
The Hearing Centre opened at 39 Clifton Street.
Fylde Shop Fittings was established at 293 Church Street.

©

Central Insurance Services was established, later moving to 141-145 Central Drive.
The Apollo Electrical Centre was at 11 Station Road. In March 1985, the renamed Apollo 2000 opened their electrical superstore on Talbot Road. This closed on the 11th of June 2013, opening at the Woodman Centre on Vicarage Lane on the 17th – having dropped the 2000 suffix. The Talbot Road store was demolished to be replaced by a Sainsbury's petrol station in May 2014, and the new Vicarage Lane store closed for good in March 2015.
Regalos country and western store opened on Dickson Road.
Cowley Confectionery was established on Cowley Road by Bill Farrer. It was taken over by Rock Candy Kingdom in 1989, who soon moved to 19 Chapel Street and changed their name to the Blackpool Rock Co Limited in June 2007. On the 26th of march 2010, they changed their name to the Rock Candy Kingdom (Blackpool) Limited.
Gemini Blinds began trading from 86 Central Drive.

The Town and Country Restaurant, Blackpool: Tony Desmond opened the Bon Appetit Restaurant on Birley Street. He had been a chef at the Imperial Hotel during Blackpool's heyday, before going on to work at the Town and Country Restaurant at 4 Queen's Square – run by John and Judith Jallal.
The Town and Country had started as a nightclub in 1968, in the now-vacant Wright's Restaurant and Café, but Mr Jallal changed it to a restaurant in 1970, and closed it in 1990. The first-floor restaurant specialised in flambé dishes and continental cuisine, and by 1982, was offering its Country Retreat room for private functions. It is now the Soul Suite bar, and underneath for many years was the Superchoice discount store.

Their son, Craig, said of them, after his mother's death in 2019 *"My father was the figurehead of the restaurant and he would be there to greet customers at the top of the stairs wearing tailor-made Italian tuxedos in yellow or pink, while mum would be rushing around in long flowing ball gowns, usually bought from the Dianna Warren shop, making sure everything was run smoothly"*. *"you could order Spaghetti Bolognese, an Indian curry or American dishes like Chicken Maryland. One of their popular dishes was a Steak Diane, flaming the table"*.

Fylde Coast Accident Repair Centre was established on Palmer Avenue.
Mike Speakman opened his television repair shop, Coastal TVs, at 9 Abbey Road, before moving to 83 Vicarage Lane in 1985 (that shop opened as Curry Time in 2007).
Brompton Garden Buildings began trading from 79 Mowbray Drive.
A Bradshaw's grocery shop was at 28 Magdalen Road, Anchorsholme, which has since reverted to being a private house.
John Jenkinson's newsagents was at 20 All Hallow's Road. The building had been constructed in 1820, and is now a private house once more.
Period Design, fireplace mouldings maker, opened a shop on Caunce Street.
Wilkins Jewellers were at 80 the Promenade, between Woolworths and the Palatine Hotel, with the Old England café and snack bar adjoining.
The Gynn Radio and Cycle House was at 198 to 200 Dickson Road, run by H Bates.
Price's bakers were at 63 Red Bank Road. The premises now belong to Ego, hair, nails, and beauty.
Carter's newsagents were at 19 Red Bank Road – now Edge's.
Greenwood Lickiss, jewellers, went bankrupt, closing their premises on East Topping Street in April.
Spacegrand was founded by Jack Walker (1929-2000) with one five-seater aircraft. In 1983, he changed the company name to Jersey European Airways, still operating from Squires Gate, and in 2000, the name was changed again to British European.
The Bristol Avenue Refuse Destructor was demolished, but the site remains a Corporation Refuse Collection Point.

©

Bristol Avenue itself was extended to meet Moor Park Avenue.
Body Talk, a ladies' lingerie and swimwear shop, was opened by Margaret Barratt on Queen street.
At 7 Moor Park Avenue was AD Robinson's grocer's shop. This is now a beauty salon called Bodyworks Essentially for You.
Edward Henthorne and Company Limited, builders' merchants, moved to 336 Talbot Road.
The Blackpool Herald and Times News free paper was first published.
The "Church in Blackpool" movement took over an old school at 44 Queen Street, naming it the Forty Four Church meeting hall.

J C Banks's general store, Marton: The store and petrol station on School Road was closed after the vicious murder of owner Arthur Banks on the 25th of March. In the early 1900s, JC Banks had been a general dealer of "oil, hardware, glass, china, and tobacco". He had made deliveries around Marton in his black van, registration number FR5523.

Peers the Jewellers opened at 35-37 Clifton Street. They soon opened a second store at 6 Market Street, in what had been Preston's old store.
"Hill Special" bicycles began to be made in Blackpool. In 1978, Adam Hill had moved to Blackpool and set up, with son Dennis, a new company, which started trading in 1980. It lasted until 1982, when the company's Clarion Cycle Works in Padiham was closed and production ceased.
Gynn Newsagents was at 2 and 3 Gynn Square, run by E and ME Edge.
The annual maintenance for Blackpool's shoreline topped £1 million, making it the highest of any UK coastal stretch.
The tramway's first head-on collision occurred when cars 705 and 706 crashed into each other outside the Pleasure Beach on the 22nd of July. 6 people were injured and Driver Darrell Pierre was originally blamed but was finally cleared in 2010.
The Rock Rehabilitation Centre opened in June, supported by Bispham Methodist Church. The centre provides support for people with mental or stress-related disorders. In January 2010, they moved into purpose-built premises on Mowbray Drive.
Blackpool Swimming Club was formed, first operating from the 1970s-built St George's Swimming Pool, and then from the Palatine Centre.
King Edward Football Club was formed by ex-pupils of Tyldesley School. The club was wound up on the 23rd of July 1993.
South Shore Tennis Club Badminton Club was founded, later becoming Stanley Badminton Club.
"The Great British Striptease" was filmed in Blackpool, starring stripper Lisa Taylor and comedian Bernard Manning.
The heavy rock group Budgie appeared at the Norbreck on the 25th of July.
The group New Order made their "secret" debut on September the 5th at Blackpool Scamps.
The Evening Gazette held its first ever "Rock Battle" for local bands. The final was held at JR's club on Victoria Street. The contest evolved through Pub Rock (85 to 89), Rock and Pop Search (89), Band Stand (from 1992), and into "Rock Quest" in 2006. Winners have included:

1980 - The Fits (?)
1981 - Boobz
1982 - The Tins
1983 - Dennis Delight
1984 - IN2XS
1985 - ?
1986 - ?
1987 - ?

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1988	-	?
1989	-	Rosa Rugosa (Shades, Coral Island)
1990	-	Funkee Jungle (Shades, Coral Island)
1991	-	?
1992	-	?
1993	-	Dirty Work (competition was called Foster's Bandstand and held at Annie's on Coronation Street)
1994	-	Blah Blah Blah (Annie's)
1995	-	K (Annie's)
1996	-	Desormais (Tower Lounge)
1997	-	Iota (Tower Lounge)
1998	-	Cujo (Tower Lounge)
1999	-	Chang (Tower Lounge)
2000	-	Angel Hill (Norbreck Castle)
2001	-	Whitegate Drive (Norbreck Castle)
2002	-	Jaydid (Tower Lounge)
2003	-	Smaquehead (Tower Lounge)
2004/5	-	not held
2006	-	Lotus Circle (Tower Lounge)
2007	-	Sound of Superstring (Merrie England)
2008	-	The Locals (Tower Lounge)
2009	-	Switchboard Spectacular (Tower Lounge)

There have been many other such local competitions, such as the "Blast of The Bands" at the GPO Club on the 26th of July 1983.

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The Fylde Fuchsia Society was established, now meeting at Carleton Memorial Hall.
The North Fylde Model Railway Club was founded. The first clubrooms were above a bookmaker's on Poulton's Tithebarn Street, next door to Peter Troughton's Model Shop. They held their first exhibition in 1982 at the community centre at Bispham. The annual exhibition soon moved to the Winter Gardens, where it stayed until the late 80's when it moved to the Marine Hall at Fleetwood. In the early 90s, mini exhibitions - now called Raildays - were introduced and held in January and July at the Milton Street Community Centre in Fleetwood (now held in Cleveleys). The annual show is currently held in September of each year at Cardinal Allen School, and the club now meets in Carleton. In 2010, the name Blackpool was added to the front, and it became the Blackpool and North Fylde Model Railway Club.

Vin Duckett, Cleveleys: the champion motorcyclist moved his motor cycle shop from the old Sumner's shop on Lawson's Road in Thornton, where he also ran a BP petrol station, to the old CELCO (Cleveleys Electric Laundry Company) premises on Anchorsholme Lane East, which burnt down in February 1960.

The shop stayed there until 2000 when all the stock was sold to Fylde Superbikes who had just opened at Squires Gate. The company briefly had another shop on St Anne's Road in Blackpool, which is now occupied by Wolstenholme's Signs.

The Travel and Theatre Agency was at 29 Red Bank Road, a travel agency run by W Percival and Son. The premises – and number 27 – are now occupied by Flower Perfection.
Phoenix Confectionery was established on Dorset Avenue in Cleveleys by Bob Sherman.
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Mullard's Fleetwood factory in Radcliffe Road closed in December with the loss of 80 jobs. The factory was demolished in 2012.
Porter's Cheese Factors opened at 68 Milton Street in Fleetwood, selling various cheeses and ice cream. The shop had previously been owned by the Milk Marketing Board, and then was briefly an outlet for Preston Dairies. It was famous locally for having a milk-dispensing machine outside, being known as Byron Street Dairy. It is now a private house.
William Rainford Limited of Southport began sand extraction from St Anne's beach, prompting concerns about changes to the Blackpool shoreline.
Lytham Forge opened, now working from Boundary Road in Lytham.
The Kirkham Roamer bus service began on the 8th of December.
Jim Harrison, of Preston, started his building company, working from Kirkham. In 1984, the company became JE Harrison Builders (Kirkham) Limited. They work from their Builder's Yard at 66 Marsden Street in Kirkham.
Brackenwood Garden Centre was opened in Greenhalgh by Peter and Christine Herbert, converting an old tomato nursery for the purpose.
The Fylde Ramblers Group was formed, meeting in Wesham.
The Ribble Channel ceased to be maintained for use by shipping.
The village of St Michael's was completely flooded when the River Wyre burst its banks on the 23rd of December. The A585 road was also flooded in several places in the vicinity.
Belle Vue amusement park in Manchester was closed and another competitor for Blackpool's visitors (in particular the Pleasure Beach) was gone.
The Alton Towers theme park opened in Staffordshire as a direct competitor to the Pleasure Beach.

1981
First Leisure Corporation took over the Tower and gave it a £13 Million refit.
Marks and Spencer's store at the corner of Central Drive and Albert Road closed and became a McDonald's restaurant and other shops.
The Information Bureau on the Promenade closed and purpose-built new premises on Clifton Street opened in May.
Doddino's Café was on the promenade, selling fish and chips to take away or eat in, and with its own dedicated "egg and bacon bar".
Council flats were built on Clifton Road, Marton.
On the 6th of June, there was a "First Night Gala Show" in the Enchanted Hall at the Magic Palace at number 75 Coronation Street.
Mamma's Italian Restaurant opened at 28 Topping Street, in premises vacated by Tiffmans Textiles.
Chapter and Verse, Christian Bookshop opened in Abingdon Street.
Brentford Nylons had a bedding store on Leopold Grove, which was later Nightingale's, Continental Bedding, Roseby's, the Liquidation Centre, and finally Comfort for You. The building was demolished in late 2015.
Maxwell's Diner opened at 102 Central Drive, closing in August 2008.
Abbey Photographic was opened by Tom Williamson and Mark Hyde on Clifton Street. The shop closed in July 2006.
Broomhead's Estate Agents opened on Church Street.
Ziggie's was open on Dickson Road, behind the Claremont Hotel. It declared itself "Blackpool's Newest Eating Experience" and became locally famous for its burgers.
GSG Buildings opened in George Bamber's Yard on Palmer Avenue, making garden sheds etc. The company moved to Frank Street in Preston in the 1990s.
McGauleys Furnishing was established at Tudor House in Oak Avenue.

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The Staff Agency opened for business on Clifton Street, before moving to Caunce Street and then to Blackpool Business Park.
Western Business Systems Ltd opened at Blackpool Airport estate, moving to Park Road in St Anne's in 1988 and then back to the airport estate in 1997.
Lundby Playtoys began distributing their Finnish-built dolls houses from Blackpool, but the company went into liquidation on the 23rd of March 1982.
Windmill Joinery Limited began, now trading as Windmill Windows from 115 Red Bank Road.
Sharp's Bedroom Centre opened at 52 Red Bank Road on October the 3rd.
Blackpool Roofing and Building Contractors were established, working from 12 Clinton Avenue.
Trebaron Garden Centre opened on Common Edge Road on the 21st of August.
Fylde Furniture was established at 54 St Anne's Road.
Fylde Pathology Limited began on Amy Johnson Way.
Vera Woodhead's ladies wear shop at 17 Whitegate Drive closed.
Invicta Coin Services Limited began operating from Annesley Avenue.
Inane Records was launched by Andy Scott on the 1st of November, recording at Sunset Studios.
Ray-Sat satellite television services were established at 290 Devonshire Road.
Wren Rovers Football Club won the Lancashire Combination League.
Blackpool Moto-X Club was formed.
The Blackpool Soundwaves – an acapella harmony singing group – was formed, now meeting at Springfield Greenlands Methodist Church hall.

Roller Skating in Blackpool: The Empress Ballroom hosted roller disco skating sessions. The Lobster Pot also had regular roller disco sessions until the opening of Golden Wheels in the Palatine Building. Golden Wheels started its own Fylde Coasters enthusiasts club, and in May 1982, became one of the first venues to be granted a 2am drinks licence *"to test the market"*. Elsewhere in town, DJ Carl Henry formed the Rolls Rollers Skating Club to raise funds for charity and raise awareness of the rejuvenated craze for roller skating.

The Dragonfly 2 first flew at Blackpool Airport. Built at the BAE factory at Warton, it was made from balsa wood with a clear plastic covering. The plane resembled a large hobby kit driven by a pedal powered pusher propeller mounted above the wing. It was not a success.

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Poulton-le-Fylde Historical and Civic Society was formed.
Out 'N' About, camping shop, opened at 25 Breck Road in Poulton, soon becoming local agents for Barbour outdoor clothing.
A dredger named Holland XXIV was grounded on Cleveleys Beach.
Cleveleys Promenade had its own Wheelie Wigwam.
The Ivy Tree Café on Dock Street in Fleetwood opened. It had been a home of Decimus Burton, the town's designer. It was closed in 1991, and has since been restored and sports 17 flats above.
The first Fleetwood Beer Festival was organised by the Blackpool branch of CAMRA.
Wyre Petroleum Company Ltd was at East Side Oil Terminal at Fleetwood, supplying marine fuels and lubricants.
The Soundtrack record shop was at 19 Lord Street in Fleetwood. After a period at Glad Rags and Bags, this is currently a shop called Media Master.
The Pilling Embankment – a large sea dyke - was constructed by Northwest Water to protect the area from flooding by the sea, as the original, large sand dune system had been eroded due to persistent extraction of material at Fleetwood Point and Rossall Point since about 1850. The new dyke forms part of the Lancashire Coastal Way.
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Tiggi's, St Anne's: this Italian restaurant opened at 21 to 23 Wood Street, behind the Lytham St Anne's Express building. In 2004, Tiggi's opened Joya, a new bar and nightclub, on the car park in front of the original business. Joya closed in January 2009. By then, the venue had been renamed 21T. In 2012, the former Joya building became the St Anne's branch of the Toast chain of café bars, but this too closed in August 2016, when the whole Toast venture ceased trading.

(William) Jonas Armstrong: was born in Dublin on the 1st of January, but moved to St Anne's when he was six, attending Arnold School. He is known for playing Robin Hood in the 2006 BBC TV series, and starred in Morecambe based drama The Bay.

The Lytham St Anne's Twinning Association began in June. Councillor Eric Bamber welcomed the first party of officials and other people from the German town of Werne.

1982

The Squires Gate Link Road's Phase 1 extended the M55 to a new roundabout at Chapel Road, by means of a single carriageway, which opened on the 17th of December.

The Pembroke/Hilton Hotel, Blackpool: The 274-bedroom Pembroke Hotel was opened, in the Pembroke National Gardens near the old Derby Baths. As well as 11 multi-purpose meeting rooms totalling more than 1,800 square metres of meeting space - including a function room for up to 800 attendees, the Pembroke boasted its own Club Metro night spot with the accompanying poolside Metro Restaurant. It also had the Admiral's Room a-la-carte French Restaurant, and the Captain's Table café.
When the Derby Baths were demolished in 1990, the Pembroke was extended onto part of that site and Spring's nightspot was opened in the basement, together with its own restaurant, Nelsons. In 1996, Stakis bought the hotel, and Spring's nightclub became the Metro in 1998, when Nelsons became the Metro Restaurant. In 1999, the Hilton Group bought the Pembroke and changed its name to the Hilton. The nightclub changed its name to back Spring's at the same time.

From the 26th of June 2018, the establishment stopped being a Hilton Hotel, but was kept operating by its owners Kew Green Hotels. Its new name is the Blackpool Hotel Conference Centre and Spa.
The ho6tel is now known as The Grand.

WH Smith's Do-It-All opened a store on Vicarage Lane in August. An MFI furniture store sub-let half of the building shortly afterwards. Do-It-All became Focus DIY in the 1990s. A DW Sports Fitness Gym opened in September 2011 in the old Focus DIY store. It has a gym, saunas, swimming pool, and sports shop. The gym opened its own indoor football centre, with 4 five-a-side pitches, in July 2014 – the DW Soccer Centre, using the old MFI Store next door. This too closed in December 2015, to be replaced by a new branch of Smyth's Toys, which opened on the 9th of April 2016.
McDonald's fast food chain opened a new store at 82-84 Bank Hey Street.
The "Blackpool Queen" was introduced to the Illuminations as a Mississippi showboat built on a milk float chassis. It collects donations from visitors as it moves up and down the Promenade playing music. Fibre Optic lights were also introduced this year and Lasers were first shone from the top of the Tower to celebrate the 50th Illuminations. The man to be dressed in the first fibre optic suit was David Stephenson.
The Pleasure Beach introduced the Bob Sleigh ride.
The world's first tram-based "Travelling Post Office" was introduced by Royal Mail and Blackpool Corporation Transport.

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Blackpool Centre for the Unemployed and Resident Advice Services was opened in Grange Park Church on the 6th of September. In 1984, a second centre opened in the old Marton Schools Kitchen. In 1986, they moved to Sacred Heart church hall and in May 1997 to 29 Queen Street.
The Blackpool and Fylde Rail Users Association was formed, as the South Fylde Line Users' Association, to protect the local railway network.
The Squires Gate Boat Angling Club was formed, operating from a disused Council building at Harrowside. It changed its name to Blackpool Boat Angling Club in 1993.
Harry Sutcliffe and Christine Wyatt opened Harry Sutcliffe and Company, estate agents on the 1st of September in Topping Street.
Shoemarket Limited opened a warehouse in Chiswick Grove to accompany their shops in Highfield Road (in Joyce's shoe shop – now a charity shop), Goyt Street, St Anne's, Talbot Road, Foxhall Road, and the Promenade. They later opened a 5th shop on Waterloo Road, in what was originally Talbot Market. The Chiswick Grove premises are near to Acacia MOT station, built in the old JH Reynolds Sawmill building.
Odd Legs CB radio shop was at 95 Central Drive. The premises are now occupied by a branch of Nathan and Co, pawnbrokers.
The HCA private hospital on St Walburga's Road was completed in June. The hospital received its first patient on the 9th of January 1983, when Samantha Whitehead arrived to have her tonsils removed. It was later taken over by BUPA and is now owned by Spire.
The Council built its Horsebridge Road complex off Dinmore Avenue. There are 41 1-bedroomed sheltered flats, complete with their own lounge, dining room, and community centre. The abandoned community centre will be handed over to the Boathouse Youth group in 2020.
The Eating Inn Café opened at 463 Central Promenade.
Birch New Era opened at 44 Red Bank Road, opening a second shop at number 115 later.
Tramalan, the UK's most popular maker of model tram kits, was established in Torquay, moving to Blackpool in 1990.
Practical Hi-Fi was established on Church Street, later moving to 81 Whitegate Drive. It changed its name to Tower Audio Ltd in March 2014.
William Franks (Pianos/Organs) Ltd were at 73/75 Buchanan Street. The building now houses the surgery of Doctor SI Ahmed.
Pickering and Ashworth Ltd, furnishers, were at 174 Church Street (the corner of Cookson Street), specialising in beds for guest houses.
Sureseal Windows UK opened, moving to Blackpool Old Road in August 1996.
Red Rose Security started business, now working from Avroe Crescent.
MAP (Micro Application Packages Limited) was founded at Metropolitan Business Park.
Westbury Lodge was opened at 160 Whitegate Drive. The 3-storey children's home was built on the site of the original Westbury Lodge, whose name is still carved on the gateposts. It 2016, it was converted into additional accommodation for Woodlands School. Their new Westbury Sixth Form Centre then opened on the 8th of April 2016.
Action Exhaust Centre was opened on the corner of 82 George Street and Gorton Street by Tony Waring and Bryan Bayliss. It closed in 2014.
QuickSave tyres and exhausts opened at 300 Talbot Road, replacing the Motor Way tyre centre. The company later opened a second outlet at 100 St Albans Road in St Anne's.
The "Blackpool Experience" opened on the Promenade by Alan Murgatroyd, behind Coral Island. It was a slide show with 18 projectors and special effects.
The Rainbow ride replaced the Virginia Reel at the Pleasure Beach. In 1983, Disc Jockey and TV star Noel Edmonds opened the Ranger ride, nearby, at the Pleasure Beach, but in 1987, the Rainbow was moved, to replace the failing Ranger. The Rainbow contained many design elements of the Ranger, but was better, and reached a height of 66 feet.

©

Lawrence Silcock introduced the Twist ride to the Pleasure Beach's South Park – it was later re-named the Egg Scrambler, which was moved next to the future site of the Ice Blast in 1995. Also, the Bobslay ride appeared, for just one year, being described as a Sobema Superbob.
Stageworks Worldwide Productions, the entertainment division of Blackpool Pleasure Beach was set up by Amanda Thompson, to create big shows for the park and worldwide.
American Evangelist, Billy Graham, gave a rally on the car park behind the Mecca on the 2nd of March. 3000 people filled the purpose-built auditorium, with 6,000 more watching on CCTV. At the time, this was the largest ever audience in Blackpool. The occasion was the Christian Booksellers Convention.
The Fylde Bird Club was formed, meeting at Blackpool Cricket Club.
Christie against Cancer's first annual Manchester to Blackpool Bike Ride took place in June.
Blackpool Borough Rugby League Football Club was put into liquidation, but then reformed on the 4th of August by Savoy Sports and Leisure Limited.
The Bus Driver of the Year Competition was first held at Rigby Road. It had started in Coventry in 1967.
The TV drama series "Airline", starring Roy Marsden, was filmed at Squires Gate, using the Dakota aircraft based there. The airport buildings were decorated to show the star's own airline "Ruskin Airlines" logos.

The Roly Polys: this dance group were founded in Blackpool by Marie Ashton and Mo Moreland (formerly known as The Mighty Atom). Later to appear on Les Dawson's TV show, the Roly Polys were first called "Les Femmes".
Marie's husband was comedian Jack Diamond, whose career took off when he launched his own revue show at the Norbreck Hydro. He later opened numerous clubs and also launched his own talent show, the "Jack Diamond Discovery", which ran for almost 25 years at the "Talk of the Coast" bar at the Viking Hotel.

Ben Bradshaw was born in Blackpool in December. He went on to break two Guinness World Records for the fastest straightjacket escape.
Jordan Wylie was born in Blackpool. Living on the Grange Park Estate, he went to Grange Park Infants' School, Layton Primary School, and Collegiate High School before joining the Army. He now teaches survival and security around the world, and is a "Hunter" on the Channel 4 series "Hunted".

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The Leaping Fish chip shop opened on Poulton Road, Carleton.
Carl Josef was established at 1 and 2 Wyrefields in Poulton, making bespoke bedroom furniture.
RV Clegg, butchers, began business at 9 Hardhorn Road in Poulton. Robert McGough (Clegg was his wife's name) had taken over Jack McLelland's butcher's shop. The building was originally opened as a sweet shop, and changed to a grocer's before McLelland bought it in the early 1970s.
Fayez Tandoori opened at 82 Victoria Road West in Cleveleys.
Michael Gorton was running his Cleveleys Chicken Barbeque was at 64 Victoria Road West.
Fleetwood Docks was taken over by Associated British Ports Limited, and the very last of the big trawlers left the port for good.
The first Fleetwood Flower Show was held.

The Manxman, Fleetwood: this ferry last sailed on the 15th of August. After being laid up in Birkenhead, she was finally taken to Preston Docks, where her new owners intended to convert her into a floating museum and visitor centre. That venture was unsuccessful, so the ship was developed into a floating nightclub and Greek restaurant.
She deteriorated rapidly, and she was towed to Liverpool in 1991, to be used once more as a floating nightclub in the Trafalgar Docks. However, in 1997, the ship was finally taken to Sunderland's Pallion Dock, where she was dismantled in 2011. She had been built in 1955.
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Debbie Gore: The Fleetwood girl won the Gold Medal in the 4 by 100 metres Freestyle Relay at the Commonwealth Games in Brisbane. She later won the Gold at the Olympic Games in Los Angeles in 1984.

John Jenkinson opened his garage on Siding Road in Fleetwood. The business carried out repairs and later began car sales. The John Jenkinson Centre now operates from The Foundry on Station Road.
Crossley Garden Buildings was established, making sheds from a site at Wardleys. They later opened a showroom and sales office next to Burnside Garden Centre.
St Anne's signal box was closed after the Blackpool South railway line had been reduced to a single line. It was soon demolished.
The Fylde Sinfonia Orchestra was formed from the Lytham String Orchestra of 1961.
Car Craft of Lytham opened on Dock Road, moving to Unit 7, Peel Hall Business Park at Peel in January 2007, as Auto Mirage Ltd.
Christine Pollitt purchased a 17th century barn, farm buildings, and surrounding land on Bryning Lane, Wrea Green in 1981. The land was cleared and an Indoor Riding School was erected together with some of the farm buildings being made into eight stables ready for the launch of Wrea Green Equestrian Centre in October 1982.
Charlie Max night club opened on Marsden Street in Kirkham in the old Roosters and Palms Discotheque premises. They were liquidated in 1987. The club was previously known as Lady Rachael's. Rumsters club was nearby.
Red Rose Radio began broadcasting to the Fylde coast on the 5th of October, from Preston. It was Lancashire's first commercial radio station and is now known as Red Rose Rock FM.

1983

Three Police Officers drowned: WPC Angela Bradley, PC Gordon Connolly, and PC Colin Morrison drowned on the 5th of January, whilst attempting a sea rescue of a young boy and his dog. All three officers have rooms named in their memory at Hutton Police Headquarters.

Liverpool Football Club sent a side to Blackpool to help raise funds to the families lost in the tragedy. The game was played on February the 1st and Liverpool won the game 6-2. A memorial service was held at St John's Church on the 5th of March, attended by over 700 police officers. A memorial plaque was soon erected at the Gynn.

A monument to the emergency services, set on the edge of the Jubilee Gardens, was officially opened by the Vice Lord Lieutenant of Lancashire Colonel Alan Jolley on the 27th of June 2013. The monument consists of four 6-foot-high figures representing the police, fire brigade, ambulance service, and Coastguard with linked hands, and was designed by Matthew Titherington.

First Leisure Corporation bought the Winter Gardens and all three Piers.
St John Vianney's new social centre, the Pope John Paul II Centre, opened on Glastonbury Avenue on the 5th of September. It replaced two prefabricated buildings that had housed the infants' school, and was built by local builder John Kavanagh, who had a shop on Preston Old Road for many years. The centre now houses a preschool playgroup.
The Corporation's Children's Care Home at 6 Dalegarth Close, Mereside was closed.
Northwest Gas opened regional offices on Clifton Road in Marton, moving from Princess Street. These became known as Progress House and were later to house Blackpool Council offices.
The Fylde Colour Foto Factory was at Phoenix House on Mowbray Drive.

©

The Armenian Kebab House opened at 29 Harrowside and is now Blackpool's oldest.
"Tommy Wade's" cottage, near the junction of Clifton Road and Cherry Tree Road, was demolished to make way for some two-bedroomed flats, built by Stansfield's Builders.
Textile World opened on Cherry Tree Road, it closed in 2003 to be replaced by a flooring retailer.
Beneast began its training business in St Anne's on the 4th of February, and is now the County's largest independent trainer, with several sites around town. Its headquarters were on Talbot Road in Henthorne's Builders Merchants old office building at number 336, to which it moved in 1998. Henthorne's had previously moved to Chorley Road. In 2010, the building was closed. Tyson Construction will build 25 homes on the site from 2019.
Progress Taxis was formed by Peter Leigh on the 3rd of October, with 6 vehicles, operating from 158 Talbot Road. It merged with Streamline Taxis of Grasmere Road in 2009. Streamline Association Taxis Ltd had been formed in 1947. Streamline Progress Taxis became insolvent in 2012.
The Savoy French Restaurant was opened at the hotel of the same name on the Promenade.
Ames Records opened on Bank Hey Street, changing to Virgin in 1985 before transforming into Our Price for the rest of the late 80's to 90's. It then became HMV.
Terry's Carpets began trading at 22-26 Bethesda Square. In 2008, they opened a second outlet on Burton Road, with a third at 3-4 Crescent West in Cleveleys in 2012.
Norcross Auto Bodies began trading from Bispham Road.
Fylde Microsystems Limited started operating from 18 Birley Street, before moving to larger premises at Blackpool Business Park.
The Blackpool Bed Centre opened at 54-56 St Anne's Road.
Brian Tomlins opened Sports Fair at 56 Lytham Road.
CTS (Commissioning and Technical Services Limited) were established in the old Polish Club on Hornby Road – now called Eagle House. The company supplies engineering staff.
Spectrum Cleaning and Bar Supplies started business at 72 Elizabeth Street.
Red Bank Models was founded by Gary Norton and his wife Carol, on Red Bank Road in Bispham. They moved to larger premises at 201 Central Drive, Blackpool in 1988, closing in 2011.
John Harper and Fred Pye formed Harper and Pye, carpet sales, in Bispham. They soon opened a home furnishings store at 178 Victoria Road West in Cleveleys, but finally fully relocated to 109/111 Red Bank Road in 2013.
The Time Gap Bar and discotheque was at 181 to 183 Central Promenade. It had originally been Reuben's Carpet Shop, and later became a striptease club.
Valentia Road at Bispham suffered subsidence in September due to being built on a peat bog. 24 homes were demolished and all families had to be moved out and were paid compensation in February 1988. The building of new homes was approved in 1992.
MAS Car Sales was established on Station Terrace, by Gilbert Rowe. The company became MAS Northwest Ltd in 2000.
William Bolton's jewellers and goldsmiths' shop was at 18 Topping Street.
Paul Powers opened the Barber Shop at 100 Topping Street.

Blackpool 10K Fun Run: The first Blackpool Half-Marathon race was run in May. George Zell, a local businessman, conceived the idea when he visited Clearwater in Florida and saw a 10K fun run there. He persuaded other local worthies to fund it with him, and that first run resulted *"in a cheque for £17,777 for the Hospice funds, which was the largest cheque that they had received from a single event"*. The run was sponsored by Beaverbrook's jewellers in later years.
The annual run *"starts north of Gynn Square at The Savoy Hotel, Queens Promenade then goes down the traffic-free Golden mile, past Blackpool Pleasure Beach before turning round and heading back up to the finish line. The route is fully marshalled, includes two water stations and has first aid available"*.

©

The charity "Homeless in Blackpool" was formally founded in May, opening soup kitchens at St Cuthbert's church hall.
The Lancastrian Transport Group was set up, to preserve public transport vehicles from the Fylde coast. The group became the Lancastrian Transport Trust in 1996, and then in May 2000, it was granted charitable status. The group was then able to buy premises on Brinwell Road, Marton. These premises were bought in December 2012 by Heaton's Engineering, and the trams owned by the trust were moved to Rigby Road and other places.
Hydraulic Power Services were in operation on Dover Road.
The Blackpool and Fylde Leader free newspaper replaced the Blackpool Herald in March, and on the 17th of December, the "Green" ceased to be published.
Belfast City Airport started commercial services to Blackpool.
Leonard Broughton, of Kingsmede, 157 Whitegate Drive, was appointed High Sheriff for the County of Lancashire on the 16th of March. Kingsmede had previously been owned by the Callaloucca family. It was demolished in 2002.
The film "Slayground" was partly filmed at the Pleasure Beach, starring Peter Coyote, Mel Smith, and Billie Whitelaw.
The children's television series "Seaview" was filmed in Blackpool. It starred future TV presenter and Blue Peter girl Yvette Fielding as Sandy Shenton, a girl living in a guesthouse. The exterior of the Seaview Private Hotel at 142 Bond Street was used during filming.
Punk Band "Chelsea" recorded a live show at the Bier Keller – one of punk's finest DVDs.
Singer Kathy Kirby made her last ever live appearance, at the Horseshoe Bar Restaurant, in December.

Richard Wigglesworth: was born in Blackpool on the 9th of June. He was brought up on Staining Lodge Farm, later attending Kirkham Grammar School. He became the England Rugby Union team's scrum half in February 2008.

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IRA plot in Weeton: In April 1983, An IRA plot to bomb the Eagle and Child was foiled by Special Branch. The Second Battalion of Light Infantry was based at Weeton Barracks at the time, and the soldiers were regular customers at the pub.

Raymond O'Connor, an IRA informer, told police that Patrick Magee – a bombmaker - and Patrick Murray were planning a bombing. The two suspects came to Blackpool but were followed by the Intelligence Services. Their plan was to park a Cortina at the Eagle and Child, and then to replace it with a hired van filled with explosive. Magee discovered that they had been found out, and in a pre-planned move, he evaded four cars in a high-speed car chase through the Fylde, before abandoning the Ford Cortina in the car park of Preston railway station.
Magee went on to plant the bomb that destroyed the Grand Hotel in Brighton.

Poulton Teacher Training College closed and the function was moved to Preston. It had already merged with Preston Polytechnic in 1977.
The Hi-Life dining discount club was started in Poulton.
Peter and Christopher Astbury's "Cameragraphic" photography shop was at 3 Chapel Street in Poulton. Since 1987, this housed the Poulton Sports and Trophy Centre.
The Four Seasons florists was on Vicarage Road in Poulton, run by June and Harold Grundy. Their flowers came from their own nursery, the Stella Maris Nursery, on Westfield Avenue, Highfurlong.
Longs Booksellers Ltd were at 11 Church Street in Poulton. This is currently The Pork Shop, who are butchers and pie makers.
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Marshall Haydock had their main pharmacy at 17 Breck Road in Poulton, with other outlets in the Teanlowe Centre, and at 7 Wyre View in Knott End. The Teanlowe shop is now closed, but the other two shops are now run by Lloyds Pharmacy.
Also, in the Teanlowe at this time was Homecare Walkabout, a discount DIY shop, in Unit 18.
Alyn Smith's menswear store was at 1a Queen's Square in Poulton, and at 2 Nutter Road in Cleveleys. The main Poulton shop is now the "All Shook Up" milkshake bar, and the Cleveleys shop was closed to become part of today's Bet Fred bookmaker's shop.
Boots and Racquets was another Teanlowe shop (closed), with a second shop at 24 Birley Street in Blackpool (now Jasmine's Patisserie and Tearoom). The Blackpool shop was, in 1895, the home of J Hilton, manufacturer of "Quickshine" starch and linen gloss.
MacGregor Garages Ltd were on Station Road in Poulton.
Colchester House was built on Fleetwood Road North in Thornton. After having various functions, including training and accident management, it was demolished in April 2012.
Healds stores of Fleetwood became Day and Nite Stores Limited on the 15th of August.
Larkholme Community Centre opened in Fleetwood in July.
Three Quay cranes were opened at Fleetwood docks.
Archbell Greenwood Structural Engineers Ltd (AGSE) was in business on Copse Road, next door to the Jewson's building compound and store.
The Fleetwood Cab Company Ltd was established at 1 Albert Street by John Barron and Leslie Whalley. The Coastal Cab Company Ltd was formed in April 1989, becoming Wyre Taxis in June 1995, and operating from 3 London Street in Fleetwood from the 15th of January 2013.
BMX cycle racing took off locally, and a new track was opened in April, at Ribby Hall. The inaugural Easter meeting drew over 300 riders and fans. Then, in May, thanks to owner Trevor Talbot, another 8-lane cycle track was opened on Kilnhouse lane in St Anne's by British BMX champion Andy Ruffell. Ruffell gave a demonstration of techniques and tricks to members of The Fylde Fliers. He returned to the Fylde in December, to give a demonstration on the car park of the Co-operative Hypermarket in Marton.
Oppenheimer's Jewellers (Lytham) Limited opened at 3 Park Street in Lytham, soon opening a second shop on Wood Street in St Anne's. Oppenheimer's had been started at 101 Church Street in Blackpool by the Chard family. The Lytham store was taken over by Stones the Jewellers in 2002.
The Lantern Bakery at 73 Clifton Street in Lytham was turned into a nightclub called "In the Mood" (known locally as the Moody Inn) by Ralph Dickinson. This closed on the 30th of December 1987. The Lantern was originally Dalton's Bakery. There were other Lantern outlets at 72 Woodlands Road, Squires Gate Lane, and on the Crescent and 128 St Albans Road in St Anne's.
Fylde Council hosted the first Windmill Half Marathon. The race began at Blackpool Airport, then went around the coastal route to Lytham Windmill and back.
Moss Side Railway Station reopened, after closing in 1961.

Inskip Golf Club: Inskip golf course was built at the former naval base, with 9 holes. The Inskip Golf Club was founded there in 1995.

Tarzan's Adventureland opened in Carr Royd Leisure Park on Sower Carr Lane in Hambleton. In 2010, its former manager was jailed for sexually abusing children there. John Duckworth ran Tarzan's in the 1980s and 1990s.
The Pilling Charity Dancer Group was formed, closing in 2013.
The Royal Preston Hospital was opened by the Princess of Wales. It helped to ease the pressure on Blackpool Victoria.

©

1984

The Corporation designated its first two Conservation Areas at Stanley Park and Talbot Square.
Beaufort Avenue Day Centre was built with money raised by Bispham Methodist Church and was then the first day centre for the elderly in Blackpool. It closed on the 31st of October 2013.
As part of the Tower's 90th birthday celebrations, a 2,500-pound, 84-foot-tall inflatable King Kong was tied to the side of the Tower in August, having been flown in from San Diego.
The Space Invader ride was opened at the Pleasure Beach by TV's Doctor Who, Colin Baker. It was the first "dark ride" in the UK. The King Cotton bar and eatery was built underneath in 1986, closing in 2010. The Pleasure Beach's Space Invader was closed in 2000, after 11-year-old Christopher Sherratt, of Central Drive was killed when he fell 72 feet from the ride on July the 21st. In 2004, the ride re-opened as Space Invader 2, having been re-themed. It closed in September 2008, and was removed in 2010.
Blackpool Karneval 84 was held during the summer, featuring a German Beer Festival, Pernod Roadshow, Firework display, and a Grand Karneval Parade.
Blackpool's branch of the Lancashire Family History and Heraldry Society formed in February.
The Blackpool and Fylde Sun Club for naturists was formed. They meet to swim naked at Kirkham Swimming Pool.
Jean Darley's ladies' hairdressers was in business at 84 Topping Street. It later became Apparel Menswear, the JLC Shoes. Between 2011 and 2013 it was Buddiez Grill and American Diner, and it is currently a charity shop for "Support Our Soldiers".
Blackpool Gymnastics Club was founded by Janet Mankowska and Anita Cardy. Starting in the YMCA building, it now operates from Blackpool Sports Centre, Stanley Park.
The Blackpool Mail free newspaper replaced the Blackpool and Fylde Leader.
The Blackpool Nutrition Centre opened for business in Deansgate.
Blackpool Vehicle Preservation Group was formed.
The Blackpool Branch of the Aircrew Association was formed on April the 13th at the Norbreck Castle Hotel, under the leadership of Bob Kelly.
The Unipart National Scoutcar Races took place on the promenade. Dozens of competitors raced their pedal-powered home-made go karts to compete for a national prize.
Blackpool's Caterama Exhibition was first held. It was started by Jim Smith of Ken's Meat Market, to showcase all the hotels, restaurants, and catering businesses on the Fylde coast. It started with 15 stands in the Sandcastle and later moved to the Norcalympia exhibition centre at the Norbreck Castle. In 2011, the second Lancashire Hotel Catering and Hospitality Show was held on the 6th and 7th of April at the Winter Gardens Blackpool, incorporating Caterama.
The North Lancashire and Fylde County Bowling Association was formed.
Metro Cable TV Limited was granted a licence to run cable TV systems in Blackpool. This was followed by installations by Telewest (later Blueyonder,) and then by Virgin.
Brian Wolstenholme opened his sign-making store off Marton Drive, moving to their current premises at 30-34 St Anne's Road in 1987.
TA Burdett opened a discount jewellery shop at 118/120 Church Street.
The Venetian Glass Company works on Sycamore Trading Estate off Squires Gate Road closed. It had opened in 1960, with a public exhibition and glass-making centre on Foxhall Road, and at one time employed a young John Ditchfield, who went on to set up Glasform. Fylde Transport ran *"excursions there and a free bus ran from Blackpool Town Centre, initially run by Fylde but later by the Glass Works"* themselves.
Harrison and Taylor started as Consulting Structural and Civil Engineers in Church Street.
A Stitch in Time, bridal wear store opened at the Mecca buildings. Quinn's Washer Repairs had been there previously, before moving to 27 Caunce Street, where they lasted until closure in 2012. A Stitch in Time later moved to 206 Central Drive.

©

The Young Edition children's and teenagers' fashion store was at 39 Market Street.
John Budd's solicitors moved to 283 Church Street.
Lindy's handbag, belt, and glove shop was at 100 Church Street. The shop is now occupied by Northwest Pawnbrokers.
Marcia's children's wear shop was at 18 The Strand, with a second branch at 14 Queen Street, room 2, called Teen-Age.
Northwest Lifts opened on Henry Street.
W H Smith on Bank Hey Street opened a short-lived "Computer Know How" department in response to the increasing amount of home computer use.
Jefferson's Datsun Centre was selling cars from their Talbot Road showroom.
Fylde Frozen Foods Limited started operating on Shetland Road in December.
Birch Shoes had shops at 22 Highfield Road, 118 Victoria Road in Cleveleys, 1 Clifton Street in Lytham, 50 Poulton Street in Kirkham, and 15 Ball Street in Poulton, all specialising in Clarke's Shoes.
John Roberts' clothing wholesalers began, moving to Blackpool Business Park in 2003.
Undergrowby, a "Magic Wand Factory" was established, later operating from a shop at 311 Dickson Road.
The Dance Place was established at Number 22 Rawcliffe Street, having begun in Holy Trinity Church Hall. The new premises had been a café and holiday flats.
Henderson Management was formed by John Henderson to manage entertainers throughout the UK, later moving to Leicester.
The Northwest Regional Brass Bands Championships was first held in town, at the Opera House, Pavilion Theatre, and Empress Ballroom.
Body Bronze started one of Blackpool's first sun bed hire companies in Bennett Avenue.
Marton Rotary Club held their first annual trotting races behind South Shore Cricket Club.

Victoria Hesketh: was born in Blackpool on the 4th of May. She lived in Thornton and attended Blackpool Sixth Form College. She went on to top the music charts in her alter-ego "Little Boots", being voted the "Sound of 2009".

Nikki Sanderson: was born in Blackpool Victoria Hospital on March the 28th. She attended St Luke's School in Staining, and after moving to Bury, aged eight, she became famous for playing "Candice Stone" in TV's Coronation Street. She currently plays Maxine Minniver in Hollyoaks.

Raine Davison was born on the 25th of January in Blackpool. She became an actress known for appearing in ITV's Emmerdale as "Eve Birch".
The Manchester group the Happy Mondays played only their second ever gig at the GPO Club.

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Carleton Garden Club started in August, in the living room of today's Honorary President. It meets at St Martin and St Hilda Church Hall on Fleetwood Road in Carleton.
The Market Square in Poulton was fully flagged and pedestrianized.
Bri-Met (General Metalworkers) Ltd was established on Bracewell Avenue in Poulton.
Fylde Soft Drinks Limited started business in Poulton. By the time they were incorporated in March 1987, they had moved to Back Cecil Street in Blackpool. They later moved to Richard Street in Kirkham, before moving finally to Burton Road in Marton. They closed in 2011.
Richard Porter's cottage, on the corner of Fleetwood Road and Marsh Road in Thornton, was demolished to make way for new flats, built by Lowe's builders. The flats are divided now by a cul-de-sac called Lowesway.
Terry's Barbers opened at 3 Poulton Road in Fleetwood.
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The Dickens Inn, Cleveleys: was opened at 6 Princess Road, being built beside EH Worsnip's joinery, hardware, and model shop (later renamed as Cleveleys Handicrafts). Worsnip's workshop was on Back Princess Road, behind the Savoy Cinema.

The pub was run initially by the Clayton family, and is built in a mock-Tudor style, and has many internal features made of wood. These comprise: *"two main entrances to the large open plan trading area which accommodates a central bar, two raised seating/dining areas and a dedicated pool section. The main bar has space for 50 customers, with the dining areas serving in excess of 40 covers"*.
A tale that the bricks from the Cleveleys Hotel were supposed used in its construction is a myth.
The pub is now known simply as The Dickens.

The Warwick Hotel on South Promenade Cleveleys changed into a nursing home.
The Capricorn Singers were formed in Cleveleys on the 1st of January. The ladies choir meets at Cleveleys Park Methodist Church school rooms.
Ultrafit kitchens opened at 170 Victoria Road West in Cleveleys.
The Fleetwood Weekly News was established, taking over from the Fleetwood Chronicle. It was taken over itself, in 2000, by the Evening Gazette.
Knott End Coastguard opened their new premises by the ferry slip on Bourne May Road.
Jubilee Garage opened on Lancaster Road in Knott End.
Head Dyke Garage also opened in Knott End, on Head Dyke Lane, run by CJ and J Wearden.

The Toy and Teddy Bear Museum, St Anne's: was opened at 373 Clifton Drive North by Irene Thompson. It had thousands of vintage toys and teddy bears on display.
It stopped full-time opening in 1993, continuing part-time until 2003.

The Criterion Restaurant was in business at 12 Orchard Road, St Anne's, run by M Leach.
Winston's Pizza opened at 27 St Anne's Road West. Margherita Italian Restaurant Ltd opened there on the 3rd of April 2006.
Fylde Borough Transport Limited was sold to Blackpool Transport Services Limited in May, and on the 21st of July 1996, the operating licence of the Fylde company was surrendered.

"Old Tom", Lytham: This huge elm tree was cut down in Lytham in November. It had stood near the County Hotel for many years, before succumbing to Dutch Elm disease. The Lytham Commissioners had erected a post and chain barrier around it, and when these were being installed, the remains of the town stocks were discovered.
"Young Tom" an Ash replacement was planted nearby in November 1982.

Strong's greengrocery opened at 56 Clifton Street in Lytham.
Elswick Village Hall was opened on Roseacre Road. It is now the home of the Elswick Women's Institute, who moved from their previous accommodation, which was an ageing wooden building that had been converted from a tailor's workshop.
The Wesham Road Runners was formed, starting its open 10K race in 1986.
The Millstone restaurant opened on Whitworth Street in Wesham.
The North Lancs and Fylde County Bowling Association was formed, to control crown and flat green bowling in the area. The first president was Eric Garth.

©

The Abbeystead Disaster: The valve house in the North West Water pumping station exploded and claimed 16 lives at 19:30 on the 23rd of May. The reservoir had been built in 1855, by Lancaster Corporation to supply mills lower down the River Wyre in the dry season with its 185 million gallons of water.
The party of 44 was comprised of 36 villagers from St Michael's, and 8 water board staff. 8 people died immediately, and another 8 died later of their injuries, and the dead were: James Rowland Birtwistle, Frank Coupe, Mark Edmund Eckersley, Pauline Elizabeth Eckersley, Herbert Charles Gardner, George Alan Lacey, William Mason, William James McGarry, John William Myerscough, Ralph Trevor Rawlings, Geoffrey Seed, Geoffrey Standing, Albert Tomlinson, Edna Tomlinson, Edith Freer Tyson, and Penelope Ann Weild.

Camelot Theme Park, resort, and amusement park, opened in Charnock Richard near Chorley. Based on the Arthurian legend, it never quite succeeded in its aim to draw customers from Blackpool Pleasure Beach. Calling itself "The Land of Great knights and Amazing Days", it boasted the Knitemare, a 30-metre-high rollercoaster which ran for 200 metres, as well as the Tower of Terror, the Twister, and Excalibur. It closed in November 2012, due to poor business. *"Owners Knights Leisure said bad weather and high-profile events, like the 2012 Olympics and The Queen's Jubilee, caused low visitor numbers"*.

1985

Centenary celebrations were held for Blackpool's Tramways, when comedian Les Dawson started a cavalcade of trams from North Pier on the 16th of May. A commemorative plaque was unveiled by the Mayor, J Battersby on the 29th of September, followed by a cavalcade of restored trams.
Blackpool's first Cycling Weekend was held.
Bonny Street Market (wrongly spelled as Bonney Street) was first held outdoors in summer on the eastern side of the road. It replaced Stanley Cubbins' Fairground.
Pricebusters Market opened in the Woolworth's store on Bank Hey Street in April. It had 25 traders' stalls, with its own café and grill in the basement, but the old Woolworth's first floor restaurant remained disused. Pricebusters closed on the 5th of November 2008, to be replaced by Peacock's. At its peak, the market had over 100 stalls.
Blackpool Pleasure Beach Limited was incorporated on the 10th of January.
Vincent House, a Christian project called "Homeless in Blackpool", opened in March. It was built in the 1950's and was originally run as a Children's Home on Grange Park Estate.
Allied Carpets opened a superstore on Cherry Tree Road. Unusually, it had a children's play centre at the back. It closed in June 2012, to be replaced by a Home Bargains store which opened on the 27th of October 2012. Home bargains then took over and expanded into the former Poundstretcher store next door in October 2017.
Queensway Carpets opened on Vicarage Lane after having demolished the Brewer and Turnbull furniture depository. Leeming's farm was there originally, on the corner of Rough Heys Road – which later became Skiddaw Road. By 1992, the store was Furniture City, then Glynn Web DIY, and is currently a B&M Bargains store.
Britannia Living was established, moving to its own premises on Bristol Avenue in 1999, manufacturing cooking appliances.
JCA was formed, making cookers. They moved to Mowbray Drive in 1990, changed name to the Range Cooker Company in 1996, and merged with Britannia Living Limited in 2003.
Weru Windows was opened by Graham and Susan Lindsay on Church Street. They later moved to Amy Johnson Way at Squires gate.
Blackpool Power Tool Company Limited was formed on Mowbray Drive on the 31st of January.
Costello's Entertainment started their agency business in Levens Grove.
Atkinson, Cave, and Stuart formed their solicitors' practice in Springfield Road.

The Swan Restaurant was serving fish and chips at 43 Talbot Road. It is now the Ocean Palace Chinese Restaurant.
Eezifreeze (Frozen Foods) Ltd had a home freezer shop at 200 Talbot Road, and their catering department at 80 Gorton Street. The company was dissolved in 1997, but Eezi Freeze Wholesale Ltd opened on Dickies Lane, Marton in April 2012.
Pendle Productions began their theatre workshop at Bridge Farm on Hawes Side Lane.
Fylde Micro Limited was established on Blackpool Business Park.
Taylormade Furniture was established on Cornford Road, Marton.
Blaylock's Shrubs was formally established at Lea Nurseries at a house named Daisyfield on Old House Lane, Marton. The family had been nurserymen for many years previously, and William Blaylock began as a market gardener on Cherry Tree Road some time before 1895.
Blackpool Fabric Centre opened at 32 Talbot Road on the 4th of October, soon moving to 35 Queen Street.
Glasform was started at 123 Talbot Road by John Ditchfield, next door to the old Blackpool Orphanage. In 2001, the company moved to Pointer House Farm in Singleton.
Northern Security Services was founded by Steve Hill, to provide security and door staff for the areas' venues. They now work from 299 Church Street.
Home Heat Gas Company Limited started operating from Squires Gate Industrial Estate.
Manor House caravan site opened on Kitty Lane in Marton.
Warwick Tunnicliffe began Warwick's Amusements, later running six arcades around Blackpool.
Two video gamers known as GUS and MPS attempted to spend all day playing on Central Pier Arcade's lone Defender machine, for just 10 pence. The attempt failed, when after 4 hours and 35 minutes of play, the game froze, went blank, and then reset itself.
North Fylde Athletic Club was formed by a group of Civil Servants at the DSS Blackpool Offices, who were keen to promote the benefits of running.
Blackpool Gymnastics Club was formed. It later operated from Blackpool Sports Centre, then Collegiate School and then from Poulton Industrial Estate from November 2013.
The Marton Mere Band was formed. It performed until 1990.
The Raikes Paraders Jazz Band took the stage for the first time.
The Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre branch of the Motor Neurone Disease Association was founded by resident Olga Camm, after she lost her husband Steve to the disease.
A Doctor Who adventure, called "The Nightmare Fair", was supposed to be partly filmed at the Pleasure Beach this year, as the Doctor had promised his sidekick, Peri, that he would take her there. It was written, by Graham Williams, but the BBC cancelled the planned season.
Escapologist Karl Bartoni (real name Antoni Peter Bartnik) and his bride Wendy Stokes were married suspended in a cage, hanging from the Tower by a 400-foot cable, in May. He had already performed an escape from the top of the Tower on the 23rd of July 1983.

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Cleveleys Taekwondo Club was started in the Cleveleys Studio above the Streets Café. The club then moved to a church hall on Rough Lea Road, then the Remo Fitness centre in Orion Buildings, then to the Frank Townend Community Centre in the old Beach Road School. The Frank Townend Centre later changed its name to the Cleveleys Community Centre and Church. The Taekwondo club later moved to North Drive Methodist Church.
The Cycle Centre was trading from 22 Rossall Road in Cleveleys. The premises now host Cartridge World.
Tram Sunday was first held in Fleetwood in September, being held on the 3rd Sunday in July thereafter.
The Fleetwood Pool League was founded.
Calders and Grandidge Ltd imported wooden poles to their Fleetwood depot for onward transmission throughout the UK.
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During August, there was a 12-mile windsurfing race from Fleetwood to Skippool and back. Fleetwood club member Gregory Brooks won. On the following day, the UK Board Sailing Association staged the North West Travellers Trophy there. There were 44 entries for the three races, and Simon Keeler of the Fleetwood Club was overall winner.
Fairclough Homes was formed in Lytham.

Fort San Antone, Warton: This Country and Western complex opened at Birchwood Country Park between Lytham and Warton, by Tony Hadlow. It is the largest dedicated Country music complex in the UK and has a concert hall with restaurant. The site also has motel facilities – The Pioneer Motel - and a caravan site.

1986

The Central Railway Route: The new access route into central Blackpool opened to traffic on the 3rd of January. The route of the old railway line was used to build a link road, Yeadon Way (named after County Surveyor and Bridgemaster of the new Lancashire County Council, Harry Yeadon).
The widening of the link road to two carriageways provided a direct route from the M55 to one of the largest open area car parks in the country via the new Spine Road (later renamed as Seasiders Way). The Central Coach and Car Park covered 17 hectares of former railway land to accommodate either 6,000 cars, or 2,000 cars plus 1,000 coaches.

The Sandcastle, Blackpool: entertainment complex and indoor baths opened on Blackpool Promenade on the 24th of June, on the site of the South Shore Baths. On the first floor was the Crow's Nest public house (later renamed Bedlams night club). It soon introduced its own mascot – a monkey name "Bling". In 1990, the Sandcastle was the setting for "The Wetter the Better", a game segment shown within the Saturday morning kids show "The 8:15 from Manchester". The game starred Timmy Mallett and Ross King.

In April 1991, the dry side of the Sandcastle complex was converted into a version of the popular TV game The Crystal Maze. On the first floor, in the old snooker hall, was a labyrinth called The Cyberdrome. In 1996, that section of the complex was turned into the World of Coronation Street visitor's centre, with the Celebrities nightclub upstairs. On the 2nd of August 2001, the Grosvenor Casino opened in its place, having moved from Station Road.

The Lancashire Pullman service began from Blackpool North Station. It stopped in 1992.
Blackpool Borough Corporation transferred operation of the tramway and buses to Blackpool Transport Services Limited but retained ownership and maintenance of the tramway tracks.
Bus Deregulation allowed Easyway Coaches to introduce a new service in March. Most bus services in Blackpool ran to the town centre – there was no form of orbital route. Easyway designed a single service, which avoided the town centre and provided several overlapping links. It ran from Squires Gate to Poulton, and soon started a direct service from the Normid Hypermarket into town. The company was based at the old gas works on Princess Street and ceased operating in November 1989, and had been joined briefly by Town Bus, Carriages, and Phoenix Northwest. All had closed by March 2001.
Pizza Hut opened a restaurant at units 3/4 on Ocean Boulevard.
The first person to abseil down the side of Blackpool Tower was Mrs Pat Woods.
Stuntman Kinnie Gibson of the USA flew to a platform 85 feet up the Tower in July, propelled by a rocket pack. The stunt was promoting the launch of Lancashire-based wall-covering company Coloroll onto the American market.
The Meadows Kindergarten was opened beside "The Bungalow" on Old Meadow Lane off Whitegate Drive. The Bungalow itself was subsumed into the nursery in 2010.

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Motaspares opened their shop on Whitegate Drive, moving to a corner location at number 125 (the shop vacated by Discount Wallpaper) in 2008.
RH Latham had an antique shop at 45 Whitegate Drive. This is currently a branch of William Hill bookmakers.
The chapel at Marton Burial ground was demolished on the 8th of November.
Thunderbooks shop opened to sell Science Fiction memorabilia. It moved to its present, larger, premises, next door to the 1930s' Barclay's Bank, on Lytham Road in 1987.
Palmer Avenue Garage was established on the road of that name. It closed in 2016 due to retirement.
The Blackpool and District Astronomy Society was formed in November.
Blackpool Helicentre opened at Squires Gate Airport.
The Savoy Grill licensed steakhouse was at 124 Central Drive. Since then, it has been the Chef's Larder and the Oasis Takeaway and is currently called LiLo Charcoal.
Greystoke Court apartments were constructed on the corner of Harrowside and Clifton Drive North.
South Shore Squash Club began playing at Common Edge Road on the 1st of June.
In Cricket, the second Women's Test between England and India was played at Stanley Park from the 3rd to the 7th of July. The match was drawn.
Blackpool Football Club's Youth team won the Lancashire Youth Cup for the first time. They won it again in 2008, beating Wigan Athletic 2-0.
Cats Paws Sanctuary began in a cattery in Poulton, before moving to an ex-Army accommodation block. In 1996, the team was obliged to remove all cats from the rescue centre and care for them in foster homes. During this period, they opened charity shops on Westcliffe Drive and Vicarage Lane. On the 8th of July 2002, they opened a purpose-built sanctuary behind Pensilva on School Road.
The Santon Court apartment complex was constructed on Hawes Side Lane.
Pro-Care was established at 3 Sherbourne Road, to provide rehabilitative care and support in a residential setting to individuals experiencing mental health difficulties in Blackpool, Fylde, and Wyre and beyond.
Lennard's Eating House opened at 8 Deansgate, specialising in Vegetarian food.
The Blackpool Ladder Centre Limited was established at Access House on Mowbray Drive on the 6th of March. The company was set up to provide a specialist company in the Access Industry.
The Wedgewood Hotel on Pennystone Road was converted into a residential rest home. It is now closed.
Blackpool Air Rifles Limited started operating from 103 Elizabeth Street.
Flax Mill curtain store was at 24 Market Street.
Coco Fashions were at 77 Red Bank Road. The shop later became the Curl Company, a hair salon.
Magnet Joinery opened a DIY store on the site of the Yelloway Coach Station on Bloomfield Road. In 1972, they had been in almost the same place, but Magnet Joinery Sales Ltd's address was Palmer Avenue.
The Fireplace Superstore Times Past started in business in Blackpool before moving to bespoke premises on Furness Drive in Poulton in 2003.
Karting 2000 opened their go-karting track at Starr Gate, moving to the headland by South Pier in 2010.
Dorothea English's men's and ladies' hairdressing shop was at 287 Church Street.
The first "British Magical Championships" was held in February at the Horseshoe Showbar at the Pleasure Beach Casino.
The Andy Prior Big Band's first gig was at Blackpool Tower Ballroom's Boxing Night Dance.

Jenna-Louise Coleman: was born in Blackpool on the 27th of July. She attended St John Vianney Primary School, then The St Anne's College, and finally, Arnold school, where she became head girl.
Jenna joined the theatrical group In Yer Space – formed by ex-Arnold drama students, and from there, she went on to play the part of Jasmine Thomas in the TV soap Emmerdale. She also featured in the BBC drama Waterloo Road, as "hard girl", Lindsay James, then starred in the BBC series "Titanic", and became Doctor Who's sidekick, Clara Oswald, in 2012.

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In 2016, (now known as Jenna Coleman) she was chosen to play the title role in the new, hit ITV series "Victoria". She is now a global star, and is the new ambassador for Place2Be, the leading children's mental health charity.

(Rochelle) Shelly Woods: was born in Blackpool (NOT Layton) on the 4th of June, and attended Claremont Primary and then Highfield High School and Blackpool Sixth Form College.
She started using a wheelchair at the age of 11 after a fall from a tree that injured her spinal cord, and held the UK record for the 400, 800, 1,500, 5,000 metres, and marathon in wheelchair racing.
In 2007, Shelly won the London Marathon Wheelchair race, in 1 hour, 50 minutes and 41 seconds for the first time. Shelly had finished second for the previous two years and won again in 2012.
She later also held the World record for the 1,500 metres.
Shelly won two medals at the Beijing Olympics in 2008: a bronze in the 5,000 metres, which had to be rerun after a crash in the original race, and then won silver in the 1,500 metres. Her final event, the women's marathon, saw her finish 4th – seconds behind the winner. She also came 5th in the 880 metres.
She was then awarded the first ever Blackpool Medal on the 27th of November 2008.

She came 2nd in the Marathon at the London Olympics in 2012, and in 2014, she won the BUPA Great North Run.

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Poulton Sports and Trophy Centre was opened on Chapel Street.
Blackpool Area Divers began offering training for divers from a private pool in the Beechwood School premises at 32 Beechwood Drive, Thornton. Located off Fleetwood Road South, it was demolished in about 1951, having been used as a farm, restaurant, private house, school, and finally a nursing home. When Beechwood was a small private school, its swimming pool was at the rear, and was used by several local schools for swimming lessons for their pupils.
A memorial clock was erected at the east end of Lord Street in Fleetwood in June, paid for by Alderman Margaret Rowntree. The site was chosen as it was where the parish pump was located.
The Fleetwood Royalettes morris dance troupe was formed by Cheryl Brooks, practicing at the Fleetwood YMCA centre.
The last consignment of scrap metal was processed through Fleetwood Docks.
Characters Bistro was open on Queens Terrace. The building was originally the Imperial Café and then the Fleetwood Labour Club. It is now a private house.
The Burlington Centre shopping area was opened on the 14th of November in St Anne's Square.
Michael Bond opened his kitchen shop at 19 St Davids Road South in St Anne's.
On August Bank Holiday Monday, the "Fylde Aid '86" music festival was held on two stages on the beach at St Anne's. It featured many local bands, such as the Membranes, Icicle Works, Way Out West, and Half Man Half Biscuit, and also several local show business personalities, with all monies going to help Fylde children in need.
Marcus Williamson left Williams Brothers garage in Lytham, to set up Marc's Garage Ltd on Haven Road.
George Banks opened his jeweller's shop at 44 Poulton Street in Kirkham.
Ye Olde Boggery Gate Restaurant on Grange Road in Hambleton went bankrupt in March.
The North Fylde Flower Club was formed.

1987
The Pleasure Beach Railway Station was officially opened at Burlington Road on the 12th of August. David Mitchell, the Minister of State for Transport was the guest of honour at the opening. The station had been in use since the 13th of April.
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The "Beachcomber" service was launched by Fylde Transport, running minibuses along Blackpool Promenade.
Binns on Bank Hey Street was closed in November.
Hounds Hill Post Office and the Jasmine House Chinese restaurant on Adelaide Street both closed in February - their sites now form part of the Waterstone's book shop. The Coronation Rock shop was the only established business to survive the redevelopment. The Boots shop on Victoria Street had moved into the new building on the corner of Bank Hey Street (where Henry's had stood previously) in 1978 – opened by the Singing Nolans pop group.
The Blackpool and Fylde Citizen was first published on the 18th of December from St Anne's. It ceased publication in 2008, continuing on the internet only.

West Coast Rock Café, Blackpool: opened on Abingdon Street in September, in the Oyster Catcher Restaurant premises above Greenwood's menswear shop – Greenwoods having moved from Church Street in 1967 into a new building which replaced Sweet and Clarke's ladies wear.
In 2008, West Coast Rock Café expanded, opening a second club at 6 Bispham Road in Cleveleys. This second restaurant was renamed the Lime Lounge Indian Restaurant in November 2010, and closed on the 20th of December 2012, re-opening as Thyme on the 18th of October 2014.

La Piazza Italian Restaurant opened at 8 Cedar Square, after starting in business in 1985. They later opened La Piazza 2 on Red Bank Road.
Rock Candy Kingdom was established at 19a Chapel Street by Bob Farran. He started with a small factory and a public display of rock making, before taking over several other local rock companies in 1989.
City Distribution was incorporated, operating as wholesale bathroom suppliers from Cecil Street.
Mammas Football Club was founded by the waiters and chefs at Mammas Pantry on Topping Street. In 2004, when the café changed its name, the name was also changed to Quilligan's. Quilligan's café soon moved to 95 Church Street. The Church Street premises were built as Render's China Shop in the 1920s, specialising in the new "Carlton Ware" pottery. The shop later became the Danish Kitchen café.
Layton Funerals was opened by Mick and Jenny Potts in May, on Onslow Road, Layton, on the site of Mander's grocers.
A and B Christie's jewellers' shop was opened in the Hounds Hill Centre in May, by Andrew Tattington and Lynn Ogilvy. They moved to 15 Corporation Street in March 1996 - a shop which had previously been the Capodimonte shop (with another on Queen Street), a wool store, and then a record shop, Grafitti Records.
Steel Appeal wrought iron works was established at the back of 116 Back Highfield Road.
Stagebox music shop was opened at 187 Central Drive by Steve Collins.
Pretty Things gift shop was opened at 35 Lytham Road.
Target Trophies opened at 312a Lytham Road.
Moorcraft Rabbits (NOT Moorcroft!) were still being made in Kings Gallery at Stanton House, 35 Back Coleridge Road, having started off being called Shellcraft Promotions Limited. The factory was rebuilt in 2012 to become the home of Brightprint Limited.
Hermolle Associates Limited was established, working from Blackpool Business Park as consulting civil and structural engineers.
Northwest Pet Foods was established at Units 1 and 2 on Burton Road.
Goodnight Beds opened the Blackpool Bed Centre on Harrowside in January.
The Greenhouse florists opened at 250 Whitegate Drive, in the shop that had been HG Thompson's Chemists in the 1950s and 60s.
Primrose House Day Nursery opened at 21 Devonshire Road.
Laila's Fine Foods, a ready meal manufacturing firm, was founded by Laila Remtualla at her home. She began making home-made bahjis and selling them to a local delicatessen. In 2007, they moved into new

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premises at Moor Park Avenue, Bispham. The family-run firm produces 100,000 ready-made meals a week and employs a workforce of 50. Ms Remtualla was awarded an MBE in 2015.
Barclay's Bank at 71 Red Bank Road closed on the 26th of June. It had been a Martins branch.
The UK National Accordion Championships were first held in Blackpool. They then moved to Scarborough but came back to Blackpool (The Metropole Hotel) in March 2008.
The North Pier held its annual "Birdman" competition in August. Various contestants tried to fly as far as possible away from the pier side.

Karima Francis Cunliffe: was born in Blackpool on the 30th of April. She attended Bispham High School and changed her name to simply Karima Francis, before going on to be a singer/songwriter, voted by the Observer *"the Number 1 act to watch in 2009"*.

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West Coast Motor Auctions was established by the Maudsley family, operating from Poulton Business Park.
Fylde Precision Toolmakers (FPT) was founded in Poulton.
North Fylde Rotary Club was formed, meeting at the Regal Hotel in Cleveleys. After moving to Mains Hall and other temporary homes, they now meet at the Briardene Hotel.

The Bourne Poacher, Thornton: This public house opened on the 9th of December, at 325 Fleetwood Road North. It was furnished throughout with wood and had decorative wooden roof beams. The detached house and land of builders Liptrot (Lancashire) Ltd were cleared to make room – that company had been wound up in 1997.
The first landlord was David Nealon, who lived in the first-floor accommodation. The pub closed in May 2015, after the owners, the Fishwick family, sold the premises and moved to Rycroft Hall.

The pub was replaced by retirement homes built by McCarthy and Stone Ltd. There are 25 one-bedroom apartments and 17 two-bedroom apartments exclusively for people over 60. The development was named Burrstone Grange, in recognition of the type of grinding stone used at Marsh Mill, and was opened to residents on the 31st of August 2018.

A new Co-op store opened on the site at the same time, resulting in the closure of the original shop, 300 metres away on Fleetwood Road North.

Taurus Fabrications Ltd was established on Red Marsh Industrial Estate in Thornton.
Fleetwood Nautical College merged with Blackpool and Fylde College.
The Ribble Bus garage in Fleetwood, on the old Lawrence bus site, was closed. Lawrence Buses had sold out to Ribble on the 8th of August 1930.
The Buckingham Window Company opened at 104 Poulton Road in Fleetwood.
The Fylde Coast Cloggers, ladies clog morris dancing team, was founded by Sheila Mugan. They practice in Warton Village Hall.
St Anne's Indoor Swimming Pool was opened by comedian Les Dawson in April.
David and Beverley Gigli opened Gigli's Pies at 13 Wood Street in St Anne's, moving to 132 St Albans Road in 2010. The Wood Street shop had previously been Frank Sharpe's butchers.
The Lytham St Anne's Lions held their first Swimarathon. 180 people took part, and by 2018, over £235,000 had been raised for local causes.
Coupe Bradbury of Kirkham opened a second solicitors' practice in Lytham. The present premises were acquired in 1992. The building was built in 1846, as the first Wesleyan Methodist chapel in the town.
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The Clifton Walk Shopping Arcade was opened on Clifton Street, Lytham in May. The premises had previously been the In the Mood nightclub.
Lytham Heritage Group was formed.
Mac's Taxis in Kirkham merged with Kirkham Taxis. Mac's Taxis was run by Phillip Cunningham and Walter McCracken from 106 Poulton Street. On the 15th of August 2002, Kirkham Taxis became a Limited company. Kirkham Macs came into being in 2004, and then, K and M Taxis Ltd was formed on the 26th of August 2005, operating from back 20 Poulton Street in Kirkham. On the 1st of October 2017, Kirkham Macs were taken over by Fylde Executive Cars.
Milk Vessel Recovery on the station approach at Wesham closed down. The depot had been set up by Mr Kelly, a retired Police sergeant, in a newly-built building. MVR was formed in 1926, to collect and wash used milk bottles from users. They then returned them either to farms – if monogrammed – or to the Milk Marketing Board depot in Preston.
The Elswick Singers were formed, being a choir for both men and women. Their home venue is the Elswick Village Hall.
The Ribble Vehicle Preservation Trust (formed in 1974) was granted permission to occupy three old hangers at the Inskip naval base. They moved to the west of Preston in 1999.

1988
Blackpool Borough Indoor Bowling Centre was opened on Larkhill Street in April. Owned by Blackpool Council, it had 8 flat green bowling rinks and a café, and at its height, had almost 400 members. When its lease expired on the 24th of April 2009, it was closed. It was quickly demolished to make way for the new Talbot Gateway development.
Blackpool and The Fylde College introduced Degree courses. It is now the sixth largest provider of higher education programmes in the UK.
Blackpool's longest-serving landau driver, Johnson Monkman, retired. He had been driving landaus since the First World War.
The Norbreck Coast scheme was completed on the Promenade in April.
Five people were killed in a fire at the Leber Mount Hotel on the 5th of April.
Rimmer's Music opened at 62 to 64 Devonshire Road by Frank Rimmer, in the old ED Brown organ store on the corner of Granville Road.
Sequence Estate Agent's corporate division opened in Newfield House on Vicarage Lane.
The My Little Pony tableau was first displayed at Bispham.
The pleasure steamer "MV Balmoral" sailed from North Pier during the summer season.
TI Cheswick and TI Bainbridge were sold to Arvin Industries of America. Up to 1,300 people had been employed at the Squires Gate factory, manufacturing vehicle exhausts. Nearby for many years had been Warriner's Cash and Carry warehouse.
Blackpool Laundry Company Limited opened on Moor Park Industrial Estate. A similarly named company had begun in 1900. Joan Oldroyd set up the company when she and her husband Brian were running their own hotel, The Arosa in Empress Drive. They found it hard to find firms to clean their guest room bedding well enough.
On the 11th of November, LJ Hooker (Blackpool) Limited was liquidated, having repaired vehicles for the disabled for over 30 years from their works unit on Mowbray Drive, opposite the Blackpool Carpets premises. The 3-wheeled vehicles were made for the Ministry of Health by firms such as Harding, Dingwall and Son, AC Cars, Barrett, Tippen and Son, Thundersley, and Coventry Climax. Invacars stayed in production until the end of the final contact in 1977, and on the 31st of March 2003, all Invacars owned by the government were recalled and scrapped on safety grounds. There was a similar works on Bristol Avenue.
Aerolux Limited was established on Chorley Road, making aeroplane galley equipment.

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Mr Bounce started business, supplying bouncy castles from Stonyhill Avenue.
Kessel Laird Estate Agents opened their shop at Devonshire Square.
Firecraft Fireplaces was established on Squires Gate Industrial Estate.
Anne Barnes florist was established at 292 Highfield Road.
Shalimar Gardens, an Indian takeaway, opened at 16-18 Talbot Road.
Peter Ireland Ltd opened at 31 Clifton Street, dealing in coins and antiques. In the 1910s, the shop had originally been owned by the Oresa Shoe Company Ltd, who also had outlets at 156 North Promenade, and 72 to 74 Bond Street in the 1920s.
The Army Careers Office in Edward Street closed. New premises were opened at 162 Church Street, and those closed to the public on the 11th of February 2013, shutting for good on the 28th.
Barters second hand store opened at 92a to 94a Dickson Road.
Don Antonio's Restaurant opened at 85 Red Bank Road, Bispham.
EC Toys and Diecast Collectables opened its shop at 44 Bond Street. The shop had previously been a pharmacy. It is now closed.
Highfield Surgery opened on Garton Avenue, off Highfield Road, moving to the South Shore Centre in 2011.
Lords Kitchens was established by Mark Lord, now trading from 424 Waterloo Road – a shop that was previously occupied by Fred Laytham's fruit and fish shop, and, in 1938 by R Erskine's butchers.
The Co-operative store and Jubilee Theatre on Albert Road were demolished at the end of September to make way for an open-air car park.
"The Life and Times of Elvis Presley" exhibition opened on the 17th of June, above the Pricebuster store on Bank Hey Street.
Busy Bees nursery opened in the Salvation Army building on Raikes Parade, moving to Park Road in 1998.
The Pleasure Beach's Avalanche bobsleigh ride, the only one of its type in the UK, was opened by Eddie "The Eagle" Edwards on the 22nd of June. This ride allowed users to bobsleigh freely, down a curving channel. It had over 1 million passengers in the first year. At the same time, the company constructed its own administration block.
The Ben Hur ride was removed from the Pleasure Beach and sold to the American Adventure World in Derbyshire. It was a circular, skid-type of Waltzer ride, unlike the Whip, which was rectangular.
Blackpool Corporation first offered "Young at Heart" discounted holidays to visitors over 55.
The Oyston Tigers girl's football team formed, playing at Blackpool Football Club's training ground.
Bronze Medals were awarded to Blackpool lifeboat Helmsmen Keith Horrocks and Philip Denham when both inshore lifeboats were involved in rescuing two people. Horrocks rescued one person from the "Peebles" which had capsized, and Denham rescued the sole occupant of the "Dijon".
The Liberal Democrat Party was formed at the Norbreck Castle Hotel. A conference was held where the Liberal Party and Social Democratic Party merged.
Lauren Bunney was born in Blackpool. She played Annie Wainwright in the BBC school drama Grange Hill from 2003 to 2005, after having trained at Blackpool's Tiptoes Theatre School.

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The Wyre Civic Centre opened on the 4th of January on Breck Road in the old Teacher Training College buildings in Poulton. The YMCA reopened the 1970s swimming pool, together with a new fitness centre.
CDS Engineering was established at Aldon Road, Poulton, making precision parts.
Wyre Villa Football Club was formed from the remains of the Pilling/Preesall team.
The Blackpool Accordion Club and the Accordion Exchange shop were established at Marsh Mill in Thornton by John and Gina Branelli.

Cresta, of Cleveleys: This cut-price designer clothes specialist, owned by Paul Farnsworth, began trading in the converted Abbott's bus garage at 12-14 Nutter Road in Cleveleys (this had been built for and owned by Lansdowne Coaches). Cresta later expanded into numbers 6, 8, and 10. Based on two floors, the company
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employed up to 60 people and closed in 2003, to be replaced by a Wilkinson's store, which opened in July 2004. The Cresta shop also housed Nursery World, which moved to Victoria Road East.

Frets Guitar Centre opened at 33 Rossall Road, Cleveleys.
Work began on building the new estate of houses based around Swan Drive in Cleveleys.
B and I and Pandoro switched their freight-only service from Fleetwood to Liverpool.

Fleetwood Library: was relocated to a new building on North Albert Street, to replace the inadequate facilities on Dock Street. The new library was opened to the public on the 19th of May, and was officially opened on the 17th of June. The new building also houses the Registrar's Office.
It replaced a building housing Cliff Shirley's Cycles, with the telephone exchange upstairs (one of the upstairs rooms was used temporarily by the Church Army Youth Club). A new telephone exchange was built on Poulton Road.

The Clifton Hospital, St Anne's: was built on Pershore Road, opposite Queen Mary School, to serve private and NHS clients from the Blackpool area. It was officially opened on the 20th of June 1989, by Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester.
It has four 24-bed wards and is a community hospital *"that provides sub-acute care for the older person and those living with long term conditions. The inpatient wards accept and care for patients on one of three pathways: Orthopaedic Rehabilitation, Medical Rehabilitation, and Intermediate Care"*.

The Moghul Tandoori Restaurant was opened on Orchard Road, St Anne's.
Topo Gigio Ristorante was at 88 Woodlands Road in Ansdell, in the former Old Bank Teashop of the 1970s. The building was opened as a branch of the Manchester and County Bank in the mid-1920s. It is now the Eight Eight Chinese restaurant and take-away.
Fylde Croquet Club was formed, playing at Hope Street Recreation Ground in St Anne's. The club moved to South Shore Tennis Club in 2005, also having played briefly at Fairhaven Lake.
Pierpoint House opened on Clifton Drive North in St Anne's as a drug and alcohol rehabilitation centre. It closed in October 2012.
Fylde Borough Council's nuclear bunker under the Town Hall at St Anne's was declared unit for purpose. When its four-inch-thick doors were closed, users found that they could not contact the outside world!
The Guardian Concert Band was founded, playing at the Guardian Royal Insurance HQ in Lytham. When Guardian closed, they moved to the Ansdell Institute.
Colonel John Greenhough of Lytham was made High Sheriff of Lancashire.
Rigby's Farmhouse Restaurant opened on Carr Lane at Warton. Rigby's Farmhouse is a 16th century farmhouse belonging to Little Carrside Farm. The farm is run by the Rigby family, and this year, the farmhouse was converted into a licensed restaurant, under chef, Louise Rigby.
Warton Club Day was last held. It had begun in the 1900s. A popular attraction in the Club Day procession was the Warton Morris Dancers. The event was re-introduced on the 1st of June 2019, when a parade started on Butler's Meadow, ending on Bridges Field.

AFC Fylde: Kirkham Town Football Club and Wesham Football Club merged to become Kirkham and Wesham FC – the same name as a different club that existed in the 1910s. Kirkham and Wesham Football Club won the FA Vase at Wembley Stadium on the 11th of May 2008, beating Lowestoft Town Football Club by two goals to one. Kirkham and Wesham then changed their name to AFC Fylde – to be nicknamed The Coasters.

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AFC Fylde opened their new 207-seater ground on the 5th of August 2006, at Kellamergh Park (previously the Birley Arms ground), moving from their original fields on Coronation Road in Kirkham.
David Haythornthwaite took over as chairman in 2011, and after work between 2010 and 2012, the ground had been increased in capacity to 2,250, plus its own clubhouse. The club entered the first round of the FA Cup for the first time in 2012, when they hosted Accrington Stanley on the 3rd of November. They lost 4-1.

In March 2015, work began on creating a new stadium on a site at Mill Farm in Wesham, and on the 23rd of June, the Mayor of Fylde, Peter Hardy, broke the first ground using a silver spade. A new road called Coronation Way was then created off Fleetwood Road, to take the Mill Farm Sports Village – the new stadium and several other retail units.

The stadium opened in summer 2016, and seats 2,000, with another 2,000 standing places. The complex also contains the Churchill's conference/function suite and bar, Bradley's Sports Bar (opened in June 2016), Milano's Mediterranean Ristorante (an 80-seat venue, which opened in September 2016), and the Aroma Coffee Bar.
Other facilities include a new Aldi store, a Euro Garages petrol station, a convenience store, a hotel, and other shops.

On the 19th of May 2019, the club defeated Leyton Orient 1 – 0 at Wembley, to win the FA Trophy. The goal was scored by striker Danny Rowe. The win made Fylde the first club to win both the FA Vase and the FA Trophy.

Kirkham Tyres was established at 55 Station Road, in the old Millner's Garage.
Alison Handling was established by Tony and Andrea Dearden, who named the business after their daughter Alison. Located on the A583 at Kirkham traffic lights, the company acquired GW Containers and Equipment in 2017, and is now the biggest supplier of plastic boxes in Europe.

1989
A Normid Co-operative Superstore opened on site of the former railway sidings on Talbot Road in November. This later became Mecca Bingo.
The £14 million Tower Shopping Centre opened in the former Binns Store in September. The Gallery Coffee Shop was opened on the first floor.
A new 12-sided Tourist Information Centre, costing £50,000, opened on the Promenade, opposite the Tower, in August.
Additional facilities at the Lonsdale Road Coach Station were completed in June.
The site of 300-year-old Raikes Smithy and garage was lost on Christmas Day, when Continental Bedding on Church Street (opposite Park Road) burnt down. Mickey's Market had been on the site in the 1960s and 1970s, and next door to the Smithy for many years had been G Bennett's shop, selling gun cartridges.
BUPA acquired the HCA private hospital on St Walburga's Road in July.
The former Sacred Heart Catholic Junior School on Talbot Road became a Christian Centre and later the headquarters of the Five Piers Housing Association.
Blackpool Ladies Football Club was formed. They became adopted by Blackpool Wren Rovers in 1996 and began playing at Brews Park on School Road. Wren Rovers also incorporated Boston Rovers and were playing at the Blackpool Borough Rugby Stadium until 1990.
The Blackpool Marathon was reintroduced.

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David Halsall Limited, Blackpool: moved to Cornford Road, Marton. The toy manufacturing and importing company had started in Southport in 1952. In 1993, the firm moved to Copse Road, Fleetwood, and it is now Britain's biggest privately-owned toy and giftware manufacturer and distributor.
In 2010, they rebranded themselves with a new name HTI (Halsall Toys International).

Clarissa Clarke set up ABA (Action for Better Access), a Blackpool disability group.
September Brasserie was opened by Michael Golowicz at 15 Queen Street. It was soon listed in the famous Michelin Guide for good food. It closed in 2010, to be replaced in December 2011 by the Soho club, bar, and restaurant.
Keystone Design Associates Limited started business in George Street.
Steve Redford, of Bolton was the first to complete a "twin towers" run from Paris to Blackpool.
On the 8th of September, the Royal Marines stretched a rope from the top of the Tower, to a fixed point on the ground 1,128 feet from the base of the tower. Sergeant Alan Heward and Captain Mick Heap of the Royal Marines, John Herbert of the Tower, and TV show hosts Cheryl Baker and Roy Castle (who had lived in Cleveleys) slid down the rope, to set a World Record distance for a rope slide.
Blackpool and Fylde Civilian Disabled Society started operating from St Anne's Road on the 25th of September, having been formed in the 1950s. It closed in 2010, donating all its funds to the purchase of a portable scanner for Victoria Hospital.
Hackett's York House Hotel was opened on Queen's Promenade, by Dale Hackett.
First Surveys, a national market research organisation opened at Blackpool Technology Park.
Lords Kitchens opened at 424 Waterloo Road.
Homefylde House, a sheltered housing complex of 55 flats, was built at 199-207 Whitegate Drive.
Mere Park Court apartments were built on Preston Old Road, next to the Mere Park Hotel.
The Baxter Brothers (Cliff, Tony, and Ray) opened their rock factory at 28 Back Clevedon Road.
Eclipse Developments was founded by Robert Knighton and Andy Earnshaw at Blackpool Business Park, specialising in the refurbishment of bars, clubs, and hotels.
Express Launderers moved their headquarters and main laundry to premises on Brunel Way, Marton. The company had started in 1927.
Fiesta Marton Rock was started in June on Back Johnson Road by Bill Farrah. In 2009, the company name changed to Marton Rock Ltd, with access also via Back Oscar Street.
Blackpool Crusaders morris dancing troupe was formed, practising at Grange Park Junior School and Mereside School. Previous local troupes included the Blackpool Sailorettes (formed in 1969), the Blackpool Royals, and the Blackpool Zodiacs (who folded in 1998). The Blackpool Flames are based on Mereside estate and the Layton Angels meet at Christ the King Hall.
Lancashire Aerial Phenomena Investigation Society (LAPIS) was formed, now meeting at the Guards Club on Whitegate Drive.
D Hollowell and Sons funeral directors started business on Devonshire Road, Bispham. They bought the old National Westminster Bank at 497 Lytham Road as an additional funeral home and office in 1996, and the Willows in Thornton in 2006.
Lancashire Double Glazing started business at 37 Henry Street before moving to Preston in 1994.
Family Wills started business, working from Devonshire Road.
The Acorn Nursing Home opened at 125 Newton Drive.
Choice Meats opened at 229 Dickson Road in December. The shop initially just served the local community, but by 1996, business had started to grow and they bought the shop next door. In 2003, they bought the old wine shop next door.
The Dunsop Court complex of Council-run retirement homes and "Enhanced" sheltered housing was built on Dunsop Close, off Ansdell Road. There are 60 houses, flats, and bungalows, in sizes studio, 1

©

bedroomed, and 2 bedroomed. There is on-site care and management staff, together with a lounge, guest facilities, and a community centre.
Pennystone Court old people's home was built at 28 Handsworth Road, opening for use in 1990. In April 2007, it was bought by the MHA (Methodist Homes Association).
Squirrels Day Nursery opened at 49 Toronto Avenue.
Fylde Chem-Dry was established, now operating from 131 Mowbray Drive.
Keman Roller Shuttering was established on Rear Amberbanks Grove.
Central Insurance Services was opened on Central Drive, before expanding to Whitehills Business Park.
The Circus Clown roller coaster ride opened at the Pleasure Beach, closing in 2008.
The Elvis Presley UK Fanclub held their first Elvis Exhibition, consisting of hundreds of items shipped over from Graceland, in Blackpool in June.
"Coronation Street" filmed several episodes for a story in Blackpool. The character, Rita Fairclough fled to Blackpool, where she was caught by Allan Bradley, who was killed by a tram outside the Strand Hotel. The tram carried an advert for the above-mentioned Elvis Exhibition.
The Stone Roses played at the Empress Ballroom on the 12th of August, where they delivered a performance that has since become legendary and was released on DVD in 1991.
The TV series "Arena" filmed a documentary entitled "Portrait of Blackpool – Europe's most successful holiday resort". Members of the George Formby Society played musical tributes to their hero and Tom Moreton, John Cole, Tony Benn, Norman Tebbit, and Paul Theroux recalled holidays here.

Stacey McClean: was born on the 17th of February in Blackpool. She attended Beacon Hill High School and became a member of the short-lived pop group S Club 8 before going on to become a solo performer.

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Nine-year-old Annette Wade of Blackpool Old Road in Poulton was sexually assaulted and murdered in Carleton on the 18th of July. John Healy of Caunce Street, Blackpool was convicted of the murder.
Archway Travel was started by Roger and Joan Archer, operating from Poulton Industrial Estate. Initially with just a single Ford Transit minibus, they now run coaches.
Greenbank Farm on Argyle Road in Poulton was demolished to make way for 21 flats.
JT Byrne established their Funeral Directors and Home at 85 Victoria Road West in Cleveleys, later taking over the vacant premises of Albert Wilde's chemists at 2 Grange Road in Fleetwood.
The Sandringham Lodge sheltered housing scheme opened on Bispham Road, Crescent West, in Cleveleys, run by Wyre Borough Council.
The British Gas Showroom on the corner of Victoria Road in Cleveleys closed, to become a British Heart Foundation charity shop. It had originally been built as a District Bank branch, which had been replaced by the current building shortly after World War 2.
The Cleveleys Nursing Home opened at 19 Rossall Road.
Fleetwood Docks ended scrap metal exports.
The Fleetwood Boat Centre Ltd was dissolved in December.
Junella Foods was established, soon opening a fish factory on Copse Road in Fleetwood.
Wyre Taxis was established at 1 Albert Street in Fleetwood.
Wyre Memorials was established in Fleetwood by Alfie Hopton. He passed his knowledge onto John Wilson who now owns and runs the company from 370 Talbot Road in Blackpool.
Whiteside's Farm was demolished on Kilnhouse Lane at St Anne's.
Lytham St Anne's Hockey Club was formed by the joining of St Anne's (Men's) Hockey Club and Lytham Ladies Hockey Club. A part of Lytham Cricket and Sports Club, it has its clubhouse at Lytham Cricket Ground on Church Road.
The toilets on Pleasant Street car park in Lytham were demolished.
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Atkinson's haulage business at Plumpton was closed and demolished, to be replaced in 1990 by 4 detached houses.

Elswick Gas Field: The field was discovered, half way between Elswick and Roseacre, by British Gas, and the Elswick-1 gas well was completed in 1993, being "stimulated" by Independent Energy. The gas field, which was formally commissioned in 1996, produces gas from a low permeability sandstone reservoir, at a depth of around 4,000 feet, and is used to generate power which is fed into the electricity grid. Since then it has been generating around 1 MW of power from its Cooper-Superior reciprocating gas engine. The gas reservoir at Elswick Gas field is either Lower Permian Collyhurst Sandstone, or – more likely – is Triassic in age, sourced from Namurian Shale.
This well is NOT the same type as the later "Fracking" wells in the area.

Jack Arnfield: was born on the 22nd of May. He grew up in Stalmine and became a boxed. On the 24th of September 2016, he became the WBA International Middleweight Champion, by beating John Ryder in Manchester.

1990
Blackpool was officially pronounced "Europe's Busiest Resort".

Tesco Superstore, Marton: The supermarket chain opened a supermarket on Clifton Road, opposite Sandhams Green playing fields on the 10th of July.
Adjacent to the new shop were outlets of Clark's Footwear, Jolly Giant toy store, and Matalan. Jolly Giant became Pets R Us and is now a Next store. To make way for these additional shops, the derelict farm buildings of Arnott farm were finally removed.
On the 19th of April 2004, Tesco was reopened after a refit to become Blackpool's biggest store and was re-christened a Tesco Extra store.
The retail area is now known as Clifton Park.

The Ocean Boulevard shopping and eating centre was opened by the Pleasure Beach in June. 35 different shops and food outlets had been specially built on a 400-metre frontage.
Blackpool Council for Voluntary Service (CVS) moved from Cookson Street to 98 Park Road (behind All Saints Parochial Hall). They moved again to 95 Abingdon Street in 1995.
Premier Bowl opened in April on Central Drive, in the old Commonwealth Sports Club.
Squires Gate Lane was reopened as a dual carriageway in August.
Blackpool Falcons American Football team was formed. The club had been called Fylde Falcons from its beginning in 1984, playing at Fylde Rugby Union Football Club from 1989 and Stanley Park from 1990. The club folded in January 1993 - its last game had been on the 26th of July 1992 against Glasgow Lions.
Blackpool Independent Supporters Club was formed in the Waterloo Hotel. It soon replaced the official football supporters club, which had closed some years earlier. It is now called the Blackpool Supporters Association (BSA).
The West Lancashire Metal Detecting Club was formed, meeting monthly at the St Anne's Road Working Men's Club. It changed its name to the Blackpool and Fylde Metal Detecting Club in 2008, and now meets at the Tyldesley Conservative Club.
The first international cheerleading 3 Day Summer Camp was held in Stanley Park, organised by the BCA (British Cheerleading Association) and providing training by top US instructors.
The United Kingdom Cheerleading Championships were held at the Winter Gardens.

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The Blackpool and Fylde Ladies Hockey Club was formed by Marie Birtwhistle, now based at Stanley Park Sports Centre.
Blackpool Wren Rovers became a Limited Company on the 24th of August.
Scotties Got it – a gift shop – was opened at 148 to 148 The Promenade by Graham Scott.
"La Fontana" Italian Restaurant was opened by owner Franco in March, at 17 Clifton Street.
Ristorante Giannini was opened by Renato Giannini at number 2 Queen Street.
Seekers Charity Shop was opened in Poulton by "Homeless in Blackpool". They opened a second shop at 45 King Street, Blackpool in December 1998, in premises that had earlier housed Electronic Accordions Limited.
Noblett's Estate Agents opened at 10 Cedar Square.
Coronation Wines opened on Coronation Street, before specialising in Whiskies and moving to Concorde House on Charnley Road in 2007, later renaming as Whisky-Online.com.
Airline House, travel agents, opened on Church Street.
Discount Wallpapers opened a shop on Whitegate Drive, replacing the chip shop, chemists, and grocers, which had been there for many years. They moved to Devonshire Road in 2006, into the recently vacated glass shop of Taylor Hyde.
Orion Blinds began trading from Westcliffe Drive in Layton.
Supreme Plastics began trading next to Blackpool Airport, founded by P Russell Vaughn.
Cooper Nimmo solicitors were founded, moving to 237 Caunce Street in 1996.
Marbrig Photographers were at 91 Caunce Street.
Creative Windows was established, later working from 214 Waterloo Road.
Blackpool Catering Equipment opened at 195 Dickson Road on the 1st of January.
Edgebyte Computers was founded at 267 Church Street.
Barrett's DIY opened on the corner of Central Drive and Palatine Road. The shop had previously sold only wood, but had now begun to sell tools etc. They had a 2-storey warehouse on Back Reads Avenue, which was put up for sale in 2016.
Blackpool Care Group was launched, running three care homes in Blackpool; Warley Lodge and the Laurels on Warley Road, and the Highcroft on Lytham Road.
Martin Yates Independent Living Services opened, now working from 259 Church Street.
Pegasus Travel was formed at 156 Lindale Gardens. In 2001, they acquired Fairways Travel, a company formed in 1979, and Pegasus Fairways Travel was created.
The Bathroom Warehouse opened, moving to 262 Talbot Road in 1999, and becoming a Limited Company in 2003. The new premises had, previously, been occupied by Bill Crewdson's Major Save Cycles, and in 1934, had been owned by Albert Booth, a butcher, who also had a shop at 24a Tyldesley Road.
The Blackpool Acupuncture Centre opened at 179 Clifton Drive, South Shore.
Discount Tyres opened at Unit 8 Spen Business Park in Marton.
Choices Furniture started business at 218 Church Street, soon expanding into number 220.
Fiesta Confectionery was started by Derek Jessop on Red Marsh Industrial Estate. He had also founded Mowbray Confectionery at 81 Mowbray Drive in the mid-1980s. Derek's father Harold Jessop had started the Claremont Confectionery company on Clevedon Road, and the Stanton Rock company.
The Blackpool Laundry building at 440 Talbot Road was burnt down, whilst being used as a furniture showroom by Talbot Salerooms. In 1934 Blackpool, Princess, and Ribble Laundries Limited had receiving offices at 96 Elizabeth Street, and 27 Whitegate Drive, as well as in St Anne's and Lytham.
The Blackpool "Poppython" was first held at the Royal British Legion Club in King Street. It was a charity concert and Blackpool's show business contribution to ex-service members.
Blackpool Council began a "dial-a-ride" bus service in the borough. This was retitled "Ride-Ability" in 2000, and the similar Wyre and Fylde "Pilot" service began in 2002.
Dunes Hotel Football Club was formed, changing name to West Coast Transmissions in 1993.

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The TV drama "Oranges are not the only fruit", by Jeanette Winterston, starring Charlotte Coleman and Cathryn Bradshaw was partly filmed in town.
The series "Coasting", starring Peter Howitt, and James Purefoy was partly filmed in town, mainly around the Pleasure Beach. It also featured local actress Caroline O'Neill.
Actress Lynne Carol – who played Martha Longhurst in Coronation Street – died in Blackpool on the 30th of June. She had retired to live at "Longhurst" on Waterloo Road with her husband after leaving the programme, and also lived briefly on Clinton Avenue.

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The Wyre Bowling Festival was set up by Doug Wareing and others, becoming an annual fixture for several decades. It was played at the Marine Hall, and at the Memorial Park in Fleetwood each June.
Fleetwood Taxis was established at 29 Preston Street by Peter and Jennifer Harper, becoming a Limited Company on the 11th of December 1997.
Doctors had practised in Over Wyre since the turn of the 20th century, in Stalmine, Hambleton and Pilling. The partnerships gradually amalgamated until united at the Over Wyre Medical Centre which opened on Wilkinson Way in Preesall in September. A branch surgery is also run by the GPs at Hambleton. On the 7th of June 2017, an extension was opened by champion boxer Jack Arnfield.
The Lou-Shang Cantonese restaurant was opened on the first floor of 39-41 the Square in St Anne's.
St Anne's Women's Institute was formed
Ansdell Library was opened by Councillor Bamber on the 6th of September, replacing a mobile library stopping point on Rossall Road. The vacant land was occupied until 1969, by St Paul's Methodist Mission Chapel, and then a small park. The mission burnt down, and a new one was started in 1971.
L'Aragosta Italian restaurant opened at 97 Clifton Street in Lytham by Neapolitan Tony Lioveri. In 2004, he closed the restaurant to open a new one called Novello at 9 Clifton Street.
The Kirkham and Wesham By-pass opened in December.
The WRT Group opened at Progress Estate in Kirkham before moving to Kirkgate House, Amy Johnson Way, in Blackpool due to massive expansion.
Warton Marsh was bought by the Lytham and District Wildfowlers Association, who entered into a Nature Reserve Agreement with the Nature Conservancy Council.

1991

IRA Firebombs: Several exploded in Blackpool on the 7th and 8th of December, with the IRA claiming responsibility for the blasts by ten of the fifteen incendiary devices discovered. Shops, an amusement arcade, and even the town hall were attacked, but Lefton's furniture store on General Street and Marks and Spencer on Church Street were the worst hit.

Blackpool telephone exchange in Edward Street closed on the 4th of October and was finally vacated in 1992. It had handled calls to the Operator, Directory Enquiries, and 999 calls. The details of all local telephone subscribers were held on cards, which had to be updated manually each day.

The Pleasure Beach Superdome: Peter Jay's Superdome Circus moved from the Tower Circus to the Pleasure Beach's Superdome, featuring live animals. The Superdome was a purpose-built geodesic structure and operated as a circus until 1996.
In 1998, the Globe Theatre was opened in the venue, with its first production, the "Eclipse" show (starring Russian "flyer" Vladimir Kekhaial), on July the 16th.

Marton Mere was designated a Local Nature Reserve by the Corporation in June. It was officially extended on the 8th of August 1996, the Friends of Marton Mere were set up in September 1997, and in 1999 a
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purpose-built bird watching hide was erected by the Fylde Bird Club. It now covers 160 acres and supports 260 species of birds.
Marton Mereside Youth and Community Centre was opened on the 14th of September. The entrance incorporated a war memorial to those lost in World War 1. The centre was destroyed by fire on the 2nd of May 2004. It had stood on the site of the original Little Marton School.
The Harris Medical Centre opened on the 16th of January on Kentmere Drive, Mereside.
Shops on Red Bank Road in Bispham at the time included Ashurst's Café Royals at number 3 and Ashurst's Bakery and café at number 91. There was also, the Norvy Colour china and art shop at number 149, Moran's of Bispham at numbers 17 and 36 selling leather ware and gifts, Bob and Daisy Smith's Red Bank Restaurant, The Beach Shop at number 10, the Middle Chippy at 135 to 137, the Candle Party gift shop at number 18, Worldwide Travel at number 48, The Book Shop at 101, and Sport and Scout at number 94.
Ten coin-operated telescopes were installed along the Promenade.
Kelly's Bar opened at 136-140 the Promenade.
Gaiety's Karaoke Bar opened at 169 to 177 Central Promenade. It soon re-branded itself as Gaiety's Bar and Walcots Bar and Nitespot.
The Wee Dram malt whisky shop was in business at 5 Queen Street. This is now a shop called Fish-U-Like.
The Mortgage Shop opened on Topping Street.
The Sunam Tandoori opened on Red Bank Road (in what is known locally as *"restaurant row"*).
The Blackpool Scorpions Amateur Rugby League club was formed in May, playing on the playing fields of Highfield School.
Veronica Hunter's Fitness Factory, on Princess Street Trading Estate, was the first in the area to teach "step" classes – the latest US fad.
Blackpool's Health Team for the Homeless was set up.
Princess Diana visited the Blind Society's Headquarters in South Shore in July.

Blackpool Mosque: The Blackpool Mosque and Islamic Community Centre was opened at 100 Rigby Road in an old showroom. The facility had been granted charitable status in 1990, after restaurants, school halls, and community centres had been used for Friday Prayers and Religious Festivals since the late 1980s.
The building at 2 Revoe Street, which was previously the home of Cartmell Signs, was bought in 1998 and a purpose-built mosque began to be built.

A religious opening ceremony was held in November 2003, and the new Central Mosque became available to the worshippers. It offers a large prayer area, rooms for children's education, washing facilities and an office. The Community Centre which is an integral part of the building has a hall, a mother and baby room, a kitchen, and offers recreational activities for the youth. On the 22nd of April 2006, the Mayor of Blackpool, Philip Dunne, performed the Civic Opening Ceremony.

Layton Hill Nursery opened in a separate building in the grounds of St Mary's High School.
The Forrest Court apartments were opened on Pelham Avenue in Layton in September, on the site of the St Mark's Church tennis courts.
Arnold Medical Centre was opened at 204 St Anne's Road.
Highfield Day Centre opened, to provide day care to "active elderly people in South Shore".
Specsavers opened their store on Abingdon Street on the 3rd of May.
Eyedeal Vision opened their spectacle showroom and factory at Unit 14 Squires Gate Industrial Estate. They expanded to a second site at 22 Poulton Street in Kirkham in March 2002.
Blackpool Car Sales Limited opened at 172 Lytham Road on the 29th of June.
Ansdell Road Launderette opened at 85 Ansdell Road.
The Tivoli Pet Shop became Blackpool Aquaria and Pet Supplies on the 29th of June.

"Cobblers to You" opened at 31c Whitegate Drive.
Insufab steel fabrications were started on Brinwell Road by Lee Wildon and Darren Sarjantson.
Showstoppers dancewear centre opened at 59 Topping Street.
Blackpool HEAL (Health Education AIDS Liaison) was established to provide information and support to people affected by HIV and AIDS. They are situated at 42a South King Street.
Stuart Walmsely established the Guitar School in Blackpool.
Clouds Cars, limousine hire, was formed on Whitehill Road, Peel. Whitehill Road had been named after Whitehill Cottage, which stood at the corner of the road to the now-demolished Cropper Farm.
Nurdin and Peacock Cash and Carry opened their warehouse at Peel and provided the necessary drainage infrastructure to enable the development of a further 19 Hectares, which were taken up by ITSA (Information Technology Services Agency) in 1994, with a further phase completed in 1997. Nurdin and Peacock were taken over by Booker's in 1996.
The first British Heart Foundation Three Piers Walk took place in September. The route started at North Pier, along the golden mile to Central Pier and then on to South Pier, and back again.
The first National Power Sports Festival was held on the beach from the 26th to the 30th of June.
The Silures Iron Age Society was founded in Anchorsholme, to re-enact Iron Age Celtic life.

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Safeway opened a store in on Amounderness Way in Thornton-Cleveleys on the 29th of January. It was taken over by Morrison's in 2004, on whose car park a new McDonald's burger outlet will open in April 2020.
The Wyre Estuary Country Park was opened, with an Ecology Centre on the site of an old café at River Road, Stanah.
Natural Options opened a vitamin making factory in Fleetwood. It moved to Kincraig Road, Bispham in 2001, before closing in 2005.
Fleetwood Harbour Yacht Club was formed to represent both sailing and power boat owners and is based at Fleetwood Marina. The club holds an annual regatta every May.
Wardleys Marine Yacht Club was formed at Kiln Lane, Hambleton. It changed its name to River Wyre Yacht Club in September 2001, and back to its original name in 2010.
St Anne's War Memorial Hospital closed, to be demolished in 1996.
A short-lived Hovercraft service ran from St Anne's Pier to Southport and Blackpool South Pier.
Charles Stuart Menswear was opened at 7 Market Square Lytham by Stuart Hurst.
Clifton Collectables was established at 52 Clifton Street in Lytham by Phil and Margaret Parkes.
John Ardern and Company Ltd, estate agents, was formed by John Ardern at 6 Park Street in Lytham.
Inskip's Cheese Factory at Carrs Green was demolished. The factory had been supplied by milk from its own Model Dairy next door, and its cows grazed on the village green.
Work started on the Freckleton By-pass on the 27th of June. It was opened in September 1992. During construction, part of a medieval moat was unearthed.
The first part of the Lancashire Coastal Way, a 137-mile footpath, opened in September. The path would soon stretch from Silverdale to Freckleton. The 41-mile Wyre Way was later incorporated into it.
Kirkham in Bloom was formed, by a group of volunteers who wanted to improve the area by providing floral features throughout the town. They create public amenity areas and historical and artistic features such as The Loom Site on Station Road and The Tree for All Seasons on Poulton Street.
The White House Restaurant was on Fleetwood Road in Greenhalgh. It was replaced by the Ashiana Indian Restaurant, owned by Ashraf Miah, in 1993.
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1992

Princess Diana, Princess of Wales, opened the Tower World complex on the 20th of July, after which she hosted a party in the Tower Ballroom, for 1,000 deaf children and young people. Each one was presented with the "Freedom of the Tower" for life. She also opened the Day Centre at the Trinity Hospice.
Blackpool Corporation began a compulsory registration scheme for the town's doormen, or "bouncers" as they are known.

Radio Wave – Blackpool's own Radio Station: Radio Wave 96.5 FM began broadcasting from Mowbray Drive on the 25th of May after having been founded by John Barnett. The first presenter was Neil Sexton, and the first record played was "Simply the Best" by Tina Turner.
The official launch took place on a specially erected stage in front of a live audience on the promenade by Blackpool Tower and featured Les Dawson and Derek Batey.

Marton Primary School: opened in September on Whernside Road, off Highfield Road. It can take up to 325 pupils. After the addition of new nursery buildings in May 2005, the current name of the school is Marton Primary Academy and Nursery.
On the 3rd of October 2018, TV channel CBeebies filmed a special episode of the programme Explorify there, showing kids about renewable energy and focussing on hedgehogs.

The Mount on Preston New Road was demolished. It had been Abraham Braithwaite's house after he left Mill Lane Farm opposite, and then the presbytery for St Monica's Church. Newfield Jones Limited developed the site for housing, with the church in the centre, and built a replacement presbytery behind the church.
The paddle steamer "Balmoral" berthed at North Pier twice in September. Its third visit was cancelled due to high seas, as had been a previous visit by the Waverley in May.
Lancashire Automobile Club organised the first Coast-to-Coast Classic Tour. The event was held in August with the cars starting from Princess Parade and finishing in Scarborough.
Madisons/Macys club opened above Woolworth's on Bank Hey Street – it was previously Waves and the Showboat. It was turned into Club Heaven 'n' Hell in 1995 by Peter Clarke, which itself closed in June 2006, to be replaced by a Sports Direct store.
The Northwest Festival of Remembrance was last held at the Winter Gardens in November.
The final Intercity Blackpool to London express pulled out of Blackpool North Station on the 28th of September, ending the town's direct link to the Capital.
The first (and last) Blackpool International Jazz Festival was held at the Winter Gardens from the 9th to the 22nd of July, featuring acts such as Roberta Flack, Ray Charles, Ronnie Scott, Nina Simone, and BB King.
MBW Training Services was established, as the Opportunities for Women Centre.
Don Pepe's Spanish tapas bar was opened on King Street.
Northwest Pet Aviaries was in business at 19 Whitegate Drive, describing themselves as the *"Parrot centre of the North"*. This later changed to "This N That" pet food shop.
The Department of Health's Wheelchair Test Centre opened in August at 241 Bristol Avenue. The Centre for Assistive Technology replaced what had become known as the MHRA Wheeled Mobility and Seating Centre in April 2006. It closed on the 19th of October 2011 when the work was transferred to London.
SHE (Stewart Higham Estates) was founded on Highfield Road.
Adcroft's insolvency practice was formed, from the insolvency division of Edward Rawcliffe and Company, at 289 Church Street. The company name changed to Adcroft Hilton in 2005.
Classic Tiles opened their store at 51-55 Harrowside. The store had previously been the local House of Holland outlet, which closed in 1989 when the company went into liquidation.

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The Council's Aysgarth Court old people's complex was opened off Highfield Road. There are 96 one bedroomed self-contained flats on ground level and on an upper floor. There is also a lounge, dining room, guest facilities, and community centre.
Miranda Group was set up, to design and make office and commercial furniture, now working from Sycamore Trading Estate.
Fylde Coachworks Limited moved from Spen Corner to Welbeck Avenue, off Vicarage Lane. The Spen corner building was soon taken over by Topps Tiles. Topps closed in January 2012 after a new store had opened on Vicarage Lane on the 28th. The building at Spen Corner had originally been a car saleroom and then Tony Smithson's Fylde Spares (complete with 2 petrol pumps).
The Commercial Catering Centre opened at 29 to 31 Grasmere Road – the old Co-operative grocery premises had previously been occupied by the Cosmic Discount Store in the 1970s, selling electrical appliances. The company closed in 2008 and the building was later occupied by K Signs, which was itself replaced in 2011 by the Grasmere Newsagents and Convenience Store.
Knowlson's Bakery was established at 20 Boome Street.
Blackpool Wheelchair Hire began trading from 183 Lytham Road.
The Outdoor Adventure Group was founded as part of the Blackpool youth services department to provide assistance to Youth Leaders and adventurous activities for young people. The Club holds Club Nights on Friday nights at Fleetwood Boating Lake.
Livock's furniture shop at 384 Talbot Road was sold to the local Probation Service and converted into offices. Ralph Livock's Furniture House had previously traded at 111-121 Red Bank Road from 1961 until 1986.
The Philippi Trust was founded in Poulton by Father Malcolm Worsley, moving to a dedicated counselling and training centre, Philippi House, at 34 Sherbourne Road, Blackpool in 1993.
A former air raid shelter next door to St John's Church was opened by the Streetlife Trust, as a shelter for the homeless.
Select Carpets was established by Dean Threlfall, trading as Home Select Carpets - *"The Carpet Store at Your Door"*, offering the customer a service of choosing from home or business. The business expanded into retail/warehouse premises opening on Vicarage Lane in 1996.
Blackpool Gladiators Rugby League team was formed, from the relics of Trafford Borough. They joined the new National Conference League, playing at the Blackpool Mechanics Football Ground at Jepson Way, Squires Gate.
Blackpool's David Heaton won a bronze medal for fencing in the Paralympic Games.
Dance group 808 State filmed their music video for their single" One in Ten" in Blackpool and, in particular, around the Royal Pavilion cinema.

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Robert Fielding and Sons, The Jewellers were in business at 14 Tithebarn Street in Poulton. The store is now in the hands of Russell Fielding.
Independent Estate Agents was established by Ian Wilson and Pamela Morgan at 180 Victoria Road West, Cleveleys.
The RAFA Club on Victoria Road East in Cleveleys changed its name to the Wings Club in April, when the membership was extended to include non-RAF people.
The A585 trunk road at Fleetwood was extended. Copse Road was extended at the same time, and the remaining railway station buildings were demolished to make way for the Isle of Man Steam Packet offices which were demolished in September 2012.
Guys Court Nursing Home opened at 409 Poulton Road in Fleetwood. Newly-built, it now +has 37 bedrooms, and lounges, a bistro, and Guys Court Social Club.
Pisces fish and chip shop opened at 92 Poulton Road in Fleetwood.
Wyre Marine Services Limited was founded, to provide dredgers for the River Wyre.
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©

The Bathing Chalets on St Anne's beach were demolished.
The Queensway Grillroom and Bar on the front at Lytham were refurbished with a lifeboat theme in tandem with the Lytham Lifeboat Museum. The premises were opened on the 23rd of May.
Dunderdale Asquith started their estate agent's business in Lytham, when they changed their name from Jenny Dunderdale and Company. They moved into 10 Park Street in 2011.
Lytham Round Table staged their first annual Bonfire party at Fylde Rugby Club in November.
The Kirkgate Centre in Kirkham opened. After the original shops did not do as well as was expected, it relaunched as a conference centre in 1998. The centre had replaced the old shops such as Bole's Dress shop, McMahon's sweet shop, and Catterall's seed merchants. From 2005, it became the Kirkgate Integrated Learning Disability Service, operated by the NHS.
Great Eccleston won the Lancashire's Best Kept Large Village prize.
Moy Farm Veterinary Centre was opened on Chapel Lane in Out Rawcliffe by Mark and Michelle Lingard.
Euro Disney opened in Paris on the 12th of April – a competitor to the Pleasure Beach.

1993

The Village Hotel and Leisure Club, Blackpool: opened on East Park Drive on the 10th of May, with a hotel and a golf course, owned by the Boddington Group. It has 174 rooms, and the Claret Jug bar, Starbucks coffee house, and the Buca di Beppo Italian Restaurant. There are leisure facilities including an indoor and outdoor heated pool, large gym, three studios including a spin studio, 3 squash and 3 tennis courts, steam room, sauna, and sun shower, as well as spa facilities with 6 treatment rooms including a double room.

The hotel's own 18-hole golf club opened on waste ground at the rear of the hotel, and the first Blackpool Golf Championship was shortly held on the course. BBC golf commentator and ex-player Peter Alliss had designed it.

The hotel became the De Vere in November 1995, and was later rebranded as the De Vere Heron's Reach, now being called the Village Hotel Club.

The European Commission declared in July that all Blackpool's beaches had unacceptable levels of bacteria in their water.
Blackpool North station began an hourly service to a new station at Manchester Airport.
Wm Morrison opened a superstore at Amy Johnson Way on Blackpool Business Park in March. It came with its own petrol filling station and car wash. In 2019, the car park near the car wash was turned into the home of a new Nando's take away and a new Starbuck's café.
DJ Carpets opened on Ansdell Road.
Mitchell Ramsden, chartered accountants, was formed by the merger of Taylor, Ramsden, and Company and HJ Mitchell and Company, two long established firms.
The junction of the M55 motorway link and Squires Gate Lane at Common Edge Road was completed in March, finally linking the motorway with the Promenade at Starr Gate by a dualled route.
Midgeland Riding School was established in February at number 460, formalising an enterprise that had been in business for several years beforehand.
The Blackpool Paint Company was started by Mike Hinds on Dover Road after he left Leyland Paints on Caunce Street. He had converted West's carpet shop to open his new business.
Plumbshop Limited, a plumbers' merchant, opened on Squires Gate Trading Estate. They since expanded to opened branches on Mowbray Drive (in 2004), Red Marsh, Cleveleys, and Preston (in 2005) and Copse Road, Fleetwood (in 2007).
The Dulux Decorator Centre opened at 76 Bloomfield Road on the 1st of March.

©

Thompson Developments moved to the old milk depot on Clifton Road in May. The depot had been owned by Unigate and then Arla. The company later also took over the neighbouring Dales Farm. They had previously owned a furniture shop at Devonshire Square.
Beaver's restaurant opened on Red Bank Road.

Employment Exchange / Job Centre, Blackpool: The town's Job Centre was constructed on a former car park on Queen Street, having moved from 61 to 73 Talbot Road (above the Station Hotel) where it had replaced the Borough Treasurer and Revenues department of the Town Hall. The Job Centre was allocated number 43 Queen Street, and is now known as the Job Centre Plus, having incorporated some of the functions of the Department of Work and Pension (DWP) in the early 2000s.
The Revenues department was then moved back into the ground floor of the extended Town Hall, and the Talbot Road premises remained empty until bought by Ma Kelly's bar to extend the former Station Hotel which they bought in 2010.
The central Employment Exchange had originally been at numbers 8 to 20 Queen Street, before moving to the first floor of Burton's Buildings on Church Street in about 1972. It then moved again, to 61 to 73 Talbot Road in about 1976.
In March 2017, work began on converting 2 floors of the Town Hall buildings into a new home for the Job Centre, and the Jobcentre Plus staff moved there in 2018.

Fylde Coast Women's Aid was set up in April at 54 Caunce Street.
Blackpool Coach Services was set up on Burton Road on the 1st of January.
PL Trim was established on Chapel Road in June, moving to Burton Road in 2003.
Fylde Telecom Limited opened their shop at 2 Preston Old Road in June. The shop was originally owned by F Williams, a grocer, then becoming a branch of Express Cleaners. In 2018, the shop expanded into the former greengrocer's shop next door.
Blackpool Security Centre was set up on Moor Park Industrial Estate.
The Discount Tile Trade Warehouse opened at 37 George Street in an old wallpaper warehouse.
Huggables was established on Mowbray Drive by Brian and Neil Childlaw. They are a leading supplier of soft toys to the UK, and now have three retail outlets.
Celplas PV Limited started trading from Unit 1, Fox Industrial Estate on Holyoake Avenue.
Inglemere Metals of Cowley Road became a Limited Company.
West Coast Radio was formed to bid for the local radio licence. When they were unsuccessful, they started selling radio equipment, now working from Spen Business Park.
Over 400 workers at Burton's Biscuits lost their jobs, with the phasing out of biscuit production at the Vicarage Lane premises.
A children's playground was built in Highfield Road Park.

St Margaret Clitherow Roman Catholic Church, Blackpool: was founded at 575 Lytham Road as a chapel of ease to St Cuthbert's. In 1945, the La Sagesse Sisters had acquired the adjacent property and had developed a nursing home and hospital. In 1953, it was known as the Convent of Our Lady of Wisdom and had 37 beds.

The sisters were encouraged by the parish priest at St Cuthbert's, South Shore to build a new chapel, for the use of patients and parishioners in the Squire's Gate area of the parish. Plans were drawn up in 1967 and the new church was opened on the 21st of November 1968. The original dedication of the chapel was to St Louis Marie de Montfort, patron of the order.

©

In 1973, the sisters moved to St Anne's-on-Sea and the chapel became the responsibility of St Cuthbert's parish. The dedication was changed to St Margaret Clitherow, who had been canonised in 1970 as one of the Forty Martyrs of England and Wales. The church was a drum-shaped design in grey brick, with full height glazing around entrance porch and projecting segmental arches running around the eaves. It also had an apse with an ambulatory. It was closed after holding its last mass on the 6th of August 2009, to be replaced by 6 houses.

The Blackpool Bowmen archers started building their clubhouse on Fleetwood Road on the 1st of January.
The English Schools Athletics Championships were held at Stanley Park on the 9th and 10th of July.
The Indoor Tennis Court on East Park Drive was demolished. Junior football on the adjacent fields was stopped soon afterwards.
The Mining Festival was held at the Winter Gardens on the 20th and 21st of November.
The National Table Tennis Tournament was held at the Norcalympia on the 24th and 25th of April.
The British Scooter Championships were held on the Promenade on the 30th of May.
The Southport to Blackpool Historical Commercial Vehicles Run was on the 15th of August.
Blackpool and Fylde College acquired associate college status with Lancaster University.
The Bradford and Bingley Building Society moved to 34-36 Church Street, taking over the former Dolcis shoe store in part of the British Home Stores building. This later became a branch of the Santander Bank.
Bispham Nursing Home opened on Pennystone Road. It closed in 2005.
The Royal Pavilion Theatre had a gala reopening on the 1st of April.
Mather's Bakery at 257-259 Dickson Road closed when the owners went bankrupt.
Beaver's Licensed Restaurant was at 11 Red Bank Road.
Taylor's Premier General Store was opened at 172 Park Road.
Revoe Gala was held at the Borough Park Stadium on the 12th and 13th of June.
An Electronic Map of Blackpool was erected on Central Promenade, opposite West Street, on the 1st of May. The press of a button would illuminate the attraction wanted.
"September Song" – a TV series starring Russ Abbott was set in Blackpool.
The film "UFO" starred Blackpool regular Roy "Chubby" Brown. Chubby is captured by feminist aliens from the 25th century and beamed up to their spaceship during his show in Blackpool. It co-starred Roger Lloyd Pack - "Trigger" from Only Fools and Horses.
A TV play called "Tomorrow Calling" was filmed by Channel 4 as a "Short and Curlies" presentation, shot in Blackpool, London, and Pinewood, starring Toyah Wilcox.
A TV documentary in the Travel Trails series, entitled "Blackpool" was filmed by Sarah Cameron, of a visit to Blackpool including a look at the trams, the ballroom, the Tower, and Pleasure Beach.
The film "The Last Dance" was made by Colin Nutley, about a young Swedish couple involved in a ballroom dancing love story. The story was filmed in Stockholm, Blackpool, and Barbados, and the film was shown at the 1994 Cannes Film Festival.
Popular local comedian Les Dawson died on the 10th of June. He lived in St Anne's and appeared regularly in Blackpool, supporting many local charities.
The first "Mr Gay UK" contest was held at the Flamingo Club, won by Anthony Morley. Morley was convicted and imprisoned in 2008 of killing and eating his lover's flesh.

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Blackpool and Fylde Gliding Club moved to Chipping, where it changed its name to the Bowland Forest Gliding Club.
Brenda Dean was made a life peer on the 12th of October, adopting the title of Baroness Dean of Thornton-le-Fylde.
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Independent Energy began to extract natural gas from a hydraulically fractured gas well at Elswick. The Elswick-1 well was drilled and fracked by Independent, before being transferred to Warwick Energy who then sold it on to Cuadrilla in 2010.
Jardine Conservatories Ltd was started by Adrian Jardine. In 2002, they moved into domestic installations, soon moving to larger premises at Unit 12 Butts Close, Thornton.
Northern Express Glass started business at Copse Road in the old COSALT building (where ASDA now stands) with 3 staff and an old transit van. They later moved to Sidings Road, and in about 2004, to Burn Hall Industrial Estate.
Fleetwood Women's Institute was formed, meeting in Fleetwood Central Library. From the 16th of October 2007, they moved to the Senior Citizens' Hall on Warrenhurst Road.
F and M Weatherley's cycle shop was at 123 Blakiston Street in Fleetwood. It was later known simply as Weatherley's, but is now a private house.
The Tasty Cheese, a sandwich shop and café, was at 30 London Street in Fleetwood. It is now café and restaurant called Food for Thought.
Wyre Villa Football Club was founded at Stalmine by Dave Isles and Graham Bradley.
The Granville Auto Centre – a Saab specialist – opened on Alexandria Drive in St Anne's.
The Emily Laws School of Acting was formed in March, based at 73 St Andrew's Road North in St Anne's. They meet at Church Road Methodist Church Hall.
Euronics, an electrical sales and repairs business opened at 7 St David's Road South in St Anne's. The company, previously called 1st Choice, occupy the shop which housed H and J Horrocks's drapery and dressmaking business in 1908.
The Child Support Agency (the CSA) was formed on the 5th of April, run by 300 staff from government offices at Moorland Road, St Anne's.

1994
The Tower was painted gold for its Centenary Year, and Queen Elizabeth II visited on the 22nd of July, to celebrate the centenaries of both the Tower and the Grand Theatre.
The Promenade's tramway and Illuminations systems were upgraded in a £9 million programme, which included new substations at Gynn Square, Princess Parade, and the Pleasure Beach.

Woolworth's and Viva, Blackpool Promenade: A new Woolworth's was added on the seafront to replace store 66, directly on the other side of the Tower, built by Kingfisher's Chartwell Land (aka Woolworth's Properties Ltd), and opened on the 2nd of September. It was upgraded to the 10/10 format in 2005 and closed in January 2009, reopening as a new TJ Hughes store on the 16th of March 2010. On the first floor was a Mecca Bingo club, which was replaced in August 2012, by the new Viva Nightclub and cabaret venue, owned by Leye D Johns and Martin Heywood. Viva is 33,000 square feet in area and has three main rooms: the Cabaret Theatre, the Round Room, and the Festival Suite. In June 2017, Viva opened its own restaurant and take away in the vacated Harry Ramsden's unit on the ground floor. The Viva Vegas Diner can seat 160 and has an integral bar and take away counter.

The Big One roller coaster: The Pepsi Max "Big One" opened to the public at the Pleasure Beach on the 28th of May, on the site of the original boating lake. Originally called Project 94, it was the highest in the world for a couple of months. Its statistics are impressive:

235 feet at its highest point and 205 feet at the top of the first drop
65 degrees - the incline of the drop
74 mph - the usual top speed, although it can hit 84 mph
5,497 feet in length

©

3 minutes - the length of the ride
30 G Force reached. It also goes down to minus 0.5G
30 people per train
1,700 people can ride per hour
The official opening was carried out on the 29th of June by pop group Bad boys Inc.
Record breaker Richard Rodriguez rode it for 103 consecutive days in 2012

The Pleasure Beach also opened the revamped Paradise Room in the main casino building, with the Attic nightclub attached. The venue was now centred around Joseph Emberton's rising stage, and 500 guests could eat in style before watching a cabaret show. The upgrade cost £2 Million.
The Alabama Showboat and Liberty's on the Square held its opening night on July the 4th.
The Yeadon Way public house and its adjoining service station were opened on Yeadon Way.
Layton Railway Station's booking office was "de-staffed" by Regional Railways at the end of May, ending 130 years of continual service.
The Lyons Biscuit Factory on Devonshire Road was bought by Hillsdown Holdings.
Syscom Business Computing Limited was set up, operating from Unit 3 at Blackpool Technology Management Centre on Faraday Way.
Town Centre Management began operating in Blackpool in November, when a manager was first appointed by Blackpool Town Centre Forum. In December 2002, Blackpool was selected as a pilot for the Association of Town Centre Management project to develop Business Improvement Districts (BIDs).
The Civic Trust set up the Blackpool Heritage Trail.
Ibbison Court's children's playground was closed due to vandalism on the 23rd of March.
Replicas of Edwardian shelters were erected on the Promenade, and a Victorian-style bandstand was opened on the Promenade, opposite Victoria Street, by Prime Minister John Major on the 2nd of July.
Premier Cabs opened at 296 Lytham Road on the 21st of June.
Terry's Balti House opened on Clifton Street.
Little Amsterdam was opened a sex and drugs shop on Springfield Road, by Piet Manca.
Fylde Coast Medical Services, a GP co-operative to provide out-of-hours services for local NHS customers, began operating on the 21st of December, working from Devonshire Road Hospital, before moving to 88 Whitegate Drive in September 1999. In 1998, Fylde Coast Medical Services opened a centre on the former site of Layton Clinic. They also utilised a portion of the adjacent "Shenstone field" for car parking. FCMS had outgrown its offices in Devonshire Road Hospital.
The first meeting of Blackpool Sunrise Rotary Club was held in January at the Imperial Hotel.
Northwest UPVC opened at the Sawmills on Caunce Street in May, after starting in 1991.
Sainsbury's opened a Homebase DIY store on Blackpool Business Park. It closed in 2001, to be replaced shortly after by a Currys superstore. Staples office supplies opened in another unit there at the same time, rebranding as Office Outlet in 2017, and moving two units to the left (on what was by then called Blackpool Retail Park). From April 2019, the original Staples unit began to be re-vamped as a branch of Food Warehouse, Iceland's budget food chain.
The Mankind gents' clothes shop opened in the old Andrew Vass store at 164-166 Church Street.
Rossendale Interiors opened a showroom on Cherry Tree Road. This later became a branch of Benson's Beds.
Q Clothes of Distinction, a men's fashion shop, was opened by Steve Martell at 3 to 5 Queen's Square. It is now a chip shop called Fish U Like.
Blackpool DIY and Door Centre opened at 43b Caunce Street in the old Magnet Joinery shop.
G and B Jewellers and pawn brokers opened at 108 Topping Street.
Brian Seedle Helicopters Ltd was founded at Blackpool Airport.

©

Berry's Beds opened on the corner of Whitham Avenue, in the bookmaker's shop, which had originally been Blackhurst's grocers and carpenter's – with a smithy next door. Berry's had moved from their carpet shop on Station Road, which they had opened in the 1970s after moving from their Gorse Road warehouse.
Fairclough Homes paid compensation to residents after the firm was forced to demolish homes built 7 years previously on land off East Park Drive that was subsiding. Fourteen of the Park Lea estate's 33 houses were demolished after a lengthy legal battle.
The first World Matchplay Darts Championship was staged at the Winter Gardens in July. Larry Butler beat Dennis Priestley 16-12 in the Final. Later winners have been:

1994 - Larry Butler
1995 - Phil Taylor
1996 - Peter Evison
1997 - Phil Taylor
1998 - Rod Harrington
1999 - Rod Harrington
2000 - Phil Taylor
2001 - Phil Taylor
2002 - Phil Taylor
2003 - Phil Taylor
2004 - Phil Taylor
2005 - Colin Lloyd
2006 - Phil Taylor
2007 - James Wade
2008 - Phil Taylor
2009 - Phil Taylor
2010 - Phil Taylor
2011 - Phil Taylor
2012 - Phil Taylor
2013 - Phil Taylor
2014 - Phil Taylor
2015 - Michael Van Gerwen
2016 - Michael Van Gerwen
2016 - Michael Van Gerwen
2017 - Phil Taylor
2018 - Gary Anderson
2019 - Rob Cross

An "All Human" Big Top show was staged off East Park Drive on the 27th of September.
The first Blackpool Cup, an international football tournament for youth teams, was held at the Common Edge playing fields.
The highest score in the Rugby League's Regal Trophy was amassed by Huddersfield when they unfortunately beat Blackpool Gladiators by 142 points to 4 on the 26th of November.
Queen Elizabeth II and the Duke of Edinburgh visited Blackpool on the 22nd of July, and she went up Blackpool Tower for the first time. She also attended the Grand Theatre for its 100th Anniversary. The Royal couple then went to Rossall School to celebrate its 150th Anniversary.
Blackpool woman Jill Cook called in a priest, two psychics and a Mormon missionary to rid her of a ghost that she claimed regularly sexually attacked her.

©

The record greatest height from which fresh eggs have been dropped to earth and remained intact is 213 metres (700 feet). David Donoghue achieved this from a helicopter on August the 22nd, onto a golf course in Blackpool.
The comedy film “Funny Bones” starring Lee Evans, Jerry Lewis, and Lesley Caron, was partly shot at the Tower Circus. It premiered at the Odeon Cinema on the 1st of October 1995, after which there was a VIP reception at the Imperial Hotel.
The “art house” film “Bahji on the Beach”, starring Jimi Harkishin and Kim Vithana, was made on Blackpool beach.
“Seaview Knights” was filmed in Blackpool, starring James Bolam and Sarah Alexander. It was a fantasy about a man who has a painting fall on his head while he is asleep in a Blackpool guest house.
BBC2 filmed a three-part documentary called “Blackpool Night Out” to celebrate the anniversary of the Tower. The parts were: Perpetual Motion: The Blackpool Tram; Dream Town: A Brief Anatomy of Blackpool; and Three Salons at the Seaside, which looked at three hairdressing salons in Blackpool - Vanity Box, Mary’s Way, and Tricia’s – and let the clients tell their stories.
The commemorative board game “Blackpool’s Big Race Game” was launched for centenary year.
Blackpool musician Lucifer released his “Cyber Punk Rock” EPs this year, using the first full vocal songs to be designed only to be played back on a computer.
The Electric Light Orchestra (as ELO Part II) appeared at the Pleasure Beach Arena on the 2nd of October, returning on the 19th of October 1997, accompanied by Steve Harley and Cockney Rebel.

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The Maya Indian restaurant was opened at 12 Tithebarn Street in Poulton.
Smugglers’ Cove restaurant was at 1a South Promenade and Victoria Road West in Cleveleys.
Fleetwood’s new Sewage Treatment Plant was built adjacent to the Fish Docks in November. This replaced the original 1906 facility.
Fisherman’s Walk was opened on Lord Street in Fleetwood.
Ash Street Chippy at 2 Ash Street in Fleetwood re-opened after a full re-fit. The shop closed on the 23rd of August 1994.
The Fleetwood Bulldogs gymnastic display team performed their first public display. They had been founded in 1993.
The Camera Centre Studio was at 3 Albert Square in Fleetwood, run for many years by well-known local historian Bill Curtis and her husband.
The Additions Café Bar was at 55 Bold street in Fleetwood, serving john Smiths beers and Foster’s lagers. It was opened and run by John and Sharman Cockshutt. On the first floor now is the Gurkha Legends restaurant, serving Gurkha and Nepalese cuisine.
The Meal Machine was at 67a Lindel Road in Fleetwood. It offered both eat in and take away food. The shop is now a café called Cakes N Shakes.
At number 15a Brook Street, Broadway in Fleetwood was Fat Boys Pizza Express. That shop is now still a pizza shop, this time called Yum Yum’s.
The chip shop at 21 Shakespeare Road in Fleetwood was called Joyce’s Plaice. It is now called the Shakespeare Road Supper bar – known locally as Shakey Chippy.
At 31 Harris Street in Fleetwood was another chip shop, called the Bay Window Chippy, run by Brian and Maureen. The property was converted into a private house in 2010.
The 1920s Cumberland Hotel on the Esplanade at Fleetwood had become an old people’s home run by Lancashire County Council. It was closed this year and sold into private enterprise, being bought by the Regenda housing group in the 2000s. It is currently scheduled for demolition and re-development.
Buckingham Windows was at 104 Poulton Road in Fleetwood. Run by David Buckingham, they offered conservatories and windows.
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©

The Bodyquest gymnasium was at 236 Dock Street in Fleetwood. The venue also had saunas, showers, sunbeds, and a lounge and tv area. The building was demolished in 2012, to make way for the Fleetwood Health Centre.
Fleetwood Travel was at 117 Lord Street. It is now a branch of The Co-operative Travel.
The Adelaide Court – incorporating the Wilson-Forest funeral home – was at 191 Lord Street in Fleetwood.
RS Studio was in business at 2 Poulton Street in Fleetwood, providing Wedding services.
Addie Jones solicitors were in business at 58 to 62 Adelaide street in Fleetwood. The company had been founded in 1881, by Robert Addie and had stayed in the family until bought by Henry Melling. He ran it until 1983, when it was bought by Charles Knowles. In 1988 it became Addie jones, and is now simply called Addies.
Fylde Hedgehog Rescue Trust was established by Janis Dean at 9 Alisan Road, Carleton. It had started in 1993, as the Carleton Hedgehog Hospital, and in 2002 it opened a purpose-built hospital building. The name was later changed to the Lancashire Hedgehog Care Trust.
BRX business development group was established at 45 Orchard Road in St Anne's, moving to the Imperial Hotel in 2004.
The railway station buildings on the eastern platform at St Anne's were demolished in January.
The Lytham Academy of Theatre Arts was established.
Harts Brewery was opened in Cartford by John Smith, before it was moved to the Cartford Arms in 1995.
On the 21st of November, Lancashire Constabulary began operating an Air Support Unit from Warton Aerodrome, with their G-LASU Eurocopter AS.355N Twin Squirrel Oscar helicopter. The aircraft was fitted with special equipment as follows: AGEMA/Leo 400 nose FLIR/Video turret, searchlight, Nitesun, and communications systems.
Greenhalgh Lodge Fishery was established on Greenhalgh Lane.

1995

The Foxhall Fire, Blackpool: Foxhall Market was destroyed by fire on the 15th of September. The fire started in the original 1880s' Pablo's Café at 22 Foxhall Road. The Stage Door Hotel, at 12 to 14 Dales Street to the rear of the market, was another badly damaged property, along with several older buildings in Foxhall Square – including Bickerstaffe's old store. The Stage Door reopened for business in 2013. The "Foxhall fire" caused £6 million of damage to the heart of "old Blackpool".

MP Louise Ellman officially opened the Squires Gate Link Road on the 2nd of May, although it had been opened for traffic 4th of April. She then travelled the new road in a vintage Morris Cowley car, registration VY 2804.
Blackpool Tower's name reverted to The Tower. After a little time as Tower World, it is now called Blackpool Tower again.
In March, a Class 37 diesel railway engine (number 37407) was named "Blackpool Tower" during a ceremony at London Euston. She was withdrawn and put in store at Crewe in 2001. By 2010 the engine was decaying at the Churnet Valley Railway in Staffordshire.
The first Party in the Park was held in August, having been sponsored by Radio Wave.
Blackpool Scorpions Rugby League club moved to South Shore Cricket Club.
Blackpool installed its first Speed Camera. By 2011, the town had 46 fixed Traffic Speed Cameras – the most in Lancashire, and the highest concentration in the country (in 2004 it had 50, leading it to be dubbed the "Speed Camera Capital of the North").
The first, annual Blackpool Town Criers' Championship was held in July, won by Barry McQueen.

©

Easterleigh Livery Stables, Blackpool: was opened at Queensway Park Farm on Common Edge Road by Mandy Leigh. The business was granted charity status in October 1998, being named the Easterleigh Animal Sanctuary - after founder Mandy Leigh's late horse Easter Girl.

The stables of the farm were the site of the murder of Geraldine Evans in 2004. A later report stated *"On the morning of 16th September two workmen were looking at abandoned outhouses near the entrance to a farm field off Queensway, St. Annes. Adjacent to the buildings was a boarded-up bungalow that once belonged to British Olympic showjumper Johnny Greenwood; nearby was Eastleigh Animal Sanctuary (later the scene of an arson attack in which 26 animals perished)". In a disused livery stable one of the workmen saw a human figure lying on a mattress, a blanket drawn over them. On closer inspection the workman realised that it was the body of a woman in her forties. She had been strangled"*. A local drifter, Benjamin Roberts, was found guilty of strangling her.

Easterleigh was forced to quit their premises on the 31st of March 2016, and are currently without a fixed home. They still look after needy animals at local kennels, and run their 4 charity shops in Abingdon Street, Waterloo Road, Red Bank Road, and Victoria Road in Cleveleys. Many Leigh died in 2017 and the charity's trustees now have their head office at 15 Red Bank Road, where they run a commercial company called Easterleigh Animal Sanctuary, which was registered on the 5th of January 2018.

David Annand's aluminium sculpture "Helter-skelter" was opened on the 11th of October, on Ashworth Road roundabout, at the entrance to Blackpool from the M55. It was badly damaged by in a fatal car crash in December 2015, and had to be removed by the council.
The World of Coronation Street opened, next to the Sandcastle, in the old Showbar. It was relaunched as the Magic of Coronation Street in 1997, and closed in 1999. One of the tour guides who went on to better things was local girl Hayley Tamaddon.
MOSAC (standing for Mothers and safe carers Of Sexually Abused Children) was started by Sue McGurty and Diana Dickinson, first meeting at the NSPCC Acorn Centre at 1 Lostock Gardens.
Lidl opened a store on the old Magnet DIY premises on Bloomfield Road in February. After opening on the site of the old Yelloway Coach Park in 1986, Magnet had moved to a new store on Mowbray Drive, where Ardron's Ironmongers had stood. In 1932, the area now occupied by the Lidl store was a public bowling green. The store was re-built in 2006.
Direct Window Company was established by Craig Goss on August the 9th, soon moving to purpose-built premises on Blackpool and Fylde Industrial Estate.
HBL Limited moved to Moor Park Industrial Estate in July.
The Music Factory studio was set up at Unit 3a on Sycamore Trading Estate by Andy Mudd.
Longfellow Office Supplies Limited opened their store at 295 Whitegate Drive. The company had started business in 1970.
Jason Lall opened his car dealership Blackpool Car Sales at Grange House at 172/174 Lytham Road. The premises were closed in 2012, and he began selling cars from his home on School Road.
Pool Aviation was established at Squires Gate by Geoff Hatton, who sold his chain of Fylde-based bookmakers to Ladbroke and William Hill in 1985. He built a £500,000 hangar at the airport and the company quickly created a reputation for the maintenance of light aircraft.
Berkeley Care Management was established, working from Berkeley House, Mowbray Drive, and running the Pendale Retirement Home at 8 Greystoke Place.
Kwik Fit move into newly-built premises on Metropolitan Drive off Preston New Road. They had another outlet on Dickson Road at the time.
Blackpool Body Piercing Clinic opened at 162 Talbot Road on the 1st of August.

©

Blackpool and Fylde Counselling Centre opened at the Beaufort Avenue Methodist Church, Bispham on the 4th of July.
Blackpool Snooker Company was formed by John Harrop and Ron Coleman at 245 Dickson Road, making and repairing snooker tables.
Elite Linen opened their commercial laundry at 3 Ball Street in March. After several changes in name and owner, the laundry was destroyed by fire in June 2017, but the company now trades from Cocker Avenue on Poulton Industrial Estate.
Blackpool Disability Information Service opened in August, in Albert Road Car Park. It moved to 52 Clifton Street soon afterwards and finally to the Blackpool Centre for Independent Living on Whitegate Drive. The Clifton Street premises became the local Shopmobility outlet.
"Dreamtown" was released, a film written by and starring David Thewlis. In the film, made in 1994, Thewlis returned to the town of his childhood visiting the anatomical exhibitions at the waxwork museum, the Pleasure Beach, the Tower Ballroom and the Odditorium.
Drag Star Lily Savage (aka Paul O'Grady) was filmed over six shows at Layton Institute in March for a Granada TV show called "Live at the Lilydrome".

Lucy Fallon: was born in Blackpool on the 13th of November. Living in Cleveleys, she went on to attend Anchorsholme Primary School, then Hodgson High, and finally Blackpool Sixth Form College. There, she achieved a distinction star and two distinctions in her BTEC Extended Diploma Performing Arts and won a place at Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts in London to study musical theatre. She also trained at Fleetwood's Barbara Jackson Theatre Arts Centre. In March 2015, she landed the role of Bethany Platt on Coronation Street. Lucy is represented by Scream Management, the casting agency branch of Blackpool's Scream Theatre School.

Rebecca Flint was born in Blackpool on the 5th of June in Blackpool. She moved to the Isle of man at the age of 2. Later, better known by her stage name Beckii Cruel, she became a Manx YouTube personality, singer, and dancer, who reached popularity in Japan after her YouTube videos of her dancing to dance pop songs were posted around the Internet.

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Weatheroak Ostrich farm was opened at Back Lane, Weeton by Kerry McNickle.
Realtime UK began at Willows Farm Studios, Ballam Road, Westby producing computer generated 3D animation and imagery.
Thornton-Cleveleys Junior Football Club merged with the open age teams of Thornton International FC (previously known as ICI) to form Thornton-Cleveleys Sports Club, which moved to New Bourne Park, Bourne Road, Thornton in 2000. The clubhouse was built there in 2001.
MA2 accountants were established in April at 5 Crescent East in Cleveleys, by Tony Mills and Steve Howarth.

Fleetwood Freeport: The discount shopping outlet Freeport Village opened on the 1st of June, with its discount high street shops providing more competition for Blackpool's shops. Located on the now-silent docks, there were originally 16 units – now 45. The shops were laid out to resemble a New England themed village (named after Freeport in Maine), and there was originally a preserved trawler FD244 "Ancona Bay", a butterfly house – Butterfly World, an imported stainless-steel American diner, a hanging shark, a children's go-kart track, and the American Automobile Show motor car display.
The area also included a 350-berth marina which was built between 1989 and 1991. *"Fleetwood Marina consists of two halves. The first half is approached from the Dock Channel through the lock gates into the Marina itself (Marina 1). There are four sections (A, B, C, D) along with the fuel berth. The second half is*
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the continuation of the fairway through a swing bridge and becomes the rest of the Marina with another three sections (D, E, F) (Marina 2)".
The development was eventually extended by a housing complex on the opposite side of the marina.
A brief appearance was soon made by the "Radio Wave Café Bar" – it didn't last long, becoming a Sports Direct outlet in 2016.

Freeport was bought out by Hermes Property Management in February 2004, and now employs 300 staff. It also gained two new cafés as well as Mexx, Trespass, Roman Originals, Cotton Traders, and Paper Mill stores. Marks and Spencer opened a clearance outlet in July 2004.
The centre was greatly improved with an £8 ½ million development in 2005, and now has 52 stores and free parking for 700 cars.
Trespass, outdoor clothing retailers opened a branch at Freeport in August 2005, joining Next Clearance, Reebok, Mexx, and Moss Bros among others.
The Toyworld discount store at Freeport was closed on the 8th of May 2007.

May 2018 saw the enterprise bought by Global Mutual Ltd, and renamed Affinity Fleetwood. Marks and Spencer closed their outlet in July 2018.

Shakespeare Monofilament UK moved to Enterprise Way in Fleetwood. ICI had developed the monofilament business in 1947, operating from the Hillhouse site. It was sold to a private investor who moved the operation to Poulton, and Shakespeare purchased that company in 1991, shortly afterward, purchasing the land on the Hillhouse site for a new facility and moving back to where it all began.

Jacinta, Fleetwood: The trawler Jacinta – a 615-foot-long stern fisher - was retired. Registered as FD-159, she first sailed in 1972, and *"for her crew of 16 it meant less time in the cold and wet on the open deck because handling the nets had been automated and the processing of fish was done under cover in the factory below decks. Jacinta broke earnings records and was the last big ship to land a trip in Fleetwood in 1982 when Britain was excluded from the Icelandic fishing grounds"*. She went on to a record-breaking life in Fleetwood and Hull before being retired.
In 2005, she was given to the community of Fleetwood by the Marr company, and run by the Jacinta Charitable trust as a floating museum. The Jacinta became host to many thousands of locals and their children as a floating museum. She is to be scrapped in 2019 after becoming uneconomical to repair.

The Langcliffe Hotel on South Promenade, St Anne's was renamed the St Anne's Hotel. This was now possible as the original St Anne's Hotel had itself been renamed as the Crescent.
Les Dawson was commemorated in a Heritage Foundation plaque, unveiled on the 8th of October, at "The Bumbles", his house at 19 Islay Road in St Anne's.
A new automated flood water pumping station at Lytham Docks was completed.
Carpets of Lytham Ltd was formed on the 20th of October, trading from 148 Preston Road, run by Martin and Jayne Rowley.
Frank Duckworth (Ex-King Edward VII) and Tony Lewis (Ex-Kirkham Grammar) developed their, now world-wide, "Duckworth/Lewis" method of scoring rain-affected cricket matches.

1996
A Tornado F3 Fighter jet (ZE759) crashed into the sea on the 28th of September, just missing the Golden Mile off South Pier.

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Warburton's Bakery moved from their original site at 27a Caunce Street (the old Darbyshire's) to a bespoke distribution depot at Amy Johnson Way, Squires Gate. Darbyshire's Prize Bread Company had previously owned the Caunce Street site, where they famously made the Blackpool Milk Roll.
Butlins closed the Metropole Hotel for a week on the 21st of March, after the second outbreak of an airborne virus in a month struck a quarter of its 400 guests.
The Blackpool Challenge Partnership was set up, to bid for and deliver schemes under the Government's Single Regeneration Budget.
The Blackpool Council for Voluntary Service (CVS) moved from Park Road to 95 Abingdon Street on the 1st of May.
The first "Holidays in the Sun" (HITS) punk music festival was held at the Winter Gardens on the 9th to the 11th of August, featuring 50 different punk bands. It has been held annually ever since, sometimes appearing in Morecambe instead.

Whitehills Business Park, Peel: Dugdale's Farm at Peel Hill was demolished and work started on this trade and retail estate, which currently includes a B and Q Warehouse and a pub/restaurant, and a Premier Inn motel attached. Hollywood Nurseries were cleared away also.

The Outside Inn public house was decorated inside with false trees and with its ceiling painted to resemble the sky. It also had an indoor waterfall, and a children's soft play area. The Outside Inn closed in July 2016 to be refurbished and redesigned. It re-opened with a new name – Plum Tree Farm – in October 2016.

New roads were constructed, and Lytham St Anne's Way was built, to link the new entrance roundabout to the existing Cropper Road and Whitehill Road junction. Hallam Way was the first to be laid down, to allow access to the trade park, and another 10 access roads followed.

The Whitehills estate covers 714 acres, and by 2016 was the home to over 100 varied businesses. In early 2016, an attached residential estate, called Whitehill Meadows, was completed by Redrow Homes Ltd, on which there are 66 buildings, comprising 2, 3, and 4-bedroom houses, plus several apartment blocks. The development also created a new large pond off Whitehill Road, to handle the increased amount of drain-off from the estates.

British Gas closed its offices on Clifton Road in June.
Evans Halshaw opened a Ford dealership on Welbeck Avenue off Vicarage Lane, in the building vacated by Lex Peugeot, which was built in 1992.
An Atlantic 75 boat arrived for trials at the Lifeboat Station.
Blackpool Bears disabled sports club was set up, operating from the Stanley Park Sports Centre.
Blackpool was given the power to run its own Fire Authority.
Birley Street was pedestrianized and opened by the Mayor on the 1st of May.
A Warden's shelter was erected in Marton Mere Nature Reserve.
Auto Windscreens opened a facility at Parkway Service Station on Park Road – it closed in 2007.
Realtime UK Limited was established on Chiswick Grove, Marton.
Tower Digital opened their computer shop at 312 Central Drive.
Connect, a Health and Information Centre for the under-25s in Church Street, was opened in September by the Fylde Community Health Trust.
Ashberry Sandwiches Limited began trading from Moorpark Industrial Estate, Bispham.
Care Mobility Comfort Limited began trading from the Care Centre at Mobility House, 55 Red Bank Road in Bispham.
Hackett's Saddlery was opened by Andrew Hackett on Sycamore Trading Estate.

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The Blackpool "Leisure Card" was introduced in April, giving local residents discounts at many of Blackpool's attractions.
Blackpool Town Centre Forum closed off Queen Street and Queen's Square, from Abingdon Street to the Promenade, to host a street party of painters, sculptors, dancers, jugglers, and magicians.
Lancashire's Chief Constable, Pauline Clare, launched Blackpool's closed-circuit television system (comprising 10 CCTV cameras) on the 21st of August. A new CCTV control room was opened at the Police HQ in Bonny Street in 2001 and by 2011, 139 cameras had been installed. The network was closed in 2013, but re-instated in 2015, with the pictures being monitored by volunteer civilian staff.
Blackpool's own "Rail 150" celebrated one and a half centuries of railways in the town.
Railtrack extensively modernised Squires Gate Station.
Sunstyle, an airline based in Manchester, began direct flights to Malaga from Blackpool in May.
Vacation Travel, travel agents, was established on Birley Street. It closed in 2010.
John Barnett Cars expanded to Metropolitan Business Park off Preston New Road. They were later replaced by Evans Halshaw Limited, selling Peugeot cars.
Blackpool Blind Company Limited was established on Baron Road.
Pit Stop motor spares shop opened at 129-131 Bloomfield Road, in Robert Maynard's vacated radio shop. The shop was burnt down in 2013, to be replaced by the Health Lounge café and restaurant which opened on the 24th of February 2018.
The Bombay Tandoori was opened at 226 Dickson Road.
At 7 Queen's Square, Annette Langwade and Debbie Bishop opened Innuendo, selling "Ladies Designer Wear and Accessories".
Read and Errington, plumbers, began in August, first working from Caunce Street, and later moving to 221 Kincraig Road.
The Market Place, a property rental company, was established at 26 Red Bank Road.
Hovercraft services started from the beach at South Pier on the 1st of April. The Slingsby machine was operated by G Phillips and was in service for just 2 years.
Stagecoach Blackpool, a drama school, opened at Bispham High School.
The Fylde Coasters Flyball Team was set up by Les Chapman.
The Blackpool Bells handbell team was formed, based at 149 Whitegate Drive.
The Trade Domestic Equipment Hire Company opened a hire shop at 70/71 Newhouse Road. Number 71 had been Thornton's Chip Shop from the 1960s, number 70 a video hire shop, and next door on the corner of George Avenue was a Co-op supermarket (later a Spar, and now the Pop in Convenience Store).
The Studio Theatre, at the rear of the Grand, was opened in November. Its entrance is in Matcham Court and is fitted out in a more modern style than the main theatre.
The first "Wasted" punk rock festival was held in town, before moving to Morecambe in 1997. It returned to Blackpool in 2006.
TV series "EastEnders" filmed several episodes in Blackpool.
The Japanese film "Shall We Dansu" was filmed with its closing scene at the World Ballroom Dancing Championships in Blackpool. All the hair styling was done by Blackpool hairstylist Eileen Clough
The film "Married to Malcolm" was partly shot in Blackpool. It was a comedy, starring Mark Addy as a resort taxi driver, and Josie Lawrence as his girlfriend.
The film "Bob's Weekend" was filmed in Blackpool, starring Bruce Jones, Ricky Tomlinson, and Brian Glover. It was filmed around town and specifically on North Pier, where Jones's character thinks about suicide, and was directed by local man Jevon O'Neill.
The documentary "Ballroom Dancing" was filmed in spring on location in Blackpool and other locations around the world, by Associated Producers of Canada.
Blackpool and Fleetwood Yacht Club's Neil Marsden won the World Championship in the "Topper" class, going on to win (with Derek Hill) the 2003 GP14 World Championship.

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Nancy Petulengro was born in Blackpool. One of the famous family of fortune-telling gypsies, she became UK Accordion Champion every year from 2003 to 2012, and came second in the International competition in Rome in 2010.
Molly Wright was born in Blackpool. She went on to study drama at Blackpool Sixth Form, where she was picked to star as Rebecca Hughes in the BBC drama "The A Word".

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Carleton Memorial Hall was opened on the 2nd of September on Moorfield Avenue. It replaced the previous memorial hall (an old RAF barrack hut donated by Weeton Camp in 1945) which had stood on the corner of Moorfield Avenue and Blackpool Road, having a small brick extension added in 1964.
The Village Walks shopping centre in Poulton had shops such as Specials (greeting cards etc), Ogden's butchers and greengrocers, The Fish Plaice fishmongers, PJ Hadley's china, and J and R Henshaw's pet shop (was Bamber's).
Fleetwood Waste Water Treatment Works was brought on line on the 1st of June, serving the area from Fleetwood in the north to Blackpool in the south.
Fleetwood Ladies' Rugby Club was formed.
The Fleetwood Cup for junior football was established. Based at Cala Gran, it is played at the Bourne Poacher and Thornton Leisure Centre pitches. The site had been the home of Thornton Social Club, which moved to Holly Road.
J and M Parr opened Farmer Parr's Animal World at their Wyrefield Farm on Fleetwood Road, Fleetwood. It soon became the new home of the Fylde Coast Country/Rural Life Farm Museum.
The Wyre Housing Association was established in March, to take care of all Wyre's Council properties. It later changed its name to Regenda, moving from Poulton to 1-7 Lord Street in Fleetwood on the 17th of March 2008.
St Anne's Dental Clinic opened on the first floor of 2-4 St Anne's Road West on the 3rd of February.
Our Lady Star of the Sea Youth Theatre in St Anne's was started. After hundreds of youngsters took to the stage in its productions until it folded on the 3rd of May 2014.
The clubhouse of the Lytham Lion's Club and Community Centre on Ballam Road began to be used as a pre-school kindergarten, and from 2004, this became a full-time nursery.
The voluntary group Freckleton In Bloom was formed with a view to keeping the town decorated with flowers.
Landlord Sam Betts of the Railway Inn in Kirkham found a network of tunnels behind the cellars of the 150-year old pub, and on the day the tunnel was opened, an "apparition" was said to have flown through the bar above it.

1997
The "Conch Shells" seating areas on Birley Street were commissioned from artist Phillip Bews. The "Bronze Ballerinas", by David Annand, were erected at the east end of Clifton Street.
Illusionist Richard De Vere and his dog Schnorbitz were commemorated with a bronze statue, erected in front of the Pleasure Beach Casino on May the 24th. Schnorbitz was a St Bernard, which had been entrusted to Richard by comedian Bernie Winters. The statue was later moved to Richard's garden at the Grange on Farm Close in Thornton.
An animal-based attraction called Amazonia appeared on the Promenade for just this summer season.
Westhead's Farm was demolished opposite Highfield School, to extend the playing fields.
The illuminated Carousel was installed on the Gynn roundabout, replacing the ageing fountain and its annual animated lights displays.
The NHS opened Bispham Hospital Rehabilitation Unit on Rysecar Way. It closed in April 2016, to be re-opened as a care home.
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The first Blackpool Festival of Puppetry took place in town, including personal appearances by puppeteers involved in Thunderbirds and Stingray.
The Derian House charity street market opened in Blackpool on April the 20th in front of the Magic of Coronation Street, next to South Pier. The proceeds were to help Derian House - a Chorley-based hospice that cares for children from all over Lancashire.

Kincraig Primary School, Bispham: was opened on Kincraig Road in Bispham in September. The Kincraig Ecological Area was also opened nearby. The school has 7 classes, for children from reception to Year 6, with up to 30 children per class. It has a library in the atrium, an intervention room, and a large hall. There is also a large surrounding field for outside activities and a Multi-Use Games Area. A purpose-built kitchen, an attached nursery, and a Children's Centre are also on site.
It is now called the Kincraig Primary School and Children's Centre.

The North Shore Workshop and DIY Centre was opened on Dickson Road, in the old Sea Water Works building.
Martin Cross started his car body repair shop at Unit 2b1 on Robson Way, before moving to 17-19 Common Edge Road, as Crossley's Garage, in 2002. He opened second premises on Poulton Industrial Estate in February 2015.
Michael Cuddy and Company, Chartered Surveyors were formed in August, in Topping Street, now working from 290 Church Street.
Blackpool Youth Netball Club was formed by Lynn Brown and Jan Hornby at the outside courts at Stanley Park in the summer and St Mary's Sports Hall in the winter months. From 1997, it has been based at Stanley Park Sports Centre.
Blackpool Gladiators Rugby League club folded, four years after playing their last match – on the 11th of April 1993.
Matcham Court was opened at the Grand Theatre by singer Mark Wynter.
Blackpool Illuminations were switched off for the first time in their peacetime history on August the 31st, to mark the death of Princess Diana.
Dinmore Avenue Health Centre opened on November the 19th, serving the Grange Park estate.
The Government's Information Technology Services Agency (ITSA) opened a £12 million technology centre at Peel Park.
Siam Rice, Thai restaurant opened at 43 King Street.
GP John Poyner and his ex-nurse wife Janet founded Fylde MedEd in the spare bedroom of their house in St Anne's. On the 10th of August 2017, they re-launched the company as Mediconf UK, and moved into the former Skipton Building Society premises at 19 Wood Street.
The Corporation's Westgate House office block opened on the 1st of October on Squires Gate Lane. About 240 council workers from 15 departments including accounts, emergency planning, health and safety, ICT, and licensing worked. Demolition started on the 26th of August 26 2011, and staff were moved to other sites including at Bickerstaffe House in the Talbot Gateway. Demolition was completed by September 2011. A new Lidl supermarket opened on the site on the 26th of October 2017.
Parcelforce Worldwide opened a centre on the Blackpool and Fylde Industrial Estate in December, as did Forever Flowers Limited.
Cabaret Costumes opened at 208 Dickson Road.
Blue Lagoon Aquatics opened at 194 Central Drive.
Cowley Designs Limited was set up on Cornford Road.
A Premier supermarket opened in the old Co-op store on Midgeland Road (opposite the Welcome Inn).
MDF Designs moved from Woodland Grove into the Halifax Building Society branch office at 252 Whitegate Drive, on the corner of Airedale Avenue. They soon changed their name to Unique Interiors, later taking

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over the bakery next door, which used to be Nuttall's. The Halifax had taken over the Leeds Permanent Building Society agency in the former Do-It-Yourself shop. The shop closed in October 2011, to be replaced by a Papa John's pizza parlour.
Top Gun Airnailers Limited was formed, operating from Derby Road.
McAdams Rock was established, working from a small factory on Cocker Trading Estate.
Tangerine Design was founded by Carl Spinks, creating Internet Web pages. They moved to Blackpool Technology Park in 2004.
Fylde Motor Company moved their bodywork division to Vicarage Lane estate from Kirkham.
Blackpool Air Centre Limited started operating from Blackpool Airport on the 25th of June. It provides training and repair facilities and a clubhouse for members, together with a stock of aviation antiques.
Kwik Shift Removals started in business from Marton Drive.
Moore and Smalley, accountants, of Preston opened an office on Church Street. That office was closed in March 2005, following the opening of the purpose-built office in Fylde House, near Blackpool airport. On the 2nd of October 2017, the firm changed its name to MHA Moore and Smalley.
The first Alliance Convention was held in Blackpool, celebrating the TV programme Babylon 5.
The stage musical "Oh What a Night!" had its world premiere at the Grand Theatre, before progressing to receive international fame.
The summer was so hot that the Tower grew one inch with the heat expansion of its metal.

Fylde Activity Toys Centre was established in Mains Lane, Singleton.
Staining Junior Football Club was founded.
The charity "Freedom for Children Foundation" was founded in Poulton on the 9th of January.
Safehands was established at Royal Bank Chambers on Victoria Road, Cleveleys. They are a nationwide company that supplies professional child carers and operate nurseries around the Fylde.
Gas World opened their shop on Victoria Road West in Cleveleys, before opening a new store on Dorset Avenue in 2001, where they opened a new tile centre in June 2012.

Thornton Police Station: opposite the Gardeners Arms closed. The town got a new "police station" on the 24th of November 2006, when a community office opened on Victoria Road East, to act as a base for police from Cleveleys.

The Fleetwood Cobras inline skater hockey team was founded, later forming the Morecambe Bay Pirates before establishing themselves as Blackpool Raiders.
Poolfoot Car Centre was established on Radcliffe Road in Fleetwood, later moving to Poulton Road.
The Helio Gym was opened at 61 St Albans Road in St Anne's, by Neil and Christine Henshaw. It was specifically for ladies only, and proved so popular that they had to take over adjacent premises to expand. On the 18th of May 1999, they changed their company name to Helio Leisure, and in 2001, they opened a newly-built second gym at Newton Drive, behind the Number 4 hotel. That venue was doubled in size in 2005, re-opening on the 23rd of April. The expansion continued in 2011 with the opening of a branch in Bolton.
Red Rose School opened at 28 to 30 North Promenade in St Anne's. It provides education for students with specific learning difficulties, principally dyslexia and dyspraxia, and describes its 47 pupils as "Eagles".
The RSPB opened their Ribble Discovery Centre in the old boathouse and manager's quarters on Fairhaven Lake.
Lytham Heritage Group opened their Exhibition Centre in the TSB building on Henry Street.
Rostron's Solicitors was established at 21 Park Street Lytham.
Emporium, a furniture shop, was opened at 30 Clifton Street in Lytham.

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Mediconf UK was founded by Janet and John Poyner, to provide GP education on the Fylde Coast. In August 2017, the company took over the former Skipton Building Society premises at 19 Wood Street, St Anne's.

Kirkham Ambulance Hall: Safeway opened a supermarket on Barnfield off Poulton Street in July. They had demolished the old St John's Ambulance Hall and Grey's brush factory to make room for the new store. The Ambulance Hall had been built in 1933, as a second Drill Hall (the original being still in Birley Street), before becoming a roller-skating rink and then the home of various clubs, such as the Kirkham Folk Club, which began in 1982.
Famous acts that appeared at the Ambulance Hall include John Evan Smash (later Jethro Tull), Love Affair, and Andy Fairweather-Lowe and his Amen Corner.
Safeway closed, and was opened as a Morrison's store on the 22nd of July 1997.

Elizabeth Marsden established Kirkham Dance, teaching local children to dance in the Kirkham Community centre in Mill Street.

The Fairfield Arms, Greenhalgh: was built on Fleetwood Road, off Junction 3 of the M55. After a very brief spell as a Premier Inn venue, in February 2010, local man Simon Rigby bought the pub and turned it into a restaurant, The Villa Italian. The hotel – The Villa Express – followed soon afterwards. The Leaf or Bean Café opened on the site in April 2014.
The pub/restaurant was soon re-titled Vittorias, and reverted to the Fairfield Arms in 2019, when Mr Rigby handed over the lease to Rural Inns Ltd.

Oakfield House School opened in September on Station Road in Salwick, to cater for children with special educational needs. The country house in which it resides was built before the 1850s. A similar school, Keyes Barn, was opened nearby in 2008.

1998
Blackpool regained County Borough status on the 1st of April, becoming a Unitary Authority.
Blackpool Local Education Authority was established, following local government reorganisation.

New Odeon Cinema, Blackpool: A new Odeon 10-screen complex cinema opened on Rigby Road on the 11th of December. Its cinemas' capacity ranges from 137 to 420 and have the capacity to screen films in 3D.

The Swift Hound Public House, Blackpool: was opened next door to the Odeon. This got its name from the former Greyhound Stadium, which originally stood in its place. The pub has a greyhound-racing theme running throughout. A McDonald's restaurant opened nearby shortly afterwards.
The pub is currently owned by brewers Greene King, and is run as one of their Flaming Grills brand.

The Biscuit Factory on Devonshire Road changed its name to Horizon Biscuits.
The Multi-storey Car Park on the corner of Central Drive and Rigby Road was demolished in November because of structural problems. It had been built in 1969.
The Ann Summers lingerie and women's accessories company opened its 20th UK store at 17 to 19 Church Street on the 2nd of December. That store was previously the Greeting Store Gift Shop. It became the last standing Ann Summers mint store for one day before it closed on the 22nd of August 2016 and the new one

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opened at 16 Victoria Street on the 23rd. The Victoria Street premises had previously been an outlet of the Principles chain of clothing shops.
The original privet hedge maze at the Pleasure Beach was re-designed as the "The Chinese Puzzle" – commonly known as the Chinese Maze. With a circular design by Adrian Fisher, it opened on the 4th of August on the site of Old MacDonald's Farm underneath the Big One and included a waterfall with the curtains of water being controlled by "magic-eye" sensors. The Ice Blast ride also opened – it had originally been called the Playstation.
The Passaje Del Terror horror experience opened in the basement of the Pleasure Beach Casino. It was later called the Haunted Crypt and is now the Horror Crypt. It advertises: *"A theatrical setting arranged into 20 sets and with around 18 actors lurking in the darkness. The realism of the scenes, the multiple special effects and the shocking energy with which these characters appear out of nowhere will leave you breathless and trembling until you find the exit"*. The attraction has a conveniently-placed Horror bar next door to it.
The "Walk of Faith" glass floor panel was fitted at the top of the Tower. Its glass floor weighs half a tonne and is made up of two sheets of laminated glass. It is two inches thick and can withstand the weight of five baby elephants.
"Homeless in Blackpool" opened a Charity Shop in King Street.
Steam - in the shape of Black Five engine number 45110 - returned to Blackpool in December, after a period of thirty years.
Both First North-western and Virgin reintroduced through services from Blackpool North to London in June. This was recognised by naming an HST power car "Blackpool Rock".
The British Inline Speed Skating Championships were held on the Princess Parade on the 8th and 9th of August.
Blackpool Community Safety and Drugs Partnership was established.
Blackpool Community Church was founded in Bispham Community Centre on Bispham Road.
Blackpool Corporation banned alcohol drinking in the open air from the 1st of June, in the main holiday area from South to North Shore, all public parks and council-run car parks and the Mereside and Grange Park housing estates.
Blackpool's first Comedy Festival was organised by the Town Centre Forum.
Blackpool's first Carnival Weekend to raise money for HIV and Aids was from the 19th of June.
Finn's bar opened in Talbot Square in March. Formerly O'Malley's, the new bar was both a traditional Irish pub and a modern bar/café.
Kwizeen restaurant was opened on King Street in August, by Marco Calle-Calatayud and Tony Beswick.
Dolphin Design, an Internet development company, started out on All Hallow's Road.
Bispham Dry Cleaners Limited was set up on Moor Park Industrial Estate on the 24th of November.
The Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA), an agency of the Department of Health, opened a mobility and limb disability laboratory at 243 Bristol Avenue.
PC Recycler was founded on Abingdon Street to distribute old computers to needy causes, later moving to Ripon Road.
Dickson Road Self Storage was founded at number 48.
An all-weather sports pitch was installed at Revoe Park.
Paul Shaw opened his printing shop, The Music Market Outlet, at 44 Lytham Road.
Philip Hayman opened his Rock Bottom sweet shop at 84 Lytham Road.
Scream Theatre School was established at The Red Door Studios at 11 Wareham Road off Mowbray Drive.
Blackpool Charity Football Club (BCFC) was established by Alberto Capel to raise money to fund a Playscheme project for disabled children in the Blackpool area.
The Blackpool Ice Twirlers showgroup were formed at the Ice Drome.
Northwest Gases opened their depot on Hoo Hill Estate.

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Cropper Manor Limited, of Cropper Road, was incorporated in June, after having been in business for several years as Cropper Manor Garden Centre. The business began in the 1950s as a smallholding and plant nursery. It was dissolved in 2004, to be taken over by Ian Bebbington, who expanded it to include the Dahlia's Kitchen café and restaurant. The whole site is now called The Garden Place. In July 2017, a short-lived local produce shop was closed.
The Bait 'N' Tackle angling shop was established by Chris Webb on St Anne's Road.
Dimension Travel Limited began operating from the old Co-op building at Oxford Square.
"Pleasure Beach" a six-part fly-on-the-wall documentary series was filmed at Blackpool by the BBC, making a household name of manager Jim "JR" Rowland.
The beginning of the film "Like it is", starring Roger Daltrey and Steve Bell, was partly filmed at the Flamingo Club.
In May, an elderly woman from Blackpool, incensed that she was unable to receive Radio 4, shot a BBC commissionaire in the reception of Broadcasting House.
Three Blackpool people were killed by Stephen Akinmurele. His landlady, Jemima Cargill, was murdered in her guesthouse in Caunce Street in October. Joan and Eric Boardman were found strangled and battered to death in their Bispham home on the 30th. The killer hanged himself before his trial in 1999.
Blackpool was the second most densely populated district in the United Kingdom.

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Little Orchard Caravan Park was established on Back Lane, Weeton by the Johnson Family.
In April, Mr Mal Donald of Weeton, found an Elizabeth I shilling, made in 1560-1, and a William III sixpence. On the same dig, Mrs Hilary Fagan also found an Elizabeth I sixpence, 3rd issue. On the 8th of May, Phillip Coupe found a late 16th or early 17th century double loop buckle frame, and a Medieval lead spindle whorl, also at Weeton.
Nook Scrapyard at Staining was closed in September by the Police, following irregularities. It had been on the site since the early 1950s, renting a 2-acre site off the nearby Mere View Farm. The yard was enclosed by a 6-foot-high fence of corrugated steel panels, which hid a multitude of crimes for almost 50 years. After the closure, local crime fell by 50% in one year.
The Catholic Church of St Martin de Porres and Anglican Church of St Hilda of Whitby were opened in June, sharing adjacent and now linked buildings on Fleetwood Road, Carleton. Anglican services had been held in the Carleton School since September 1983 – presided over by the curate from Church House on Roylen Avenue (opened in 1981).
Vic Walker opened his private swimming pool on New Lane in Thornton. He began with the "Little Fish Pool" and expanded to build the "Big Fish Pool". The complex is now the biggest privately-run swim school in the Fylde Coast, and the only swim school with two specialised pools on one site.
Poulton Cabs Limited was established on the 11th of March, working from 10 Blackpool Old Road.
The Mews Thai Restaurant opened in Poulton, beside St Chad's Church.
Fleetwood was officially twinned with Fleetwood in Pennsylvania, formalising an arrangement that had been in place since 1977.
Welcome Home, a bronze statue by Anita Lafford, showing a mother with her daughter and their dog, waving their man off to sea, was erected near the Lifeboat Station on the Promenade at Fleetwood. Funded by Fisherman's Friend, its inscription reads "*Welcome Home*" and was erected as a tribute to the families of Fleetwood Fishermen who down the years shared the dangers and uncertainties of the industry. *"Around this spot families have gathered for generations to welcome home their menfolk from the sea".*
Pocket Park was built on Victoria Street in Fleetwood by volunteers from the Rotary Club. The original four-storey building on the corner of North Albert Street was originally a hardware shop, then a TSB bank and then a temporary police station before it was demolished.
Jollies Football Club was formed in Fleetwood, by Jonjo Bailey and Jamie Perkes.
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Cypress Point began to be built in St Anne's by Kensington Developments, who planned to build more than 400 homes. The thatched Rawcliffe Farm (built in the 1690s) on Moss Hall Lane was demolished to make room. At the time of writing, Cypress Point comprises almost 600 houses.
Stanley Casino moved to The Island on St Anne's seafront, from its original location at the Plaza Entertainments Centre on St George's Road in October. It was originally called the Clifton Casino Club before directors Edward Cook and David Greenwood sold the business to Stanley in June.
Lytham St Anne's Road Runners Club (LSARRC) was founded in April by Bryan Grundy, meeting at the Conservative Club on Hastings Place in Lytham. In January 2005, they started to meet in the newly refurbished YMCA on Mythop Road in Lytham.
The Lytham in Bloom Trust was formed *"by a small group of interested local residents who wanted to help make Lytham a better place in which to live"*. The trust also works to prepare the town's entry to the annual Britain In Bloom competition and were declared the Champion of Champions in 2013 and 2016.
A medieval seal was found by Mr Danny Daly in Singleton in August. It is a circular personal seal with legends of Lombardic lettering on both sides. One side had a central petal design, and the other side a symmetrical abstract design. The suspension loop was broken. The lettering on side 1 said *"S. ROGER + FILL ROBERTI"* and that on side 2 read *"S.WILL FILL. BALDEWI"*.
Mike and Pauline Coxon opened their Treales garden to the public on the 28th of June, to raise money for local charities.

1999
The Pleasure Beach erected a Millennium Sun Dial - designed by Sir Mark Lennox Boyd. It is 5 metres high and constructed in granite, with the day and time markers engraved and etched in gold leaf with quotations on each face. The Trauma Towers ride also appeared, built around the Tagada ride (built in 1987).
The Air Balloon Pub was opened at Blackpool Airport.
A flying advertising company, Air Ads, was formed at Blackpool Airport. It was bought in 2008 by Alan Elliot and Alex Reynolds.

The Auctioneer pub, Blackpool: This Wetherspoon's outlet opened at 235 to 237 Lytham Road on the 14th of December. Built in the 1930s, as P Bailey's auction house, a Moor's Market was there during the 1960s, and later it was a Kwik Save store. It was Wetherspoon's first outlet on the Fylde Coast.
In 2015, the venue was sold to Hawthorne Leisure, who sold it to Hawthorne Leisure. They subsequently re-sold it to a new company, Idgo Inns Ltd, who re-opened the pub in January 2017 as The Gavel.

A bronze sculpture named "Acrobats", by Glyn Williams, was erected in Bank Hey Street. Another sculpture by Judith Bluck was erected in the Pleasure Beach Park in July. The mural of Accrington Brick was originally commissioned in 1980 for the Victoria Street entrance of Hounds Hill, but councillors at a planning meeting deemed the seaside postcard theme too politically incorrect, so the sculpture was taken down and put into storage until the Pleasure Beach bought it.
The second phase of the South Shore Coastal Protection Works was completed in August. Phase 1 had begun in 1996, being completed in spring 1997.
Homeless charity "CRISIS" gave a grant to the Manchester Methodist Housing Association to run a Winter Watch shelter in a former council hostel for homeless families in the former Territorial Army base on Talbot Road.
The "Kidz Megafest" took place in August, with free entertainment, ranging from the Red Arrows, and the Radio 1 Roadshow, to a children's Pro-Am darts match.
The first Blackpool Tattoo Festival was held at the Paradise Rooms.
Bloomfield Medical Centre was officially opened on the 24th of May, by Jimmy Armfield.

©

The West Coast Skater Hockey Club was set up in Blackpool, now operating out of Accrington.
Blackpool Circus School was formed by a group of circus artists.
Blackpool School for Samba was formed, after the "Puppet Up" festival. Its new band Poco Loco first performed in March 2000.
Blackpool Budokan martial arts school opened on Ashleigh Mews off Woodland Grove, Marton on the 2nd of October.
Drama group In Yer Space, based at Arnold School, was set up in 1999, specifically for a version of Marlowe's Dr Faustus at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. It is made up of ex-pupils, who have included Jonas Armstrong, Jenna Coleman, and Tom Swire.
Squires Gate Motors was opened by Ian MacPherson on Amy Johnson Way, Squires Gate. The Citroen dealership was taken over by Dutton Forshaw in January 2005, then by Lookers, and in October 2016, by Vantage Motor Group.
Fylde Superbikes Limited started trading from Amy Johnson Way. It was taken over by Wyder Group Ltd and closed on the 15th of January 2006, to be converted into a Nissan garage.
JHE (John Huddlestone Engineering) Aerospace relocated to Amy Johnson Way on Blackpool Business Park from Northern Ireland.
The B and Q Warehouse opened on the 5th of March, on Hallam Way, on the Blackpool Fylde Business and Industrial Estate. It had been built on the site of Dugdale's Farm in Peel. The company, which had been founded in 1969, already had an outlet on Holyoake Avenue Retail Park, which had opened in 1980, just before the company was taken over by FW Woolworth.
Wickes DIY store was opened on Preston New Road, by TV personality Linda Barker, on the 27th of November. It was built on the site of Hawtin's headquarters in Metropolitan House.
Fay's Café Bar and Restaurant was opened by Basil Newby in Queen Street in November.
Gregg's bakers opened a shop at 6 Birley Street in November.
The Al Amir Indian restaurant opened on Clifton Street.
Safe and Warm, industrial work wear suppliers, opened at 277 Central Drive. They moved to Vicarage Lane in 2008 and closed in April 2011.
IWI Design was established on Sycamore Trading Estate, making multimedia presentations.
Fylde Coast Medical Services opened purpose-built emergency doctors' surgeries on Whitegate Drive, in September, on the site of the former Co-operative Insurance offices.
In April, The Beeches Mental Health Resource Centre moved from Whitegate Drive, into Palmer House on Central Drive, which had been converted from a homeless hostel. The Beeches was officially opened on January the 14th 2000, by the Deputy Mayor of Blackpool. The Whitegate Drive building was soon converted into Hope House, a centre for substance abuse rehabilitation.

The North West Air Ambulance service: was launched in May, with its red helicopter ambulance flying from Blackpool Airport five days a week. That first helicopter was operated by Bond Air Services from Blackpool, but centring its operations at Royal Preston Hospital.

The service is funded entirely by donations and increased income enabled them to buy a 2nd helicopter in 2008 and a 3rd in 2013 – both based at Barton aerodrome. They now use three Eurocopter EC135 aircraft operated by Babcock Mission Critical Services Onshore. In 2016, the copters were repainted yellow to be seen better.
February 2018 saw a BMW X5 road vehicle added to the fleet, named the Air Ambulance Response Unit.
In March 2020, a new, permanent base was opened at Blackpool Airport, after two decades of working out of portacabins. The base, partly funded by donations, includes their own hangar to store the air ambulance and the high-speed response cars, as well as staff facilities including kitchen, showers, toilets, and common/briefing room.

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The Blackpool, Wyre, and Fylde Community Health Trust opened Windmill House on Whitegate Drive on the 16th of July, as a child and adolescent psychiatric centre.
The School's Library Service was relocated to Progress House on Clifton Road at the same time.
The Corporation became an Adoption Agency in its own right in April.
The Mayoral vehicles (FV1 etc.) began to be garaged at Progress House on Clifton Road.
The New Central multi-storey car park, next to Bonny Street police station, was demolished.
The New Horizon Centre, Horizon Biscuits' open learning facility, opened on September the 3rd, providing the latest computers and training for staff and members of the public.
The Shop-mobility Centre opened in Clifton Street, to provide mobility aids to facilitate access around the town centre for those with mobility difficulties.
Sunseekers Travel was established at 24 Deansgate. Their Cleveleys branch is at 118 Victoria Road West.
The World Firework Championships was first hosted by Blackpool on October the 10th. Blackpool had taken over from previous hosts Hong Kong.
Uforia opened on the 30th of August at Collegiate High School on Blackpool Old Road. The centre hosts short hockey, Kwik cricket and five-a-side football on eight floodlit Astroturf pitches, and netball, basketball, and tennis on four all-weather courts.
West Coast Wasps, a skater-hockey team, was founded in Blackpool.
Winston House – the former Blackpool Grammar School at 199 Church Street – began to be used as a referral unit for pupils excluded from mainstream schools.
National Savings and Investments were taken over by Siemens of the USA, with a purpose-built call centre being constructed at the Marton site.
Plumb Centre, Insufab, and AVC (Northwest) Limited were the first companies to move into Canberra Court on the Blackpool Business Park.
Auto Indemnity (AI) started its accident claims business on Church Street, Blackpool, before moving to the Blackpool Technology Management Centre in Bispham. It transferred to a new building on Blackpool Business Park in January 2002 before moving to Sir Frank Whittle Way in 2005.
Frank Smith Waste Disposal commissioned a revolutionary system for composting household waste, located at Beacon Road Estate on the outskirts of Blackpool.
Fylde Mechanical and Electrical Services bought Arcus House on Kincraig Road in Bispham in April.
Two large storm water storage tanks were constructed underneath the Central Beach Car Park adjacent to Bloomfield Road.
The Promotional Candy Company was established on Burton Road.
Paul Gaunt opened his "high class" furniture store at 141-147 Abbey Road. It closed in May 2015, to be converted into a pizza takeaway outlet by Domino's Pizza in February 2017.
Altahost – a computer company – was formed at 89 Heeley Road.
John Whitworth of Doncaster formed Whitworth Chemists Limited, initially buying three pharmacies in Blackpool. This grew in the next seven years to a chain of 32 pharmacies across the north of England, employing more than 250 staff.
Dellton was formed by Sally Barradell and Ann Preston at 9 Grosvenor Street making wedding dresses.
Northerncare was established at 244 Whitegate Drive, to run residential homes and special schools for young people. They have three homes in Blackpool – Pennsylvania House at 1 Barclay Avenue, Piers House at 334 St Anne's Road, and West Tarn at 19 Carshalton Road, as well as another 21 elsewhere in the UK.
TISS Trailer Security Systems was established at 330 Lytham Road, by former haulage driver Brian Wholey and makes a range of products designed to help the safety and security of truckers. Now called TISS Limited, it manufactures devices to prevent fuel theft and spillage from all types of commercial vehicles.
Multimedia International Services Limited was set up in Poulton before moving to Cornford Road, Marton in 2003 and expanding to New Zealand in 2004.

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Visitor numbers declined from 17 million in 1989 to 11 million. The resort failed to excite visitors to return or attract new customers. From 1989 to 1999, 1,000 hotels and 300 holiday flat premises closed and changed into permanent housing, some into low quality and low cost rented flats. Occupancy rates of those still open fell to 25 per cent of what they were.
The first Swinging Jazz Party was held Blackpool Hilton for nine days in June, taking place yearly until 2007.
The film "Whatever Happened to Harold Smith" starred Tom Courtenay and Vince Smith. It was a film about psychic powers and love in the 1970s, partly filmed at the Pleasure Beach.
The C4 TV programme "If you can't stand the heat" was filmed in the Kwizeen Restaurant at 49 King Street.
Stuart Diamond was convicted of the murder of a homeless 17-year-old heroin addict, Christopher Hartley in 1997. Diamond murdered Hartley and dismembered his body, before dumping the remains in a swill bin outside the New Central Hotel at 64a Reads Avenue; his head was never recovered. The New Central was a private maternity home for some time.

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Staining Village Hall was opened in April, by Michael Jack MP.
Dazamakiz Music Shop was established at 666 North Drive, Cleveleys.
West Coast Tackle opened their fishing tackle shop at 3 Anchorsholme Lane East, Cleveleys.
Cleveleys Writers was formed, meeting at Cleveleys Library.
Rose Cottage on Raikes Road in Thornton – 300 years old – was demolished.
Eve Estates was established at 63 Fleetwood Road North, Thornton.
The freight only railway line to the ICI plant outside Fleetwood was closed in July.
The statue of Eros was installed on the roundabout on Amounderness Way in November, bought by the Lofthouse family of Fleetwood. The aluminium statue was replaced by one in bronze in June 2006.
The Fleetwood Maritime Heritage Trust was formed.
Fleetwood Fish Transport Ltd was dissolved in October.

Lytham Proms: The first ever Proms event took place on the 11th of July, on the green, and 4,000 people listened to the Northern Chamber Orchestra. In 1998 local woman, Susan Swindells, came up with the idea for a traditional proms festival event to be held on Lytham Green. She then took her idea to her employers, British Aerospace, who both funded and staged the idea.

Lytham Proms returned to the green in 2009, with a concert by opera singer Lesley Garrett in July. It was re-launched by Daniel Cuffe and Peter Taylor. In 2010, a 2nd night was added, and then in 2011, a 3rd was needed, due to demand for tickets.

In 2015, the Proms was re-launched as part of a week-long event that was christened the Lytham Festival. It had by then expanded into other town venues.

Danbro was set up in Warton by Helen and Damian Broughton as an accountancy and payroll company. By 2012 they had 100 staff and were able to buy the former Land Registry building, Jubilee House at Lytham as their future headquarters.
The Warton Typhoons junior football team was started by two players' fathers, Steve Williams and Graham Hall. The club plays at the Harold Bridges Playing Fields on Canberra Way, off Harbour Lane in Warton.
Guild Lodge was opened on the edge of Guild Park (the old Whittingham Hospital at Goosnargh), supplying secure mental services, followed the next year by the building of rehabilitation cottages close by.
The Over Wyre Focus free local magazine was launched.
Siromer started business on Taylor's Lane in Pilling.
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Chapter 11: 21st century

In Blackpool *"on a July morning, 180,000 eggs are cracked in 1,657 hotels to provide breakfast for 110,000 visitors, who have just got out of 57,000 holiday beds. Afterwards they can walk on the seven miles of Promenade, eat fish-and-chips from any of 180 fish-and-chip shops. They can then park their car in one of the 14,000 car park spaces (over 2 million cars do this yearly), watch a show in one of 25,000 theatre seats, and at least 50,000 of them will be back next year doing the same thing all over again".* 11 million visitors come to the town each year, and 2 million postcards are now sent from Blackpool annually.

In total, the Fylde Coast area has around 60,000 holiday bed spaces – including caravan and tent pitches.

Blackpool's population in 2015 was 142,484, all crammed into a space that makes the town the 4th most densely populated local authority area in England and Wales – outside London. The town is the most densely populated local authority area in the north with 4,366 persons per kilometre compared to 486 in the rest of the Northwest and Merseyside area. Of the population, 98.4% are white. The percentage of those from black and minority ethnic backgrounds is 1.6%, which is lower than other northwest authorities. Some 3.5% of Blackpool's population was born outside the UK and 1.8% outside the European Union. 19% of the population is aged 0–15 years. 78.6% are Christian.

The combination of all those people produces a total of 74,000 tonnes of rubbish each year. The local environment continues to be changed by man, and the ancient wetland of Marton Moss in particular has become a prime target for both housing and trade/manufacturing/service development. The protection of our natural world is becoming more difficult in the face of the pressures of modern living, and apart from Marton Mere, the moss's ONLY wetland pool of any significant size is New Hall Pool off New Hall Avenue. This small lake *"contains fresh fish (perch carp and roach), newts, lizards, and freshwater swan mussels. It also has a breeding population of around 500 frogs. The lake water is of high quality because it is fed by a natural spring"*.

The town's business people have begun to benefit from the improved road and air links, and have branched out into light manufacturing, service industries, catering supplies, and internet-based business – E-commerce. Even so, there is a vast over supply in the retail, leisure, and accommodation sectors, while turnover and profit levels for businesses are low. However, Blackpool is no longer isolated and out of touch, it has more licenced premises than anywhere outside London, at 1700 – a third of Lancashire's total, and provides more hotel beds than the whole of Portugal!

Over the first decade of the century, visitor spending slumped by nearly 40%, and seasonal troughs deepened. The resort was rated the 12th most deprived place in the UK, suffering from low male life expectancy, and high teenage pregnancy and suicide rates. Residents are concentrated into the poorest parts of town, and education and qualification standards are also low. In a progress report, published in December 2008, the Blackpool Task Force noted that nearly a quarter of the working-age population claims a work-related benefit, among the highest levels in Britain.

Fleetwood has severely declined as a fishing town, and today, its fleet consists only of small inshore boats operated by local fishermen. The town began to rebuild in other ways however, with Freeport flourishing, and house building increasing. The old town itself though, continues to wither away, now sporting a plethora of charity shops and closed premises.

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2000

The Millennium: Beacons were lit along the Fylde coast to celebrate the arrival of the Second Millennium. The two biggest were at Queen's Promenade and Fairhaven Lake. The event was celebrated with fireworks and street parties all over the coast.

Television personality Jonathan Ross opened the £15 million Valhalla ride at the Pleasure Beach on the 14th of June. Valhalla is on the site of the Fun House, which was destroyed by fire in 1991, and was the world's largest "Dark Ride" at the time of its opening. In September 2016, Valhalla was named the best water ride in the world at the Golden Ticket Awards in America.
On the Pleasure Beach's Big One ride in September, a carriage failed to stop. It hit a stationary carriage and fourteen people were injured, two seriously.
The Pleasure Beach's Vintage Car ride closed, being replaced by the Eddie Stobart Convoy ride in October, which was the largest "Convoy Ride" in the world.
The first annual model show of the UK Fairground Society was held at the Pleasure Beach's Paradise Room in March.
Burger King opened the UK's largest outlet at 525 the Promenade, at the entrance to the Pleasure Beach on the 25th of July. The restaurant seats 450 people.

Penny Farm: Underhill Farm at Peel was sold to the ILPH (International League for the Protection of Horses) and refurbished as a horse sanctuary called Penny Farm. It was opened in June 2001, by Princess Anne, and is run by centre manager Fran Williamson. It later changed its name to World Horse Welfare, catering for up to 60 rescued horses and ponies from all over the UK. On the 10th of September 2019, Princess Anne returned to the centre to open its new Visitor centre and café.

The northern section of the new road linking the A583 to a new roundabout at the junction of Cropper Road and Whitehill Road was completed. Called Lytham St Anne's Way, it soon became occupied by various car salerooms.
Blackpool Sports Centre opened its Indoor Athletic Projectile Hall on the 7th of July.
Sir Fred Pontin suffered a stroke and died on the 30th of September at Victoria Hospital. After moving to his beloved Blackpool in 1976, he had retired in 1978 after a takeover of his camps by bookmakers Coral.
The Grand Empress Ballroom in the Winter Gardens hosted the 50th anniversary of the Miss Blackpool show, sponsored by Brannigan's, where weekly heats for the final had been held. The fiftieth winner was Natalie James from South Shore.
The Labour Party announced plans to abandon the town as its regular conference home in favour of the south.
Tiramisu, an Italian restaurant, opened at 91 Abingdon Street. It closed in September 2016, to be replaced by the Mezzo Japanese restaurant.
Blackpool Corporation began employing "Community Safety Wardens" in May.
The World Tug of War Championships were held from the 14th to the 17th of September, at Stanley Park, with twenty-two countries participating in the event.
Addison's nightclub in Talbot Square was renamed Fuzion but closed in 2001.
The Last Orders Inn opened at 46 Bond Street (now the Old Bank Inn).
The Arriba Bar opened on the Promenade in April, replacing the Blob Shop, which had itself replaced the Blarney Stone bar.
The Blackpool Brewery Company opened in November in the Old Dairy on George Street. Blackpool beers had been first introduced in 1997 at Barnsley. The Brewery soon moved back to Barnsley and was dissolved on the 17th of January 2006.

©

The first Radio Wave "Weekender" was held at Lawson Road Showground on the 27th and 28th of May. The event was headlined by the chart-topping pop group "Atomic Kitten", and fledgling pop duo "Crush" featuring Donna Air.
The finals of the "Miss Spring Babe 2000" were held in the Palace in Blackpool on the 16th of June.
Whitegate Day Nursery was converted into a Family Centre and opened on the 26th of April.
The Corporation's Assessment and Rehabilitation Centre was officially opened on Clifton Avenue, Marton on the 7th of April. It had been running as part of a pilot scheme since 1998.
Pixie House Mushrooms in Marton closed, with the loss of 130 jobs. The company had started in 1936 and had been bought out by Lords Mushrooms in November 1997. A new housing estate, based around Cornwall Place, began to be built soon after.
The Sunflower House Family Centre was opened on the 3rd of May, at 15 Grindleton Close, Grange Park, and the Corporation's Claremont West Family Centre was opened on the 23rd of May on Egerton Road.
Kensington Court was opened at 310 Highfield Road, by the Kensington Foundation, as a holiday respite home for deprived families.
The Disability Information Service, an amalgamation of Disability Services Limited, Rideability, and Shopmobility moved to Clifton Street in June.
Carpet Right opened a store off Cherry Tree road, on Asda's car park. In October 2015, it moved to the former Storey's Carpet branch on the adjacent estate, and its former store became a new Poundland outlet.
The Blackpool Barnardo's Project began in April at 16 Bennett Avenue, in the School Dentist's building.
Blackpool Advocacy started at 37 Springfield Road on the 1st of September.
Blackpool stopped using bus conductors after almost 80 years of service. On March the 25th, the last conductor took his final fare on the Number 14 bus route from Fleetwood to St Anne's.
Fylde Training opened at Bristol Avenue, soon changing its name to Training 2000 Blackpool.
Natural Options, manufacturers of food supplements, moved from Fleetwood to Kincraig Road, at Bispham in April.
A Line Dancing Club opened at 37 Central Drive in January, changing to a Lap Dancing Club, Claudia's, in June. The club finally closed in 2009.
The Indian Palace Express takeaway opened at 280 Lytham Road.
Nathan and Company opened their jeweller's shop at 1 Cedar Square.
Helio Fitness Club opened on Newton Drive in October, next to the Number 4 Pub.
On the 29th of October, the longest A/C subsea cable in the World was energised between the Isle of Man and Bispham. The cable supplies electricity from the UK National Grid and is 65 miles in length, starting just to the North of Cavendish Road.
Kipling Manor old folks' home was closed in December, to be replaced by the Amber Court sheltered housing facility in 2008.
Martin Yates Independent Living Services charity was set up on Church Street in December.
Showstoppers Dancewear was in business at 59 Topping Street.
Blackpool Townswomen's Guild was registered in September.
Blackpool's first Young Consumer of the Year competition was held at the De Vere Hotel.
On the 20th of October, Dutton Forshaw of Blackpool organised a "Mile of Minis" procession along Blackpool Illuminations Seafront in commemoration of the end of the production of the Mini car.
Coronation Street was again filmed in Blackpool, when Garry Mallett and his twins visited town and decided to move there. Several scenes were shot around town over a few weeks.
BBC's Antiques Roadshow was filmed in the Winter Gardens' Empress Ballroom on the 8th of June, for broadcast in December.

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The Cube nightclub opened in the old Ship Hotel building on Breck Road in Poulton. The building had previously been a workingmen's club and Conservative club.

The Residence nightclub, Poulton: opened at 2 Vicarage Road in March. It had been founded by local entertainer Keith Harris, who had seen that the former Cinema and Bingo Hall advertised and thought it was an ideal size for a club. His club was a laid-back jazz venue with cherubs and red velvet. He originally named his club Club L'Orange – after duck l'orange – a reference to his dummy Orville the Duck – the club was also advertised as L'orange members club (sic). The Residence was renamed Uber in October 2012, and on the 16th of June 2017, the premises opened, after a full refurbishment, as the Déjà Vu nightclub.

Thornton Medical Centre was built on Church Road.
The Curbside Brasserie opened at the Briardene Hotel at 56 Kelso Avenue in Cleveleys.
Stone Manganese Marine Services Limited took over James Robertson of Fleetwood in July. The company had been operating in the town for over one hundred years, selling and repairing deck machinery and hydraulic cranes.
Knott End and Preesall unveiled their Millennium Clock in Barton Square on the 16th of July.
Blackpool Championship Dog Show was held at Crown Fields, Westby Road, in Westby in June, leaving the town of its origin for the first time.
Richard Wilson established his Independent Estate Agency by opening the office in Park Street, Lytham, followed by an expansion programme in 2006 when he opened his second office in Kirkham.
Ribby Hall Bowling Club was formed, playing outside the venue's sports complex.

The Kirkham in Amounderness Museum: was opened in the Bath House building on Station Road.
It closed on the 24th of August 2006, and its exhibits *"taken into safekeeping"*.

Silverdell Bookshop and coffee parlour opened on the 8th of June at 61 Poulton Street in Kirkham.
Coastal Coaches was set up in Warton, operating from behind the Esso garage on Lytham Road.

2001
Blackpool's scheme for rebuilding its Victorian-style vertical seawalls was completed. The improved promenade from Starr Gate to South Pier was opened by Environment Secretary Elliot Morley on the 10th of September.
The Great Promenade Show was begun, to finish off the 1996 rebuild of the sea wall at South Shore. It is an outdoor exhibition of features by some of the UK's leading artists and designers, with lighting features, sculptures, and artistic constructions.
The biggest pair of underpants in the UK was in Blackpool in March, draped across the Heaven and Hell nightclub building on the Promenade. The mammoth 35-foot by 15-foot pants accompanied a Red Nose charity night. Rollerama roller skating rink had been built in the old Madison Avenue/Macy's (opened in 1990) complex in 1993, and changed to the nightclub Heaven and Hell in 1998 - the first of that chain to open in the UK. Heaven and Hell closed in 2006 to become a branch of Sports Direct. The names were chosen because Heaven played pop and commercial music, and Hell played house music.
Five of Blackpool's "snake-men" were fined a total of £2200 in November, for using live snakes to tempt photography customers on the Promenade.
Blackpool Faith Forum was established to provide an opportunity for local inter-faith dialogue and a focus for consultation among faiths.
Elson Design Media started business, and in 2003 was incorporated as eDesign Media Limited.

©

VoiteQ was formed in January by Frank Heald and David Stanhope, operating from Whitehills Park at Peel. The company was formed from the Heald's Day and Nite chain of supermarkets, which was sold in May 2000, and is the Northwest's largest distributor of voice-controlled warehouse systems.
Jaguar Cars celebrated the centenary birthday of its founder, Sir William Lyons, with the Sir William Lyons Centenary Rally, starting in Blackpool on the 2nd of September.
A Government Gambling Review report, in July, boosted hopes that Blackpool could become Britain's casino capital. Blackpool lost its bid to Manchester in 2008.
Blackpool-based hotel reservation and marketing consortium Minotel Great Britain went into receivership on the 20th of April. The nationwide foot-and-mouth crisis took the blame.
The Corporation organised a Hot-air Balloon rally, an Airshow at Blackpool Airport, the World Fireworks Championships, and the National Powerboat Championship.
Blackpool Area Tigers cheerleaders started. They changed to the Blackpool Scorpions in 2002.
Collegiate High School's new sports hall was opened in July, by the Mayor, and Steve McMahon, the manager of Blackpool Football Club.
The Vida all-weather sports replaced the facilities previously run by Uforia Limited.
Blackpool Transport introduced its Metro Coastlines hire section on the 30th of April. It lasted until it was ended in June 2010.
Blackpool's first "Race for Life" was held on the 22nd of July on East Park Drive showground.
The British Karate Association held its first Blackpool Open Championships on the 3rd of June.
The Fylde Black Belt Academy was formed in September, to teach Taekwondo in the All Hallow's church hall in Bispham.
The bathing waters along the whole of the Blackpool and Fylde coast finally passed the mandatory European Union water quality standards.
Slots of Vintage Fun, a penny amusement arcade, opened on the Promenade by North Pier displaying working amusement machines dating back to the 1920s.
The Pleasure Beach's Ice Drome secured a place in the Guinness Book of Records as the longest-running purpose-built ice theatre in the country.
An NHS Walk-in Centre was opened at 26 Talbot Road in the NatWest Bank building. This later became a Young People's Centre.
Beechfield Day Centre, run by the Corporation on Whitegate Drive, and rented from cerebral palsy charity SCOPE, closed. When it opened in the late 1950s, it was entitled The Beechfield Spastics Centre.
Beneast Training opened a centre at 380 Talbot Road for *"excluded"* school pupils.
Bispham Family Centre opened.
Blackpool's first Area Forum was held, when Layton people met at Collegiate High School.
Blackpool Sustainable Urban Renewal Foundation (SURF) was set up.
City Tours launched their Blackpool open-topped bus service on the 12th of May.
Claremont toilets were described by "Which" magazine as *"the worst in the country".*
Cornelian Way business park opened on the former Gazette office site at the corner of Preston New Road and Cherry Tree Road North. Its tenants included Pizza Hut restaurant (opened on October the 1st), KFC restaurant and drive-through (opened in October), and Choices Video-rentals (later Blockbuster, Morrison's, and now an M Local store).
In May, Phase 1 of the Blackpool Countryside Experience was opened, with the lying of a footpath round Stanley Park Lake.
The UK's first allotment with facilities for the disabled was opened on the 22nd of June. The allotment at Cherry Tree Road was converted by Marton Rotary Club for use by the nearby Langdale Centre.
The Blackpool and Wyre Branch of Arthritis Research closed in August.
The Late Shop on Langdale Road closed in July.
The Golden Palace Chinese restaurant was opened at 101 Bond Street by John Tsang.

©

San Marco's Italian restaurant opened on Highfield Road, moving to 513 to 515 Lytham Road in 2008.
The Saathi Indian Brasserie and Restaurant opened at 49-51 Red Bank Road.

Jenx club, Blackpool: moved to the Liquid Lounge on Topping Street in January, after its previous home at Main Entrance on the Promenade burnt down. The Topping Street venue had previously been Ken Laine's dance school, the Embassy disco, the 008 Club and the Theatre Club.
The Secrets nightclub there had closed in 1995 when its owners went bankrupt. It soon re-appeared as the "Le Cage" club, and later became Wah Wah's, the Speakeasy, Viva la Diva, Insomnia, the Cooler, Jenx, and finally the Liquid Lounge.

A Subway sandwich store opened on Clifton Street – only the second in Britain.
A Toni and Guy hairdressing shop opened at 17 Birley Street.
The World Bowls Tour final was held at the Norcalympia arena at the Norbreck Castle Hotel, when the BUPA Care Homes Open took place from November the 4th to the 11th.
Blackpool Rugby Club opened a junior section in November, based at Fleetwood Road North. The John Jacobs golf driving range was next door and the rugby club bar was called the Phoenix (owned by comedian Frank Carson for time), then Mr Dales, and finally the Rugby Club Tavern.
The Blackpool and Fylde Combination football league was wound up in April.
Hertz car rentals opened a hire centre at Blackpool Airport in July.
Music Zone opened on Victoria Street, selling discount music CDs and DVDs, closing in 2007.
Pennsylvania House opened in May at 1 Barclay Avenue, Marton, as a special needs school. The building had previously been a care home after being built as a private dwelling.
Red Bus (the trading name of A2B Coaches of Cleveleys) ran a service between Cleveleys and the Pleasure Beach charging a £1 flat fare. The service started in April and finished in August, when the operator ceased trading and all vehicles passed to Archway Travel of Poulton.
Blackpool Angling Centre was opened at 326 Church Street.
Bannatyne's Health Club opened on Rigby Road on the 1st of July.
Tantrum surfing and skate shop was opened on Highfield Road in November, opening a second branch in Preston in October 2003.
Cardpoint opened on Blackpool Business Park, operating ATM (Automatic Teller Machines) across the country. It was set up by brothers Mark and Neil Mills - former pupils of King Edward VII School, in Lytham, and closed in March 2008, after merging with Irish company Alphyra and being renamed Payzone PLC.
The film "The Parole Officer", starring Steve Coogan in the title role, featured a scene filmed on the Pleasure Beach, a location apparently chosen simply for a sight gag of Coogan being explosively sick on someone on a roller coaster.
The film "Vacuuming Completely Nude in Paradise" was partly filmed in Blackpool, starring Timothy Spall as a vacuum salesman.
Blackpool's population was 142,300, and the town's economy was still firmly based on tourism, which provided over 86% of local employment.

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The Pork Shop was opened at 11 Church Street in Poulton by Lee Gardner. The shop's pies built up a large following, soon starting to supply pies for the corporate section of Liverpool FC's Anfield stadium. The Pork Shop Ltd was incorporated on the 2nd of July 2010, after sons Jack and Gordon took over. In March 2019, his son Jack won the British Pie Award for his steak and onion pies. The Pork Shop's steak and stilton gained a silver award, whilst its pork pie and Uncle Dave's pork pie both won bronze.
Pulcinella's restaurant opened at 3 Bispham Road, Cleveleys in June.
Colin Bright started Bright's Cleaning from 19 Broadhurst Avenue in Cleveleys.
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The Thomas Drummond, Fleetwood: This Wetherspoon's pub opened on London Street on the 6th of August, in the former 1880s Congregationalist Sunday school which had been designed by Thomas Drummond. The building had previously been a Diana Cowpe bedding factory, then Hearnshaw's second-hand store and a Salvation Army café. Diana Cowpe also had a factory on Copse Road, Eric Cowpe having named the company after his daughter Diana.

The Trawl Boat Inn, St Anne's: this Wetherspoon's pub opened at 38 Wood Street on the 23rd of May. The original Trawl Boat stood on Heyhouses Lane for many years.

A McDonald's restaurant was built at the junction of Boundary Road and Preston Road in Lytham in April.
Warton Typhoons Junior Football Club was formed.
The Kirkham Singers choir was founded by Kathryn Barnett-Battersby, rehearsing in St Michael's Church room.
The Great Eccleston Village Centre was opened on the 29th of July by HRH the Princess Royal.

2002
Blackpool was granted Economic Development Zone status by the government.
Work began on the 30th of August, to put a four-and-a-half-ton, six-metre mirror ball in place opposite the Solarium at South Promenade. The ball – the largest in the world - consists of 47,000 separate mirrors.

The Grab City Fire, Blackpool: A major fire gutted the Grab City complex in Bonny Street, on the 20th of October following an arson attack. The complex included an amusement arcade and Louis Tussaud's wax museum, both of which were destroyed.
This blaze, coupled with the earlier Foxhall fire, destroyed the very last of the original buildings of "Lower Blackpool". Grab City was shortly rebuilt as the Golden Nugget complex.

Blackpool Transport stopped using the Talbot Road Bus Station from the 8th of April, preferring a number of on-street bus stops instead. The Bus Station's ground floor became a car park.
Blackpool Christian Fellowship moved to Ripon Road, after being formed in March 1984.
The Blackpool Children's Fund Partnership was begun in January, with help from Doctor Barnardo's, who had been assisting since 1999.
The Blackpool, Fylde, and Wyre Hospitals NHS trust was formed in April.
Northwest Water completed the construction of the South Shore storm water tanks, in the Bloomfield Road car park. They have a total capacity of 60,000 cubic metres, equivalent of 22 Olympic-sized swimming pools.
Basil's on the Strand closed.
Blackpool Sea Eagles Amateur Rugby League Club was formed by Chris Aylen, sharing the Mossom Lane pitches with the Blackpool Rugby Union Club. On the 26th of June, the Sea Eagles played their first ever game against the Lancashire Police Force at Hutton. In 2009, they were promoted to the Northwest Premier division, but in 2010, they decided to step down to a more appropriate regional league.
On the Rollercoaster at the Pleasure Beach, 32 riders aged between 71 and 92, set the world record for the oldest ride, on the 24th of September, with an average age of 75.25 years and a total age of 2,408 years.
The Pleasure Beach's "Impossible" was opened in May, by presenter Fred Dinenage. It merged the Hall of Mirrors and the Haunted Swing with new interactivity. The attraction is decorated in the style of Spanish architect Gaudi, to celebrate the 150th anniversary of his birth. The Safari ride was closed and moved to Southport's Pleasureland. The Spin Doctor ride opened on the 7th of August. It consisted of 2 intertwined propellers which reached heights of 120 feet whilst spinning at 60 mph through 360 degrees. The ride cost

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£1 million and was made by Fabbri Group of Italy. It was opened by media agent Max Clifford, and was closed and removed in 2006.
The Blackpool and Fylde Girls and Ladies Football Club was launched in Stanley Park in June.
Cats Paws Sanctuary purchased property on Division Lane and a purpose-built cattery was built, to house 35 cats, plus kittens, with a maternity section, hospital wing and isolation block. The opening day was on the 8th of June.
The Illuminations switch-on ceremony was moved from outside Blackpool Town Hall to a purpose-built BBC Radio 2 arena on New Bonny Street.
Controversial Scottish author, Irvine Welsh produced a play called "Blackpool", which was first performed by students at Queen Mary's College, Edinburgh.
Virgin Railways named a Class 220 diesel railway engine (number 220021) "Blackpool Voyager" at Blackpool North in February.
The Blackpool Citizen newspaper offices moved from St Anne's to Clifton Street, Blackpool.
Blackpool Council cut the speed from 40 mph to 30mph for the full length of the A587, St Walburga's Road and on the A583, Preston New Road from Mythop Road to South Park Drive. Preston New Road became a 40-mph zone from Mythop Road to Peel Corner.
Frenchman's Cove bar was opened at 15 South King Street in December, in the Duckworth's Tobacco Warehouse building, which has its own ghost.
The Barking Spider Comedy Club began at the West Coast Rock Café in Blackpool but was soon wound up. In 2004, a new club was set up at The Downtown Bar underneath The Station Hotel in Blackpool. The new night was named "The Comedy Station", opening with Jason Manford. They soon had to move again and found premises upstairs at Lawdy Miss Clawdy's on Hardhorn Road in Poulton. The Comedy Station reappeared at Viva at 3 Church Street in March 2013.
Travel agent Travel Choice opened a new store in Birley Street in December.
Richard James Lighting opened at 78 Whitegate Drive.
The Kensington Foundation bought the former Spastics Centre at the Lodge at 216 Whitegate Drive as its new headquarters. It opened a Toy Library there in 2006.
Layton Travel ceased trading due to insolvency on the 2nd of August. The company, which also traded as Holiday Hut, was based in Westcliffe Drive.
Coleman Interiors was incorporated on the 12th of December, by Keith and Karen Coleman. The company also traded as Northern Ceilings and Partitions, but was shut down in 2007, with debts of just over £250,500, and was dissolved in July 2013. They worked from Cocker Trading Estate. In 2009, Keith set up a new company, Coleman and Sons Shopfitting Ltd, but that too was closed down in October 2015. The Coleman's daughter is Jenna Louise Coleman, the now-famous actress – referred to elsewhere.
Blackpool Self-Store Limited was formed at 20 Clifton Road on the 22nd of June.
Aspect Insurance Services opened on Sycamore Trading Estate.
Ryscar House was opened on Faraday Way, Bispham by Blackpool North and Fleetwood MP Joan Humble, housing the Inland Revenue. It is named after the original Ryscar House (in Churchtown), which is shown on the 1848 Ordnance Survey map.
Allsports opened a new store on Victoria Street on the 5th of October. They took over the former HSBC Bank premises after the bank had moved to Birley Street in June.
MAC Clinical Research Limited was established at 1st Floor Kaman Court, 1 Faraday Way.
The Thai Beach restaurant opened on Red Bank Road and closed in June 2008.
The High Tide Organ was installed on South Promenade. It uses the movement of the waves at high tide to push air through pipes to sound a 50-foot organ sculpture – *"the musical manifestation of the sea"*.
A Community Family Centre was opened on Chepstow Court, Grange Park.

©

The Queen's Commonwealth baton carriers ran through Blackpool in July. 25 community heroes carried the baton across town in two hours. It was even carried on a tram along the Promenade from Manchester Square to Waterloo Road, accompanied by comedy duo Cannon and Ball.
Blackpool line-dancers danced at the Commonwealth Games closing ceremony in August. The 75 dancers aged between 12 and 80 attended Jean Fletcher's Fancy Feet classes at Holy Trinity Church, South Shore.
One of the world's rarest birds was found on the Promenade in October. The Northern Bald Ibis was discovered close to the Pleasure Beach. There were only 220 of the almost-extinct species of insect-eaters in the wild, in three protected colonies in Morocco.
The Blackpool Forum, which was founded in 1944, moved to the Whitegate Drive Resource Centre in October.
The Fylde Coast Crafters club was formed, meeting at Spencer Court.
Bloomfield Vets Football Club was formed.

Donna's Dream House, Blackpool: This specially adapted holiday home for terminally ill children and their families, was officially opened on August the 14th in Chapel Street. It was dedicated to 20-year old local girl Donna Curtis who died from cancer on the 1st of January 1996 and had been built by 100 criminals doing Community Service. The back yard of the house used to be the site of the original Revoe School.
The original Dream House holiday flats on Highfield Road had opened in 1999.

Eight new bungalows for disabled people were opened in Crichton Place off Clifton Drive. Crichton House bungalows, built by Wyre Housing Association, took their name from a residence for the disabled, which once occupied the site.
Aspire, a community resource centre at 29 to 35 Ripon Road, was opened in January, by the Corporation's Rough Sleepers' Unit and the Helping Hand Charity. Helping Hand had been set up in the late 1990s, running a charity shop at 26 Cookson Street. In May 2016, the Noor-A-Madina Islamic Group set up their Jamia Masjid centre in the building after being moved from 197 to 199 Waterloo Road for holding illegal religious meetings. In 2019, the Islamic group set up the Hasnain Drop-in centre at the Waterloo Road premises.
A compound for storing "wheel-clamped" cars was opened in November, run by the Council on behalf of the DVLA (Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency).
The International Accordion Festival took place in Blackpool in April.
Blackpool Music Service was set up by the Council in September, to provide training and help for local musicians and artists. The service provides musical tuition in all Blackpool Schools and Academies, and in 90% of the town's Children's Centres. In September 2012, the service was awarded Music Education Hub status.
The Red Cross opened a centre on Coronation Street in July. The derelict former warehouse was turned into a service delivery and training centre.
Progress Recruitment, originally part of the local authority's Social Services department, became a stand-alone charity supporting disabled people in finding jobs.
The Bridge Project was set up in the Salvation Army Citadel, to provide hot meals to up to 40 homeless people every day.
The Blackpool Lambretta Owners' Club was formed, meeting at the Co-operative Sports and Social Club on Preston New Road. Following that club's closure, the club now meets every Tuesday at the Lane Ends pub on Hawes Side lane.
Alley Gates were first installed in Blackpool. The gates were to discourage criminals from accessing homes by back alleys, and to prevent them from fleeing down them. In August, three alleyways were gated in Talbot Ward, Tyldesley Ward, and Waterloo Ward, and this was followed by a further four alleyways in Claremont Ward in February 2003. The scheme has since rolled-out all over town.

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The town's first "Internet Kiosk" went on line on the corner of Corporation/West Street in June.
Flykeen Airways (later called A2B Airways) began flying from Squires Gate to the Isle of Man and Belfast City airports.
Winifred Street toilets at the Hounds Hill Centre closed.
"Most Haunted", a TV programme about ghosts, visited the Pleasure Beach for one episode.
Comedian Bernie Clifton was filmed in Blackpool, for the TV programme "The Entertainers".
Several episodes of Coronation Street were filmed in and around Blackpool, when some of the Street's youngsters went for a caravan holiday.
"The Quest" was partly filmed in Blackpool, with David Jason and Roy Hudd reminiscing about their youth on holiday in Blackpool and the Lake District.
"Ted and Alice", a romance between Lake District tourist officer (Dawn French) and a lonely alien (Stephen Tompkinson) was a three-part TV series, filmed on location in the Lake District, with additional scenes shot in Blackpool. One episode featured Blackpool Promenade, the piers, and the Pleasure Beach.

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The Durban Hotel, Cleveleys: was demolished, to be replaced by Durban Court apartments. Having started life as a private hotel, the Durban began hosting music shows and bands in the late 1960s. For many years, the Durban was supplied by Younger's Brewery. The pub had gone bankrupt in January 1998.

Toys2Save was opened on the 6th of April, opposite Marsh Mill Visitor Centre in Thornton. The shop moved to 1 Brighton Avenue in Cleveleys in March 2014.
The Wyldefire community bus scheme was started.
The Water's Edge Café was built by the boating pool on St Anne's Promenade, replacing the boathouse and old café.
Plackitt and Booth Booksellers were established at 87c Clifton Street in Lytham by husband and wife team Pat Booth and Alison Plackitt. The building was previously Wykeham Cottage, which housed the local watchmaker.
The choir known as the King Edward and Queen Mary Singers was formed in 2002, by Alistair MacKenzie, the Director of Music at the schools. Following the merger of KEQMS with Arnold School to form AKS, the choir decided to become fully independent, and changed their name to The Lidun Singers.
Check In travel was established by the Humpage family, now trading from Peel Hill Business Park in Peel.
Red Fort Indian restaurant opened in May in the old Arcobaleno Italian restaurant on Park Street in Lytham. It had been bought by the owners of the Moghul restaurant in St Anne's.
Fylde Fireplace Gallery Ltd was registered on the 16th of April, operating from 35 Woodlands Road in Ansdell.
The Chicory restaurant opened at 5 Henry Street in Lytham in April. They had taken over the building that had briefly been the Q Brasserie and café, owned by Shaun Goti. Chicory closed in 2010, and in 2011, Henry's Bar opened in the premises, owned by Michael Robinson and Charles Furnell. They later opened the Drunk Buffalo Club upstairs. On the 28th of May 2017, Henry's was replaced by the Velvetine cocktail bar, owned by the same company. Velvetine closed in early 2019, to be replaced by Marvin's bar in early May.
Dobbies Garden World opened in March, at the former Clifton Garden Centre, off the A583 at Clifton.
A facility for preparing uranium dioxide powder and pellets for export was officially opened in March at BNFL's Springfields plant at Salwick, near Kirkham.
Streetwise youth club was founded by Elaine and Gerry Gregoire, at Freckleton village hall. After a spell at in rented accommodation in Lytham, the club moved into the former army Welfare centre at Butler's Meadow in Warton on the 13th of March 2017. The club also opened a second venue in Kirkham Community Centre on the 7th of November 2018.
The "Sonic Solstice" music festival took place at Hamilton House Farm in St Michael's.
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Phenomenon Comics in America began to publish a comic based around a mythical town called Blackpool, in Vermont.

2003

The Pleasure Beach's Big Blue Hotel was opened by "It Girl" socialite Tara Palmer-Tomkinson on the 13th of June - the first hotel to be built in the town for over 20 years.
The first "Mosaic Downs Syndrome Get Together" was held from the 31st of October in the Big Blue Hotel at the Pleasure Beach.
The Pleasure Beach opened the Big Apple ride, which closed in 2004.
The Snowdrop Centre for bereaved families was opened at Kensington Lodge on Whitegate Drive in October, by the Kensington Foundation.
Anchorsholme Post Office, on Fleetwood Road, Norbreck closed on March the 18th.
Street Crime Wardens were first used in Blackpool in May, patrolling the town centre streets.
Lindale Gardens Post Office at 299 Squires Gate Lane closed on the 27th of November.
The Blackpool Movin' Commercial Vehicle Rally was first held in August. It superseded the Southport to Blackpool Rally, formerly organised by the Ribble Enthusiasts' Club.
A 75-year-old Blackpool widow scooped over half a million pounds on the National Mother's Day jackpot at the Mecca Bingo Club on Talbot Road on the 30th of March - Mother's Day. She won the National Game prize of £500,000, plus a further Regional prize of £2,119 and the club prize of £289.
Fairway's Volkswagen opened a new showroom on Ashworth Road in November, moving from St Davids Road North, St Anne's.
All Blackpool's roads became a "30 mph or less zone".
The Blackpool, Fylde, and Wyre Branch of the Royal Marines Association was formed on the 26th of October. The Dedication Service took place at St John's Church.
The Pleasure Beach leased Flagstaff Gardens at Osborne Road from the Corporation. The Crazy Golf course was closed and a life-size model of "Thunderbird Three" erected in its place. Flagstaff Gardens were transformed into a state-of-the-art crazy golf course in 2008, when the Pleasure Beach opened its 12-hole Adventure Golf attraction, opening on the 14th of April. Thunderbird 3 had been removed from the gardens on the 9th.
The Genesis Wild Life Haven was set up on Grange Park in March, when a group of local residents got together to form Christ the King Wildlife Support Group. Their aim was to transform the wasteland on Bathurst Avenue into a nature conservation area.
Blackpool's Carl Myerscough, nicknamed "the Blackpool Tower", set a new UK shot-putt record of 21.92 metres when he broke Geoff Capes' 23-year record on the 13th of June.
Blackpool-born bingo tycoon Mike Futter's horse won the Grand National. Monty's Pass, rode home to win by 12 lengths.
The first Blackpool Schools' Film Festival took place in November, at the Odeon cinema.
British Telecom began to install Broadband Internet access in Blackpool on the 18th of June.
A Tesco Express store was opened in November, on Lytham Road. The store was a Gateway outlet in the 1970s and before that, Lennon's supermarket.
Tesco opened another "Express" supermarket on Ansdell Road in October.
Jill Lloyd opened Budget Gifts at 69 Lytham Road.
UK Travel Solutions was launched on King Street in April.
The Litten Tree pub opened on the 16th of May at 8 to 14 Queen Street, in the old Council offices – formerly the Employment Exchange. A glass canopy had been erected over the fronts of the units in 2000. On the 22nd of March 2018, the bar was renamed the Slug and Lettuce by owners Stonegate.
Nellie Dean's bar opened on Albert Terrace at 150 to 152 the Promenade.

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Spicerhaart set up its corporate sales department in Newfield House on Vicarage Lane. The building had previously housed the regional HQ for the Halifax Royal Bank of Scotland.
The 1-Offs Bike and Trike Club first met at the Victory Hotel on Caunce Street.
Keyline Builders Merchants opened a depot at 10-20 Chorley Road on the 3rd of September.
Cropper Manor Fishery was dug and opened to the public.
A block of maisonettes on Winnipeg Place was demolished in July to be replaced by single houses.
Jimmy Armfield opened the Corporation's Leisure Development Offices at Stanley Park.
Blackpool Baby Transport opened a shop at 333 Whitegate Drive in August. It closed in 2005. H Broughton had opened his wallpaper and decorating shop there in 1913.
GB Energy opened as an energy efficiency company in September. It uses government funding to provide grants to people in four divisions - Grants, Cheaper Energy, Heating Services, and Renewable Energy. It operates from Stanley Buildings in Stanley Road.
The Michael Hall Theatre School opened in the St Paul's church Hall at 19 Preston Old Road. Past pupils include Jodie Prenger (winner of Any Dream Will Do), Aiden Grimshaw (X Factor finalist), Rebecca Reynolds (Evita European Tour), Laura Wilson (Grease), Mark Willshire (The Bodyguard), Donald Francke (Cats, Phantom of the Opera). The Lytham Light Orchestra was soon formed there.
Blackpool's first all-male lap dancing club opened in June. "Wicked" was based at the site of the former Adam 'n' Eve nightspot at number 1 Chapel Street. It changed to showing girl dancers only in 2010.
Blackpool's own TV star and "Womble" was evicted after failing to pay £12,000 in rubbish clearing fines imposed by council environmental health officials. Dennis Bostock spent 26 years rifling through rubbish, searching items for his home on Bloomfield Road.
Coronation Street was again filmed in Blackpool and Fleetwood, when Liz MacDonald and Bet Lynch took a break in town and were "chatted" up by a lecherous bar manager.
The UK premiere of "Fiddler on The Roof" took place at the Grand in February; Paul Nicholas starred.

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Great Carleton Post Office closed on the 13th of September, with Lower Green Post Office in Poulton closing three days later.
China Red, a Chinese restaurant, opened on the old Hanbury's supermarket site in Queens Square, Poulton at the end of November. Hanbury's had closed in 1997, and had previously been a Home and Colonial store, then a Lipton's supermarket, and finally a Kwik Save store.
Thornton Little Theatre opened with the first ever concert by the newly-formed Fylde Concert Orchestra. The theatre was born from the refurbished Thornton Lecture Hall. A Gala Opening was then held on the 27th of November.
An extra care housing scheme was opened at Torentum Court/Brays Hay in Thornton-Cleveleys on the 9th of September.
Dan Sports closed its shop on Victoria Road West.
The Cleveleys Tourist Information Centre opened in a vacant shop on the site of the original tram station. In the 1950s, it had been a number 4 the Crescent, being called the Visitors' Enquiry Bureau. That shop is now Kingswood Office Supplies.
Fleetwood newsagent Mrs Vickery on Lord Street reported a poltergeist, which threw items from shelves – she recalled loaves of bread shooting from a bottom shelf.
An annual Fleetwood Fishermen's Reunion celebration was first held at Fleetwood Conservative Club.
Fleetwood featured in "Coronation Street", when one of the biggest stories in years was filmed at Fleetwood Nautical Campus. Underwater scenes were shot in the sea survival school as villain Richard Hillman drove his car and family into a canal.
ITV filmed scenes in the Fleetwood Harbour Marina and at Poulton railway station in September, when June Brown and Penelope Keith starred in "Margery and Gladys".
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The film "Frozen" - Juliet McKoen's debut as writer-director - was a mystical thriller set in Fleetwood and in Morecambe Bay at low tide. Shirley Henderson played a disturbed fish processor investigating the disappearance of her sister, last seen on CCTV.
A restaurant and paddle-boat hire facility were built on the shore at Lytham.
Global Energy Systems started trading from Dock Road in Lytham, making boilers.

First Atlantic crossing in an Air Balloon: David Hempleman-Adams achieved the first such crossing in a balloon with an open wicker basket on the 29th of September. Starting from New Brunswick, the flight took 83 hours and was meant to finish with the ultimate publicity stunt - landing on the beach next to Blackpool Tower. Unfortunately, he started to drift inland, and drifted perilously close to the tops of buildings at about 100ft before being blown over some houses. At one stage he appeared to be trying to get to Poulton Golf course, but he was eventually taken over the river Wyre. When he finally landed, a following police rescue helicopter reported: "His progress has been arrested by a ditch. At this moment he has been surrounded by a herd of cows and the balloon is flopping all over the place". He had finished with a bumpy but safe landing in Bert Bleasdale's Grange Farm at Stalmine.

A 14th century "V" shaped silver-gilt brooch was found at Stalmine in June.
Kirkham Job Centre on Poulton Street closed on the 6th of June.
BAE at Warton sold the first Eurofighter Typhoon aeroplane to the RAF on the 30th of June.

2004

The 125th Illuminations: Ex-Spic Girl Geri Halliwell switched on the celebration Illuminations. They cost £2.4 million to stage, and the equipment was worth £10 million, weighing over 711,000 kilograms – the equivalent of 350 Blackpool trams. There were one million lamps, and over 100 miles of festoon strip strung between the promenade poles and across the carriageway. The cable and wiring stretched more than 200 miles! The electricity consumed totalled 960,000 units, at an approximate cost of £50,000.
The Illuminations were switched off, briefly, on September the 19th, in a symbolic gesture to mark the 125th anniversary.
Original contractors, Siemens, took part in the celebrations, supplying a "Space Cannon" for the event, which used 7,000 watts of power to fire a pillar of light into the sky.

The Pleasure Beach's "Bling" ride was opened in June, by actor Jonathan Wilkes. Made in Germany, where it is known as the Star Shape, Bling lifts the rider 100 feet above the ground and spins its six giant gondolas at speeds of more than 60 mph. Bling was later removed and sent to the Skyline amusement park in Germany. Its place was taken by the Sky Force ride. The beach also opened the Ice Arena, an outdoor rink, to skaters during the festive season – at the time, the only purpose-built outdoor rink in the UK.
Geoffrey Thompson of the Pleasure Beach died on the 12th of June. His mother Doris, the daughter of the founder and known locally as the *"Queen Mother of Blackpool"*, died on the 23rd of June, aged 101.
Blackpool Pleasure Beach was declared Britain's most visited Tourist Attraction with over 6.5 million visitors a year.
Fire destroyed part of the Grand National roller coaster and damaged the Alice's Wonderland and Trauma Towers rides at the Pleasure Beach on the 20th of May.
Lancashire and Blackpool Tourist Board (LBTB) was set up in April, to support tourism businesses in the Lancashire and Blackpool area. They present annual awards every September and moved their headquarters to Leyland in October 2011.
"Norwood" and numbers 159/181 Whitegate Drive were demolished to make way for old people's apartments – Queens Court.

©

Blackpool Corporation opened a "Green Route" for cyclists, from North Pier to Staining, through Stanley Park on the 8th of June.
Church Street was pedestrianized between Abingdon Street and Coronation Street. This was extended to Corporation Street shortly after.
Blackpool Corporation controversially introduced Parking Meters to the town in August.

Blackpool City Learning Centre: was opened on the Boundary Park Primary School campus in Grange Park on the 2nd of September. Boundary Library opened next door, at the end of Bathurst Avenue. Sitting between this and the Medical Centre is the "Grangers" youth club.
The word "City" in its name seems to be as superfluous as it is incorrect.
In May 2017, work began on re-designing the building, and shops were moved in from September onwards. There is now a Community Farm, the Boundary Library, a Community Cafe, a HIS Provision Community Shop, the Grange Pharmacy, and the One Stop Shop, together with community rooms for hire and a large theatre space.
On the 14th of April 2018, it was re-opened with a grand launch party, having been rebranded with a modern new name – @the grange.

New housing was built in April, on the former site of Chepstow Court, Grange Park. Two new shops, which replaced the former Easington Crescent block, were also built at Grange Park.
Claremont Library was opened as a Community Centre on the 26th of November.
The Esso petrol station at 189 Preston New Road was demolished and replaced by an ARC Car Wash centre in June.
Several branch Post Offices were closed, including Squires Gate, Woodland Grove, Holmefield Road, and Rossall Road.
Blackpool's first Psychic Power Fayre was held in the Carlton Hotel in October.
The annual British Science Fiction Convention was held in the concourse at the Winter Gardens in April. It was the first time in the event's 55 years that it was held in Blackpool.
The first National Flight Simulation Show was held in Blackpool on the 19th and 20th of June.
A George Formby exhibition was held on North Pier from Easter until November.
The Speedwell Centre opened in the Whitegate Manor building in March. It is an educational resource centre, which helps youngsters who are unable to access mainstream schools.
The Streetlife Trust's homeless shelter by St John's Church made way for new £275,000 accommodation on the 22nd of October, when it was reopened.
The former Alldays convenience store on Preston Old Road, Marton, became a Co-op in March, thirty years after belonging to them in the 1970s.
Three of the town's libraries closed on the 9th of October. Marton, South Shore, and Hawes Side made way for the new "Learning Centre", opening at the Palatine Centre on the 18th of October.
Shearings Holidays bought Liberty's Hotel in May.
The band The White Stripes, having just released their 1st album, Elephant *"picked their two nights in Blackpool, in January 2004, to film for posterity. The concert film is shot in Super 8 film".*
The Jesuit community left the Sacred Heart parish, after 150 years.
The Two of Diamonds, Country Music Club, first met at the Rugby Tavern in Bispham.
The demolition of Bloomfield Road Bridge began on November the 1st. A traffic light junction replaced the historic bridge, which carried traffic over Seasiders Way.
The RNIB (Royal National Institute for the Blind) closed its Blackpool Century Hotel in October.
Blackpool's Website, www.blackpooltourism.com, received an average of 1,800 visitors a day.

©

The Airport's Vulcan bomber was sold for £15,000 to a pub landlord in November. Christopher Ollerenshaw intended to park the plane outside the Snipe at Birch Lane in Duckenfield, Manchester, but the plan proved impractical and the plane was sadly scrapped on the 12th of January 2006.
The first annual Elvis Presley contest and convention was held at the Queen's Hotel. It was billed as Europe's largest. Elvis Presley fans held a previous gathering, to mark the 25 years since the King's death, in the Winter Gardens in August 2002. During the festival, fans Dani Leighton and Juliette Massey were married by an Elvis Impersonator.
Staffordshire paramedic Ray Edensor ran 20 marathons in 20 days for the children's charity Dreams Come True. He ran from Paris and finished at Blackpool Tower.
The Blackpool Volunteering Centre opened at 57 Cookson Street on the 4th of June. It moved to the South Lodge gate house at Stanley Park in 2008.
The Blackpool and Wyre branch of the Alzheimer's Society was formed on the 7th of July. An information centre was opened on Clifton Street on the 5th of July 2006.
Blackpool Music Academy was formed, operating from Springfield Methodist Church on Bispham Road from January 2006. It moved to 420 Waterloo Road in 2007, but closed in 2015.
An asylum seeker desecrated Blackpool's war memorial on the 28th of June. Iraqi Harkan Amin, from Oldham, behaved indecently. The Royal British Legion and Russian Convoy Association had laid wreaths, which were ruined after the man's "sex act".
Blackpool became the only town in the northwest to receive Government "Rough Sleepers" money, because of the sheer numbers drawn here.
Blackpool Panthers Rugby League team relocated to Bloomfield Road from Chorley, sharing the ground with the Football Club.
Blackpool's Lynette Horsburgh won the UK Ladies Snooker Championship after a nail-biting 4-3 final win over Reanne Evans in Leeds in November. She went on to win the National Championships with a 7-2 final win over Sue Thompson. In 2008, she also became the World 8-ball pool champion in the final at the Imperial Hotel in November – she beat world champion Barbara Taylor 8-6.
In June, the UK's first "Digital Photo Kiosks" were installed in Blackpool Tower and five other sites, to offer digital camera users a more convenient way of processing their pictures.
Ryanair announced a direct daily low fare route to Barcelona from Blackpool Airport, to start on March the 31st 2005.
William Stuart Kitchens opened at 144 Whitegate Drive.
Dolls Houses Are Us opened their shop at 99 Waterloo Road.
Empire Garage (Blackpool) Ltd opened on Hawes Side Lane. The corner site had been a garage/car showroom/petrol station for many years previously, although the site was originally a smithy. Opposite for many years were Cudworth's Bakery and Knight's Ironmongers, which were knocked through to form Empire Stores, which turned into a Spar outlet. This closed in February 2014 to become a One Stop store. Empire Chippy was in the same row.
Dennis Holmes's company Blue Wave Spas opened their Hot Tub Superstore at Trident Business Centre, Squires Gate. In 2014, the company's staff were featured in a TV programme "Hot Tub Britain".
Central Drive Community Association's new centre at Ibbison House, Ibbison Court, off Central Drive, was opened by "Roly-Poly" Mo Moreland on the 20th of February. Ibbison Court is a complex of 50 1-bedroom apartments, with a lounge, dining room, and guest facilities.
The Sands Apartments opened on Marple Close off Clifton Drive North. They had replaced the 1960s' filling station on the site.
The Royal Bengal Balti House opened at 12-14 Dickson Road in October.
Dunelm soft furnishings store on Squires Gate Retail Park opened on the 13th of August.
Poundland opened a store at 56 Church Street on the 21st of August, in the New Look shop. New Look had moved to the Palatine Building in Adelaide Street.

©

John Pritchard, Archdeacon of Canterbury, was consecrated as Bishop of Jarrow, by the Archbishop of York on the 19th of January. He was born in Blackpool in 1948.
Blackpool Tiggers group was established in October, providing a social environment for many of the town's autistic children.
The Birlow School of Soccer was founded by Steve Birlow in May, at Bispham Junior Football Federation on Carr Road, Bispham.
Squires Gate Junior Football Club was founded in June, as part of Squires Gate Football Club.
Layton Juniors Football Club was founded, playing at Layton Primary School, before moving to train on Kingscote Park in July 2008.
Wyre Martial Arts was formed, providing training at Playfootball.net on Garstang Road West.
Layton's Storehouse Project was begun. The Salt and Light Café doubles as a church and helps desperate families, by taking them food supplies and other essential equipment.
Helen Hooper won the £½ million Game at the Mecca Bingo Club on Talbot Road on the 19th of December. She shared the win with her friend, Jean Greenhill.
Smart Cartridge opened on the 19th of August at 165 Church Street.
Maplins electrical store opened on Blackpool Business Park on the 5th of June, taking over the former Carpet Right outlet.
The Welcome Pet Shop on Midgeland Road was taken over by Jodie Baker, supported by her mother Jackie. The shop had been on the site for many decades previously.
Blackpool film director, Peter Chelsom filmed "Shall We Dance", a romantic comedy based on Blackpool's world ballroom dance competition. The cost of bringing the star, Jennifer Lopez and the company, to Britain meant that Chelsom had to build his tribute to Britain's entertainment capital on a film set in Hollywood, instead of filming locally.
The BBC filmed a series called "Blackpool" in town. Starring David Morrissey, it was first shown on the 11th of November after a preview screening at the Odeon Cinema on the 3rd.
"Bed and Bardsleys" was a "fly-on-the-wall" TV series filmed in a Blackpool Bed and Breakfast for Channel 4 in November.
A TV documentary "My Family and Autism" featured the Jackson family from Blackpool.
The short film "Punch" was filmed on Blackpool beach. Starring Suranne Jones and Jeff Hordley, it featured the tale of a couple running a burger bar on the beach.
TV programme "Most Haunted" visited Ripley's Odditorium and claimed to have contacted the spirits that the staff had reported.
A controversial exhibition of corpses had its world premiere at the Winter Gardens on the 6th of August, when "Bodies Revealed: The Exhibition" featured full, dissected preserved human specimens.
In May, the programme "Strictly Come Dancing" was broadcast from the Tower Ballroom by the BBC, and again in December.
Scientists came up with a formula (OW=0.125 x s*) for making perfect sandcastles and declared Blackpool beach to be one of the best. Sand sculptor James Hallewell from Cheadle Hulme created a 7-foot wide and 4-foot high "king of the castle" on Central Beach in celebration.

The Central Gateway Project, Blackpool: was inaugurated. It cost £12 million, and was the town's biggest scheme since the Tower, and created a spectacular entrance to the town, comprising:

- A new car parking area with 650 spaces;
- New public toilets, and 'pocket park' areas;
- Parkland - the first major park to be built in the town for over 50 years;
- Two 60-foot-high World Championship standard climbing towers spelling out the name Blackpool";
- A 20-foot-long climbing wall;

©

A multi-use games pitch and play area for children; and
Public footpaths and cycleways.
The first cars used the new road on the 8th of July 2005.

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Gennaro Calafiari opened Gennars Italian Restaurant at 3 Market Place in Poulton (formerly the Stocks Café). It later gained its own Tapas bar, and in 2011, opened the GIU wine and cocktails bar. After the closure of Gennars, the premises were converted into a cocktail and music bar, named Truth, which opened on the 17th of May 2017.
Sandcastle Care Limited opened the Tolkein House rest home, in Cleveleys in the autumn.
Fleetwood Sure Start children's centre opened on Kemp Street in May. Satellite centres opened in Flakefleet in May 2005 and in West View in March 2006.
The charity Park View 4U was set up to raise money and to upgrade and maintain the Park View playing fields in Lytham. Park View unveiled a new café and toilets in the Park View Centre in June 2012.
Kepak, owners of Rustlers microwaveable meat snacks, opened production plant at Kirkham. They turned the former Benson's Crisp Factory in St George's Park into a meat processing plant.
Mr John Davis unearthed 300-year-old coins in a field at Newton-with-Scales in September. The 16th century coins included groats, four-penny pieces, sixpences and three pence pieces – dating back to the Tudor times. They ranged in date from 1553 to 1603 with some displaying the head of Queen Mary I, others depicting "Bloody" Mary and her husband Philip II of Spain, and three coins dated from the reign of Elizabeth I.
Four Seasons Fisheries opened at Newton Lodge at 103 Staining Road in Newton. In 2007, they rebuilt the farm barn into an office, fishing shop, and café. They also created three dedicated fishing ponds.

100-year-old Bernard Heginbotham from Preesall was (probably) the oldest person ever to be charged with murder. The former butcher admitted killing his wife Ida, by slitting her throat at her care home. He had become distressed because she had been shunted between four different homes in three months and was due to be moved again. He decided to end her suffering himself.

2005
Beginning on the 2nd of July, with a free display and Military Tattoo on Stanley Park Showground, the town celebrated the 60th anniversary of the Second World War. Blackpool Council received a £20,000 award to fund a VE and VJ Day "Tribute Air Show" on the 10th of July on the Promenade. The event honoured the people who lived and worked in Blackpool during the war especially those whose skills supported Britain's air defences. The show included planes from several eras including a Tucano, a Hawk, a Spitfire, a Hurricane, and a Harrier Jump Jet. The Blue Eagles Army Air Corps and aerobatics team the Red Arrows also appeared.
The Palatine Leisure Centre was opened on the 25th of June, by Sports Minister, Tessa Jowell. It includes a 25 metre by 16.8 metre main pool with moveable floor, a 14.5 metre by 7 metre learner pool, a health and fitness facility, a clinical exercise room, an aerobic studio, a meeting room, a 4-court Sports Hall, and a café and spectator area. The complex is a 3-star table tennis and badminton centre of excellence.

The Blackpool Seafront Project: started, with over £80 million to be spent on the transformation of the Promenade.
Some of the additions to the area would include a new tramway built with high-tech trams every 10 minutes, an outdoor events arena for 20,000 people with must see public art with the "Comedy Carpet" and a new wedding chapel along with a top-quality restaurant.
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It would also be home to the Great Promenade Show - a series of modern artwork installations along the South Promenade.

The BBC aired a radio documentary on Radio 4 in May, entitled "Balaikas in Blackpool". This claimed to have found a secret Soviet map for an invasion of the town in the 1970s. The map was actually drawn up by Harry Porter, the town's press officer, for a visit by the Soviet Ambassador to switch on the illuminations in 1955!
Schofield's nightclub opened at 19-23 Clifton Street in September. It closed in 2009, to become Kartels with Level One upstairs, which opened in July 2010, but soon became Copacabana nightclub, which closed in 2014. Schofield's had previously been on Topping Street. In summer 2016, Ned Kelly's Irish bar opened in the premises, which had originally been the local home of the Halifax Building Society.
The Soul Suite nightclub opened on the 8th of September at 142 the Promenade, on the corner of Queen Street. The building had originally been a fur shop, a Mercedes car showroom, Superchoice store, and later the Town and Country Restaurant (briefly downstairs, but then just upstairs).
Bond Street Market opened in May on the site of Bond Street Fabrics, which had burnt down.
Lancashire Constabulary and the Crown Prosecution Service opened their first "Witness Care Unit" at Blackpool's Central police station on the 28th of February.
On the 11th of April, at County Hall, Preston, ex-Blackpool footballer Jimmy Armfield was sworn in as High Sheriff for Lancashire.
A bronze statue of footballer Stan Mortensen was unveiled at the Bloomfield Road stadium on the 23rd of August. Made by local sculptor Peter Hodgkinson, it stands outside the football club's Mortensen Stand. Stan Mortensen had died on the 22nd of May 1991, and in 2014, a street was named after him on the new estate off Rigby Road.
Maplins, an electronics store, opened on Squires Gate Retail Park on the 5th of March.
HBL Limited relocated from Moor Park to Cornford Road, Marton.
Basebuy Limited (trading as Eisenegger) was wound up in April, and its headquarters building at Squires Gate was closed.
Fast Track Motors opened their garage at 181 Waterloo Road. The site had previously been the Texaco Station Supreme Ltd petrol station, which closed in 1984.
Blackpool Transport Services opened their Market Street complex, with drivers' facilities relocating from Talbot Road. This meant that crew changes no longer took place on Talbot Road,
Blackpool Vegans group first met at Churchill's Bar on Church Street on the 21st of April.
Blackpool Mothers' Milk Depot began.
Blackpool Carer's Centre opened at Norman House on Robson Way in June, and in 2006, took over from Blackpool Council the database of adult carers in the town. An Out of Hours Family Support Project was funded by the Innovations Fund during 2011, and the Centre opened its first charity shop in Church Street in 2012, followed by a second shop in Cleveleys. In 2013, the Church Street shop was closed, re-opening in 2014 as a drop-in centre for carers. 2015 saw them open Layton House in Grenfell Avenue as the home for their dementia project and volunteer counsellors. In May 2015, Beaverbrook's Charitable Trust purchased Blenheim House on Newton Drive.
Storey Carpets opened its new-look store on Cherry Tree Road on the 17th of September.
The Gurkha Buffet Restaurant was opened in the Alpine Hotel building at 148-154 Waterloo Road by Mr Hit Mann, also taking over the adjacent Pickwick Tavern. The Pickwick was renamed the Gurkha Bar in 2017.
The UEFA Women's European Football Championships were held at Bloomfield Road in June.
Wheelie bins began to be installed in all Blackpool backyards in June – 3 per house.
Blackpool Sea Eagles Amateur Rugby League team moved to South Shore Cricket Club and won the RLC National Shield competition by 74 points to 10 against St Ives Roosters.

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Albert Road multi-storey car park and toilets began to be demolished in preparation for the building of a Debenham's store. The main part of the car park had been closed in August 1998 for safety.
Local man Tommy Castles died on the 16th of August. The Tommy Castles Trust (registered charity Number 1121940), was set up in his name, and had organised an annual party in his name. This turned into "Tommy Fest", the first of which was held in September 2006 at Singleton. Profits from the event went to the Trinity Hospice.
The Connexions Centre for young people opened on Market Street in August.
The Co-op store on Langdale Place, in Mereside, was demolished along with adjacent shops in November.
The Totally Polished nail and beauty salon opened at 430-432 Waterloo Road, in the shop vacated by Rita's greengrocers and general store. Frank Derbyshire had his barber's shop next door for many years.
Fylde Model Raceway was formed when the Fylde Model Racing Club moved to Cowley Road, Marton. The club had started as the Bispham Model Car Racing Club in the 1960s, racing at Claremont Library and then on Hornby Road. It later changed its name to the Blackpool Slot Car Club, meeting at the old scout hut at Blackpool Cricket Club.
Claremont Children's Centre opened in April on Westminster Road.
The Little Forest Nursery opened in June in the Sure Start Centre on Gorton Street.
Blackpool Mechanics Football Club merged with Lytham St Anne's Football Club who had just won the West Lancashire League Division One title.
Blackpool Rangers Football Club was formed, from the relics of the Junior Football Club of the same name.
Scottish Citylink opened a ticket office on the 25th of May, at the café in Lonsdale Coach Park, selling tickets for Citylink services from Blackpool to Glasgow, Stirling, Perth, and Dundee.
Whitworth's Chemists opened the North's first "Drive-Through" chemist shop at 93 Bloomfield Road on the 1st of November. It was only the second such facility in the UK. The building had previously been the Bloomfield Road garage.
The World of Water aquatic centre opened on Preston New Road at Peel, on the site of the Wyevale Garden Centre, selling fish and aquaria. Its Ma Baker's café opened shortly afterwards. The site was previously Ashton's plant nursery called Blackpool Nurseries on Moss House Lane. In 2009, the business opened their Camping Zone shop inside.
The Red Shoes Academy for cheerleaders started in April, and in 2006, Hayley-Anna Dancy, the Principal, took over a smaller dance school in Lytham St Anne's, called Clifton Arts Theatre School (CATS). The two names were combined to create the dance academy Cats with Red Shoes. In September 2008, Cats with Red Shoes opened their own purpose built fully mirrored studios/gym and shop on Rear Highfield road.
Elegance of Blackpool opened for business on the 19th of December, at 34-36 Talbot Road, making cakes and running a coffee shop.
The postman who collected from the box at the top of Blackpool Tower resigned in April. After 37 years, Jim Blackwell decided he no longer wanted to climb the 432 steps. It is estimated that he climbed 9,206,684 steps in his Blackpool career.
The first "Totally Transport" vehicle festival was held near the Solaris Centre.
The BBC filmed "Funland" in town - a BBC comedy drama based around Blackpool's light entertainment industry.
Helena Bonham Carter played Jacqui Jackson – Blackpool's remarkable single mother of seven children, four of them autistic - in a BBC TV drama called "The Magnificent Seven", screened in December. The family, from Waterloo Road, had featured in a 1993 documentary.
The film "Heatwave" starring mainly unknown actors, but narrated by Bernard Hill, was filmed partly at the Pleasure Beach.
The New President Hotel on the Promenade was featured in the BBC documentary series "Hotel on Sea" in October.

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Three episodes of the Chuckle Brothers' children's comedy series "Chucklevision" called "Put Upon Job", "Tailor's Dummies" and "Clowning Around" were shot in and around Blackpool, with one being shot in the Tower Circus and parts in Lytham centre.
BBC TV's Songs of Praise was broadcast from St John's Church on the 4th of September.
Singer Robbie Williams filmed the video for his single "Advertising Space" at the Belle Vue Hotel, inside the Central Club, outside the Lucky Star arcade and around Blackpool Promenade on the 17th of October.
The Mr and Mrs Blackpool Open championship in bodybuilding was held at the Bloomfield Club, Bloomfield Road on the 29th of October.

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JC Dance was established by Joanna Park in September, with two classes: Senior Pop and Adult Tap at the Poulton Youth and Community Centre.
Thingamajigz play centre opened in May at Poulton Industrial Estate.
Thornton House Care Home opened on Whinbrel Drive, Cleveleys on the 21st of February. The centre for older people operates two dementia units, a mainstream unit, and a 10-place rehabilitation unit.
Bourne Hill in Thornton was excavated by the local history society, and the remains of an Iron Age settlement were discovered.
Fleetwood Marsh was opened as a public nature park on the 3rd of June.
The Fairhaven Hotel, on Laidley's Walk in Fleetwood, became the Fairhaven Car Home after being bought and converted by Mr and Mrs Moss. In April 2018, the business was purchased by the CPM Care Group Ltd.
Fleetwoodstock, a music festival named after the famous New York Woodstock Festival was first held in the autumn. The usual venue is the Marine Hall.
The Wyre Wizards, a blind ten-pin bowling team were formed in October.
The Parish of St Anne's on the Sea was created on the 1st of April, and the first St Anne's on the Sea Parish Council was elected on the 26th of May. In 2006 councillors voted to change its name to St Anne's on the Sea Town Council and in 2008 they voted to have a town Mayor.
The Yorkshire Bank at 32 St Anne's Road West closed on the 22nd of November, to become a Bet Fred bookmaker's outlet. The building had opened as Manchester and Liverpool Bank branch after being built in 1891.
The Number 15 pub opened in St Anne's Square in July, in the old Lloyds Bank building. The Lloyd's logo is carved above the doorway.
The Grove Rest Home was demolished on St Anne's north promenade – the last of the Porritt houses on that stretch.
Taylor and Kay opened their upholstery shop at 56 St Albans Road, St Anne's on the 1st of April.
The Fylde Bike Meet was founded on the 13th of June in St Anne's Square. By its 10th anniversary in 2015, over 500 motorcycles took part in the annual ride up the Promenade to Norbreck.
Ansdell Primary Care Centre was opened on Church Road at the end of the year, as was the Freckleton Primary Care Centre on Douglas Drive.
Fylde Rugby Club opened their new clubhouse.
Fosbrooke House was opened on Clifton Drive in St Anne's, replacing the original house "Riversleigh". The home for retired Church of England had been the life's work of Archdeacon HL Fosbrooke, vicar of Lytham.
The Buraq Indian restaurant was opened by Tariq Aziz at 7 Blackpool Road in Kirkham, taking over the restaurant and café of the long-established Canada Lodge Café and Caravan Park, which had been on the site since the 1960s. In September 2019, the restaurant was awarded the title of the best curry restaurant in the North West.
A Bell Huey helicopter was relocated to Wesham House Farm on Fleetwood Road in Wesham on the 31st of July. It had been an assault copter during the Vietnam War in 1972.
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Lund Pre-School was established, working from the Newton-with-Scales Village Hall on Vicarage Lane. The hall had been extended in 1985 to allow such activities.
Milkman Colin Bradley of Preesall won £1.4 million on the National Lottery on the 23rd of August. He got up for work as normal the next day!

2006
Taxi drivers in Blackpool were told controversially that they could not wear football shirts and one cabbie was stopped from wearing a shirt with the England flag in the corner.
Devonshire Hospital's Physiotherapy department moved from to the premises recently vacated by the Inspector of Taxes off Mowbray Drive. The building was renamed Bridgeview House.
The council introduced the town's first 20 miles per hour zones. They first appeared around four primary schools and several Council Estates.
The Golden Pyramids amusement arcade was opened on the 6th of August on the site of the Grab City arcade that had been burnt down in October 2002.
Blackpool Honda moved from Devonshire Road to Peel Business Park on the 18th of February; Blackpool Mazda also moved there from Newton Drive later in the year. The Blackpool Honda premises were later replaced by a Farm Foods store.
Chorley Nissan opened a 100-car showroom and garage on Amy Johnson Way in March, taking over the Fylde Superbikes premises.
The Dar-Pol Polish delicatessen opened at number 4 Bloomfield Road. It took over an antique shop, after starting business locally in the early 1980s, providing recruitment services for immigrants.

The Cineffex 4D Cinema, Pleasure Beach: This 72-seat cinema was opened on the 25th of February. Created by 3-D Branded Attractions (3DBA) in partnership with Kraftwerk Living Technologies, it was the first in Britain and was built on the site of the Black Hole ride.
The Black Hole – a waltzer ride inside a dome – on the site had closed in 2005.

Blackpool Enterprise CIC, formed in May, as Blackpool's first Community Interest Company, to grow the social enterprise sector in Blackpool and across the UK.
Veolia Environmental Services invested in a new fleet of 21 vehicles to provide refuse collection services to 67,675 households in Blackpool. Alternate weekly collections of recyclables were then begun.
Next clothing stores opened a new shop on Clifton Retail Park, next door to the existing Matalan outlet, on the 14th of September.
Fylde Coast Medical Services added emergency dental facilities to its Whitegate Drive building.
Buchanan Street Medical Centre opened.
The UK's first Regional Gaming Academy was launched at Blackpool and The Fylde College on February the 22nd with its own training casino.
Rehoboth Christian Centre began worshipping in the Lowes building on Collingwood Avenue, after being formed in Layton in 2004. The building was the Pet World store for 15 years previously.
Blackpool's first "gay affirming" church held its inaugural meeting in April. The Liberty Church, met at St John's Church.
Budget airline Jet2.com launched the first scheduled service from Blackpool to Tenerife in the Canary Islands in November. The company now ran flights from Blackpool to Belfast, Alicante, Amsterdam, Faro, Malaga, Murcia, Prague, Tenerife, and Palma.
The local authority pitch adjoining the Common Edge playing fields was christened Collins Park in May, in honour of local football administrator Peter Collins.
Baci, an Italian restaurant, opened at 37 Talbot Road in March.
Rainbow Blinds were established at Unit 6, Keystone Court, Hallam Way on Whitehills Business Park.

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Oliver's Bistro opened in March, at the Lancaster House Hotel at 272-274 Central Drive. Lancaster House soon became Oliver's Guest House, and it closed on the 22nd of April 2012. It had previously been located at 161-163 Central Drive. Lancaster House Hotel became a care provision outlet named His Provision CIC, with its own community café in April 2015. This had moved from 46 Grasmere Road.
The magazine, Blackpool Spotlight, was set up in March, as a quarterly magazine covering what's on and what's new in Blackpool.
The Miss Blackpool Town beauty contest was held for the first time on April the 19th, at Beat nightclub on Corporation Street, with 30 local girls taking part for a chance to appear in Miss England. It was won by Carmen Hall.
The first annual World Street Dance Championship was held in the Winter Gardens.
The Seasiders Hall of Fame, situated inside the concourse at the north-west corner of the Football Ground, contains pictures of the best players in Blackpool's history and a write-up about their achievements. It was opened in August by Jimmy Armfield.
Blackpool hosted the World Fireworks Championships - which attracted up to 75,000 people for four weekends running.
A Blackpool B and B was voted one of the best hotels in the world. Voted for by holidaymakers on the internet, the 10-bedroom Norwood Hotel was named in the top 10 of two categories in the Travellers' Choice Awards. Following this, in the 2015 trivago.co.uk awards, the Arthington Guest House was voted as the top-rated hotel in the North West, with The Redstone in Blackpool in 2nd place. With a rating of 96.38, the Arthington was rated 3rd in the whole of the UK.
Blackpool Alzheimer's Disease opened a new branch office and information centre on Clifton Street on the 5th of July.
Coronation Rock company moved from Cherry Tree Road to Amy Johnson Way.
Blackpool's new Gateway was unveiled on the 24th of May, by TV personality Laurence Llewelyn-Bowen, who named it George Bancroft Park. It was the town's first new park to be built since 1926.
The final UK "Wasted" Punk Rock Festival was held between August the 10th and 13th, at the Winter Gardens, ten years after its inception in the town.
The UK's first community "Sports Barn" opened in August on Caunce Street. The Barn was part of the Talbot and Brunswick Community Village, where there is also a Sure Start Building with a 50-place neighbourhood Nursery, a local health centre, a children's play zone, a pocket park, a Community Centre, and an area of green open space. This was opened in April.
The Fusion nightclub opened in the former Blarney Stone Irish bar (more recently "gay" venue Faith), on the Strand.
The Blackpool Triathlon was first held on the 20th of August at North Promenade.
Blackpool's Townscape Heritage Initiative (THI) offered grants to property owners in an area centred on Talbot Square, Clifton Street, Cedar Square and parts of Talbot Road and Abingdon Street - a multi-million-pound scheme to restore the town's historic character.
A new children's play area was opened on Bowness Avenue, Mereside in February.
Site Sales Agency Limited opened premises in Layton.
The Memories public bar, downstairs at 56 Holmfield Road, was demolished, to be replaced by a house.
Somerfield closed its Whitegate Drive store on the 2nd of October. The former Kwik Save store had been on the site since the 1970s. B&M Bargains took over the Whitegate Drive store on the 30th of October.
Lauren Taylor opened her lingerie business La Biancheria, on King Street in September.
Booth Dispensers moved to the old Grasmere Press site at Moor Park Avenue, Bispham, from Durham Road, where they had been trading for 40 years. Booths are the leading manufacturers of cooling and carbonation equipment for the vending, soft drinks, water, and beer dispenser market.
Blackpool Wyre and Fylde Athletic Club was formed on the 1st of September from Blackpool and Fylde AC and North Fylde AC.

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The Keajra Kadampa Buddhist Centre opened at 64 Holmfield Road. The charity had been formed in 1999.
Rock Hard Studios opened at Unit 4 Cocker Trading Estate.
Speeds opened a new Mercedes garage on Ashworth Way in Marton on the 7th of September. This was taken over by Marshall's Mercedes in 2009.
Derek Woodman moved his BMW and Mini car showroom from Vicarage Lane, to Whitehills Business Park at Peel in December. The old showroom on Vicarage Lane was shortly converted into the Woodman Centre to house a variety of businesses.
The British National Party (BNP) held their annual conference at the New Kimberley Hotel on the Promenade in November, amid protest marches and a press furore.
On the 27th of December, a Eurocopter AS365N, registration G-BLUN, on rig supply duties crashed into the sea 24 miles off Blackpool, killing both crew members and their five passengers.
The first ever Northwest Kite Festival was held in Fleetwood in November.
The first Blackpool Bike, Trike, and Scooter Show was held at the Italian Gardens, Stanley Park in July.
Blackpool Children and Young People's University (BCYPU) was established in September. It has an Accreditation Board, which accredits the courses that are submitted to it by local schools.
Blackpool-born ice dancer Dan Whiston won ITV's "Dancing on Ice" along with his celebrity partner, former Coronation Street actress Gaynor Faye.
"Ghosts Towns", a ghost hunting TV programme, visited the Grand Theatre in February. Host Derek Acorah claimed to feel and hear spirits.
Comedian Paddy McGuinness filmed his "The Dark Side Tour" in November at the Opera House.
Comedians Matt Lucas and David Walliams filmed their "Little Britain" live show in Blackpool Opera House in May.
An episode of "Where the Heart Is" was filmed for ITV. Stars from the popular television drama were in Blackpool for a week-long shoot. Braving the cold weather, Denise Van Outen and ex-Coronation Street actor Phil Middlemiss strapped themselves in on top of Blackpool's tallest roller-coaster – the Big One - for the TV cameras.
The Opera House was featured in the BBC's "Children in Need" night for a live gig hosted by Liberty X.
Comedian Lenny Henry filmed an episode of his BBC series "Lenny's Britain" in and around Blackpool in November.
The board game "Blackpool Rocks" was patented by Karen Preston of Manchester.
The first Blackpool Pride procession took place on the promenade.

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TV drama "Mobile" was filmed by ITV Productions. A trail of sabotage and murder has one common link, mobile phones, and the detectives have a race against time to find out who is behind a series of brutal crimes in this drama - filmed on one day at Weeton Barracks.
Weeton Barracks also became the permanent home of the Band of the King's Division, which was formed on the 12th of May. The Duke of Lancaster's Regiment was also formed and its 2nd Battalion was stationed at Weeton at the same time.
Singleton Maize Maze opened at Mount Farm on Carr Lane in July.
The Fuzzy Duck Brewery opened in Poulton.
The Poulton and Wyre Railway Society was formed in April, to revive the local railway line between Poulton and Fleetwood. They are now called the Fleetwood Poulton Railway Society and they are working to re-open the line between Fleetwood and Poulton, as a Heritage Railway. They want to construct a new station and a heritage transport museum near the 3 Lights Area of Fleetwood, re-reinstate disused stations at Thornton and Burn Naze, building a new halt near to Jameson Road for the Cala Gran Caravan Park, and to construct a new station and pedestrian access to the current Network Rail station at Poulton.
Paul Nicholas opened his first School of Acting at the Little Theatre, Thornton in May, opening a second school at the Pleasure Beach's Globe Theatre in August.
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Madhatters Play Centre opened in the original Sacred Heart School on Heys Street, Thornton.
Thornton's last remaining bank, the HSBC, was closed on the 3rd of February.
Marks and Spencer opened a new "Simply Food" store in Victoria Road, Cleveleys in June. The store was built originally on the site of a house called Mentmore. The store had previously been Fine Fare, Times Past furnishers, Cavendish Woodhouse furnishers and an Iceland frozen food store.

The Vue Cinema, Cleveleys: opened on the promenade on the 25th of August, with 8 screens. Seating capacities in the screens range from 324, down to 74. The buildings had replaced the Pitch and Putt course and a large car park.
A Harvester pub and restaurant, called the Jubilee Park, opened next door at the same time. Later run as a Ploughman's Table outlet, the pub was up for sale in July 2018.

New tram shelters were erected in Victoria Square in Cleveleys in May. They replaced the five iron ones which had stood there since the 1930s.
Circus Mondao appeared on fields opposite Rossall School. After returning there for the following five years, they began to use a field on Norcross Lane. The circus is one of the few in the world which still uses animal acts, having camels, llamas, horses, and ponies in their repertoire.

ASDA, Fleetwood: opened on the 28th of February. Several original buildings had been demolished, including the Fleetwood Trawler Supply (moved, but closed in 2011), and the old abattoir buildings, which were covered by the new car park. Also demolished were the Cosalt buildings on Dock Street. The Great Grimsby Coal, Salt, and Tanning Company (renamed Cosalt in 1968) had been formed in 1873, as a co-operative of fishing vessel owners.

On the 15th of December, the "Lost Trawlermen's Memorial" was unveiled at the eastern side of the new ASDA store. It is dedicated to the 21 men who died when Fleetwood trawler Goth disappeared in a storm off the north-west coast of Iceland in December, 1948. Asda agreed to site the memorial at the corner of Station Road and Dock Street, beside their store. The centrepiece is the funnel of the Goth, which was discovered on the seabed in 1997. The construction work was paid for by Eric Wright. On the 24th of June 2017, care of the memorial was formally passed to Fleetwood council.

ASDA built a filling station on the store's car park in 2017.

Marks and Spencer opened an outlet store on Freeport on the 13th of July, replacing the closed shop on Lord Street. The Freeport store closed on the 28th of July 2018 as the company's market share fell.
Fleetwood Hall nursing home opened on Chatsworth Avenue in Fleetwood. The 72-bedroom facility replaced the ageing Worsley House care home.
West View Health Village opened in Fleetwood in April.
The story of Fleetwood in words and pictures was displayed to the public on a series of Heritage Panels, located on the seafront and close to the banks of the River Wyre.
The toilet block on the North Promenade car park at St Anne's was closed due to high costs and little use. In December 2016, however, it was re-opened after being renovated. It now has a disabled access ramp, 2 unisex toilets, a disabled toilet, baby changing facilities, and a sluice unit for use by visiting motorhomes.
Somerfield closed its store on Clifton Drive South, St Anne's on the 21st of October.
Trax Academy opened on Clifton Drive North in St Anne's, as a special school for 9 students with social, emotional, and behavioural difficulties.

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Southport Pleasureland was closed down on the 12th of September, when being run by Blackpool Pleasure Beach.

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Blackpool Coastal Housing took over the management and maintenance of the Councils' 5,500 properties on the 15th of January. It was launched at a special "Strictly Come Dancing" event at the Tower Ballroom.
On the 3rd of February, a Piper Cherokee registered G-BBBK was approaching the airport when it crashed off the beach between Central and South Piers. Both local occupants were killed in the crash.
The UK's first International Beach Volleyball Tournament was held on the Promenade on the 14th and 15th of September. Building the event site involved moving more than 260 tonnes of sand from the beach to the promenade, erecting a 1,000-seat stadium plus marquees for players, medical facilities, and a VIP area with a raised, covered viewing platform.
The Art Car Parade, took place on Blackpool Promenade on the 21st of October, and was the very first Illuminated parade of its kind in the UK.
The £6 Million development on Langdale Place, Mereside was opened in March, in a scheme undertaken by Windmill Housing Association. It saw 6 new shops units, a new housing office, 24 apartments, 13 houses, 4 garages, and a bungalow in place of the old shops.
Bloomfield (East) Residents' Community Association opened their new Community Centre at 38 St Heliers Road on the 22nd of January, on the site of the old Co-op store, which had closed in 1994.
The World's largest Chip Butty was made on the 15th of February at the Coral Island Chip Shop with 109kg of chips. The enormous bun, measuring 1.4 metres across was made by bakery students at Blackpool and The Fylde College.
The Friends of Carleton Cemetery Babies (FCCB) was established, to ensure that Carleton Cemetery is a special resting place for infants and their bereaved families. The Friends group was officially launched on February the 9th, when a new partnership was also established between FCCB, Blackpool Council, and Victoria Hospital Health Trust.
Blackpool Tiggers office was opened on the 7th of May, by the Mayor of Blackpool Allan Matthews. The trampolining club for children with autism moved into the new premises at Park Road from Blackpool Sports Centre.
Blackpool's first "No Cold Caller" Zone was launched in Marton in February, to keep unwanted callers away from certain areas of the town.
Blackpool featured in a BBC4 programme "The Great British Holiday" which followed the lives of ordinary Blackpool folk - bar owners, council workers and those with great dreams of casinos - around for a season in the run-up to the failed bid for the UK Super Casino.
Norman Miscampbell died on the 16th of February. He had been Conservative MP for the Blackpool North constituency from 1962 until 1992, making him the longest serving MP in Blackpool history.
The Evans Business Centre opened at Blackpool Business Park, Amy Johnson Way on the 7th of March, incorporating a mix of offices, manufacturing, and storage. It housed 18 offices and 20 workshops, being specifically designed for small and growing businesses.
The World Record for the number of Minis in a single parade was set on the 28th of March, when 267 minis took part in a cavalcade from Derek Woodman's new showroom at Peel, to Ribby Hall and back.
Blackpool Council granted a licence for the town's first "TukTuk" three-wheeler taxi in March.
A South Shore bed and breakfast won the title of "Best in England" at the "Enjoy England Awards for Excellence in April. The Number One, in St Lukes Road, is Blackpool's only five-star B and B.
St Chad's Headland was completed on the Promenade in March – the first of six new additions.
Local charity, the Ashley Foundation, opened a shop at 160 Central Drive on the 16th of April.
The Sofa Company furniture store on Holyoake Avenue was closed by its owners, Klaussner Limited on the 11th of May.

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EH Booth's supermarket at 513-515 Lytham Road closed on the 1st of June, to be replaced by San Marco's Italian restaurant in 2008. San Marco's had moved from Highfield Road where it opened in 2001.
St Cuthbert's Church Hall on Lytham Road was closed in 2005 and was converted into the Excelsior public house on the 13th of October that year.
Questa Chartered, a financial planning company, was formed, working from Whitehills Business Park.
The Pleasure Beach opened the "Infusion" ride on the 2nd of May. It was made partly from parts of the "Traumatizer" from the now-closed Southport Pleasureland. The ride is "*The planet's first suspended looping coaster running entirely over water*".
The Blackpool Academy of Dance was opened at Blackpool Sports Centre on the 19th of May.
F Hinds opened jewellers in Victoria Street on the 5th of May, occupying the AllSports store.
The CVS, having outgrown their premises at 57 Cookson Street, moved to North Lodge at Stanley Park on the 1st of June.
Two wind turbines were erected in June, on the roof of the new Enterprise Centre on Lytham Road.
Ryanair's service from Blackpool to London Stansted was closed on the 3rd of June.
Blackpool Rock Club opened at Club Sanuk on North Promenade on the 14th of June.
Speedy Hire moved from Talbot Road to Clifton Road, Marton in June.
Blackpool held its first Cycling Festival - Cyclefest - on the weekend beginning the 13th of July.
Kwik Save closed their Vicarage Lane store in July.
A commemorative plaque to Frank Randle was unveiled on North Pier in July.
Rollercoaster fanatic Richard Rodriguez set a new world record on the 13th of August, when he ended his coaster marathon after completing 401 hours on the Pepsi Max Big One. He set the new record at 16 days and 17 hours, to reclaim it from German challenger Frank Rossler.
Arvin Meritor sold its Squires Gate Exhaust factory to the Klarius Group in August, and the factory came to be run under the name of Emcon. The company closed in 2009, when its work was transferred to Europe.
The Print Plus Group opened their new headquarters building at Imperial House on Dickson Road, having started business in 1989.
The Conservative Party Conference in October was held at the Winter Gardens and may well have been the last to be hosted by the town.
A laser visible from a distance of 30 miles was beamed from Blackpool Tower, as part of the annual Blackpool Festival of Light. Organisers of the event, between late August and early November, claimed that the laser was the UK's largest.
Limousine drivers set a World Record on the 8th of October, when 122 limousines drove bumper-to-bumper along the Promenade.
Blackpool trams stopped running on the 29th of October for the first time in history, with essential maintenance work keeping them out of order for five months. The lines were closed between Starr Gate and Fleetwood. This involved the fitting of new crossovers and a new north/south link to Blundell Street at the Foxhall. The Gynn Square, Manchester Square and Pleasure Beach crossovers, the Cabin Loop, and the rarely used spurs at the Pleasure Beach and Little Bispham were all removed. The layout of the Pleasure Beach loops was also altered.
Pricebusters Market on Bank Hey Street closed on the 4th of November, to be replaced by a Peacocks clothing store in 2008. The old Woolworth's Café on the first floor became a sports shop.
Darryl Peach of Longridge Avenue in Blackpool became the first Briton to be crowned the World Pool Champion, by winning the annual competition in Manila in November.
Amateur radio enthusiast Dave Starkie of Kidbrooke Avenue, South Shore set a new world record for the longest radio transmission – from Blackpool to New Zealand on the 15th of November.
Busy Bees Nursery on Park Road was demolished in November to make way for apartments.
F Hinds opened a jeweller's shop at 32-34 Victoria Street in May.

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Bright House opened an outlet on Abingdon Street. The shop had previously been many things, including the Golden Egg café and Pegasino's pizza restaurant.
Floors-to-go had their flooring showroom at the Woodman Centre on Vicarage Lane opened by Blackpool Football Club manager Simon Grayson in August.
The Talbot and Brunswick Community Hub were opened on Gorton Street on the 7th of December. The Community Village comprises a Sure Start Centre, a Doctor's surgery, the Little Forest Nursery, a Sports Barn, and a TAB Community Office.
Flight Academy Blackpool was established in February by Craig Seville to compliment Aircraft Grouping Ltd's training requirements. They moved into Hangar 8 in April 2008 and opened a licensed bar and restaurant facilities.
The Fylde Coast BSL Centre was founded by Janice Crossland-Jones at the 1st Floor, 235 Church Street.
Cherry Tree House old folk's home was closed by the Council in December.
The World Northern Soul Dancing Championship was held at the Tower Ballroom on the 10th of November.
Blackpool lad Kyhal Jackson won the under 12 Kung Fu section world title at the WKA World Championships in Spain.
The BBC made a fly-on-the-wall documentary television series at Victoria Hospital, called "Blackpool Medics", shown during the summer. A second series was shown in 2008.
BBC1's peak time series The Big Day started on the 5th of July with a couple working in a Blackpool casino whose friends and relatives helped raise £40,000 to give them a white wedding. Much of the programme was filmed in the heritage gallery next to North Pier Theatre.
Blackpool Business Leadership Group (BBLG) was established by a small group of business leaders, to encourage improved communication between the private and public sectors, and support the wider economic development of the town.
The St Petersburg Ballet Theatre filmed The Nutcracker in Blackpool for release on DVD.
Drink maker Irn-Bru filmed a TV advert called "Goth Holiday" in Blackpool - the tale of four young Goths who drink some Irn-Bru, *"feel phenomenal"* and take a trip to sunny Blackpool.
Blackpool Club Casino, an online casino, was established this year and shut down in 2010. Blackpool Club Poker, also online, suffered the same fate.

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Staining Lodge Golf Course This 18-hole, par 72 course opened at Dover Lodge Farm on the 29th of July. It covers 160 acres, has its own clubhouse, and a public café named The Conservatory.
Dover Lodge had been in existence since at least 1850.

Cobweb Music in Poulton, and Cleveleys closed in April after 35 years trading.
The Phoenix Strings orchestra was formed, rehearsing at All Saint's Hall in Anchorsholme.
The Tavern at the Mill reopened at Marsh Mill Village in Thornton.

Rossall School Memorial at Ypres: Pupils at Rossall School who lost their lives in the First World War were given a permanent memorial on the site of one of the Great War's most infamous battlefields, Ypres, in November. Rossall's Combined Cadet Force marched through Ypres and the Menin Gate in full British military uniform, led by the school's own marching band and two bandsmen from the British Army garrison at Catterick, North Yorkshire, who sounded the Last Post in a service in St George's Church, led by Rossall's own chaplain, Reverend Stephen Cooper. The service commemorated the 33 Rossall pupils who died at Ypres and the further 250 who lost their lives in other battles in the war.

Cleveleys Promenade: The £20m People's Promenade project between Carr Gate and Beach Road transformed the seafront. The promenade was widened, and heated seats with eco-friendly lighting were
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added. The old sea defences had been demolished in November 2005, and work began on the stretch between Beach Road and Victoria Road West, which would include a large public piazza at the top of Victoria Road.
The final stage of sea defence work on South Promenade was completed in 2012, but in 2015, work began on replacing the defences between Rossall Hospital and Rossall Point. A time capsule was placed underneath the concrete in July 2016, by pupils from Northfold Primary School.

The completed defences were re-opened to pedestrian and vehicular traffic on the 7th of November 2016. The new defences cost £27 million, and the previous 1930s' works were secured and built over, with approximately 2,500 pre-cast concrete revetment slabs, wave breaker units and wave walls, and over 3,000 tonnes of steel. Also, pre-cast wall and step units provide the rear defences to achieve the required level of flood protection for the surrounding community.

The Kwik Save store on Victoria Road, Cleveleys closed in June.
The Optimum Gym opened on Victoria Road West in Cleveleys.
The Somerfield store next to Fleetwood Freeport was closed on the 14th of April. It had previously been a Kwik Save store. The building was soon taken over by B&M Bargains, which closed itself in 2011, to be replaced by a Home Bargains outlet.
Planter's nightclub at Fleetwood was demolished.
German polyvinyl chloride producer Vinnolit acquired the former Ineos PVC business at Hillhouse.
The Olive Tree Brasserie, a Greek restaurant, was opened at 29 Wood Street in St Anne's by Dean Wilson. He then opened a second restaurant in Preston in 2014, and a third in Chester on the 6th of July 2016. In 2018, a 4th outlet opened in Stockton Hearth, and October 2018 saw their 5th restaurant open at 8 Dicconson Terrace in Lytham. This last outlet is in the old NatWest bank premises.
The world premiere of Lancashire based sci-fi adventure film "Displaced" took place at Cinemafour at The Island in St Anne's on the 15th of March.
The Clifton Academy of dance, drama, and music was opened in September at Seabright House, 243 Clifton Drive South in St Anne's. In 2016, the school moved into a converted warehouse in St Albans Road.
The 30-year-old charity Wishing Well on Clifton Drive North in St Anne's was refurbished by the Rotary Club in March.
A new Dermatology and Rheumatology unit opened on January the 29th at the Clifton Hospital in St Anne's, replacing rheumatology services previously provided at South Shore Hospital and dermatology services at Devonshire Road Hospital - which was demolished this year.
The School Clinic on Back Headroomgate Road in St Anne's closed in spring, to be replaced by a 40-bed care home operated by Belsfield Care Homes.
The first Lytham Beer Festival took place over 3 days in October at Lowther Pavilion in September, sponsored by CAMRA, with 60 real ales on offer.
EH Booth opened a new supermarket on Haven Road in Lytham on the 14th of September 2008. The store is also home to the Fylde Gallery, which houses a collection of 20th century Art. Stringer's department store opened another branch in the same building, which was constructed on the site of the original Lytham Railway Station.
The Gold Coast BMX Club was formed in Lytham, cycling at Park View playing fields.
Lytham Brewery was established in The Hastings Club at Lytham in August 2007, by father and son duo Andrew and James Booker, later working from Boundary Road until a fire forced them to relocate to Unit 8, Campbell's Court on Lord Street, in September 2011.
Lancashire Living opened a furniture store on Preston Road in Lytham. This closed in November 2012.

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Fylde Dairies was established in January, by three business partners—Fylde-based dairy farmers John Sanderson of Pasture Barn, Kirkham, and Philip Critchley of New Fold Farm, Wrea Green, and their associate Howey Hegarty.
Weeton Waste Water plant was commissioned, behind the Eagle and Child inn.

The Kingfisher pub, Kirkham: was on St George's Park at Ribby Corner, owned by brewers Mitchell and Butler. It specialised in offering a 3-meat carvery, which it stopped serving in late 2014. The pub was bought in August 2018, by brewers JW Lees and Co and fully re-furbished. It is now called the Kingfisher Tavern.

The new Wesham Town Clock was unveiled at the fire station on the 10th of December.

2008
The Caledonia Motor Group collapsed in January, resulting in the closure of the Fiat car showroom on Amy Johnson Way. It was then taken over by Chorley Nissan.
TV show "Britain's Got Talent" filmed auditions in the Opera House on the 13th of January, but when the filming was over, judge Simon Cowell declared that Blackpool had NO talent!

The "Riverdance" wreck, Blackpool: This cargo ferry was washed aground opposite Anchorsholme Park on the 31st of January, after a freak wave hit her, seven miles off Fleetwood, on route to Ireland. MacVities digestive biscuits were washed up on the Fylde shores for several days afterwards, and sightseers came from miles around to see the wreck.
The ship's anchor was later mounted on the promenade at Fleetwood.

Escapologist Danny Hunt helped launch Blackpool's Showzam festival of magic, circus, and new variety on the 29th of January, by escaping from a water torture cell.
Ten soldiers broke the world record for the longest distance spent on a water slide. On the 17th of January, the group, from Dorset spent 24 hours continually sliding down the Thunderfalls slide at the Sandcastle. Signaller Mark McCluggage smashed the record by riding the slide 1,182 times.
The Mecca Dance hall building on Central Drive was bought by Blackpool Council in March, as the first step in clearing the area prior to an intended relocation of the Blackpool and Fylde College from Ashfield Road in Bispham to the Revoe site; this did not happen. The Illuminations Department on Rigby Road was also relocated.
The Council's Tourist Information Office on Clifton Street was closed in March.
Blackpool Council created the Blackpool Medal to recognise those who have made a key contribution to the town on a national or local level. Its recipients have been:

2009 - Shelly Woods
2010 - Blackpool Football Club
2011 - Councillor Jim Houldsworth

The Claremont Theatre Club off Sherbourne Road closed in March. It was, however, reopened as the home of Blackpool Magicians' Circle on the 14th of November. The grand opening was performed by life president Ken Dodd. The former Magic Club will open in January 2017, as a hub for young people.
Texas Chicken opened a take-away and café on Talbot Road in June – the UK's first.
Blackpool extended its "No Cold Caller Zone" experiment to the whole town in April.

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Blackpool International Airport was taken over by Balfour Beatty on the 6th of May. They bought it from MAR Properties who had in turn purchased it from City Hopper in 2007. Blackpool Council maintained only a 5% share of the property.
North and Western Lancashire Chamber of Commerce opened their new base on Blackpool Business Park on the 8th of May.
Blackpool Council installed a third wind turbine on the promenade on the 20th of May.
Cavendish Road recreation ground was refurbished and children's play equipment was added for the first time. The official opening was on the 26th of April.
The National Accordion Championships were held in Blackpool for the first time on the 26th and 27th of April. Three competitions were held in the North Pier Theatre, Carousel Bar, and the Theatre Bar and three in the Metropole. A trade show for accordions was held in the entrance lounge of the Metropole and in the Theatre Foyer on North Pier.
St Anne's Road Post Office, on the corner of Harcourt Road, was closed on the 29th of April – it then became Value Vacs. Torsway Avenue Post Office followed it to closure on the 30th but reopened as a newsagent shortly afterwards.
Premier Bowl on Central Drive closed in April.
The Promenade sculptures entitled the "Great Promenade Show" received musical accompaniment on the 8th of May. Songs from three of the best local bands – The Corsairs, Sinister Footwear, and The Ceramic Hobs – were put onto a continuous loop of music for public entertainment.
Queen's Court apartments were opened on Whitegate Drive in April. Comprising Kensington House and Sandringham House, they take up the whole block between Cumberland and Westmorland Avenues.
Netto opened its 184th budget supermarket on Welbeck Avenue, off Vicarage Lane, Marton on the 8th of May. The shop had previously been run by Kwik Save. The store closed on the 4th of September 2011, to be replaced by an ASDA Express store, which opened on the 19th of September.
Link Signs and Graphics started at 46 Boothley Road – a house which had been the home of "Elise – Ladies' and Children's Hairdresser" in the 1940s. Link moved to a new factory on Coleridge Road in 2015.
Sainsbury's opened a Homebase store on Parkinson Way, South Shore on the 8th of February, replacing the Focus store which closed in December 2007. The store closed in May 2016, to be replaced by a new outlet of The Range. The home, leisure, and garden retailer which opened on the 23rd of September 2016.
Red Bank Road Post Office Counters closed on the 9th of May.
The Blackpool and Fylde Far East Prisoners of War Association was officially closed at a special ceremony at the Mayor's parlour on the 10th of May. Seven surviving former prisoners of the Japanese during the Second World War, together with wives and some widows of prisoners who have died, were the guests of the Mayor.
Blackpool athlete Kara Nwidobie became TV Gladiator "Panther" on the 11th of May. Kara, from Devonshire Road, was at one-time Britain's top discus thrower.
The "Class Act" theatre school opened in the Holy Family church hall on the 11th of May.
Peacocks discount clothing store opened in the old Pricebusters building on the 22nd of May.

Travelodge, Blackpool: opened a new hotel on Bloomfield Road, opposite the Football Stadium in May. The 124-bedroom hotel was owned by Owen Oyston.
They also opened hotels at the Clifton Hotel in Talbot Square, and at Blackpool Pleasure Beach - both on the same day, the 22nd of December.
The Bloomfield Road hotel was put up for sale in April 2019 as part of the recovery process for Mr Oyston's debts in respect of his dealings with Blackpool FC.

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From the 6th of June, all landau carriages operating in Blackpool were fitted with a dung catcher. Ten dedicated, lockable bins were installed along the Promenade to enable the landau operators to dispose of the dung.
Trevor Wilkinson, founder of TVR, died at his Minorca home on the 7th of June.
Brent Stevenson Memorials of Burnley opened their first Blackpool office at 370 Talbot Road. In 2012, they moved across the road into a showroom at number 239 that had been acquired from Cookson Memorials who went out of business earlier in the same year.
"Our Wee Chippy" was opened on Whitegate Drive by the Easton family, in the former "Shampers" hair dressing salon.
Screwfix opened a trade store at the former Dutton Forshaw site on Vicarage Lane on the 20th of June.
Tiger Sales and Letting was opened at 48 Cookson Street by Craig Webster, expanding to Highfield Road in September 2009. 2010 saw them take over Troy County estate agents in South Shore, and in 2015 the company moved their main office from Cookson Street to the former NatWest Bank premises at 11 and 13 Whitegate Drive. This was followed in 2016, by the opening of another store on Victoria Road West in Cleveleys, and in August 2019, by the take-over of the Oyston Estate agency.
National Veterans' Day was held in Blackpool on the 27th of June. A procession through town was led by Henry Allingham, the last-surviving First World War RAF veteran. He was Europe's oldest man at the time.
The Kensington Foundation's Charity Shop at Mereside was closed in June.
The Avis Car Rental outlet at 426 Waterloo Road closed in July 2008. It had taken over the old Esso Filling Station (later owned by Total) in the 1980s. Fenton's scrapyard was next door previously. Whitworth's Chemists opened a new shop on the site in October 2011, in the old Esso
By July, several pubs in Blackpool had been forced to close due to a lack of customers. The government's smoking ban had led to the closure of the Sun Inn, the Victory on Caunce Street, the Bloomfield on Bloomfield Road, the Royal on Marton Drive, the Cedar Tavern in Cedar Square, the Lizard Lounge on Church Street, Sundays and Schofield's in Clifton Street, the Clifton Arms on Preston New Road, Henry's in Queen Street, and Fusion on the Promenade. Several reopened afterwards.
Shokk children's Gym opened at Unit 5, 251 Vicarage Lane on the 5th of July. It closed in October 2009, to be replaced by the Planet Kaos play centre.
Sukata Mixed Martial Arts Academy opened at the Oxygym Fitness Gym on Mowbray Drive.
Many of Blackpool's taxis were fitted with CCTV (Closed Circuit Television) in July.
Harvey's furniture store opened on Squires Gate Retail Park in August, in the unit vacated by Poundstretcher, which closed on the 17th of June (whilst named Instore). Harvey's then closed in late 2015, to be replaced by a TK Maxx, which opened on the 25th of February 2016.

Debenhams, Blackpool: The department store company had decided to invest in Blackpool, and the new store was opened to the public in the Hounds Hill Centre on the 21st of August, by Coronation Street actress Jenny McAlpine (Fizz).
The Hounds Hill Centre had been massively rebuilt and updated.
Other big stores to open at the same time were Next, River Island, H and M, Jane Norman, La Senza, FX Currency, and Passion for Perfume and Barratts shoes, with a new Food Hall making the centre 400,000 square feet in size.
The rest of the centre was officially opened by pop singer Natasha Hamilton on the 6th of September.
Debenhams is on the exact site of the old Co-op Emporium.
Debenhams filed for insolvency three times in the year 2019/2020, and went into Administration In April 2020.

The 1930s' Beach Restaurant at the Pleasure Beach closed on the 30th of August.
The illuminated ice cream van "Lolly Dolly" was unveiled for the year's Illuminations.

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Local Heads, a multi-coloured display featuring the faces of local residents, was installed between Gynn Square and the other illuminations tableaux. The attraction has now been replaced with Famous Heads, a much shorter section that reproduces the original design but features celebrities connected to the resort.
Blackpool's first women-only half marathon was held on the 6th of September on behalf of Trinity Palliative Care's "Illumathon" which aimed to raise £200,000 for patient care provide by Trinity Hospice, Brian House Children's Hospice, and its community care teams.
Blackpool Tower gained a licence for weddings to take place at the top on the 9th of September. It was previously only possible to have a wedding blessed there, with only the Tower Ballroom licenced. The first marriage was between Gemma Dee and Shaun Ray on the 24th of October.
Mereside Community Library reopened on the 15th of September. Staff at the library in the Mereside area had spent 18 months in a temporary location at Mereside Youth and Community Centre. The new Library is located in the former Housing Office on Crummock Place.
The UK's first Aero GP race was held in August, won by Mark Jefferies.
Blackpool Tower's lifts were closed because of 50 mph winds on the 4th of October, and for the first time in its history, 74 people were trapped at the top.
The Coronation Rock Company broke its own record for the world's largest stick of rock in October. The stick weighed 69 stone and was 4 metres long.
Blackpool became the first town in the UK to project a moving image on to its war memorial. The 70-foot moving display was turned on by Mayor Mary Smith on the 4th of November.
A team of Chefs from Jali Restaurant at the Carlton Hotel set a world record by making a stack of 282 popadoms in November. Despite being awarded an AA rosette and being declared the best Indian Restaurant in the UK by website Trip Advisor, Jali closed in October 2011.
Karnesky's Ghost Train, which hailed from Brick Lane in London, was installed in the Winter Gardens Olympia in November, being opened by singer Paloma Faith, who had played a "ghost" at the attraction before becoming famous. After making a loss, it was soon moved to and installed in Flagstaff Gardens, where it made a good profit. In September 2011, it was hailed as *"outstanding"* by the inspectors from Visit England's Visitor Attraction Quality Assured Scheme (VAQAS), but its last performance was on the 21st of April 2014 after making large losses.
The Consortium of Independent Hotels, representing the independent seaside hotels of Blackpool, was launched on the 2nd of September.
Constantine's Restaurant opened at 113 Highfield Road, offering both Italian and British cuisine.
The Blackpool Citizen free newspaper was last published on the 25th of December.
The Woolworth's store on Talbot Road closed on the 27th of December, following the company's liquidation. The Cleveleys store closed at the same time – both to be reopened as Home Bargains stores in June 2009.
The kiln on Hoo Hill Industrial Estate was burnt down.

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Singleton Post Office was closed on the 7th of July.
The remains of 2 Roman roundhouses, thought to date back to the 2nd century CE, were discovered as United Utilities were working on a new pipeline project, on grazing land near Garstang Road East in Poulton. The roundhouses were about 10 metres in diameter and contained black burnished-ware and terracotta pottery. These were found to be the remains of a Romano-British farmstead set within rectilinear enclosures, the first such example to be excavated in Lancashire.
Poulton Youth Space opened at Vicarage Park on the 23rd of October. The former tennis courts and skating park were transformed into a multi-use games area, including fencing, goals, basketball hoops, and an adjacent youth shelter. The town's vicarage stood on the site until the 1950s.
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The closure of ICI, Thornton: ICI's Hillhouse plant closed in January and soon after, they left Thornton, and the works were purchased by NPL Estates. The site would be turned into a chemical production centre. The headquarters of AGC Chemicals Europe Ltd moved to the Hillhouse Business Park, having taken over control of ICI's chemical arm in 1999. They are owned by Asahi Glass Company of Japan and manufacture Fluon and Teflon. A new FCH-1 plant, adjacent to the existing PTFE plant was officially opened and went on-stream in April 2007.

The People's Promenade redevelopment was officially opened at Cleveleys on the 19th of April.
Cleveleys Christian Centre and New Waters Christian Fellowship merged in May, to form New Waters Christian Centre, meeting at the group's centre on Ritherham Avenue.
Hawthorn Park was opened in Thornton in June after a complete rebuild. It went from a bare field to a full-blown children's park.
Wyre Housing Association moved to new premises on Lord Street, Fleetwood in April, closing its Premier House offices at Poulton.
Lighthouse Post Office in Fleetwood, the Hodder Way Post Office in Poulton, and the Cleveleys North Drive Post Office were closed on the 12th of May. Singleton Post Office had closed earlier, with its attached shop closing in August.
A £125,000 network of state-of-the-art CCTV cameras was set up across Fleetwood in December, at the following locations:

Adelaide Street and Lord Street;
Albert Street and Victoria Street;
Esplanade, from the former crazy golf area.
Esplanade, from the North Euston Hotel; and
London Street and Lord Street;
Station Road and Dock Road;
Station Road and Lord Street;
Walmsley Street and Blakiston Street;
Walmsley Street and Lord Street;

Tesco Express opened a store on Hatfield Avenue in Fleetwood on the 11th of September. The premises had previously been the Lighthouse Ford Garage which were vacated when they moved to Copse Road, and then the garage was been owned by brothers Thomas and George Ball in the 1960s. West View Farm originally stood on the site, to which Ball Brothers had moved from Albany Road.
Fleetwood's Motor World store was closed down on the 24th of September, after the car accessories firm went into administration. The shop was on the corner of Lord Street and St Peter's Place in the building built for AJ Priestley and Son – milliner, drapers, and costumiers. Next door, for many years had stood Thompson's Pawnbrokers – Fleetwood's last.
Fleetwood Nautical College held their first Regatta on the 5th of July.
Pocket Park was opened in the centre of Fleetwood on the 10th of July.
Redrow Homes began to build a planned 380 homes on unused land at Fleetwood Docks.
St Anne's got its first ever town Mayor. The decision to grant the title to the town council's chairman Barbara MacKenzie was taken during its annual general meeting in May.
Links View estate was opened on Highbury Road West in St Anne's in April, on the site of the former Crossacres care home.
St Anne's Indoor Swimming Pool was closed by the Council on the 31st of July.

St Anne's Peace and Happiness Garden: A Statue of comedian Les Dawson was unveiled on St Anne's seafront on the 23rd of October. The bronze, by Graham Ibbeson, forms the centrepiece to the "Garden of

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Fame", a project to see legends of Fylde's history immortalised at the Sunken Gardens next to St Anne's pier. In 2018, the gardens, by then called the Peace and Happiness Garden, saw the unveiling, on the 28th of July, of portraits and plaques celebrating comedians Bobby Ball and Jenny Eclair, actress Amanda Barrie, musician Roy Harper, George Formby, Les Dawson, Josef Locke, and Al Read.

The Sandhills pub and restaurant was opened at 18-20 St Anne's Road West in January, by the Stonegate Pub Company, in the old Electricity Board showroom. The new pub closed in December 2013, to be replaced in December 2014 by a Prezzo Italian restaurant. Prezzo closed on the 16th of April 2018, as did the one in Poulton's Teanlowe Centre.
Harry's play area opened in St Anne's YMCA on St Albans Road. It has a large three level junior adventure play area for 5-10-year-olds.
The Hippodome play area opened on Snowdon Road in St Anne's in March. It closed in May 2012, and soon reopened as "Funtastic Play".
Home-Start Fylde was started in St Anne's on the 1st of June, with offices in St Thomas's Church Community Centre. The charity soon became Home-Start Blackpool, Fylde, and Wyre, opening a second office at Marsh Mill in Thornton. In 2018, the offices had become too small, so the main home moved to Blackpool Football Club, First Floor West Stand, Seasiders Way, Blackpool. The group runs Stay and Play groups in Wesham and St Anne's, together with a charity shop in St Albans Road, St Anne's.
Lytham Piazza - the new name for the paved area of Clifton Square - hosted the town's first outdoor Skating Rink from the 6th of December.
Clifton Shoes was opened in Clifton Walks in Lytham by Frank Healy.
The first Lytham Hall Classic Car and Bike Show was held in August.
The Lytham Scooter Club was taking part in various shows.
Kirkham War Memorial Garden of Remembrance was opened on the 17th of December.
Kirkham and Wesham FC beat Lowestoft 2 – 1 at Wembley in May, to with the FA Vase.

2009
Ryanair withdrew all flights from Blackpool on the 5th of January, following the airport's introduction of a £10 per person airport development fee. Weeks after Ryanair stopped its services Dublin-based carrier Aer Arann launched a five days-a-week service to the Irish capital.
Woolworth's on Bank Hey Street closed on the 6th of January.
The White Tower Restaurant at the Pleasure Beach closed on the 17th of January for all custom except group functions.
Buses stopped using Talbot Road Bus Station as a terminus, instead being targeted at surrounding streets.
A house on Central Drive was dubbed one of the most haunted houses in England by a TV psychic, as apparitions of a crying child, a strict headmistress, banging coming from the loft, and strange whisperings were all part of normal life for owner Sue Dennis. The house featured in a programme in the TV series "Living with the Dead" which aired on the 31st of March.
The toilets on the corner of Highfield Road and St Anne's Road were demolished in February. They had replaced the brick-built bus shelter there, which had been demolished in 1986. A tree-lined rest area now fills the space.
Motorsave motorists' discount store on Preston New Road closed in March.
Blackpool held its first Merchant Navy Day on the 9th of September, to remember the 30,000 civilian sailors who lost their lives in the Second World War. The organiser was Mick Cullum, chairman of the Blackpool Merchant Navy Association which meets at the Guards Club at 37E Whitegate Drive. An initiation custom peculiar to the club is that each new member must present the rest with a bottle of rum and they toast him or her until the bottle is empty.
The first Marton Mere Scooter Rally was held in March.

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An indoor golf course, called Golden Isle Adventure Golf, opened on Central Promenade on the 7th of April.
D Slater and Co closed their paint and hardware shop at 91 Central Drive.
HM Revenue and Customs left Mexford House in the spring. The building was then vacant.
The Green Parrot cabaret bar opened in the old Barclays Bank building on Clifton Street in June. The bar, owned by Funny Girls star Betty Legs Diamond (real name Simon Green) closed in 2010.
The BBC's Antiques Roadshow was again filmed in the Tower Ballroom on the 3rd of April.
Blackpool Indoor Bowling Centre closed on the 24th of April. It was demolished in September to make way for the Talbot Gateway redevelopment project.
Faith shoe store closed its Hounds Hill outlet in June after 5 years of trading in Blackpool.
Blackpool Panthers won the Northern Rail 9s Trophy.
Stanley Park was voted the Northwest winner of the Warburton's Picnic Awards 2009 in May.
"Out2dance", Blackpool's new festival of outdoor dance, took place for the first time between the 22nd and 25th May, bringing top World performers to the streets of Blackpool, including stars from the BBC TV show Strictly Come Dancing, and the World line dancing, salsa, and street dance champions.
The stone gates at the entrance of the Salisbury Woodland gardens at Stanley Park were replaced by two crossed pieces of carved wood in June, and a life-sized statue of a British Soldier by Thompson Dagnall was erected on top of the Pill Box. Woodside Drive, on which they stand, was originally the approach road for Stanley Park Aerodrome.
The Columbarium Wall at All Hallow's church in Bispham was demolished in June due to being unsafe. The 300 sets of ashes it contained were re-interred.

The Fylde Memorial Arboretum, Bispham: was opened at Moor Park on the 23rd of February by the Fylde Ex-Service Liaison Committee. A central monument commemorates the opening, and trees were planted for the displaying of memorial plaques.
On the 23rd of April 2016, a special garden was opened there, to commemorate the Burma Star Association in Blackpool. It includes a stone monument bearing the words of the Kohima Epitaph, and a piece of railway symbolic of the infamous Burma Railway. A scale replica of the Changi Gate will follow.

The majority of the footbridge across the central Promenade was demolished on the 15th of July. It had been constructed in 1976. A small section, between the Palatine building and the TK Maxx store was left, but was finally demolished in April 2019.
The Tram Shop opened on North Pier, selling model trams and trains.
Pizza Hut opened a branch on Red Bank Road on the 21st of July.
The first Blackpool Cricket Club Beer Festival was held in September.
The Halifax bank branch on Red Bank Road in Bispham closed on the 29th of September.
The "Brilliance" light show was opened on Birley Street in September, with six illuminated arches projecting images and playing music at night. Its official switch-on took place on the 13th of December.

Lawrence Llewelyn-Bowen: An 11-metre high sculpture, entitled "The Wave", was unveiled in St John's Square on the 5th of September, designed by Lawrence, as the main feature of a new public space on the site, together with the square's new fountains. Llewelyn-Bowen subsequently designed "Decodance", an art-deco-themed section of the main Illuminations display that was inspired by designs within the Blackpool Tower complex and, according to its creator, by *"Blackpool's high-kicking glamour and historical reputation for giddy glitz"*. He since created "Venus Reborn", a stand-alone theatrical tableau featuring lights, water fountains, music and mechanical animation and, for 2011, the 12-metre-high "Theatre d'Amour", based on a Victorian child's cardboard theatre and featuring ballerinas, fountains and waterfalls, a rotating moon, swans and digital effects.

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A Subway store was opened on Market Street in November to replace the one at 20 Clifton Street that was destroyed in the Yates's fire.
The area was closed to all traffic except buses at the same time. In December, a temporary outdoor Ice Rink was also set up there.
The large Hand sculpture in polished vitreous glass mosaic by Shane Johnstone was erected at Carleton Baby Cemetery for "SANDS" (the Stillbirth and Neo-Natal Death Society).
Waterloo Road was made one-way (eastbound) from Lytham Road to the Promenade, and a new traffic roundabout was opened in August at the junction with Lytham Road.
Claudia's Lap Dancing Club at 37 Central Drive closed in November.
Insight opticians opened on the Woodman Centre on Vicarage Lane.
A complex of 26 apartments was built on Hawes Side Lane, on the corner of Troughton Crescent. The land was previously occupied by Fylde Coachworks.
Blackpool started its cycle hire scheme, with 60 brightly coloured bikes available to hire from nine hubs around the town. Eventually there were to be 500 bikes and 75 hubs.
The Blackpool Fylde and Wyre Credit Union was launched in February, operating from Coastal House at 17-19 Abingdon Street. On the 13th of October 2014, it opened a new shop on Birley Street.
England Ladies Football team played a World Cup qualifier against Malta at Bloomfield Road in October.
Raymond Hughes and David Burke were convicted of killing David Clarke, who was found dead at his home on Newby Place, Mereside on May the 16th.

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Suda Thai Cuisine in Carleton opened in January at 5 Castle Gardens Crescent.
The Cleveleys Coast Protection Scheme was declared Project of the Year in the national Constructing Excellence Awards 2009.
Five Wind Turbines were installed on Cleveleys Promenade on the 20th of March, to power the Promenade lighting and the café, which opened at Easter.
Thornton Cleveleys Running Club was formed, meeting at the Thornton YMCA on Victoria Road.
Woolworths store on Lord Street in Fleetwood closed on the 6th of January, to be replaced a year later by a Bright House home equipment rental outlet. Woolworths had another, smaller shop in Albert Square for two years in the early 1960s.
Travel agent Holidaymakers at 63 Poulton Road, Fleetwood closed on the 13th of November.
The Halifax Bank closed at Knott End on the 30th of October.
The Island leisure complex on St Anne's Promenade ceased trading on the 28th of September, closing its cinema, restaurant, and bowling alley after opening in 1993. The Island Cinema reopened on the 22nd of July 2011.
The Thresher off-licences in St Anne's Square and Ansdell closed in September.
A women's rugby union team was formed at Fylde Rugby Club, called the Fylde Vixens.
Lytham Primary Care Centre opened on the former hospital site on the 21st of May. It incorporated the Holland House Surgery and Fernbank Surgery. The centre brought together a number of health services, including the school and district nursing team, X-Ray facilities, a MedicX Pharmacy, and treatment rooms.
The first St George's Day Charity Festival was held in April 2009 at Lytham Hall, before moving to its new home on Lytham Green in 2011 where it has remained since.
The first Lytham St Anne's Brass Band Festival took place on the 21st of March at St Cuthbert's Church.
The first Lytham St Anne's Classic Car and Bike Show was held at Lytham Hall in August.
Lytham's retail trade was boosted when several new businesses opened in the town centre. These included Java Coffee and Wine Shop, Lytham Arts and Crafts Centre, Sugar Clothes, Darbyshire Electricals, Stones Jewellers and Seniors fish and chip restaurant.
The Ego restaurant chain opened an outlet at 2-3 Pleasant Street in Lytham in August, on the site of the old B&M Bargains store and the adjacent Lytham Electrical Supplies shop. Ego is a Mediterranean restaurant,
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and the latest of a chain of 15. B&M opened in the vacated Neil Walmsley's car showroom in the old corn mill building (whose workshop and petrol pumps were across the road in the Ship Hotel block – they were a Nationwide Brake and Tyre Centre and sold ICI petrol). The shop then became J&M Bargains.
Lytham held its first St George's Day on the green, followed by a black-tie dinner and Fun Day.
Fylde Decorative and Fine Arts Society held its inaugural meeting in October.
Fayre Game Ltd on Lodge Lane in Lytham was taken over by hatchery business Tom Barron. The farm holds a flock of around 26,000 breeding birds – including a "free to fly" flock and is the only UK farm licensed to breed the breed for re-sale.
Freckleton's last bank closed in April, when the Halifax on Preston Old Road was shut down.
The Fylde Trout Fishery was opened on Back Lane, Greenhalgh.
Kirkham Baths were kept open after years of uncertainty, when the YMCA took over their running from the local council on the 1st of July.
Fylde Decorative and Fine Arts Society held its inaugural meeting in October.
The first Fylde Vintage and Farm Show was held on the Showfield on Salwick Road in Wharles.
The Myerscough Golf Club was founded on the college estate, having 9 holes.

2010
Blackpool Council bought control of the Tower and Winter Gardens for the first time in their history in March. The former owners Leisure Parcs ceased trading.
Blackpool was named as Britain's best resort by Which? Magazine in June.
The Corporation began to rationalise its bus routes in February. 20 new routes were created around the area and came into effect on the 26th of July.
Blackpool's new Dental Education Centre (DEC) was officially opened in the Whitegate Health Centre on the 5th of February, by the Chief Dental Officer for England, Dr Barry Cockcroft.

The Albert and the Lion pub, Blackpool: opened its doors on Bank Hey Street on the 3rd of July. Owners, JD Wetherspoon, had taken over part of the former Pricebusters store.

Blackpool Council adopted its second submarine HMS Triumph in April, to replace HMS Splendid which had been decommissioned in 2005.
The Grosvenor Hotel on Albert Road was voted the "Filthiest Hotel in Europe" by travel website Trip Advisor in January.
The Windmill Pub at Layton closed at the end of June, to be replaced by a Tesco Express store which opened on the 7th of October. In 2015, a small housing development was constructed on the grassed area to the North of the car park.
The World Fireworks Championships were first held on Blackpool beach in September.
The first Aer Lingus flights between Blackpool and Dublin began on the 29th of March.
Belgravia Court rest home opened at 406 North Promenade in August.
The Devonshire Hotel had its original 1930s' brickwork painted white in July, annoying locals.
Beaver Creek at the Pleasure Beach was closed on the 5th of September.
The Squirrel Café opened on the 17th of August at 211 Bispham Road.
Toast café, bar and restaurant opened at 28 Corporation Street in September. A second outlet soon opened on Wood Street in St Anne's. Both restaurants closed on the 25th of August 2016.
ERNIE was moved into the new Moorland building at the National Savings site in Marton on the 1st of November.
Tulloch Court elderly housing facility was opened on Cherry Tree Road in August, to be followed on the 6th of September by a similar facility in Elk View Court on Ashfield Road in Bispham.

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Ethel Austin stores in Blackpool, South Shore, St Anne's, Poulton, Fleetwood, and Cleveleys were ordered to close by administrators in April. Only the Kirkham store survived the axe.
B&M Bargains closed their distribution centre at Squires Gate on September the 10th. The task was transferred to Liverpool, and Blackpool became an overflow warehouse only.
Turner's Cash and Carry moved their business from their Fleetwood base to Squires Gate in January.
Fylde Coast Veterans football club was formed in April, playing at Stanley Park.
Bulldogz Gym opened at the TVR sports centre, unit 1a Bristol Avenue.
The National Westminster Bank on Red Bank Road closed on the 5th of August.
The Oltec Group Recruitment took over Crest Recruitment and opened an office on Topping Street.
Phoenix Therapy opened at 6 Raikes Parade, providing holistic and alternative therapies.
A Blackpool version of the popular board game Monopoly was launched at the top of the Tower in October. Local streets and sights replaced the original London ones.
The Blue Skies Hospital Fund was launched in July, to raise funds for local hospitals.
Pat Mancini was presented with the prestigious Variety Club Award in June. The owner of the Queen's Hotel was known as the "Queen of Blackpool" for flying the flag for local charities and raising more than £20,000 a year. She died in July 2011 (her real name was Patricia Talbot).
Blackpool Sixth Form College added a 300-seat theatre, 18 new classrooms, and a performing arts studio in a new three-storey block, completed in August.
Residents moved into pioneering eco-homes developed by the Great Places Housing Group on the Astling Green development in Mereside. The eight energy-efficient properties were the first in the north-west to meet level five of the Code for Sustainable Homes and were offered at affordable rents to families on Blackpool Council's housing waiting list.
The first direct Glasgow to Blackpool train in two decades pulled into North Station on the 2nd of July, heralding the arrival of a new service running on Fridays and weekends throughout the summer.
Travel agent Vacation Travel closed its branches in Birley Street and on Victoria Road West, Cleveleys on the 14th of August.
Fylde FM, an internet-only radio station was registered in June. It changed its name to Impact Radio in 2011 and is based at the Warehouse in Cross Street.
Smiley's One Stop Shop trading under the Premier Stores brand, opened a store in the former Wicker World site on Waterloo Road in Marton on the 4th of October.
Jongleurs comedy club opened at the Winter Gardens on October the 15th.
Creed Hairdressing Salon at 37 Queen Street ceased trading in January.
Fylde Staircase Limited started trading from Clifton Road in Marton.
The Blackpool and Fylde Church moved from Springfield Road to premises above Tiffmans Textiles on Alfred Street in November.
Boathouse Youth in Blackpool became an established Bike Club in April working from St Peter's Church Youth Centre. It moved to the former South Shore Library at 205 Lytham Road on the 23rd of May 2013.
Rugby League's Northern Rail Cup Final took place at Blackpool Football Club's Bloomfield Road stadium on the 18th of July, between Widnes Vikings and Batley Bulldogs.
Blackpool Panthers Rugby Union team ceased trading in October.
Blackpool Council engaged waste company Hako and invested in twelve Citymaster 2000 street sweepers. The new fleet was named by children from Blackpool's various primary schools as part of a campaign to reduce litter in the town.
On the 25th of July, a nurse named Jane Clough was stabbed to death in Victoria Hospital's car park. Her ex-boyfriend Jonathan Vass, a paramedic, was later found guilty of her murder.
Blackpool's Karl Boyes won the WPA World 8-Ball Pool title in the United Arab Emirates. He beat Holland's Niels Feijen 13-12 to win in April.

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Blackpool's Katy Stainsby starred as a professional ice skater in the BBC's "Dancing on Ice" show. Born in 1980, she had been a pupil at Highfield High School. Another Blackpool Skater, on the show since 2009, was Stuart Siddall, who was born in 1982 and went to Baines School.
Wild otters were discovered at Marton Mere for the first time in 50 years in October.

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The Fylde History Network was set up in January, by Peter and Maureen Shakeshaft and Christine Storey.

Reams Farm, Weeton: The B Festival was first held at Reams Farm, Mythop Road in Weeton, to raise funds for charity. The event took place between the 24th and the 26th of September.

Reams Farm also opened their Blackpool Wake Park in a 10-acre lake which was created from a natural spring discovered on the farm land. The park has its own café and bar, and a patio with shelters. This was followed in June 2014 by the Ream Hills Caravan Park. The park has hard-standing for 50 towed caravans and a grassed area for tents, together with camping lodges near the lake. An added feature is the ability to stay in a converted Lynx helicopter. The main farm also has its own herd of deer.

Carleton Community Music, a new choir and band, was set up. The choir was set up in October with 40 members, and the band, which used to be based at Stanah School, moved to Carleton in September. Both sections practice at Carleton Green Community Primary School.
Absinthe opened in March in Poulton specialising in authentic traditional French cuisine.
Tesco Express opened a new store in the former Texaco Garage on Garstang Road East in March. A Subway sandwich shop followed shortly afterwards.
A new terminal groyne was built on the beach at Cleveleys in March, designed to stabilize the beach, which had eroded quite badly with north shore drift, creating quite deep channels which were a serious hazard.
Wyre District Citizens Advice Bureau in Cleveleys closed in December.
A new multi-million-pound, state-of-the-art waste recovery park opened in Thornton. For access, a link road to Fleetwood Road North had been built in 2008. The Thornton Waste Recovery Park handled up to 225,000 tonnes of household waste per year from the three Fylde Coast Authorities administrative areas and other parts of Lancashire. The plant was mostly closed in June 2016, when Lancashire County Council stopped composting organic waste.
The Cheetahs wheelchair sports club was conceived from an idea by Christine Anderson and her son Christopher, who has Spina Bifida. They first met at Thornton YMCA on the 12th of November.
Tesco Express opened another new store on the car park of Marsh Mill in Thornton on the 3rd of December.
Lancashire Waste Recycling was founded by Paul Mellor and Jim Entwistle, on a site next to Lancashire County Council's waste processing plant at Burn Hall. LWR re-processes the waste into fuel, in the form of shredded material which is used in cement kilns.
The Fleetwood Arms at 188 Dock Street in Fleetwood closed, to become a dental practice.
The St Anne's recycling centre on Everest Road was closed in April.
Joya Restaurant in Wood Street St Anne's closed in January.
Fylde Scout Headquarters on Heyhouses Lane was burnt to the ground on the 19th of July. The first buildings had appeared on the site in December 1963, to support the camping ground. The main buildings were erected in 1970/71 and built by Wareing of Wrea Green. The fully rebuilt headquarters was officially opened on Heyhouses Road in St Anne's on the 22nd of September 2012. The foundation stone had been laid on the 17th of March.
Progress Care Housing Association moved into its new office at Warwick House on Kilnhouse Lane in St Anne's in August.
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The rebirth of Heyhouses Estate at St Anne's was marked with a family fun day in October. The estate, centred on Pilling Avenue and Waddlington Avenue, was originally demolished after most of the 80 houses were deemed unfit for human habitation. Residents moved into the new 111 homes after living in temporary accommodation in other parts of St Anne's for years.
Fylde Dental Clinic was opened in May by Mike Brindle at 3 St Davids Road North, St Anne's.
The Anatolia Turkish barbeque restaurant was opened on Park Road in St Anne's by Veli Kirke. It closed in April 2019, after moving to larger premises at the Island complex on the Promenade.
111 new homes were built at land close to Waddington Road in St Anne's in a joint scheme between New Fylde Housing and Southdale. To make room for the development, 80 homes, which were part of the former Fylde Council estate at Pilling Avenue, were demolished.
Sakura Sushi Bar and Tapanyaki Japanese Restaurant opened in March on Wood Street in St Anne's.
Firth Associates, architects, acquired the former sawmill at Melton Grove and Church Road in Lytham. Known to locals as *"skew bridge",* the building on the bridge began life as the saw mill to the Lytham estate. Until a few years previously the mill was owned by Nickson's joiners, who had run a business there since the 1920s.
The Royal Horticultural Society awarded gold to Lytham in the small coastal resort section of the nationwide Britain in Bloom competition. The town beat St Ives and Carbis Bay, Mablethorpe and Hunstanton to top spot – making the town the best small resort in England.
The Borough of Fylde was awarded the prestigious "Fairtrade Borough" title.

2011
Blackpool's newly rebuilt Central Promenade opened to traffic on the 22nd of July, featuring a "shared space" concept which allowed traffic and pedestrians simultaneous access to the area.

The Comedy Carpet, Blackpool: On the new Tower Festival Headland, an 1,800-square-foot "Comedy Carpet" was opened by comedian Ken Dodd on the 10th of October, showing catchphrases from famous comedians that have appeared locally. 160,000 granite letters were used by artist Gordon Young.
"850 writers and comedians are represented on the Comedy Carpet - with letters ranging in size from a few centimetres to almost a metre tall so that the laughs can be enjoyed from all sides and from both close up and at height from the Tower".
The centre of the cross-shaped carpet features five sections devoted to Ken Dodd, Les Dawson, Morecambe and Wise, Frankie Howerd, and Tommy Cooper. Around the edge of it, there is a list of comic performers and writers from the days of music hall and variety, through to contemporary performers.

In 2012, part of the carpet was uprooted on Council orders as it had been decided that it was too close to the tram tracks. Even the Ken Dodd dedication plaque is gone.

The headland was designed to hold public events, the first of which was a concert by Elton John on the 16th of June 2012 (which was cut short due to high winds – as were the next two events).

A new addition to the Promenade's art sculptures was the beginning of the installation of 5 stems of 30-metre-tall Dune Grass in November.

Blackpool Tower re-furbishment: The Tower reopened on the 1st of September, after a year-long £5m revamp. The old café became a gourmet burger restaurant, the Skywalk, complete with floor-to-ceiling glass observational panel, which was launched as part of the newly named Blackpool Tower Eye, giving views of the three piers, the Fylde coast and, on a good day, Manchester, the Lakes, and Scotland.

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The aquarium on ground level was turned into the Blackpool Dungeon – a Lancashire version of the London Dungeon with actors performing 10 vignettes telling tales of smugglers, Pendle witches, the plague, and Vikings. The Dungeon was officially opened on the 24th of August.

The Noor-Al-Madina Mosque opened on Waterloo Road at the start of the year. It had taken over several derelict shops without planning permission. Three people were taken to court in 2013 for running an illegal mosque. The unofficial mosque had room for two hundred Muslim followers and contained the studios of Ghousia TV which broadcast nationally. Planning permission was again refused in August 2014, so the group moved to Ripon Road.
Crown Furniture opened a new showroom at Unit 2 of the Woodman Centre on Vicarage Lane in March.
The Vietnamese Bistro opened in the recently revamped and now Euro-style Cedar Square in February.
The Bier Keller at 93 Promenade reopened after being closed for 2 years. In May 2016, the venue re-opened as Jokerz comedy bar.
A statue of Jimmy Armfield was created by sculptor Les Johnson at his workshop in Hampshire and is 9 feet tall. It was placed on a plinth outside the Armfield Stand at the south-west corner of the Bloomfield Road Football ground and was unveiled at a Tangerine tie Gala Dinner, 40 years to the day of Armfield's last appearance in a Blackpool shirt – the 1st of May.
Blackpool Council widened its Wireless Blackpool Network to cover an area one kilometre around the Tower, to allow wireless computer access to the public.
Blackpool Number 1 signal box was demolished in January.
Nando's chicken restaurant opened at 29 Church Street in February, in what had formerly been a Clark's shoe shop.
Plumbing Supplies and Services at 21 Cookson Street closed after many years of service.
Complete Entertainment Exchange (CEX) opened a new store in April, in the former Textiles Direct store in Adelaide Street.

Moor Park Primary Care Centre, Blackpool: health and leisure complex was officially opened on the 4th of July, with children from local primary schools burying a time capsule at the entrance - consisting of everyday 2011 items such as a toothbrush, a school uniform, and a Blackpool Football Club football kit. The time capsule will be dug up again on 29th June 2061. The centre replaced the North Shore Surgery (Holmfield Road, Bispham Road, and Redbank Road practices), Devonshire Road Surgery, and the Ashfield Road Practice. District Nursing, Health Visiting and minor surgery and diagnostics services also began. Bispham Library also moved to the new centre on the opening day. It had closed at the old site on the 14th of June.

Moor Park Swimming Pool had opened on Bristol Avenue in July 1992, for public use, and the official opening was in the August. The pool facility has a 25 metre by 13 metre main pool, shallow at both ends, and a 15 metre by 9 metre Learner Pool, of constant depth. The pool was now linked to the new centre buildings.

South Shore Primary Care Centre, Blackpool: opened to patients in May, on the former South Shore Hospital site on Lytham Road. It provided a centralised home for 4 GP practices, various clinics, diagnostics, and eventually, a dentist.
Abbey Road Clinic and Lytham Road Health Centre soon closed, as did St Mary's and Highfield GP Surgeries, and Highfield Pharmacy.

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Newton Drive Health Centre opened on the corner of Bathurst Drive on the 8th of August, combining Newton Drive and Yates Street Surgeries with a dentist, pharmacy, nursing, and health visitors. Its pharmacy, operated by Genix Healthcare Ltd, opened on the 1st of October 2012.
Kapers Nursery on Newhouse Road, were filmed by the CBeebies hit TV show Same Smile in June.
The Syndicate nightclub on Church Street closed indefinitely on the 11th of August.
The Bridal Boutique opened on Red Bank Road, Bispham in February.

Blackpool BMX Club: was formed, following the opening of the national standard BMX track in Stanley Park in the summer. The track was funded by a £350,000 grant from Cycling England, and was given a £20,000 upgrade in 2016, after which it hosted its first National competition. The track was resurfaced, and new pens were fitted inside which riders line up for the start of a race. In July 2017, four of its young riders were chosen to represent Great Britain at the UCI 2017 BMX World Championships in Rock Hill, USA. They were Imogen Hill, 14, Molly Cranshaw, 13, Lauren Anyon, 13 and Wade Agar, 16.

The Mereside Pump Track, another BMX facility, was opened on the 27th of February.

The HSBC Bank at 1 Highfield Road closed. It had originally been a branch of the London City and Midland, and in October 2014, the Italio Italian restaurant and take away opened on the premises.
The Bethesda Square play area was renamed Doreen Holt Park in tribute to the late councillor.
The first Electric Garden Progressive Rock music festival was held at Beat nightclub in May.
Norbreck Bakery moved its operations from Norbreck Road to premises on Topping Street and changed its name to the Topping Street Bakery.
The Co-operative opened a new food store on Abingdon Street on the 27th of August.
The Tower Buildings on Coronation Street/Victoria Street in Blackpool were demolished in February to make way for the latest development of Hounds Hill shopping centre. The buildings included the Galleon bar and several small shops. Buildings in a block bounded by Adelaide Street, Leopold Grove, and Alfred Street at the back of the Winter Gardens were also bulldozed.
An outdoor heated pool was opened at the De Vere Village Hotel on Herons' Reach on the 31st of July.
Episode 6 of the ITV show "Show me the Funny" was filmed in Blackpool, when the five remaining comedians headed to the home of British comedy, where they took over the entertainment at two local B and Bs and tried to come up with new material for a nerve-wracking gig at the Pleasure Beach.
Highfield Humanities College embarked upon a complete rebuilding programme, and St Mary's Catholic College began to be 80% rebuilt.
Green's Café moved into the old Greasley's Barbers shop at 58 Highfield Road in July.
A bicycle road race circuit was built beside Palatine Leisure Centre. It was officially opened on the 2nd of July by Blackpool's World Champion Paralympic cyclist, Terry Byrne.
Blackpool Sports Centre hosted the inaugural UK Taekwondo Festival.
The Tache rock club on Cookson Street was purchased by the Council, to be demolished to make way for the Talbot Gateway redevelopment scheme. The club itself moved to Beat on Corporation Street.
Benson's Beds opened a new store on Cherry Tree Road in January.
At 35 Market Street, the Revs dual bars opened, as two different brands – the Revolution Russian Vodka and the Revolución de Cuba. In March 2017, the two brands were combined, and in August 2017, its owners, the Revolution Group agreed to a £101m takeover offer from the Stonegate Pub Company.
Lloyd Motors took over the Derek Woodman BMW garage at Peel, after buying it in April 2010.
La Marokina, Blackpool's first Moroccan restaurant, opened on Bond Street.
Blackpool Dance Supplies at 28 Cookson Street closed down on the 28th of May.
A new community park, named Grange Park was opened in November, with equipment such as an aerial zip wire and wooden climbing structure for the children to use.

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The Pleasure Beach held its first "Big One Talent Show" in August, in the Globe Theatre.
The PC World store at Squires Gate moved in with the Currys store in August. That combined shop was soon replaced by a new Argos store, and moved to a separate unit nearer to the main road.
The Zest Leisure Club on Naventis Court on Singleton Street closed, to be converted into flats.
The worldwide launch of the Bombardier FLEXITY 2 Tram took place in Blackpool on the 8th of September, at the soon-to-be-opened Tram Depot at Squires Gate.
Group Leisure magazine voted Blackpool the best resort in the UK in September.
The Pleasure Beach was voted in the top ten fun park resorts in the world at the Golden Ticket Awards in the USA in October. It was, of course, also the best in the UK.
Halford's opened an Autocentre on Vicarage Lane in October.
A new pub called the Layton Rakes was opened on Market Street on the 22nd of November by Charlie Cairoli Junior.
Peek a Booze cabaret bar and hotel opened on Dickson Road in September.
A Pandora jewellery store opened in the Hounds Hill Centre in June.
Blackpool boxer Brian Rose became the first Blackpool fighter to win a national title in over 50 years, when he beat Prince Arron for the British Light Middleweight title on the 3rd of December. He had moved to Blackpool at the age of 8 and settled on the Mereside estate. His first professional bout was at the Hilton Hotel in Blackpool in 2005. Rose defeated Alexey Ribchev by a unanimous points decision at Bolton Arena on the 29th of June 2013, to win the WBO Intercontinental championship.
Lucy Bowes was voted the Fylde's brightest young sporting star at the first ever AllStars awards ceremony on the 8th of December. Lucy, a swimmer from St George's School was crowned at Blackpool Sixth Form's new theatre in the contest that was jointly sponsored by them and the Gazette. The 2013 winner was young swimmer Emily McNeill.
A male concert-goer was stabbed on the 10th of December, at a concert by Fat Boy Slim at the Empress Ballroom.
The Blackpool Wedding Chapel, Festival House, was officially opened on Central Promenade on the 15th of December. The Blackpool Register Office was transferred from King Street at the same time.
Barratt's shoe shop in the Hounds Hill Centre closed on the 23rd of December.
17 new council homes were opened on Gateside Drive and Dracott Avenue in Grange Park in December. The adjacent play park was also rebuilt.

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Fracking: Permission was granted to start drilling for Shale Gas in the Fylde. The first well was begun at Preese Hall in Weeton in August 2010, off Grange Road in Singleton in 2011, Anna's Road, Peel in 2012, Inskip Road in Wharles, in order to extract gas by the controversial method of hydraulic fracturing, or "Fracking". The company responsible, Cuadrilla Resources, believed there to be around 200 trillion cubic feet of gas under Lancashire – an amount it believed to be enough to create 1,700 local jobs over the next decade. Unfortunately, the drilling caused two minor earthquakes, and later test drilling also damaged nearby houses in Peel. On the 1st of April 2011, a tremor measuring 2.3 on the Richter scale occurred. Then, on the 27th of May, another tremor measuring 1.4 was felt. As a result of this, at the end of May 2011, the Government imposed a moratorium on fracking.

In October 2016, despite the many protests from worried local people, the government overturned an earlier decision by Lancashire County Council to stop the process. Fracking sites at Little Plumpton and Roseacre were given the go-ahead, prompting protracted demonstrations by angry locals.
The drilling of the wells began in mid-August 2017, and the first 800-metre-long horizontal shaft was dug in April 2018, 2,700 metres underground.
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Four mini earthquakes were recorded at the site after the first frack, and in November 2018, 7 Lancashire MPs called for an end to fracking after the 36th tremor was recorded. This was despite the well producing its first gas in the same month.

In August 2019, Cuadrilla started fracking the second well at Preston New Road. However, on the 26th of August, the largest tremor yet, measuring 2.9ML, was felt by locals – including me. Calls were made for fracking to stop and work at the Preston New Road site was halted by regulators as the tremor was assessed. On the 1st of November 2019, the Government placed a moratorium on all Fracking.

The site became infamous for the long-running demonstrations by anti-fracking protesters which caused havoc in the immediate area for several years.

In 2016, activists set up unauthorised camps opposite the entrance of the site and at the junction of the A583 and Westby Road, Little Plumpton: this camp included the placement of makeshift toilets on the public verge. In a dawn raid on the 20th of November 2019, the illegal occupants of their "Camp of New Hope" were evicted, and 10 days after this, the Gate Camp – on the opposite side of the A583 to the Cuadrilla site – was removed by its users after 812 days of use.

The Falcon Hotel on Hardhorn Way was demolished in August to make room for new housing.
The Indulge Restro Bar opened at 22-24 Breck Road in Poulton on the 28th of January.

Lighthouse View, Fleetwood: The Chatsworth Resource Centre (Orchard House) on Chatsworth Avenue in Fleetwood closed on the 28th of January, with its users relocated to the new Wyre Day Centre at Larkholme. The adjacent Wansbeck House 24-unit sheltered housing centre was closed at the same time, and its demolition began in March 2017. The whole site is to be developed into a 72-unit Extra care building by Bardsley Construction Ltd, who were commissioned by Regenda Homes to construct the £12 million Lighthouse View extra care complex, on the corner of Chatsworth Avenue and Wansbeck Avenue. Bardsley collapsed in December 2019, leaving the complex unfinished.

A Monday Market was first held in Poulton in October.
Poulton People's Choir was formed in October, practicing in St Chad's Church Hall.
The first Poulton Beer Festival was held in August.
The Nursery World store at 157 Victoria Road East closed in May. The building had been built as a Fine Fare supermarket in the 1970s (later taken over by Safeway), then a Tesco, and finally a First Stop DIY shop. A Sainsbury's Local store was opened on the site on the 11th of January 2001.
The Tramway public house reopened as a Crown Carvery at 167-169 Victoria Road East.
JD Wetherspoon opened their latest local pub, when the Jolly Tars opened on the 28th of June in the former Kwik Save store at 154-158 Victoria Road West in Cleveleys.

Cleveleys Ice Arena: Sub Zero Ice Rink opened on Cleveleys Promenade in May, and Ice hockey returned to the Fylde Coast with the birth of the new Fylde Flyers at the venue, along with the Fylde Coast Figure Skating Club. In October 2013, the rink's name was changed to the Jubilee Ice Arena by new owners MFA Bowl. The arena closed on the 28th of September 2014, only to re-open on the 14th of February 2015 as the Cleveleys Ice Arena. This closed for the final time in October 2015.
On the 5th of November 2016, the owners of Children's Corner at Cleveleys reopened the building as Knuckleheads Family Entertainment Centre. This too closed in December 2017, only to re-open under new ownership on the 13th of January 2018. That too soon closed.

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In May 2019, the premises re-opened, as a gym and fitness facility, run by JD Sports.

The New Yorker Café opened at the junction of Victoria Road West and the Promenade in Cleveleys on the 7th of August, in what had been Terry's of Cleveleys.

The Windfarm: Walney Offshore Windfarm was built in the Irish Sea 35 Km northwest of Fleetwood, and part of it was connected by a cable to shore at Cleveleys on the 12th of May which then went underground to Thornton.
In summer, a cable barge docked offshore at Cleveleys and berthed on the beach to lay the power connection or 'export cable' which joins Walney 2 to land. A cofferdam was built against the seawall to enable the cable to be buried under the beach in front of Thornton Gate. The cable continued underground to Hillhouse Industrial Estate at Stanah, where new 132 Kilovolt and 400 Kilovolt substations were built to transfer the power into the National Grid. The completed Windfarm has 102 turbines.

AM Seafoods built a new shellfish processing facility at its site in Fleetwood.
The British Darts Organisation held its 33rd International Tournament at the Marine Hall in Fleetwood on the 9th and 10th of April.
An ITV documentary about a disabled Fleetwood girl was screened on the 1st of March. Leah Garfitt suffers from the genetic illness Niemann Pick Disease Type C. She attends Red Marsh School, Thornton, and is one of only 500 children in the world suffering from the disorder which attacks the nervous system.
Tesco Express opened a store in St Anne's Square on the 16th of September, taking over the Booth's store, which had closed in December 2010, having been there since 1924.
A Travelodge hotel was opened above Marks and Spencer's store on Clifton Drive South in St Anne's.
The Everest Road council tip at St Anne's closed.
Fylde Community Radio started broadcasting from a studio on St Davids Road North, St Anne's.
The first St Anne's Music Festival was held from the 21st of July.
Fylde's World War2 wartime weekend took place in August. Tens of thousands of people attended to watch attractions including battle re-enactments, a vintage vehicle parade, weapons displays, and a static display of a Spitfire on Lytham Green.
The Oakhill Vets Centre opened in the old Derby Arms building at 71 Station Road in Kirkham in April. The pub had closed in 2009. On the opposite corner to the pub for many years was a Co-op butchers' shop – now a bridal wear shop.

2012

The Centenary Illuminations: To mark 100 years since the first "proper" illuminations, the show was lit on the 31st of August by Olympic medallists Luke Campbell (gold in bantamweight boxing), Steven Burke (gold in cycling), Sophie Hosking (gold in sculls), Max Whitlock (silver in gymnastics – pommel horse), Karina Bryant (bronze in judo), and Beth Tweddle (bronze in gymnastics – uneven bars).
It was the first opening ceremony to be held on the new Tower Festival Headland.
The well-loved Rocket Tram became the centrepiece of the traffic island at Gynn Square with a huge astronaut from 1970 floating above it. It was removed in June 2014.
There were also Centenary Heads and Queen's Jubilee themed tableaux.

Simon Garrick and Kelly Goudie, of North Drive, Anchorsholme, became the first couple to be married at Blackpool's £2.7m wedding chapel on the Promenade on the 12th of January.
Ant and Dec launched the 2012 series of Britain's Got Talent in a procession along the new Promenade accompanied by various fancy-dress characters and inflatable figures.

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The Ordnance Survey's Flying Unit moved from Blackpool Airport to East Midlands Airport in January, after over 50 years of being based there.
Budget Rent-a-Car closed their outlet at the Oxford in January.

The Blackpool Foodbank: was founded in January on Dickson Road, by former child singing star Neil Reid (Mother of mine – 1971). He had also started the Oasis Church in January 2010, hosting its first service at the Hilton Hotel on the 17th. By the end of November 2012, the foodbank had provided food to 370 families in town.
In mid-2013, the foodbank moved to larger premises on Walker Street. Also, in 2013, the Blackpool Food Partnership was set up to support the work of the foodbank. It is a faith-based initiative to coordinate action to help reduce both food poverty and food waste in Blackpool and the surrounding area. As of 2019, the foodbank is located at 64b Cornwall Avenue.

A quiz team called The Blackpool Rockers won the BBC's Eggheads quiz show on the 19th of March. The team was made up of employees from RD Blackwood Limited. A team from Blackpool Sixth Form College failed in another episode.
The Swallows charity was set up by Chris Curtis and Michael Stenhouse in March to support and educate sufferers of head and neck cancer in the area. In 2014, the charity opened a shop and charity base, the Michael Stenhouse Centre, at the Crescent in St Anne's.

Squires Gate Tram Depot, Blackpool: The new Blackpool Corporation tram depot opened at Squires Gate on the 4th of April, to house up to 20 trams at a time, including 16 of the latest Flexity 2 "supertrams". Older trams are still garaged and repaired at Rigby Road.
The building was constructed by VolkerFitzpatrick, and it has marine-grade coatings and an aluminium roof to minimise corrosion, while the trams will be kept indoors and washed every day. The depot also features an external LED display designed to harmonise with the illuminations. There are three 3 maintenance roads, one of which is equipped with Eurogamma jacks.
Following the modernisation of the network, passengers reached 827,00 in the month of October.

The Turkish Palace restaurant opened at 22/24 Lytham Road on the 2nd of May.
Magnet Joinery closed their store at 1 Mowbray Drive and Plymouth Road in March. The Jewson's store behind the building remained open. Howden's Joinery moved into the building in December 2012.
The "Game" computer games store in the Hounds Hill Centre closed in March.
A poverty indicator survey in May showed that South Shore was among the 10 most deprived communities in the UK. As many as 52 per cent of children were thought to be living in poverty in the area and the predicted male life expectancy was 66 years old – the lowest in the country.
Layton Hill Convent Junior School was demolished in May.
The Oracle youth centre opened for use on St Anne's Road on the 11th of June. The pod-shaped building was funded through the government's My place initiative and includes a cybercafé, training rooms, and arts and music facilities including a performance area, as well as specialist work and advice services aimed at supporting young people.
The Fylde Coast Academy Trust (FCAT) was set up, to be made up of Aspire Academy and Montgomery High School, and the all-through school Unity Academy in North Shore. It was joined in November 2015 by the Hambleton Primary Academy. The trust's published aim was to foster a *"consistent standard of learning across different schools in partnership with its sponsor Fylde Coast Teaching School"*.
The Co-operative Funerals outlet at 97 Whitegate Drive was taken over by Martin, Dewhurst, and McKenna Funeral Services in June 2012.

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The Dayton House furniture store on Highfield Road closed in June.
Number 293 Vicarage Lane was converted from a newsagent's shop into a private house.
Phillip Hough opened his third Subway sandwich shop on Central Drive in March. His first, on Market Street, appeared in 2001; Mr Hough bought it in 2004. There are also Subway stores at 299 Squires Gate Lane, 217 Bispham Road, and 3 Cherry Tree Road.

The Olympic Torch visits the Fylde: The 30th Olympiad relay toured Wyre, Blackpool, and the Fylde on the 22nd and 23rd of June. The Olympic flame was kept burning overnight in a cauldron in the Tower Ballroom at the exact half-way mark of the route. The cauldron was lit by the winners of TV show Strictly Come Dancing – pop drummer Harry Judd and professional dancer Aliona Vilani.

Local people who carried the torch through Blackpool were: James Wood, Jane Crossland, Lisa Daley, Ian Howson, Rick Clement, Shelley Woods, and Sarah Cross. The local carrier in Cleveleys was Janette Mills. Through Fleetwood were: Al Jemson, Ben Holmes, Jake Adams, Kajol Lally, and Vicky Huyton.
Lytham St Anne's carriers were: Geraldine McGraine, Ian Buck, Jack Taylor, Leonard Curtis, and Trevor Mills. Ryan Thornton and Jonathan Evans carried it through Warton. Other people and some celebrities assisted.

The first National Primary School Games were held in Stanley Park on the 25th of June.
Queen Elizabeth II's Diamond Jubilee was commemorated with the unveiling of a Jubilee tram in August. It also marked the launch of the new colours for the trams, of purple and grey.
Painted in 1882, Philip Calderon's "Captain of the Eleven" became world famous when it featured in a campaign promoting Pear's soap. The original painting was donated to Thames Primary School in 1926 by WD Hallstead, and it sold this July for £289,250.
In July, Blackpool was announced as the saddest place in the UK. A study of 200,000 people aged 16 and over was published by the Office for National Statistics as part of the Prime Minister David Cameron's initiative launched in 2010 to assess the nation's wellbeing.
The Homeless Action charity shop was opened on the 20th of August at 32 Cookson Street. The shop had previously been a greengrocer's shop called Bananarama. Homeless Action is a Community Interest Company which raises funds for the Blackpool based charity The Ashley Foundation, which was founded in 1997 and has three hostels in Blackpool with 62 beds – Elm House at 22 Derby Road, Oak House at 9 Knowle Avenue, and Holly House at 20 Pleasant Street.
Mecca Bingo on Bank Hey Street was replaced in August with a new music and cabaret bar called Viva.
The Griddle Bar opened at Bond Street Chippy (numbers 84-86).
Infinity nightclub opened on the 29th of September at 115-122 the promenade. The building previously housed the Flares pub, and the Boardwalk and Sinless nightclubs. Flares were then at numbers 124 to 130 from 2003, just opening on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights. The bar closed on the 21st of March 2015, to re-open as Popworld, a 1990s-themed bar with waitress service.
The 1920s' houses on Whinney Heys and Whinpark Avenue and environs began to be demolished in October, to make way for a planned multi-storey car park for Victoria Hospital.
The Blackpool NSPCC Service Centre opened at 22 Plymouth Road on the 5th of October.
A Build-a-Bear workshop opened in the Hounds Hill Centre on the 12th of October.
The Beach House restaurant opened on the Promenade on the 29th of October – the first to do so on the sea side of the tram tracks in one hundred years.
Barnardo's opened a large retail and collection centre on Cherry Tree Road in November. It continued a long association with the town, which although having several charity shops here, has never run a children's home in Blackpool.

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The Comet electrical store on Holyoake Avenue closed on the 9th of December, to be replaced by a Pets at Home store, on the 2nd of April 2014. Their second store, on Blackpool Retail Park off Squires Gate Lane had also closed, being changed into an extension of the adjacent Dunelm Mill store in 2014.
Ma Kelly's South opened on the corner of Bagot Street and 239 to 241 Lytham Road. The premises had previously housed various stores, such as FADS wallpaper store, Bargains DIY shop, and the Sofa Bed Co/Pampers beauticians.
The Fylde Peninsula Water Management Group (FPWMG) was formed. It is a partnership comprising representatives of the Environment Agency, United Utilities, Blackpool, Wyre and Fylde Councils, Lancashire County Council, and Keep Britain Tidy.

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Beacons were lit across the Fylde on the 4th of June, to celebrate Queen Elizabeth II's Diamond Jubilee (60 years on the throne). They were at Fleetwood, Staining, Warton, and Preesall. Staining village field was renamed the Queen Elizabeth II Royal Playing Field in honour of the occasion.
The Espanyol Spanish restaurant opened at 4 Queen Square in Poulton in April.
Trevor's Carpets moved into the vacated Sharratt's of Cleveleys furniture store at 3-4 Crescent West, which had earlier been the Tramstop Market
The Mythical Coast artwork project, was begun in Cleveleys, as *"a vision to create a new narrative for the Wyre Coastal region connecting together local history"*. It was to comprise several art pieces, including the Sea Swallow Beacon, Fylde Coast Memorial, Golden Shell Blow Hole, Princess Mary Driftwood, and Whirlpool Listening Shell. The Fylde Coast Memorial to ships lost between 1643 and 2008, was unveiled on the promenade at Cleveleys in June, and the "Sea Swallow" Beacon was installed nearby on the 19th of June. The Sea Swallow is a children's story book by Gareth Thompson for the Wyre coastline, and the designs were hand carved in China, copying maquettes created by Stephen Broadbent.
Vets4Pets opened a new practice at 186 Victoria Road West in Cleveleys on the 24th of August.
The Cleveleys Figure and Dance Club opened at the Ice Arena on the 29th of October.
A Pound Bakery opened on Victoria Road West in Cleveleys. It was followed in 2014 by another in St Anne's Square, and a third, on Church Street in Blackpool in March.
Fleetwood's council yard on Copse Road was demolished in April, by contractor Walter Forshaw. The adjacent former Archbell Greenwood building had already been demolished. A new depot was built on the site by RP Tyson. Known locally as the *"Town Yard",* the council yard had started life as the Lancashire Steam Saw Mill, which became Riley's.
The new multi-million-pound Primary Health and Wellbeing Centre on Dock Street in Fleetwood was formally handed over by the builders to the client in April.
A monument was unveiled in September, on Fleetwood Esplanade, to celebrate the town's 175th anniversary in 2011. The monument was on the site of an old wishing well opposite the Mount Hotel.
The Motor Mania motorist's store at 230 Poulton Road in Fleetwood closed in May. It was originally Lansdowne Motors (selling ICI fuel), then Victoria Motors from 1979, then from 1982, a Great Mills DIY superstore, then a snooker hall (the Crucible). It became the Poolfoot Car Centre salerooms, which closed in 2018.
Riley's Furniture Showroom on Warrenhurst Road in Fleetwood was demolished. The building had originally been a Mullard's factory.
Fleetwood Marine Gardens were reopened on the 22nd of September after a £1m revamp, which saw a new outdoor performance area, landscaping, and a water fountain play feature.
On the 23rd of June, following a flag raising ceremony to mark the start of Armed Forces Week 2012, council leader Cllr David Eaves signed the Fylde Borough Council Armed Forces Community Covenant between the people of Fylde and the Armed Forces. This was followed by pledges from the Royal Navy, Army and Royal Air Force, Services Associations, Lancashire Police, NHS, New Fylde Housing and HMP
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Kirkham to work together for mutual benefit. The association also established a "Hub" in Richmond Road St Anne's, where veterans and those seeking to support veterans can call in.
Travelodge opened a new hotel on Clifton Drive in St Anne's on the 26th of April, above the Marks and Spencer outlet.
St Anne's Conservative Club on Clifton Drive North was demolished in June, as was Anthony House, next door on St George's Road. The site was soon filled by a 34-apartment complex over a new Aldi supermarket which opened on the 21st of November 2013.
Mammas Too restaurant on St Andrew's Road South in St Anne's closed in March. Another Italian restaurant, Cucina Pazzo, took over the site but that closed in July 2015. Then, in September 2017, St Anne's chef Kyle De'ath opened Ember and Vine in the premises.
St Anne's lost three shops from the square in succession in July and August, when Johnson's the Cleaners, H Samuel and Julian Graves closed.
The first annual St Anne's Kite Festival was held on the beach next to the pier. The two-day event has become a popular annual event.
The first annual St Anne's Music and Arts Festival was held in Ashton Gardens.
Cuthbert Clifton (Estate Agents) opened at 8 Clifton Walks in Lytham in January.
Colin Ballard became Lytham Town Cryer. He retired in March 2019.0
The Lytham Coffee Co opened at Melton Grove Works, Church Road, in Lytham.
Saranya Thai Restaurant and Bar opened at 2 Pleasant Street in Lytham on the 26th of October.
The Lytham Road library building in Warton was converted into a Police PACT meeting hall in May, and a community library began there in February 2013.
The population of Kirkham was 7,194.
The Village Steakhouse at 12 Wyre View in Knott End reopened on the 26th of July, as the New Village Steakhouse. On the 26th of March 2014, a pizzeria opened on its first floor.

2013
Blackpool Tower was fitted with a full new set of lights which were switched on the 12th of February. An illuminated heart in the middle of the Tower contained more than 900 LED lights, and the whole structure now had 5,508 LED lights, each containing 42 individual LEDs.
The John Jacobs golf driving range on Fleetwood Road North was taken over and renamed Tee Time. It had previously been called the Blackpool Golf Driving Range.
Several Blockbuster stores in the area closed in March after the chain went into administration. These included Whitegate Drive and Cornelian Way (to be replaced on the 21st of October and in August 2013 respectively by Morrison's Local supermarket). Stores in Fleetwood Road in Cleveleys, Kilnhouse Lane in St Anne's stayed open. The store in Tithebarn Street in Poulton also closed. The shop on Poulton Road in Fleetwood closed in November.
Blackpool's first Chilli Festival was held in St John's Square on the 6th of March. There was a variety of chilli trader specialists, foods, drinks, live entertainment, and of course, a chilli-eating contest.
A statue of Charlie Cairoli was unveiled in the Rose Gardens of Stanley Park on the 21st of April. It was sculpted by Brian Nicholson.
The Pleasure Beach opened Wallace and Gromit's Thrill-O-Matic on the 29th of April. It is an indoor ride, and replaced the 40-year-old Gold Mine ride, which closed in 2011.
A new information hub for Revoe was opened at 77-81 Central Drive on the 15th of June, the local fundraisers called it "Revoelution".
A row of terraced house on Princess Street were demolished for re-development of the site. Numbers 13 to 21 were removed, being constructed in the late 19th century. The ground was then examined, and archaeologists found evidence of 18th and 19th century gardens and plants, together with 17th century cobbled walls, pottery, a clay pipe, and a 17th century green glass bottle. Several bones of cattle were also

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found, suggesting a possible slaughterhouse. The remains of the terrace showed that it was built directly onto sand – with no foundations.

The Highlands, Blackpool: This pub at 206 Queen's Promenade re-opened on the 9th of August after a complete re-furbishment. The venue was originally built as separate houses in the mid-19th century, and was converted into an hotel later in the century. By 1978, it had its own residents' bar, lounge bar, and sun lounge, but after the work in 2013, it ceased to take in guests, and converted to a public house.

Pupils from Collegiate School became the first schoolchildren in the Northwest to launch their own mobile App (application) in June.
At the request of Blackpool Corporation, the Blackpool Multi Academy Trust was established in September. Its key purpose is to provide a local solution for supporting and sponsoring schools at risk. It is initially a small group of schools comprising of 1 Special School, and 3 mainstream Primary Schools. Anchorsholme, Devonshire and Park agreed to form the Trust and whilst in the process of conversion, Revoe was identified as a school at risk and was allocated to the Trust as a sponsored school.
Anthony Woodman and William Howarth opened a car sales pitch, Woodman Howarth, at 37 Midgeland Road. The pitch had been Don's Scrap Yard (Donald Curtis) in the 1960s and 70s, which had been built on the site of a small grocer's shop.
Around 60 unused British army shells were discovered buried in a cellar underneath a car park off Blundell Street on the 9th of July.
Blackpool's official mascot, Rocky the Resort Pass, was unveiled at the summer's Mascot Games. The animated yellow card with sunglasses had been designed by local student Christie O'Doherty.
On the 6th of July, the 2013 British Cycling National Youth Circuit Championships took place on the North Promenade.
The first Blackpool International Festival was held on the 24th of August in St John's Square. It was organised by a group of volunteers who represented a number of diverse heritage communities living and working in Blackpool.
The Illuminations featured a true 21st century first when visitors were able to connect their mobile phones via Android or Apple apps to "bring to life" over 40 themed experiences, voiced by local school children.
More than 1,000 people set off at midnight on the 28th of September on the 52-mile journey from Manchester's Trafford Centre to Blackpool's Comedy Carpet. They raised more than £150,000 for the British Heart Foundation.
The Blackpool Music Festival was revived in October, featuring many acts at various venues around town.
The first Blackpool Rocks Dance Music Festival was held. *"8,000 party-goers packed into eight rooms at the Winter Gardens, with headline acts including Disclosure, The 1975 and Wretch 32, plus DJs Trevor Nelson and Pete Tong joining local-born Radio 1 Danny Howard on the decks"*. The event moved to the Tower in 2014, but in 2015, it was back at the Winter Gardens.
The Talbot Road Car Park was reopened after a full refurbishment on the 30th of October.
Blackpool Football Club stars Barry Ferguson and Tom Barkhuizen opened the new outlet. The shop was closed in January 2015 due to lack of custom.
The first Blackpool Beer Festival was held at Blackpool Football Club in October.
Demolition of the Queen's Park Estate high rise flats began in November.
On Albert Road, the Malibu Hotel and the Astoria Hotel both closed down. Each had 60 bedrooms. In June 2017, they began to be converted into 10 self-contained private apartments.
Legendary singer Bob Dylan performed the first of three shows at the Opera House on the 22nd of November.

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The Silver Line, a free telephone service for lonely, worried, and vulnerable elderly people, was launched on the 25th of November by FCMS of Blackpool, with the opening of a new call centre. It was founded by TV personality Esther Rantzen. By 2018, it was taking over 10,500 telephone calls per week.
The Fylde Coast Youth Dance Company was formed in July. Run by the Council's Sarah Hall, the founder members were Emily Shuck, Ryan Fenton, Ellie Owen, Lydia May Hurley, Zoe Norbury, and Katie Summer.
Janet Lee moved her Dance Steps dancing school from Southport to Spen House, on Spen Business Park, off Ashworth Road.
Blackpool's Alfred Meakin became the oldest man in the UK to undergo a bone marrow transplant in November. He competed in the 1964 Olympic Games in Tokyo and was a gold medallist at the Perth Empire Games in 1962.
Fylde Marine Conservation Zone was designated this year to *"protect the subtidal sand habitats found in the area. Fylde overlaps the Liverpool Bay Special Protection Area, which was designated to protect birds such as the red-throated diver and common scoter. The alliance will not only protect the birds, but the MCZ designation will protect their food source. Flat fish, rays, gurnard, swimming crabs, hermit crabs and other crustaceans feed on the bivalves ('two shells' such as cockles and mussels)"*.
The Tudor Rose Hotel and its Tudor Rose Restaurant at 429 to 437 The Promenade was demolished in December, after several years of being empty. Blackpool Council planning committee approved an application to replace the hotel with two bars and two restaurants on the ground floor, and 15 permanent apartments above. In September 2018, EasyHotel acquired a 999-year lease on the site, to develop a 103-bedroom venue. *"It will be developed as a purpose-built hotel and two units for restaurants or cafés on the ground floor, which are expected to be sold upon completion. It would be expected to open during the 2020/21 financial year"*.

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The railway bridge on Tithebarn Street in Poulton was demolished in March and April.
Poulton Market Hall closed on the 19th of July.
Village Walks shopping arcade in Poulton centre closed and was replaced by a Home Bargains store, which opened on the 23rd of November.
Eclipse Home Entertainment Ltd closed their computer games store at 6 Beech Avenue in Blackpool, moving to Victoria Road East in Cleveleys.
Helen Ashmore Funerals opened at 7 Bispham Road in Cleveleys, replacing the 10 Beauty salon.
The first Cleveleys Classic Car Show was held on Victoria Road West and the Promenade on the 9th of June, with 150 cars on display.
The Fleetwood Brewing Company was formed in July, brewing its first beer "First Trawler" in Burnley and selling it at the Royal Oak and the Strawberry Gardens in Fleetwood.
The first Fylde Coast Food and Drink Festival was held at Fleetwood Marine Hall on the 18th of August.
A time capsule was buried in the grounds of The Heathers development on Chain Lane in Staining on the 1st of May. Children from Year Four at Staining Primary School wrote down their favourite memories of a day out in Staining and put them in the capsule. Also, buried in the history pot were tickets to events, stories, and photographs.
St Anne's was granted its own flag, which was first raised in St Anne's Square on the 6th of July.
Lytham won gold and was named the Champion of Champions by the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) on the 12th of October. The RHS said Lytham was *"the cleanest, greenest, and most beautiful location in Britain"*.
Whitewaters Training opened a new centre for the construction industry at Preese Hall Farm in Weeton on the 10th of June.
Staining's own flag was also first raised on Gala Day, the 27th of July.
St Anne's also gained its own flag – designed by Vince Settle. It was first flown outside the public offices on Clifton Drive in July.
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St Anne's Adventure Scouts was founded in November, for 14 to 18-year-olds, a resurrection of the group which folded in 2007.
Majestic Wines opened a new store at 150 Preston Road in Lytham on the 16th of August.
The Lytham Golf Academy opened on the 8th of February, in the former Lucky Strike Golf Driving Range on Lytham Road in Warton. Their golf shop opened there on the 7th of April.
The first "Rock the Dead Donkey" music festival was held at Great Birchwood in Warton on the 10th, 11th and 12th of May.
Dr Barry Johnson, a former pupil of Kirkham Grammar School, was sworn in as the new High Sherriff of Lancashire on the 11th of April.

2014
The Victory Road park and sports barn were renamed in honour of former English cricketer Harold Larwood. Harold Larwood Park was opened on the 4th of January.
Ricky, a pure-bred Standard Poodle bred in Westby, won "Best in Show" at Cruft's dog show on the 9th of March. His owners, Jason Lynn and Michael Gadsby run Lilliput Kennels on Moss House Lane, Westby, as well as their showdog company Afterglow Showdogs. Jason and Michael won at Crufts again in 2017, with spaniel "Miami Ink".
Phillipson Peltie opened Blackpool's only Caribbean takeaway. Caribbean Cuisine opened on Abingdon Street on the 12th of April – serving curried goat amongst other delicacies.
A Blackpool care home was ranked the best in the country in April. The Willows care home, on Midgeland Road was first in the top 20 recommended UK care homes in the survey on a national website.

The "Illuminasia" light show, Blackpool: officially opened in the Winter Gardens Olympia on the 18th of April. It featured a laser show from the stage, and 6 interactive zones:
"The Wonders of the World" including a scale model of Blackpool Tower
A larger than life journey in "The Land of the Giants"
Among the stars in "The Planetarium"
An audience with the Dragon Emperor in "The Mysteries of China"
Decades of history and a huge street map in "The Blackpool Experience" and
Life among the sharks and sea creatures of "The Deep".
The display closed for the last time in November 2017, to be dismantled and sold off.

Airline Jet2 started Blackpool's first service to Menorca on the 21st of May.
The Blackpool branch of Regency Health Care, on the corner of Newton Drive and Whinney Heys Road closed in May. It soon became called Newton House, and is a 22-bed, secure mental unit.
A nine-unit toilet block was erected on the promenade on the south side of Central Pier by operator, Danfo.
Footasylum opened a shoe and trainer store in the Hounds Hill Centre on the 24th of October.
A floating rig was stationed in the sea off South Beach as part of efforts to meet new European bathing water standards. It was set up by United Utilities in order to test the ground conditions of the sea bed as part of a five-year sewer investment project. The beach subsequently won a Blue Flag award for its cleanliness, but this was removed in May 2019.
Fylde Council closed North Houses Lane and Wildings Lane across Marton Moss because of the prohibitive cost of its maintenance. The track/road had been a traditional Moss crossing for centuries.
Joyce's Plaice, a chip shop at 180 Waterloo Road, closed in June. The shop had sold fish and chips since the late 1940s.
Tiger Bill's restaurant was opened on the ground floor of the Casino Building at the Pleasure Beach, in the former Grill Restaurant, featuring "a fusion menu combining Western grill and authentic Thai street food".

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The Central Business District, Blackpool: The central part of the Talbot Gateway development began to be built by Talbot Road Bus Station. Many old shops and businesses had been compulsorily purchased to make space for new Council Offices, a new Sainsbury's superstore (opened on the 23rd of July), and other retail outlets.
The Sainsbury's store is 12,500 square metres, and cost £19 million, being the largest in Europe, with a two-storey car park providing 600 spaces. The three-storey building also has roof parking, mezzanine floor, offices, and a canteen. It has a complex faceted glazed façade that is 100 metres wide and 17 metres high. Built by Shepherd Developments, it contains 2,300 tonnes of fabricated steelwork, 17,000 square metres of concrete planks, stairs, and landings, and 14,000 square metres of metal decking and stairs.

The new link road was named Weaver Way, after late council chief executive Steve Weaver.

The 5-storey Council building, Bickerstaffe House, in Bickerstaffe Square has retail units at ground floor, a central courtyard, a cycle store with the capacity to house 80 bicycles and a gym, complete with fitness studio, open to the public. It was completed on the 30th of April.
Former Olympian Colin Jackson officially opened the Gateway Fitness gym within the development at the start of June.

In April 2016, the Tower Coffee Company opened a coffee shop in Bickerstaffe House, with the Gym Group opening a new gym in a unit on the ground floor of the old bus station.

One floor of Bickerstaffe House was occupied by Slater Gordon Solutions Motor on the 3rd of December 2018, following its move from the airport enterprise zone.

A new family attraction opened on the Golden Mile in May. Dinosaur World offered life-size exhibits of the most-renowned dinosaurs and their habitats. The attraction closed in August 2015.
The Gallent Pioneer pub opened at 11 Station Road, for supporters of Glasgow Rangers.
Moo Bar opened at 31-33 Queen Street on the 14th of August as a bar and grill.

The Velvet Coaster pub, Blackpool: The Lucky Star amusement arcade on the promenade was closed on the 25th of August. On the 16th of May 2015, a Wetherspoon's pub, called the Velvet Coaster was opened by local boxer Brian Rose. The new pub has three bars over three floors, with a fun-fair themed decor throughout the interior with carpets and a fireplace area having "waltzer" style designs. Historical photos, details of local history, information relating to events, historical buildings, and characters of the area, as well as artwork by local artists, are also on display.
It is reputedly the UK's biggest pub.

Dan and Vycki Nicholson opened the Fylde Coast Ice Arena on the site of the TVR factory on Bristol Avenue. The venture was forced to close in May 2017 due to the unmanageable cost of machine maintenance. The site was cleared in July 2017, to enable the construction by Clearstone Energy of a gas-powered electricity generator.
The Opera House began to show films again, after a 40-year break. A new digital screen was installed – the biggest in the Northwest.
The first Fylde Coast Shakespeare Festival took place from the 23rd to the 26th of April, with performances of various sorts taking place all over the Fylde. The idea for the festival came from the then Deputy Mayor of Blackpool Councillor David Owen.

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A direct, daily, rail service to London was restarted, after a ten-year absence, at 0525 on the 15th of December by Virgin Rail. The service stops at Poulton-le-Fylde and Preston.

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A Second World War bomb was found near St Anne's Pier on the 13th of January. It was detonated by army bomb disposal experts.
The building of the new Whitehill Meadows housing estate on Whitehill Road began in January.
The Shell filling Station on Kilnhouse Lane in St Anne's closed on the 9th of February. A subway outlet opened in the old Blockbuster next door in October.

The Fylde Foodbank: received charitable status on the 29th of May, and officially opened its doors on the 30th of September. It became fully operational from new premises at the Church Road Methodist Centre, on St Albans Road, St Anne's. The foodbank had been operating in a small space at the Citizens Advice building at Kirkham in September 2013. In November 2017, it moved to premises at Fylde Borough Council, on Clifton Drive South in St Anne's, before finding a more permanent home in the annexe of the United reformed church on St George's Road on the 8th of January 2019.

The Iron Horse pub/restaurant was completed, in May, on Fleetwood Road North in Thornton. It was built by the Hungry Horse group.
The Co-operative store in Poulton's Teanlowe Centre closed in June, followed in September by WH Smith's.
The first Fleetwood Scarecrow Festival was held at Farmer Parr's between the 7th and 20th of July. The next year, it spread to feature scarecrows placed in prominent spots around tow2n.
Fylde Council's Environmental Services depot on St Davids Road North in St Anne's was demolished and replaced by a development of 32 affordable properties, with a mixture of two, three and four-bedroom family homes, as well as one and two-bedroom flats and bungalows, which opened in August.
An outdoor gymnasium was built on Roundway field at Rossall, funded by the developers of the Rossall Hospital site.
The Lytham St Anne's Classical Association was founded by local student Katrina Kelly. The group meets at AKS school.
A new "Lytham Care Hub" opened when Mosaic Community Care's new Lytham branch was launched by local MP Mark Menzies on Clifton Street on the 31st of December. The hub provides support to the elderly and the disabled to live at home, providing services such as cooking and cleaning. It also offers services for carers to assist them with the tough job of looking after loved ones who may require extra support.
The first annual Wrea Green Car Carnival was held on the village green in May, in aid of the Trinity Hospice.
A local History Board was erected outside the Shovels Inn at Hambleton in November, to mark the local Great War dead.

2015

The shop sign blew off the front of the Waterstone's book store on Bank Hey Street in severe gales, on the 12th of January, killing employee Margaret Sheridan outright.
In February, chosen by the Chinese public, Blackpool decided to adopt its new Mandarin name "*Shen Chi Jia Nian Hua*", which means Deep Pool Carnival. Until now the town had not had any specific name in Chinese.
The building at 43 Whitegate Drive, housing the Sunshine Deli, was savagely rebuilt. The early 20th century wooden window frames, containing rare rounded glass, were sadly replaced with UPVC.
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The Harbour, Blackpool: this 154-bed mental health unit on land bought from Whyndyke Farm off Preston New Road was opened for use on the 10th of March. The unit had cost £40 million and combined all previous facilities and the 530 staff in one place.
Its facilities comprise a psychiatric intensive care unit, dementia unit and functional acute unit, a gym, a sports hall, tribunal suites, and reflective space in open surroundings with views out over the Fylde countryside. All rooms are single occupancy and en-suite, many with country views, while communal spaces lead on to outdoor areas and the majority of meals are cooked fresh on site.
A new access road – Windmill Rise – was opened to allow traffic to enter from Preston New Road in January.

In May, it was announced that Blackpool has more people in the town suffering from dementia than anywhere else in Lancashire. The most recent statistics compiled by the Alzheimer's Society showed that 2082 people in the resort had the condition.
The Pleasure Beach opened its new Red Arrows Skyforce ride on the 25th of May. The 72-foot-high, 12-seat white-knuckle ride takes passengers on a 360-degree tour of the skies by letting them step into their own Red Arrows cockpit. They then take control of the plane and spin, glide, and take formation in their own display. The Red Arrows themselves flew past to launch the ride officially.
Blackpool Mayor Peter Callow unveiled a plaque on a post box in Talbot Square on the 22nd of June, to commemorate the role Blackpool Tower has played with Royal Mail. The Tower has featured in three sets of Special Stamps;

- the Picture Postcards set issued in 1994
- the A-Z of Britain Series of 2011 and
- in 2014 as part of the Seaside Architecture set of stamps

The Foxhall and Raikes Hall Conservation Areas were designated in February.
Comedian Jason Manford launched his "Manford's Comedy Club" from the Merrie England on the 24th of June.
The first Blackpool Jazz and blues festival was held at North Pier on the 1st and 2nd of August. It was started by organiser Stephen Pierre as a free festival, but with any contributions going to the Trinity Hospice.
United Utilities commissioned the new Harrowside sewage outfall pipeline. It was installed by Land and Marine on the 31st of July in a dredged trench and beach cofferdam immediately to the south of Blackpool Pleasure Beach. The kilometre-long, 2.1 metre diameter pipe had been towed from Holyhead.
Blackpool's first Comic Con was held at the Winter Gardens on the 12th of September. Designed to showcase TV and film fantasy characters and programmes, it attracted over 300 people.
Blackpool and Poulton's new Royal Mail Sorting Office was opened in October on Hawking Place in Bispham. Jimmy Armfield and Blackpool North and Cleveleys MP Paul Maynard officially unveiled the new complex, which can handle over 120,000 items of post each day, which it opened to the public on the 5th of October. Blackpool's Edward Street office closed as did the office in Poulton, followed in 2016 by the Cleveleys office.
The former Dreams bed store in Unit A on Cherry Tree Retail park was taken over in February, by furniture retailer Onit Ltd of Blackburn. That store closed in September 2018, after the company went into voluntary liquidation on the 14th of August. On the 14th of March 2019, the premises re-opened once more, this time as The Discount Furniture Warehouse.
A multi-national cuisine restaurant providing buffet and Tapanyaki-style food, Mr Basrai's World Buffet and Bar, opened on the ground floor of the old Talbot Road bus station in mid-December. The 300-seater eatery has "live" cooking stations, which enable customers to have anything from Indian and Japanese to roast dinners and pizzas.

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Construction work began on the old Christ the King school building on Grange Park, to convert it into a Pupil Referral Unit to be named "Pegasus School". The school began to be occupied during July. In June 2019, work began on a four-classroom extension and ancillary areas and refurbishment of 2 classrooms.
Kensington Developments started work on a new housing development on Midgeland Road, intending to construct 109 homes on the site. The estate will also cover most of the farmland to the west of Runnell Farm.
Kensington also began to develop land between Progress Way and Moss House Road on Marton Moss. Massive local protests about the loss of still more original mossland had been turned down by the council. Kensington began to build up to 104 two-bedroomed homes, 190 with three bedrooms, 126 with four bedrooms, and 2 with five bedrooms. There will also be a village green including a pond and play area in the new estate which is called Redwood Point, and a new entrance road, with traffic signals, was opened in July 2017. The intention is to build 422 houses.
In October, the first Blackpool Steam and Vintage Fair was held on the South Shore Car Park. 2016 was at the same venue, but the 2017 event was moved to Lawson's Fields.

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On the 18th of January, Harry Anderson died. He had been the owner of the locally famous Rimmer's shop on Blakiston Street in Fleetwood. On the 17th of April, a Blue plaque was unveiled at the shop, which reads *"The Home of the Original Rimmer's – Parched peas and Vimto lollies well loved by generations of Fleetwood residents"*. Parched Peas and Vimto lollies were the staple diet of hundreds of Fleetwood children from the 1950s onwards.
LH Daniels' butcher's shop on Victoria Road West in Cleveleys closed on the 22nd of January, revealing the sign for the previous owners, H Hargreaves.
The Shoe Box at 56 Woodlands Road in Ansdell closed in January. It had existed in the village in some form since 1903 and as the Shoe Box since at least 1946.
Poulton was named among the most desirable places to live and work in the country, when it won fifth place in a study of post codes carried out on behalf of Royal Mail in March.
A parade, led by the Sea Cadet Old Boys Band, set off from the Mount Pub on the 29th of March to unveil a crest spelling out "Onward" in the Mount Gardens. Funded by private subscription, it was opened by the Mayor of Wyre Ron Shewan.
The new Warton Enterprise Zone opened for business in March. The first two companies brought 22 jobs 15 with global management consultancy, technology, and outsourcing giant Accenture, and 7 with Trescal - worldwide specialists in calibration and asset management services.
On the 17th of April, the Fleetwood Civic Society unveiled a Blue Plaque on Harry Anderson's sweet shop on Blakiston Street in commemoration of the spiritual home of the town's beloved "Vimto Lollies" and "Parched Peas".

The Water's Edge pub, Heyhouses: On the 5th of May, the Water's Edge pub and restaurant opened at 56 Heyhouses Lane – the site of the old Premium Bonds complex. Its name is based upon it being next to a site of special scientific interest, which marks one of four locations in Lytham St Anne's where there is geological evidence of sedimentary changes dating back 10,000 years. These are indicative of the extent of the previous coastline that has long since been receded.
The 280-seater venue is owned by Manchester brewer's Joseph Holt.

In May, 17-year-old pole vaulter Fiona Hockey, from Thornton, was awarded the Sheraton Trophy. Awarded annually, by the Mayor of Wyre, to a rising star who has brought pride to Wyre Borough as a result of their achievements. The Sheraton Trophy was named after HMS Sheraton, which was awarded the Freedom of the Borough in recognition of work done in Fleetwood by the crew during the 1977 flood emergency when the ship was visiting the port. Other winners include:
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1985 - Fleetwood Town Football Club
1986 - Michael Wharton
1987 - Carole Hodges
1988 - Fleetwood Town Football Club
1989 - Jim Parkinson
1990 - Tamar Connolly
1991 - Clare Perry
1992 - Michael Preston
1993 - Fleetwood RUFC
1994 - Carole Hodges
1995 - Robert Turner
1996 - Christopher Hanson
1997 - Jane Couch
1998 - Carl Myerscough
1999 - Daniel James Thomas
2000 - Sarah Bainbridge
2001 - Tom Norton
2002 - Mandy Gornall
2003 - Fleetwood Sea Cadets
2004 - Caroline Betmead and Katy Burke
2005 - Beth Stanney and James Radcliffe
2006 - Keith Moore a cricketer and Stephanie Roe an athlete
2007 - Sophie Ward a swimmer and Stephen Watt a scuba-diver
2008 - Adam Wrathall – motor cycle speedway rider
2009 - Yasemine Sunbull – a young ice skater who skated for England
2011 - James Davies – achievements in long jump, triple jump, and sprints
2012 - Molly Betmead – cross-country running
2013 - Francesca Hearty – services to football and football training.
2014 - Brandon Evans - set up the Preesall Dog Fouling Challenge to tackle dog fouling.
2015 - Fiona Hockey – pole vault
2016 - Steph Cartmell - dance teacher and volunteer
2017 – Isabella Hendry - football, tag rugby, cross country, swimming, dancing, cricket, and athletics
2018 – Jade Smith – volunteer
2019 – Katie Ramsbottom – sport and charity work

The St. Anne's Enterprise Partnership (STEP) was established, to work with members of the public services, local businesses, community groups and the voluntary sector organisations to create projects and arrange opportunities to improve the community.
The St Anne's Community Choir was *"founded by Gill Riley in May 2015 and the first rehearsals took place in her home. The choir was originally called the Palace Community Choir as, a little later, it met in the Palace Rooms in Garden Street. Then after Christmas, for various reasons, it metamorphosed into St Anne's Community Choir, meeting every Wednesday at the Memorial Hall in St Albans Rd"*.
One of the UK's biggest ready-mix concrete suppliers opened a new plant in Thornton on the 19th of June. Hope Construction Materials had made a £500,000 investment in the new plant which can produce up to 55 cubic metres of concrete per hour.
Made of stainless steel by the apprentices at WEC Group of Darwen, it was mounted on the ferry slip.

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Warton Street Post Office in Lytham closed for the final time in October, on the retirement of post master and shop owner Mark Bamforth. The premises had been a shop since the 1880s, and the Bamforth family had run it since 1964.
The first Fylde Rock and Roots Festival was held at Birchwood country park near Warton on the weekend beginning the 18th of June.
Story Homes began to build a housing development of detached homes at Brookwood Park" off the A583 at Ribby Corner near Kirkham. Freckleton couple Trevor and Karen Hope became the first residents.
The No 10 Ale House was opened in the former Viva Furnishings shop at 10 Park Road in St Anne's on the 28th of September, by George White. The shop had originally been the first town police station and was then used by Whiteside's Taxis. It is the first "micro pub" in the Fylde. On the 12th of July 2018, a second No 10 Ale House opened at 258-260 Whitegate Drive – previously a chiropodist's shop.
The first St Anne's Victorian Festival was held in the square in November. It is now an annual event. Beginning in 2018, the town's Christmas Lights were switched on during start of the festival.
The Willow Garden Project was created on the grounds of Fleetwood Cricket Club. The garden is a registered charity based at a community garden, where the staff work with residents of Wyre, primarily those with learning disabilities and mental health problems.

2016
Moss Farm on Cropper Road was demolished and a housing estate was built by Wainhomes Ltd. Called Marton Meadows, the first phase comprised 73 2, 3, and 4-bedroomed homes. At the time of demolition, Moss Farm was owned by Ivon and Linda Kershaw, and comprised *"a substantial 3-bed detached dwelling including double garage together with dilapidated outbuildings immediately to the rear set within substantial gardens, paddock and hard standing to the rear"*.
In February, Blackpool Tower received the first North West Civil Engineering Heritage Award by the Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE). ICE said the tower was *"possibly the most instantly recognisable work of civil engineering in the country" and "all about having fun"*.
On the 24th of February, retail clothing discount store TK Maxx opened a store on Blackpool Retail Park.
The Ascent Trampolining Park opened on the 17th of March off Clifton Road, by local boxer Brian Rose. In July 2018, the facility opened the North West's first indoor caving system.
The Banks Guest House and adjacent buildings on Central Drive were demolished. They had become derelict. A car park was opened on the site.
On the 21st of April, beacons were lit around the country to celebrate the 90th birthday of Queen Elizabeth II. The local beacons were at Fleetwood Mount, Lytham Green, and outside Staining village hall.
Local businessman Trevor Hemmings was announced as being in 10th place in the Sunday Rich List of the wealthiest people in Britain.
On the 2nd of June, a Blackpool beach was awarded a Blue Flag by the Keep Britain Tidy charity. The stretch of sand opposite the Pleasure Beach can now count itself amongst the best in the world. The award was earned again in 2017. Ferry Beach and Marine Beach in Fleetwood, and Rossall Beach and Jubilee Beach in Cleveleys were all awarded Seaside Awards from Keep Britain Tidy.
A new Shell filling station was opened at the corner of Preston New Road and Chiswick Grove by Euro Garages. It has an integral Spar supermarket, and on the 26th of May 2017, a new Starbucks café opened as an annexe to it. The whole operation filled the space created by the demolition of a Shell filling station on the site many years earlier.
Star Trek: The Exhibition "beamed into" Blackpool, at 45 to 59 The Promenade, on the 30th of June. Designed by the stage designer Andrew Edwards, The Exhibition was *"an experience for fans and families to visit, as it takes audiences on a journey through Star Trek's 50-year history with original props, costumes, scripts and photographs that have never previously been seen in Europe"*. Parent company Kuma

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Exhibitions went into liquidation in December 2017, but exhibition contributor Martin Netter took over running in February 2018.
In July, six Fylde Co-op stores were sold to McColl's newsagents. They were those at Coronation Street, Central Drive, Preston Old Road Post Office, and Harrowside in Blackpool, plus the stores at Staining and Warton. The Co-op on Preston Old Road opened as McColl's on the 22nd of March 2017, the one on Central Drive on the 9th of May 2017, Harrowside on the 6th of July 2017, Staining on the 17th of May 2017, and the Harbour Lane, Warton store on the 11th of July 2017.
At the beginning of December, work started on the former Progress House site on Clifton Road, to construct a new Police Headquarters complex to replace Bonny Street police station in 2018. It will be the headquarters for the county's West Division, which covers Blackpool, Fylde, Wyre, Lancaster, and Morecambe. Being close to the M55, it will provide *"a base for some of the local policing and immediate response teams as well as a public enquiry desk, investiga*tions hub and 42 custody cells. It will also house a range of specialist teams serving the whole of the division".
Bethesda Terrace was totally demolished in August. The buildings housed several shops, including the Revoe Post Office at 41 to 43 Central Drive.
The Nickleodeon Slimefest appeared in Blackpool for the first time on the 3rd and 4th of September. The two live shows at the Winter Gardens featured current teen stars such as Diversity, Aston Merrygold, Alisha Dixon, Conor Maynard, The Tide, and The Vamps. The second annual event took place at the Pleasure Beach Arena on the 21st of October 2017, starred Pixie Lott, Professor Green, Five After Midnight, JoJo Siwa, and Diversity.
A Log Flume from South Pier was moved to the Promenade nearby. It was granted an 18-month licence whilst vital repair work was done to its base on the pier.
The first LightPool Festival saw 6 nights of live performances on the streets of the town centre during October half term. The programme included a Lumidogs parade, a fire and tango performance by the French-based Compagnie Bilbobasso, the return of the Spark! drummers and two spectacular pyrotechnic displays in St John's Square.
The first annual Blackpool Scooter Fest was held at the Winter gardens on the 18th of June.

Wimbourne Place Hotels, Blackpool: The fire-damaged Bourne Hotel and Palm Beach Hotels (closed in 2011) on New South Promenade began to be demolished on the 3rd of December.

Local property developer Maude Bourne had constructed these and most of the others on that stretch of the Promenade from the 1930s.

Other closed hotels include the New Kimberley Hotel (closed in 2013 - 90 rooms), the New Progress Hotel, the Henderson Hotel (once called the Henderson Home for the Blind), and the Waldorf Hotel, at 591-593. The 50-room Warwick Hotel closed in 2012, and was demolished in early 2017.
The Abbeydale Nursing Home - formerly several smaller hotels - was closed in June 2013, due to appalling conditions of care for the elderly residents. The Abbeydale building started to be converted into apartments in December 2016.

In January 2017, work began on the construction of a new Hampton by Hilton hotel on the site at numbers 595 to 601. The new hotel, designed by Tim Groom Architects, Manchester, includes 130 contemporary bedrooms, a business hub, gym and fitness zone, bar, and restaurant. It opened on the 24th of May 2018.

The new Anchor Café was opened in Eastpines Park at Anchorsholme in September. The rear part of the library buildings was re-modelled to create the café. Also, in the park, the whole of the perimeter was re-fenced this year, by Steelcraft Fabrications. The restoration of the park was begun by the Friends of

©

Eastpines Park in 2016, and resulted in a Learning Garden, a re-claimed motor boat from Stanley Park (as a planter), and a restored children's play area.
The Yorkshire Bank closed their branch at 31 Westcliffe Drive in Layton on the 4th of September. The building was quickly changed into two retail units, one of which is now filled by a Subway outlet.

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Fleetwood ice cream man Maurice Murray of NiceOne Ices, was voted the best in Britain in February, when he "scooped" the Mobiler of the Year title from the Ice Cream Alliance. Maurice had started selling ice cream in Manchester in 1974, before moving to Fleetwood, where runs 2 vans with his son, Anthony.
On the 16th of May, it was revealed that a new bank of shingle and stone has emerged from the sea off Fleetwood. It was confirmed as being the summit of Kingscar Bank and marks the Eastern edge of the Lune Deep.
The Old Bank Restaurant Café opened in the NatWest Bank building at 178 Lord Street in Fleetwood in December.
The first annual St Anne's International Food Festival took place on the 14th of August, in the East car park in the Square. It was organised by the St Anne's on the Sea Enterprise Partnership.
A new local free newspaper was published in September, called "The Only Way is Lytham St Annes and Fylde".
Fleetwood MVS was founded in October. It is a unit of the national charity, the Maritime Volunteer Service, which trains its members in Seamanship, Navigation, Engineering, and Communication whilst working within the community. Its official opening night was held at the Fleetwood Harbour Yacht Club in the Dock Office on the 2nd of November, as was the first AGM, on the 26th of April 2017. The Unit Head is Tony Coleman, and they have their own National Training Boat, the Curlew, and a small RIB.
The first annual Lytham Sportfest was staged on the 27th of August, focussed around the Park View playing fields and Lytham Hall estate. The Lytham Sports Festival Association had been set up in 2015 to organise and deliver a weekend of multi-sports events.
Chell's of Lytham opened at 25 Clifton Street in Lytham in December, in what was formerly a Christian bookshop. The enterprise is run by Richard and Yvonne Chell.
The Wrea Green Horticultural Society held its first show in September, which include classes, exhibits, and a beer festival.
The AFC Fylde Coasters Walking Football team was founded, playing at Mill Farm Sports Village in Wesham. It is for walking football for people between 50 and 71.

2017

The first Blackpool Beer and Cider Festival was held in the Winter Gardens in March.
Aldi opened a new store on Blackpool Retail Park off Squires Gate Lane on the 30th of March. 5 derelict units were demolished to make room.

Anchorsholme Park storm water works: By April, the first phase was completed of a scheme to build a huge new underground storage tank. This will hold the equivalent of 12 million sandcastle buckets, or five Olympic-sized swimming pools, of storm water. Several ships had been working off the coast, dredging and preparing a trench in the sea bed for the new 3.7km outfall pipe. The pipe will be supported by a new storm water pumping station, to replace the existing station on the promenade.
On the 10th of August, the UK's largest outfall pipe was laid. The 'superpipe' weighs 20,000 tonnes and was transported 220 miles on pontoons from Loch Foyle in Northern Ireland. United Utilities said it was *"believed to be the largest single man-made structure ever to have been transported across the UK"*.
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In July, Blackpool Transport launched its new fleet of 10 Palladium buses. A second batch was unveiled on the 9th of April 2017. The new buses have USB charging points, tables on the upper deck, and free Wi-Fi for passengers, and were made by Alexander Dennis Ltd.
Local ice skater, Daniel Whiston and his business partner Karen Barber, opened their new venture, Clip 'n Climb at 9 Apollo Court on the Whitehills Estate in March. It was officially opened on the 3rd of May, by Olympic gymnast Beth Tweddle and local actress Hayley Tamaddon. The attraction is the Fylde's only indoor climbing centre.
The Mereside Community Orchard was opened on the 27th of May. It was planted behind the Boys and Girls Club on Bowness Avenue.
The 3 Piers Brewery Limited, at Unit 19 Cocker Avenue, on Poulton Industrial Estate was incorporated on the 29th of March.
The branch of Lloyds Bank at 50 Whitegate Drive closed on the 24th of May. Prior to closure the number of clients had decreased to just 43 per week.
Jurassic Kingdom appeared in Stanley Park in August, opening on the 3rd and closing on the 13th. It was *"a spectacular outdoor dinosaur experience aimed at family audiences with over 30 impressive installations of animated dinosaurs with electronic moving parts. Animatronics include arms moving up and down, tails swaying side-to-side, heads moving up and down, eyes blinking and jaws opening wide with roaring sound effects. Making for a truly awesome educational and entertaining Jurassic experience*.
The first Livewire festival was held on the Tower Headland from the 25th to the 27th of August, starring Will Smith, The Jacksons, Jason Donovan, and many others. Over 20,000 people attended, and the festival was immediately signed up for another three years.
Vin Hamer opened his Rock Solid Brewing Company in Normoss. Vin, set up the company in June, after leaving the Chapel Street Brewery in Poulton.
The new Lancashire Energy HQ opened at Squires Gate on the 5th of October. Built on the former airport terminal site, it is the flagship development of the Blackpool Airport Enterprise Zone. The facility offers training in a *"range of energy-related courses, in a bid to retrain and provide new skills for future employees in the energy sector"*, and includes *"the largest nuclear simulator in England, three large engineering and renewable technologies workshops; a metals engineering laboratory; a purpose-built welding facility, and a resource centre"*.
On the 5th of October, the new Broughton By-pass opened. Planners hope that over 22,000 vehicles, which previously travelled along the A6 through Broughton crossroads each day will now use the new road.
In October, all three of Blackpool's piers were placed on the 2018 preservation list of World Monuments Watch, amid fears that rising sea levels may damage them. This will enable them to access improvement grants. They are all owned by Peter Sedgewick. There are only 25 items on the list, and no others in the UK.
The railway line from Preston to Blackpool North Station was closed in November, to permit the electrification of the line. All the signal boxes on the route were demolished, and Carleton Crossing was re-designed – all future signalling to be controlled remotely from Manchester. At Christmas, the electricity was connected for the first time.
Stanley Park was voted the UK's Best Park at the annual Fields in Trust Awards.

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Lidl opened a new store on Garstang Road East in Poulton on the 23rd of February.
Crocus Court, a complex of 50 retirement apartments for the over 70s began to be built by McCarthy and Stone on Station Road in Poulton. The complex will also have a communal homeowners' lounge so residents can socialise, landscaped gardens, and a guest suite for friends or relatives. There is also a restaurant providing freshly cooked meals.
The Royal Mail Delivery Office on Bispham Road in Cleveleys closed on the 27th of February, with all work being transferred to Hawking Place in Bispham.
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Cathy Davies opened Knott End Funeral Care – working as a Co-operative Funerals licensee – on the 8th of May.
The Maxifitness Gym was opened by Maxine Garrett in the old British Legion Club on Copse Road in Fleetwood. The business was officially launched on the 8th of May.
Work began on Queensway in Heyhouses on the preparation of a new housing estate of *"up to 1150 houses, a school, Nature Park, Farmland Conservation Area and a road known as the Heyhouses Bypass"*. Kensington Developments will build the new development on arable land which had been unused on the eastern side of Queensway since the closure of J Greenwood's Moss View Farm.
Work began on the building of a 76-bedroomed care home on Heyhouses Lane, which will be called The Hamptons. The new home will feature "pe*rson-centred care including residential, general nursing and specialist dementia care services, in a purpose-built environment. It will have communal lounges, formal dining rooms and gardens, private bedrooms, complete with en suite wet rooms, and a range of hotel-style services including fine dining, a hair salon, nail bar, and concierge"*.
Paterson House was opened on St Albans Road in St Anne's in September. It was a joint social housing build between Melrose and the YMCA, which was constructed for young people between 18 and 24. Its apartments consist of 1 bedroom, a shower room, and a kitchen/ lounge area.
The Lowther Community Cinema showed its first films at Lowther Pavilion on the 7th of October, using equipment paid for by a £24,000 donation by the Windmill Society.
The switch on of the Lytham Christmas Lights was performed by classical singing group Collabro, after a concert in front of 4,00 people in the Piazza (new name for Lytham Square) on the 17th of November.

2018

Winter Gardens Conference Centre, Blackpool: Work began on the construction of a new Conference centre extension to the Winter gardens complex, and the foundations were laid in early March. The former car park on Leopold Grove and several adjacent buildings were demolished to make way for the 2,000-capacity development. It will include:

A two floor plus mezzanine complex, providing ground floor capacity for about 430 delegates, and first floor capacity for 1,200 delegates;
Direct linkages into the Empress Ballroom, Opera House, and Empress Buildings, taking conferencing capacity to around 7,000 delegates; and
Refurbishment of facilities within the Empress Ballroom and Opera House to include upgrades of the ballroom entrance foyer and east external elevation, upgraded audio visual and air conditioning, basement reconfiguration, and the upgrade of existing kitchen facilities.

Nico Stefani opened a new pizza restaurant at 3 Cedar Square. Stefani's Pizzeria opened for business on the 17th of March, replacing the previous occupants, Sundaes Ice Cream Parlour.
A new Post Office opened on the 22nd of March, in the Spar store on Dickson Road.

Showtown Museum, Blackpool: In March, £4.4 million in funding was secured to pay for the first phase of the new Blackpool Entertainment Museum. With a working title of "Amuseum", it will be built in the re-vamped sands complex, in a new building called the Palatine Building.
"In partnership with the London-based Victoria and Albert Museum, the venue will display, collect, research, and celebrate collections related to popular entertainment, and is expected to open in 2021 and attract some 300,000 people every year".
In June 2019, the final £4 million of funding was secured, to complete the total of £13 million needed, and on the 9th of January 2020, its new name of "Showtown" was announced. Seaside, magic, shows, circus,

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Illuminations and dance will be the main elements of the museum. It will also display *"comedian Tommy Cooper's magic tricks, costumes worn by comedy stars Eric Morecambe and Ernie Wise and a rare signed black bowler hat which was owned by film and comedy star Stan Laurel"*.

The themes of the new museum will be:
Beside the Seaside - The story of how Blackpool became symbolic of the British seaside.
How's Tricks? - Discover Blackpool's long history as an important centre for magic, illusion and fortune telling.
It's Showtime - Features comedy, music, dance performance, magic and other speciality acts.
It's Better with the Lights On -Discover the stories behind the making of Blackpool Illuminations.
Everybody Dance Now - Find out how Blackpool became the spiritual home of ballroom dance and continues to host the biggest international dance festival in the world.
Roll Up! Roll Up! - A celebration of Blackpool's international role in circus and home to the Tower Circus.

On the 6th of May, the large H and M store in the Hounds Hill Centre was closed.
Trains from Blackpool to London began to run again on the 23rd of May, with completion of the electrification of the line to Preston. A Pendolino tilting train, run by Virgin Rail, was the first of four trains per day. After its first test run on the 14th of May, it was named "Blackpool Belle". The line upgrade also allowed direct trains to Blackpool to run from Birmingham on Saturdays.
On the 21st of July, the Pier-to-pier swim was held again, after a gap of over 40 years. Blackpool's Dr Julie Bradshaw led the swimmers off on the 1.6-kilometre challenge.
The 2018 HSBC UK British BMX Championships took place at the Stanley Park BMX Track from the 15th of September.
On the 17th of October, a new Co-op food store opened on Highfield Road, on the site of the former Booth's store, which closed in August 2015.
On Armistice Day, the 11th of November, "Pages of the Sea" - an event commissioned by film director Danny Boyle – was participated in by Blackpool. The "*public was invited to gather on beaches across the UK for an informal, nationwide gesture of remembrance for the men and women who left their home shores during the First World War. Each chosen destination was asked to facilitate the drawing of a large-scale portrait in the sand of a casualty from the war, which was then washed away by the tide"*.
Blackpool's event commemorated Lance Corporal John Edward Arkwright who lost his life in the First World War.
Jack Sargent opened Sargent's Fitness studio in Constellation House on Blackpool Business Park in February. The building had lain empty since it was constructed in 2011.

The Blackpool Central Project: On the 7th of December, this grand plan was announced by the mayor. It will be built to fill the space created by the removal of the Central Police Station, and will also use a large part of Central Car Park. It will comprise:

A new multi-storey car park with more than 1,000 spaces, to replace the current open-air car park, as well as new coach-drop off facilities.

The UK's first Flying Theatre: To provide *"an unparalleled flying sensation"*. The indoor attraction will fully immerse customers *"with on-board special effects including wind, fog, water and scents, with state-of-the-art projection and surround sound"*. It will also give a Virtual Reality experience, where a highly advanced epic-scale VR tech will give a *"free-roam, multi-player game, with body tracking and motion simulators"*.

Greatest Mysteries: The world's first multimedia exhibition of its type will explore extra-terrestrial influences on ancient civilisations.

Adventure Land: An indoor family entertainment centre with physical and mental challenges, such as free-fall hang gliding, rope courses, adventure trails, and interactive climbing walls.

Thrill and Gaming Zone: Fully-themed gaming zone, with thrill and family rides, arcade games, laser tag arena, bounce park, and bumper cars.

Alien Diner: Themed bar and event restaurant concept with "roller coaster" service, hourly special-effects shows, and exploration tours.

The first phase will open in spring 2024, and will also have an Artisan Food Hall with up to 30 outlets, and its own event square. The square will have a stage and video wall for hosting themed markets, open-air concerts, and events. There will also be a 150-bedroom promenade hotel.
Phase two will add apartments, more food and drink outlets, a 250-bedrooms hotel, and more landscaped public open space.

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The HSBC Bank branch at 8 Market Place in Poulton was closed permanently. Originally a Midland Bank branch, it had replaced Kay's Toffee Shop. The premises are now occupied by Westmorland Homecare.
Sara Dewhurst and her husband Paul set up Sandgrown Spirits in Lytham in April. Lytham Gin has a *"zesty palate of orange and spice"*, and is a classic London Dry Gin. It is flavoured with 11 botanicals, including local samphire.
The Duke of Lancaster's Regiment were awarded the Freedom of the Borough of Wyre by parading through the streets of Poulton-le-Fylde, followed by a Reception at the Civic Centre in September.
In January, Lyndsay and Bryan Andrew bought a vacant building at 123 to 125 Victoria Road West in Cleveleys and turned it the Charlie James Pie and Mash Shop. The shop was previously the Cudworth's of Cleveleys dress shop, run by Beryl Whiteley and Constance Fox.
The Kirkham Covenant sculpture was installed on the 25th of September, on Remembrance Way. The *"sculpture of a young boy reading a message whilst sat resting with his dog is open to interpretation by the viewer. The sculpture is placed in a stone circle created from reclaimed cobbles from Kirkham's Fish Stone circle in the town and the plinth is adorned with flax plants that represent the link to the town's mill industry". "Sculptor Phil Garrett helped to set the artwork into the cobbled circle. The stones set into the circle were reclaimed from the Fish Stones Circle in Kirkham Town Square and the seating arranged so that the sculpture enables 'conversation' with visitors".*
The Santander Bank branch at 36 Poulton Street in Kirkham closed on the 28th of October.
In December, a massive mural was unveiled on the end wall of the Kings Arms pub on Lord Street in Fleetwood. Depicting many aspects of the life of the town, it was painted over several months by a local man known only as Dusty.
Fleetwood Trust bought Fleetwood Hospital buildings from previous owners Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust as a community asset, for the sum of £575,000. They intend to turn it into a community hub whilst retaining the existing NHS clinics held there.
In November, Regenda Homes hired Bradley Demolition to begin Phase 1 of the demolition of old homes on the Westview estate, with properties on Crake, Rede and Martindale Avenues being first to go.

2019

The Marton Moss Neighbourhood Forum was set up in March, to write a document which will eventually become part of the council's Local Plan for the area.
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The RBS Bank at 39 Poulton Street in Kirkham closed on the 29th of January. This left the town of Kirkham with NO banks at all. *"Barclays and HSBC both pulled out in 2015, NatWest and Lloyds shut their branches there within a month of each other in 2017 and Santander closed"* in October 2018. By June, Fleetwood would have just one bank, after *"The HSBC departed in November 2010, followed by the Furness Building Society in March 2011, Barclays in January 2015, the TSB in November 2016, Nat West in June 2017, RBS on January 14 this year and now Santander in June. The Halifax on Poulton Street will be the last bank standing"*.

A plan to create almost 400 new homes at Great Eccleston was approved in March. *"The planned site could accommodate nearly 385 homes, a health centre, employment space, and a primary school"*. *"The extension will create a mixed-use development including residential and employment uses, a community hall, medical centre, new primary school, and local small convenience store"*. The building will be constructed "west of the village, in land bordered by Garstang Road and Copp Lane.

On the 18th of March, Highbury Road railway bridge in St Anne's was replaced. The original brick-built bridge was replaced by 27 concrete beams.

In January, work began on preparing Wild Lane on Marton Moss to be replaced by a new M55 Link Road. Full plans were then submitted in March.

The Wok's Cooking Chinese restaurant in Lytham Square closed. The premises are being completely re-structured, and will open in May as Mode Lytham: The Place to Stay. This will be a 16-room hotel offering room only board, and will be owned by Andrew Whittaker, the owner of The Mode at St Anne's since its opening in 2016.

Amateur snooker player James Cahill from Marton became the first amateur snooker player in history to qualify for the World Snooker Championships in April. Then, in his first-round match, he proceeded to beat defending champion Ronnie O'Sullivan 10 frames to 8.

On the 6th of May, the town of Fleetwood received a Red Plaque from the National Transport Trust for its *"role in creating, in the early 1840s, a West coast route to Scotland. Fleetwood is acknowledged as the first resort linked to the railway system, as the North Euston Hotel provided overnight accommodation for travellers from London Euston, before they boarded the steamer to Ardrossan. In later years Victorian travel agent Thomas Cook organised his first tour of Scotland, through the port of Fleetwood"*.

Fleetwood celebrated its first ever Fleetwood Day on the 8th of May, in the Euston Gardens. Inside a giant marquee were Fleetwood Ukulele Band, folk act Scold's Bridle, and singing duo Chic. Outside was a Punch and Judy show, a maypole dance by Shakespeare Primary School pupils, demonstrations by taekwondo students and Fleetwood Army Cadets, and rock band 11th Hour.

At the end of May, 41 new Marine Conservation Zones were created in order to preserve the habitats of many species of sea life. Three of these are in our area – Fylde (Off the coast of Lytham and Blackpool), Ribble Estuary, and Wyre Estuary.

In June, construction began of the new Lotus School on Langdale Road in Mereside. The school will take 48 pupils with special needs, and will be built over two floors. It was designed by architects Cassidy and Ashton to have classrooms on both floors, along with a science lab, school hall, and specialist therapy and sensory rooms.

Plans were agreed in June for the laying of a new subsea internet cable between New York and a "meet me point" in Blackpool near the Airport Enterprise Zone. The cable across the Irish Sea, called CeltixConnect-2, will run into Blackpool then to Newcastle and Denmark, to create a series of ring-based structures between North America and Northern Europe, called the North Atlantic Loop.

On the 24th of October, the first sod was cut on the new Preston to M55 Link Road. When the project is finished in *"2023, a dual carriageway will run from the A583/A5085 Riversway and Blackpool Road in Preston through to a new junction on the M55 at Bartle. Two adjoining link roads – one through to Lightfoot Lane and another connecting to Cottam – will also be created"*. Called the Preston West

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Distributor, the new route will include two viaducts - each over 230 metres long. One will cross the Lancaster Canal and the Blackpool Railway line, and the other will cross the Ribble Link.
The Affinity shopping village at Fleetwood opened a free public ice rink on the 14th of November. It was officially opened by Dancing on Ice star Daniel Whiston and ran until the 26th of December.
The Stanley Road Working Mens' Club, at 4 to 6 Stanley Road, reopened on the 16th of November, as the New Stanley Club. New owner Phillip O'Brien had refurbished the closed premises, which now have a ground-floor bar and lounge, a first-floor function room, and on the second floor *"a catering and drinks trade training school especially aimed at getting the unemployed and homeless into work"*.
Realtime UK (formed by Tony Prosser in 1996), a digital imaging company working from Willows Farm on Ballam Road in Westby, had a major part to play in the making of a major new three-part BBC adaptation of the classic sci-fi The War of the Worlds. Realtime created visual effects for the first-ever British television adaptation of HG Wells' novel.
In November, Lesley and Barry Holmes, of Burnside Avenue, Fleetwood, were awarded the title "Britain's Happiest Married Couple", after entering a national competition organised by Beaverbrook's of St Anne's.
Blackpool's first "cashless" café was opened on Reeds Avenue in November. The Blackpool Resort Coffee Lounge only accepts payments by card.
The first, annual Big Christmas Singalong, organised by the Love Fleetwood group, took place in the Highfield Road stadium on the 19th of December 2019.
In December, Jenny Ball, from St Anne's, won the title of World Karaoke Champion in Tokyo. She is a former student of the Michael Hall Theatre School in Marton.

2020
On the 11th of January, the first in Blackpool to register an opposite-sex civil partnership held their ceremony at The Wedding Chapel on Central Promenade. They were Tracey Robinson and James Clayton.
Nationwide Catering's premises on Cowley Road, Marton were destroyed in a blaze on the 2nd of March, and despite the presence of many firefighters, the factory of Rainbow Candies, next door, was burnt out on the next day.

Corona Virus – COVD19: The whole world was struck by this new and virulent disease. Blackpool's first case was identified on the 12th of March. By the 18th of March all schools in the UK were ordered to shut, on the 23rd of March, the Prime Minister instructed EVERYONE to stay at home, except for vital journeys, and on the 24th of March, all non-vital shops and businesses were ordered to close.

By the beginning of April, many businesses were experiencing sever financial difficulties and had to close or lay of most staff, and the majority of those who were able were working from home.

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Chapter 12: The Future

How we are now:

Blackpool is **still** Europe's biggest holiday resort. It remains the UK's most popular seaside resort, with 10 million adult visitors in 2013, but this is declining and Blackpool faces social and economic difficulties in the coming years. The number of visitors has declined by 30% in recent years in the face of more, cheap Mediterranean package holidays. The Credit Crunch of 2008, proved that Blackpool could still compete with foreign holiday destinations, and as the value of the pound plunged against the Euro, more people decided to stay in England and come to Blackpool.

Blackpool covers an area of 35 km², with 11.2km of sea front, and supports a resident population of around 142,000, making it the most densely populated Borough in Lancashire.

Between 1990 and 1999, the short breaks market (1 – 3 nights) experienced growth of 61%. By the end of the decade, more than half of domestic holiday trips were for less than three nights in duration. Indeed, the value of the short breaks market in the UK grew by almost one-third between 2001 and 2006 alone. Many more affluent tourists will now take several shorter "*little but often*" breakaways as opposed to the traditional weekly or fortnightly family holiday. Blackpool's prosperity reflects this.

Blackpool Pleasure Beach was the UK's top tourist attraction in 2010, with 6.2 million visitors – although its popularity is declining slightly – possibly due to the introduction of admission charges for the site. To give an idea of its popularity, 750,000 burgers were sold on the park in 2010. 1 million ice cream cones, 3 million sticks of rock, 95 miles of Hot Dog Sausages, 2 million litres of soft drinks, 4.5 million portions of chips were consumed. 22,500 fillets of fresh haddock and 18,000 of cod were served in one of the restaurants, and the White Tower a-la-carte restaurant sold 4,000 beef steaks. The 500,000 candy flosses sold would re-turf Wembley Stadium four times over!

In September 2015, Blackpool was awarded the title of "Takeaway Capital of Britain". We have 279 takeaway shops, which equals approximately 1 for every 500 people in town.

In 2014, the Fylde (excluding Blackpool) received a total of 3.067 million tourism visits worth more than £214 million, equating to 5% of all tourism visits to Lancashire.

The Negatives:

Pay: In 2011, Blackpool topped a table to find the UK's worst areas for bankruptcy: In a report by debt advice group ClearDebt, using statistics provided by the Insolvency Service, 57 people in every 10,000 were bankrupt in the town.

In a study published in February 2015 by the Manpower Group Pay League, Blackpool came bottom of the league table for pay in the Northwest. People in the resort earned an average of £22,300 a year. That was more than £15,000 less than the best paid areas such as Trafford in Manchester.

Although around 30,000 local people are currently employed in the tourist industry, 87% of whom are in the service sector, in 2016, Blackpool had the highest level of concentrated deprivation in England (Indices of Deprivation 2015). It generates the 5th lowest Gross Domestic Product in the

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Northwest. The average weekly earnings in Blackpool are ¼ lower than the UK average and almost 40% of people of working age are economically inactive.

Six wards in Blackpool currently fall into the poorest 10% of the country and attract Neighbourhood Renewal Funds.

Research released by the Department for Communities in September 2015 shows Blackpool is ranked as the 7th most deprived town in England – up from 9th in 2010. The town has 8 of the top 20 most deprived neighbourhoods. A November 2016 survey sadly showed that *"46% of kids living in Park ward, which includes Grange Park, are living in the worst levels of poverty in Lancashire"*.

Business: Figures released in July 2017, showed that Blackpool was the 10th highest insolvency rate in the UK in 2016. Blackpool's rate was 34.6 per 10,000 adults, Fylde had a rate of 18.4, and Wyre's was 21.4. Sadly, this reflects the trend of seaside towns having much higher rates than inland ones. However, in December 2017, it was revealed that Blackpool showed a 23.63 per cent decrease in closures of businesses between 2010 and 2015.
Also, in March 2018, it was revealed that a quarter of Blackpool shop premises were closed. That is the worst in the UK.

Employment: In 2016, 12.9% of Blackpool's working age population claimed ESA or Incapacity Benefit - more than double the national average of 6.2%.
By September 2017, this had worsened, despite national figures showing a 42-year low in unemployment figures. In Blackpool, 3,595 people were out-of-work – up 9%, in Fylde, 655 – up 7%, and in Wyre 1,025 – up 6%.

Population: Blackpool has the smallest area of any local authority in Lancashire (3948 hectares) but is the most densely-populated Borough in the north of England with a population of 143,000 and a workforce of 65,000. Each year there are approximately 1,700 births and 1,900 deaths amongst the resident population, and in addition to this, Blackpool sees an estimated 11 million visitors each year.
In 2013 the Fylde population was 76,000.

Housing: In the inner areas, half of homes are privately rented, with around 89% of rents funded by Housing Benefit. 50% of all households in those inner areas live in a privately-rented home. That is equivalent to 6,887 households. Many of these homes are former traditional guest houses that have been converted in poor quality privately rented flats or houses in multiple occupation.

Death Rate: In 2016, Council figures showed that Blackpool "*had the worst death rate in England for young men, and the 3rd worst for young women. General male life expectancy at birth was 74.7 years, and for women 79.9 - the lowest figures in England and Wales"*.

Drugs: In October 2007, Blackpool received the title of the "Drug Death Capital of Britain", with 19.4 deaths per 100,000 of population. Sadly, in September 2016, it was revealed that *"Blackpool has comfortably had the highest rate of drug misuse deaths nationally over the past three years with 76 deaths at an average of 19 per 100,000 residents per year between 2013 and 2015. This figure for Blackpool is more than four times higher than the national average and is nearly twice as high as the area with the next highest rate of deaths"*. In 2016, this did go down to 14 deaths per 100,000, but Blackpool still had twice as many such deaths as the next worst town.

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Health: In a study, published in March 2015, by the Royal Society for Public Health (RSPH), Blackpool was the 4th unhealthiest place in the country of the 70 towns and cities surveyed. Payday lenders, bookmakers, takeaways, and tanning salons were classed as having a negative impact on public health.

Council figures show that in 2016, the number of women smoking in pregnancy was 265, compared to 10.6% nationally, and teenage pregnancy rates are the highest in the country. The chlamydia detection rate per 100,000 young people aged 15-24 years in Blackpool was 3,416 (compared to 1887.0 per 100,000 in England) in 2015. 2014 data shows that the diagnosed HIV prevalence rate was 3.8 per 1,000 population aged 15-59 years, compared to 2.1 per 1,000 in England.
The town was worse than the England average across all areas of health, including drug and alcohol misuse, self-harm, and physical activity. In 2014/15, 1,245 Blackpool residents were admitted to hospital with an alcohol-specific condition. This is a rate of 906 per 100,000, almost three times the national average of 364. *"Data for 2014/15 shows that 26% of Reception children are overweight and 10% of these are obese, whilst in year 6 the figure increases to 37% overweight with 22% obese; again, these figures are higher than the national average"*. The figure among adults showed 29,000 people in Blackpool classed as clinically obese.
About 27.2% of the adult population of Blackpool smoke, compared to the England average at 20%.

Blackpool has the highest rate per capita of limb amputations in the country.

Lancashire Constabulary data shows that there were 144 reports of crimes with a Child Sexual Exploitation element in Blackpool in 2015/16, a rate of 1.0 per 1,000 population and is significantly higher than the Lancashire average of 0.4 per 1,000

A survey in April 2017 revealed that SIX local eateries rated ZERO stars for cleanliness and food safety. They were the Dolphin Hotel in Central Drive, Eating Inn on the Promenade, the Edwardian Hotel on the Promenade, Lucky Star Chinese Takeaway in Park Road, Shalimar Gardens in Talbot Road, and Spiceland in Central Drive.

The Royal Society for Public Health's survey in October 2018 placed Blackpool at number 3 in the nation's unhealthiest high streets.

Mental Health: A May 2016 survey of Accident and Emergency departments in the UK found that Blackpool had the most admissions for Mental Health problems, with 29 per day.

Early Deaths: The town has the highest alcohol related death rates, the 4th highest suicide rates (at twice the national average) and the 3rd highest teenage pregnancy rates. In addition, 42.9% of the households in Blackpool contain at least one person with a limiting long-term illness. In 2014, the resort again topped the nation for rates of death from chronic liver disease.

The number of admissions to hospital for alcohol-related conditions – including children seeking medical help – was way above the national average, and alcohol-fuelled violence was almost twice the rest of the country.

In March 2013, Blackpool police reported that the costs associated with alcohol-related disorder added up to £100.1 million in Blackpool in 2010/11. The figure was made up of a £14.5 million cost

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to the NHS, £38 million cost to crime and licensing, £38m cost to the economy and £8m cost to social services.

The "State of the North 2019" report, from IPPR North found that Blackpool's rate of mortality was worse than parts of Turkey, Slovakia and Romania.

Divorce: A 2012 survey revealed that Blackpool had the highest divorce rate in the UK at 13.1%, and in July 2013, statistics showed that Blackpool has the highest rate of children in care.

Girls: A study, published by the charity Plan International UK in September 2016, looked at things like child poverty, educational attainment, and teenage pregnancy rates, and found that Blackpool is the 2nd worst place in the UK for girls to live. The under-16 conception rate in Blackpool was 7.7 per 1,000 women, which was much higher than the North West and England averages of 4.6 and 3.7 respectively.

Summary: In a 2003 report "A New Vision for Northwest Coastal Resorts", the Northwest Development Agency (NWDA) said, *"Blackpool is on the critically ill list and will soon be on its death bed unless radical action is taken soon"*. The greatest health problems in the Northwest are consistently found in Blackpool. These problems are associated largely with the relative poverty of the area, with relatively high rates of unemployment and low-paid employment. There is still much older and high-density housing, and the area also contains large minority ethnic populations – increased massively since 2000 by an influx of eastern European workers.

Transport: In September 2018, the Department of Transport issued figures which showed that traffic in Blackpool was twice as bad as the rest of the country. An average Blackpool driver spent 70 seconds standing still for every mile travelled. The national average was 47 seconds.

The Positives:

In August 2013, Blackpool, which welcomes more visitors a year than any other UK coastal town, was found, in an analysis by the Office for National Statistics (ONS), to have had the highest level of deprivation of the larger English seaside destinations in 2010. Also, on the positive side, Blackpool beach was voted Britain's best in a survey in August 2015.

However, Blackpool is uniquely placed to respond to the major challenges it faces, not least because of its customer base, its existing facilities and infrastructure, and the willingness of the local community to seek solutions.

In May 2012, 155 new companies were recorded in Blackpool – the highest since records began, but 228 new businesses started in Blackpool between April and June 2016! That was an increase of 4.6% on the same period in 2015. Over this period, the increase in new business start-up in Blackpool (4.6%) was greater than both the North West (2.6%), and England (2.0%).

The sectors in Blackpool which showed significant growth over 2015 included: buying and selling own real estate (+320%), transport and storage (+267%), and human health and social work (+89%).

Those sectors showing reduced number of starts compared with 2015 in Blackpool included: personal and community services (-50%), retail trade and repair (-33%), and accommodation and food service (-26%).

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A recent County Council report on the Fylde countryside at present states the following:

> *"The gently undulating farmland of the Fylde occurs between Blackpool to the west and Preston and the M6 corridor to the east. It has been formed of boulder clay deposits, which lie on soft Triassic sandstones and mudstones and is naturally poorly drained. Field ponds are a particularly characteristic feature of this area and provide important wildlife habitats. The predominant land use is dairy farming on improved pasture and lowland sheep farming with a small amount of arable on the freer draining soils.*
> *Red brick nineteenth century two storey farmsteads with slate roofs and red brick barns are dominant built features of this landscape character area; occasional windmills also reflect the historic importance of the area for corn milling. Other features of the area are the brine fields around Stalmine, which were reclaimed by ICI and form a rare and distinctive land use. Field size is large and field boundaries are low clipped hawthorn, although hedgerow loss is extensive. Blocks of woodland are characteristic, frequently planted for shelter and/or shooting and views of the Bowland fells are frequent between the blocks.*
> *There are many man-made elements; electricity pylons, communication masts, and road traffic are all highly visible in the flat landscape. In addition, views of Blackpool Tower, the Pleasure Beach rides and industry outside Blackpool are visible on a clear day".*

This seems to illustrate clearly that the landscape, although affected by man and tourism, has not changed too radically from that of the Palaeolithic era. We have been here for many years but have not changed things a great deal. However, if global warming continues at the present rate, the sea will rise to such a degree that the Fylde may once again become an island.

In June 2019, hotel group Travelodge carried out a survey which showed Blackpool as the 2nd most popular British holiday destination after Cornwall. The national uncertainty about the foreign "staycation" continued to rise in popularity, and a move towards a shorter summer break with a few long weekend getaways proved good for Blackpool. Two-night weekend stays began to turn into three and four-night breaks.

Future Prospects:

Blackpool has developed a Masterplan for the future and the steps that the town is taking to rejuvenate itself will hopefully produce fruit. The Southern Gateway is now complete, the remodelling and rebuilding of the seafront (Central Seafront Project) is also complete, and the Talbot Gateway Project is almost finished. There are still plans to obtain the UK's sole regional casino licence (Casino and Conference Quarter Project) – despite losing the vote to Manchester in 2007.

With some 30% of the resort's core earmarked for radical development, it promises to be a monumental, not to mention demanding, challenge for Blackpool.

One thing is certain – Blackpool will continue to be the UK's favourite holiday destination and will ALWAYS remain at the forefront for fresh air and fun.

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THE END – except for:

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Appendix A: Firsts and Bests

I have listed these local superlatives as they occurred, although they may have been surpassed since they were achieved:

1840 **First** lighthouse in the world to be built offshore on cast-iron screw piles – Wyre Light.

1841 **First** hill used for triangulation in Lancashire's Ordnance Survey - Warbreck Hill.

1860 **First** School Cadet Force – Rossall School.

1861 **Oldest** Links Golf Course in the UK - North Euston Military Golf Club and its Links - recognised, by the Royal and Ancient.

1864 **First** patented ball-rolling rock machine in the world - J Ramsden, Blackpool.

1879 **First** place in the world with electric arc street lighting – Blackpool.

1880 **First** British female Chief Librarian – Miss Hannah Eteson, Blackpool - Not Kate Lewtas.

1885 **First** electric trams in the world - Blackpool Electric Tramway Company.
First person to be killed by a tram - Henry Wilcock from Barnsley.

1886 **First** UK Charity Street Collection for the families of the Lytham Lifeboat Disaster.

1887 **First** cable car ride in the world - J Stansfield's "sensational aerial flight" at the Royal Palace Gardens, Blackpool.

1887 **First** fixed Switchback Railway in the UK – St Chad's Road.

1890 **First** Corporation in the country to test drains for gas leakage – Blackpool.

1893 **First** electric crane in the world, made by Heenan and Froude - used on Blackpool Tower.

1894 **Tallest** artificial structure in Britain – Blackpool Tower.

1897 **First** motor-coach service in the world - six Daimler motor coaches were run from a kiosk in Talbot Square, Blackpool.

1898 **First** use of the Loudspeaker - to broadcast records of operatic arias from the tops of Blackpool Tower and the Eiffel Tower.

1900 **First** Olympic gold medallist from Lancashire - Blackpool Harrier Alfred Tysoe, who won the 800 metres Gold Medal in Paris in June.

1902 **First** levying of a public rate to advertise for visitors – to fund Blackpool Corporation's posters at French and Swiss railway stations.

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1904 **First** meeting of Messrs Rolls and Royce - in a Blackpool hotel.

1905 **First** Helter Skelter in the UK – Blackpool Pleasure Beach.

1906 **First** scenic railway in Britain – by Gordon Iles at Blackpool.
Fastest standing kilometre in the world - 34.2 seconds – Darraq car, Promenade.
Fastest standing mile in the world - 45.6 seconds – Darraq car, Promenade.
Fastest flying kilometre in Britain - 21.0 seconds 106.52 mph – Darraq car, Promenade.
Fastest flying kilometre in the world - Dorothy Levitt - 91 mph - Napier car, Promenade.

1909 **First** Aviation Week in Britain - held at Squires Gate, Blackpool.
First flight in Lancashire - Henry Farman at Squires Gate.
First ever British flying record – Henry Farman on the 20th of October, by flying 47 miles.
First Model Aeroplane Club - Blackpool and Fylde Model Aero Club.
First Big Dipper in the world to give a negative "G" sensation – Pleasure Beach.

1910 **First** civilian commercial flight in Britain - by Claude Grahame-White at Squires Gate. White was also the **First** person to fly over a Lancashire town, carry a photographer, and drop bombs (flour bags), trying to convince the War Office of the usefulness of aeroplanes.

1911 **First** long-date coach tour in Lancashire – W Standerwick's 8-day trip to London.
Largest stage in Britain – new Opera House.
First woman pilot in Britain - Hilda Hewlett.

1916 **First** ever World Record for the 150 yards backstroke – Lucy Morton.
Largest Woolworth store in the world - Blackpool Promenade.

1917 **First** TUC annual Conference – held in Blackpool in September.

1919 **First** scheduled daily passenger air service in Britain - AV Roe - Manchester to Blackpool.
First person to be presented with a "Wood Badge" by Lord Baden-Powell – Blackpool's Dr John Wilkinson on the first Scoutmasters' training course.

1920s **First** coloured donkeys in Britain – Elston family of Lytham.

1920 **First** dance festival in the world - Blackpool Dance Festival.

1923 **First** dipper in the UK to use under-track wheels – Blackpool's Big Dipper.

1926 **Oldest** registered First World War memorial landscape – Fleetwood Memorial Park.

1927 **First** police officer to transport a prisoner by air - Frank McKenna, when he flew to the Isle of Man from Squires Gate.

1928 **First** English demonstration of the modern parachute – by Leslie Irvin at the Blackpool Air Pageant.

1929 **First** American Wurlitzer organ to be installed in a ballroom in Britain – Tower Ballroom.

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1930 **First** British Musical Film – No Lady, starring and directed by Lupino Lane, filmed in Blackpool.
First Ghost Train in the UK – Pleasure Beach.

1931 **First** Municipal Aerodrome in the country – Stanley Park.
First British Open Dance Championships - Winter Gardens, Blackpool.

1932 **First** scheduled internal air service in the British Isles - RHC Monk's British Amphibious Air Lines service to the Isle of Man from Blackpool.
First RAC Rally and Coachwork Competition started from the Promenade in March. The rally actually started from several points and ended in Torquay.

1933 **Fastest** time ever for 500 yards, by greyhound "Beef Cutlet" Blackpool in May - 26.13 seconds.

1934 **First** contract for flying newspapers and the Royal Mail to the Isle of Man - Blackpool and West Coast Airways.
Largest single-room fun house in the world – Pleasure Beach.

1935 **First** twin-track racing coaster in Europe - the Grand National, Pleasure Beach.
First Mercury vapour lights in the north of England - erected along Whitegate Drive.

1936 **First** "Eli Wheel" in Britain - built at the Pleasure Beach, Blackpool.
First Ice Show in the world - performed at the Pleasure Beach. It is now the **world's longest-running** ice show.

1937 **First** Littlewood's retail store opened at 38-42 Waterloo Road, Blackpool.
First ever women's test match century Myrtle Maclagan at Blackpool, versus Australia.
First British use of the word "caféteria" – Woolworths.
First British woman to be appointed a Professor of Surgery – Averil Mansfield.

1939 **First** multi-storey car park with an integral bus station in the United Kingdom – Talbot Road Bus Station Car Park.

1940 **First** transatlantic airport in the UK- the RAF began using Lockheed Liberator B-30 aircraft as ferries between Montreal and Blackpool Squires Gate.
Largest single-span roof in the world – Vickers factory, Squires Gate.

1942 **First** "Kentucky Derby" game - on Blackpool foreshore by GV Tonner.

1942 **World Premiere** of Noel Coward's plays "Present Laughter" on the 20th of October, and "This Happy Breed" on the 21st at the Grand Theatre.

1943 **World Premiere** of the play "Brighton Rock" by Graham Greene was hosted by the Grand Theatre on the 16th of February.
Fastest football "hat trick" in history – Jock Dodds of Blackpool Football Club.

1945 **First** Prime Minister to address the TUC conference when Clement Atlee spoke in Blackpool on the 13th of September.

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1947 **First** display by the RAF Aerobatic Team (now the Red Arrows) - Squires Gate airfield.
First Annual Police Swimming Championships held at Blackpool.
First TVR motorcar produced in Blackpool.

1949 **Highest** Post Box in Britain – Blackpool Tower.

1951 **First** live TV broadcast from a moving vehicle - tramcar 165 was used to transmit pictures of Blackpool Illuminations.

1952 **Longest-running** children's television programme (over 50 years) began when Harry Corbett bought Sooty on North Pier, Blackpool.

1953 **First** Cup Final hat trick at Wembley - Stan Mortensen, Blackpool Football Club.
First televised Cup Final.

1955 **First** Royal Variety Show to be held outside London – Blackpool Opera House.

1957 **First** Premium Bonds draw takes place in Blackpool on the 1st of June.

1960 **First** Football League match to be televised live – Blackpool v Bolton Wanderers, 10th of September.
World Premiere of Charlie Drake's first film "Sands of the Desert" was at the ABC Princess Cinema on the 21st of July.

1965 **First** performance of the Beatles song "Yesterday" at the ABC.
First British Half Marathon – Freckleton.
Youngest person to break a sporting world record in ANY discipline - Karen Muir of South Africa swam the 110-yard backstroke in 1 minute 8.7 seconds at Derby Baths on the 10th of August. She was 12 years, 10 months, and 25 days old.

1966 **First** commercial Monorail system in Britain - Blackpool Pleasure Beach.

1967 **Longest** Log Flume in the world (the first outside of the USA) - Blackpool Pleasure Beach.
Biggest "bar service" in Britain – Dixieland Palace on Central Pier.

1968 **First** chemical attack during a Football League match - Bloomfield Road, in October, when ammonia was thrown during the game against Blackburn Rovers.
Last scheduled steam passenger train on British Rail – the 8.48pm Preston to Blackpool, hauled by Black Five Number 45212 - ran into town at South Station on August the 2nd.

1969 **First** Health Centre in Lancashire was opened on Moor Street in Kirkham in July.

1970 **Fastest** junior to swim the English Channel - 10 hours 9 minutes by Julie Bradshaw (aged 15) of Layton.

1971 **Largest** Archimedes Screw pumps in Britain - on River Road, Thornton.

1974 **First** football supporter to be stabbed at an English Football Ground - Kevin Olsson at Blackpool.
First video tape machine to be used in a British nightclub – Tiffany's.

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1975 Blackpool skin diver, Brian Foulds, set a world record at the Imperial Hotel in May, when he managed to stay under the surface for 88 hours – A **World Underwater Endurance Record**.

1976 **Longest** "keepie uppie" - Alan Suddick established an unofficial world record, completing three laps and 20 yards of the pitch, keeping a football off the ground at Bloomfield Road in just under 20 minutes.
First British woman to swim 100 metres in under a minute was 13-year-old Cheryl Brazendale from Bispham - 59.58 seconds.

1977 **First** United Kingdom Snooker Championship - Tower Circus, Blackpool.
First exterior glass elevator in the UK – Pleasure Beach Casino.

1978 **First** fairground ride in Europe to turn passengers upside down - the Revolution ride at Blackpool Pleasure Beach.

1979 **Largest** retail park in Lancashire - created when the Co-operative (Normid) Hypermarket opened on Cherry Tree Road.
First store in Lancashire to issue itemised till receipts – Normid.

1982 **World's First tram-based "Travelling Post Office"** was introduced by Royal Mail and BCT.

1983 **First** indoor water slide in Britain – Splashland at the Derby Baths.

1984 **First** "space shot" and "dark ride" in the UK - the Space Invader at the Pleasure Beach.

1989 **First** appearance of Police in full riot gear at an English Football Ground – Bloomfield Road 30th of September.

1990 **Largest** aquarium tank in Europe - Blackpool Sea Life Centre.

1994 **First** World Matchplay Darts Championship - Blackpool Winter Gardens.
Highest rollercoaster in the world – the Big One at the Pleasure Beach -235 feet.
Fastest rollercoaster in the world – the Big One at the Pleasure Beach – 87 mph. (These records have been surpassed, but it remains Europe's **highest and fastest**).
Highest score in the Rugby League's Regal Trophy - Huddersfield beat Blackpool Gladiators by 142 points to 4.
Greatest height from which fresh eggs were dropped (to earth) and remained intact is 213 metres (700 feet), by David Donoghue from a helicopter on the 22nd of August, onto a golf course at Blackpool.

2000 **Largest** "Dark Ride" in the world – Valhalla – Pleasure Beach.
Largest "Convoy Ride" in the world – Pleasure Beach.
Largest stick of rock in the world - Coronation Rock Limited.

2001 **First** allotment in the UK with facilities for the disabled - opened at Cherry Tree Road, Blackpool in June.
Most candy floss made in 90 minutes. 204 by Peggy Chadwick at Blackpool Pleasure Beach on the 31st of August.

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2002 **First** ever nine dart finish to be broadcast live on UK television by Phil Taylor at the Winter Gardens. This was described by Sky Sports as the greatest darting moment ever.
Fastest crossing of the English Channel using the Butterfly stroke - Julie Bradshaw of Layton in 14 hours and 18 minutes.
Largest disco mirror ball in the world – erected on South Promenade.
Last swim-suited beauty contest in Great Britain – Miss Wyre.

2003 **First** Atlantic crossing in a balloon with an open wicker basket - David Hempleman-Adams in September, landing at Preesall.

2004 **First** "Digital Photo Kiosks" in the UK - installed in Blackpool Tower and 5 other sites.

2005 **First** "Drive-Through" Chemist shop in the north of England - Whitworth's Chemists on Bloomfield Road, Blackpool, only the second in the UK.
Fastest road car in the world – TVR Cerbera Speed 12 – 240 mph.
Oldest age at which an author had a book published - Bertha Wood (born 20th of June 1905) had her first book, Fresh Air and Fun: The Story of a Blackpool Holiday Camp, published on her 100th birthday on the 20th of June 2005. The book is based on her memoirs, which she began writing at the age of 90.

2006 **First** Regional Gaming Academy in the UK - Blackpool and the Fylde College.
First 4D cinema in the UK – Pleasure Beach.
First "Sports Barn" in the UK – Grosvenor Street.

2007 **Largest** Chip Butty in the world – 1.4 metres across, made at the Coral Island Chip Shop with 109kg of chips.
Longest Mini convoy in the world, and the **Largest** convoy of classic British cars - 269 Mini Cars along Blackpool Promenade.
Most limousines in one cavalcade (122) – Blackpool Promenade (beaten at same event in 2008).
First Illuminated Art Car Parade - Blackpool Promenade in October 2007.
First Englishman to become World Pool Champion – Darryl Peach of Blackpool.
Longest radio transmission - Dave Starkie – from Blackpool to New Zealand.

2008 **Longest** time spent on a Water Slide – Sandcastle.
Longest indoor rollercoaster water slide in the world - The Masterblaster, Sandcastle.
First town in the UK to project a moving image on to its war memorial – Blackpool.
Largest stick of rock in the world – Coronation Rock Limited.
Most popadoms in one stack – Jali Restaurant - the Static World Record with 282 and Moveable World Record with 230.
World Record for hitting the darts bullseye OUTSIDE. In July, Russ Bray wrote his name into the Guinness Book of Records at the World Matchplay Championship in Blackpool. He nailed it from 10 feet despite a gusting 30mph wind on Blackpool Promenade!
First "Hexapus" - an octopus possessing only six tentacles instead of eight. The first documented specimen was Henry. He was found off North Wales and donated to Blackpool Sea Life Centre.

2009 **Fastest** Window Cleaner: Essex window cleaner Terry Burrows beat his own world record for cleaning windows by completing three windows in 9.14 seconds during a window cleaning conference at the De Vere Hotel.

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2010 **World Record** price for a Helen Bradley picture – "Blackpool Beach", a sunny image of bathers, had been estimated to sell for £70,000-90,000 but actually raised £144,000.
Highest rate in England for deaths caused by alcohol and by chronic liver disease – Blackpool.
World's Largest Magic Convention – Blackpool.

2011 **World Record** for the most people taking part in a hoopla event – 228 at the Blackpool Youth Games in July.
World's Largest Cha-Cha Slide dance. By 3,231 participants at an event organised by Girl guiding North West England (UK) at Pleasure Beach, on the 8th of October. The attempt itself was held in a closed tunnel with one controlled entrance. Elsewhere in the park, nearly 5,000 additional Girl guiding members also stopped what they were doing to participate with the music playing over loudspeakers.
Oldest purpose-built Ice Theatre in the world – Pleasure Beach.
Filthiest Hotel in Europe – Grosvenor Hotel, Albert Road.
Most stage appearances by a dog for the same role - Danny, owned by Rita Mansell (UK), who played Sandy in the musical 'Annie' in 1365 performances in the United Kingdom. Danny retired on the 31st of December, on stage at the Winter Gardens.

2012 **World Record** for the longest distance on a unicycle – set on the 14th of June by the 85 members of the JUST Unicycle club and the Blackpool Circus School, who collectively unicycled 2,743.5 kilometres.
World Record for the **longest** ride on a rollercoaster – Richard Rodriguez. Set on the 19th of September after 112 days on the Pleasure Beach Big One.
World's highest Carol Concert – set on the 11th of December by St Stephen's on the Cliffs' choir at the top of Blackpool Tower.

2013 **World Record** for **the most balloons burst by sitting** – Radio Wave presenter Ged Mills popped 27 in 30 seconds on the 1st of May.

2013 **Oldest** person in the UK to undergo a bone marrow transplant - Alfred Meakin of Blackpool.

2014 **World's Biggest** Beach Ball. Inflated on Central Beach on the 15th of August.
Most people down a water slide in one hour – 289 at Blackpool Sandcastle on the 13th of November.
Most football divisions played in for one club by an individual - 7. Achieved by Nathan Pond, playing for Fleetwood Town in the English North West Counties League, Northern Premier League Division 1 North, Northern Premier League Premier Division, Conference North, Conference Premier, Football League 2, and in Football League 1 between March 2003 and 9 August 2014.

2015 **The Best Family Hotel** in Britain – The Doric Hotel.
World's Longest distance on a water slide in 24 hours - a team of 10 soldiers from the Duke of Lancaster's Regiment broke the Guinness World Record with 9,576 slides between them, covering a distance of 859.45 kilometres.
World's Longest distance on a water slide in 24 hours by an individual - Kingsman Amir Amalik broke this in 21 hours 15 minutes with a total of 1,138 slides.
World's Longest Selfie Relay Chain - 500 people on central beach on the 30th of August.

2016 The Sandcastle water park broke the world record for the **most people going down a water slide in**

©

one hour. 29 people rode the Duelling Dragons slide in 60 minutes.

2016 **Best water ride in the world** - The Valhalla ride at the Pleasure Beach was crowned at the Golden Ticket Awards in America in September.

2017 **Most pairs of swimming trunks in 30 seconds** - 12-year-old Blackpool girl Angelina Barrow pulled them on at the Pleasure Beach in August – 21 was the most ever achieved.

2017 **Fastest to pack a suitcase** - also in August at the Pleasure Beach, Arbroath man, Shane Johnson, 29, did it in 42.19 seconds.

2017 **World Gravy Wrestling Champion** - Fylde PCSO Trevor Sterling (aka Maximus Gravius Onmyroasticus), defeated all-comers on the 27th of August.

2017 **Largest set of bingo balls** ever used – Sun Bingo on Blackpool promenade on the 14th of June.
Largest bingo ticket / card - on the same day, Sun Bingo also broke this record, at a game of bingo in the Tower.
Longest time spinning a pillow on one finger - 15 minutes 7.59 seconds by Thomas Senior in the Boot and Shoe at Elswick on the 24th of October.

2017 **Longest period playing an organ** - Phil Kelsall broke the world record after playing the Wurlitzer at Blackpool Tower for 40 years on the 14th of June.

2018 **World's most influential woman in the theme park industry** - Pleasure Beach boss Amanda Thompson topped the 'Power 10' from Blooloop – a networking and news website for the attractions industry.

2018 **The most people performing jumping jacks simultaneously** - 1,696 people of NHS Fitter Fylde Coast, led by local ice skater and entrepreneur Daniel Whiston, exercised on the 21st of July 2018 at Lytham Festival's main proms arena.

2019 **World Karaoke Champion** - in December, Jenny Ball, from St Anne's, won the title in Tokyo.

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Appendix B: Well-known "Sandgrown'uns"

Here are various people who became famous after having left the Blackpool area. At the end, I have included some adopted sons and daughters to clear up any confusion, as well as some of those many entertainers who made their homes here over the years. I have omitted most footballers – there are too many!

- Abby Essien – Page 3 Model (lived on Preston New Road) - 1978
- Albert Louden – Artist (born in Blackpool but soon moved to London) - 1943
- Alfie Boe – Tenor (born Blackpool but moved to Fleetwood) – 1973
- Andrew Parmley – Lord mayor of London 2016 - 1956
- Andy Summers (Somers) – Musician (born in Poulton - guitarist with the Police) – 1942
- Averil Mansfield – Vascular Surgeon - 1937
- Barbara Robotham - Opera singer and distinguished voice teacher - 1936
- Barney Harwood – TV Presenter – 1979
- Barrie-Jon Mather – Rugby player - 1973
- Basil Kirchin – Drummer and Composer – 1927
- Beckii Cruel (Rebecca Flint) – You Tube musician - 1995
- Belle Chrystall - Film Actress (born in Fleetwood) – 1910
- Ben Bradshaw – Entertainer and magician (born Blackpool, move to Australia) - 1982
- Bert Jackson – Boxer (born in Fleetwood) – 1906
- Betty Jumel – Actress and Music Hall entertainer (born in Fairhaven) - 1901
- Bill Ashton – Musician (founder of the National Youth Jazz Orchestra) – 1936
- Brian Howard – Chairman of Marks and Spencer – 1926
- Bunny May – Actor - 1939
- Cardinal William Allen – 1532
- Carl Myerscough – Javelin and Shot Putt thrower (born Poulton, lives in Knott End) - 1979
- Carol Royle – Actress (born Blackpool during father's summer season) - 1954
- Cathryn Bradshaw – Actress - 1970
- Cecilia Loftus – Singer and comedian – 1876
- Charles Kay Ogden – Linguist (born at Rossall School. Invented Basic English) - 1889
- Charlie Barlow – Bandleader (born in Freckleton, and lived in St Martin's Road, Blackpool) - 1913
- Chris Lowe – Musician (Pet Shop Boys) – 1959
- Chris Wiggins - Actor - 1931
- Christopher Patten – Politician (Governor of Hong Kong) – (born Cleveleys) - 1944
- Christopher Wiggins – Actor – 1931
- Coleen Nolan – Singer (lived on West Park Drive) 1965
- Colin Bradbury – Clarinettist – 1933
- Curtis Jobling – Animator of "Bob the Builder" – 1972
- Cynthia Powell – John Lennon's first wife – 1939
- Damian Eadie – TV producer (Countdown) - 1969
- Daniel Whiston – Ice Skater (born in Poulton) - 1976
- David Atherton – Conductor – 1944
- David Morley - Poet - 1964
- David Thewlis – Actor (born David Wheeler – Professor Lupin in Harry Potter) – 1963

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- David Whittaker – Artist - 1938
- Dean Lennox Kelly – Actor (born in Lytham) – 1975
- Dennis Crompton – Architect – 1935
- Diana Boddington – Stage Manager – 1921
- Erroll Fuller – Writer and painter - 1947
- Frank Atkinson – Actor – 1893
- Frank Swift – Manchester City goalkeeper – 1934
- Gary Miller – Singer – 1924
- General Sir William Jackson – Governor of Gibraltar (1978-82) – 1917
- Geoffrey Bantock – Educationalist – 1914
- George Carman – Barrister – 1929
- George Cowl – Actor/Director – 1878
- George Mulock – Explorer and Cartographer (Resident Engineer on construction of Fleetwood Docks) - 188
- Graham Kelly – Football Administrator - 1945
- Graham Nash – Musician (The Hollies and Crosby, Stills, Nash and Young) – 1942
- Hamish Hamilton – Video director (born Mark Hamilton) - 1966
- Hayley Tamaddon – Actress (Delilah Dingle in Emmerdale) – (born in Thornton) - 1977
- Helene Thornton – Dancer (born Elaine Smith, later Heller Torren) – 1938
- Holly Newman – Actress (Lorraine Newman in Coronation Street) – (born in Lytham) - 1976
- Ian Christie – Jazz Clarinettist – 1927
- Ian Levine – Disc Jockey and Music Producer – 1953
- Jack Arnfield – Champion Middleweight Boxer – (born in Stalmine) - 1989
- Jack Robinson – World’s best musical saw player – 1897
- Jacqueline Leonard – Actress (Linda Hancock in Coronation Street) – 1965
- Jacqui Scott – Singer – 1971
- Jane Couch - First British woman world champion boxer (born in Fleetwood) - 1968
- Janet Munro – Film actress (born Janet Horsburgh) – 1934
- Jean Rigby – Soprano – (born in Fleetwood) - 1954
- Jeffrey Hammond – Musician (Jethro Tull) - 1946
- Jenna-Louise Coleman – Actress (Doctor Who’s assistant) – 1986
- Jo Appleby - Soprano for the band Amici Forever – 1978
- Joan Savage – Actress and singer – 1934
- Jodie Prenger – Singer – 1979 (lived on Newton Drive)
- John Clark - Scientist (developed genetic modification of livestock – result - Dolly the sheep, the first animal to have been cloned from an adult) – 1951
- John Evan - Musician - 1948
- John Lawrenson – Baritone – (born in Fleetwood) - 1932
- John Mahoney – Comedy Actor (Marty Crane in Frasier) – 1940
- John Pritchard – Bishop of Jarrow – 1948
- John Robb – Musician and Pop Pundit – (born Fleetwood, grew up in Anchorsholme) - 1961
- John Schofield – Soldier and VC winner - 1892
- John Simpson – Reporter and BBC editor – (born in Cleveleys) - 1944
- John Sumner – Actor – 1951
- John Watson, comic book artist
- Johnny Hart – Magician – (born in St Anne’s) – 1943

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- Jordan Wylie – Security Consultant - 1982
- Judy Flynn - Actress (Julie in The Brittas Empire) - 1963
- Julie Grant– Singer (born Vivien Foreman) – 1946
- June Francis – Author – 1941
- June Tripp – Actress – 1901
- Karima Francis – Singer/Songwriter - 1987
- Karl Bartoni – Escapologist – 1949
- Katie Stainsby – Ice Skater – 1980
- Keith Christie – Trombonist - 1931
- Keith Marsh – Actor – 1926
- Kelsey Beth Crossley – Actress (Scarlett Nicholls in Emmerdale) – (born in Fleetwood and attended Rossall Juniors and then Bispham High School) - 1992
- Kenneth Cragg – Theologian – 1913
- Larry Cassidy – Musician – Founder of band Section 25– 1953
- Lauren Bunney – Actress (Annie Wainwright in Grange Hill) – 1988
- Lennie Bennett – Comedian – 1938
- Lester Ellis – World Boxing Champion – 1965
- Lucy Fallon – Actress (Bethany Platt – Coronation Street) - 1994
- Maddy Prior – Folk Singer (born Grange Park, raised in St Albans) – 1947
- Madeleine Montalban – Astrologer and Wiccan - 1910
- Marli Harwood – Singer/songwriter (born in St Anne's as Marilena Buck) - 1975
- May Sanderson – Soprano – 1927
- Michael Smith – Nobel Prize Winner – 1932
- Mike Bateson – Businessman (Chairman of Torquay United) – 1944
- Molly Wright- Actress (Rebecca Hughes in The A Word) - 1996
- Nick McCarthy – Musician (Franz Ferdinand) – 1974
- Nikki Sanderson – Actress (Candice Stone in Coronation Street) – 1984
- Pat Astley – Model and Actress (Stage name "Blackpool Patricia") – birth date unknown
- Patricia Fuller – Actress and singer - 1946
- Patrick Keiller – Film director – 1950
- Paul Askham – Ice Skater - 1962
- Paul Bootherstone – Frigate Commander – 1938
- Paula Green – Singer (ITMA and ENSA) - 1917
- Pauline Moran – Actress – 1947
- Peter Chelsom – Film Director – 1956
- Peter Howarth – Singer (The Hollies) – 1960
- Rae Morris – Singer (Rachel Morris) - 1993
- Raine Davison - Actress (Born Raine Davis – played Eve Birch in Emmerdale) – 1984
- Ralph Copeland – Astronomer Royal for Scotland (born Woodplumpton) - 1837
- Richard Henriques (Sir) – QC (born Lytham, lives in Thornton) - 1943
- Richard Suart – Opera singer - 1951
- Richard Wigglesworth – Rugby Union player – 1983
- Ricky Tomlinson – - Full name Eric - Comedy Actor – 1939
- Robert Crampton - Journalist and presenter (Beta Male in The Times) - 1964
- Robert Gillow – Cabinetmaker (born Singleton) - 1704
- Robert Smith – Singer (the Cure) – 1959

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- Robin Butler (Sir) – Cabinet Secretary, Lord Butler of Brockwell - 1938
- Roger Uttley – Rugby Union player – 1949
- Ronnie Baxter - Rocket Ronnie - Darts champion – 1961
- Ronnie Clayton – Boxer – 1923
- Roy Calley – Author and Journalist – birth date unknown
- Roy Harper – Guitarist and musician - 1941
- Sarah Myerscough - Sculptor - 1980
- Scott Wright – Actor – 1974
- Sean McKenzie – Actor (born in St Anne's) - 1970
- Shelly Woods (Rochelle) – Elite Wheelchair Athlete – 1986
- Simon Bryan – High Court Judge - 1965
- Stacey McClean - Singer and former member of the pop group S Club 8 – 1989
- Steve Barker – Film director – 1971
- Stuart Siddall – Ice skater - 1982
- Swami Nadabrahmananda (born Anthony Eriksson) – Founded the International Meditation Society – 1941
- Syd Francis – Comedian – 1943
- Syd Little – Comedian (born Cyril John Mead) (lives on Fleetwood Road) - 1942
- Tania Mallet – Film Actress (Goldfinger) – 1941
- Ted Rhodes - Script editor (All Creatures Great and Small – BBC) - 1934
- Teddie Thompson – Actress (Boon) – 1962
- Tim Barlow – Actor - 1936
- Tim Woolcock - Painter - 1952
- Tom McNally – Politician (Liberal Democrat Lord) (lived on Gamble Road in Thornton) - 1943
- Tom Whiteside – Mathematics Historian - 1932
- Trevor Wilkinson – Founder of TVR cars – 1923
- Valerie Austin – Hypnotherapist and author – 1948
- Vicki-Lee Walberg – (Miss United Kingdom, Model and Dolly Dealer) - 1975
- Victoria Hesketh (Little Boots) – Singer and musician (born in Thornton) - 1984
- Victoria McGlynn – Disc Jockey – 1978 (born in Bispham)
- Victoria Monks – Music Hall Singer (born Annie Monks) - 1884
- William Jackson – Governor of Gibraltar - 1917
- William Lyons – Founder of Jaguar Cars – 1901
- William Walmsley – Founder of Swallow Sidecars – 1891
- Zoe Ball – TV and Radio Presenter – 1970

The many famous people who have made Blackpool and the Fylde their home include the following. Many settled temporarily or permanently whilst performing in shows locally:

- Al Read – Comedian (lived in St Anne's)
- Albert Modley – Comedian (lived in a caravan in Staining each season)
- Alistair Cooke – Broadcaster (moved to Blackpool aged 8)
- Allan Prior – Novelist and TV producer (born Newcastle and grew up in Blackpool)
- Allen Clarke – Author (lived in South Shore)
- Anne Nolan – Singer
- Arthur Leslie – Actor (Jack Walker – Coronation Street) (lived on Burwood Drive)

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- Arthur White – Music hall entertainer (lived at 66 Leeds Road)
- Arthur Worsley – Ventriloquist (lived in South Shore)
- Augustus Kenderdine (Gus) – Artist (lived at 6 Oxford Road)
- Barry Mason – Songwriter (born in Coppull, grew up in Blackpool) – wrote “Delilah”, “The Last Waltz” etc – sold over 50 million records
- Ben Warris – Comedian (retired to live on the Esplanade at Fleetwood and compered at Cala Gran)
- Bernadette Nolan – Singer (born Dublin, moved to Blackpool aged two)
- Bill Beaumont – Rugby player (lives on Clifton Drive, St Anne’s and lived on Rivington Avenue in Bispham)
- Bill Holland – Showman and entrepreneur (lived on Park Road)
- Billy Bennett – Comedian (lived and died at 17 Queensway)
- Bobby Ball – Comedian (lives in St Anne’s)
- Bobby Bennett – Comedian (first winner of Opportunity Knocks in 1964)
- Brian London – British Boxing champion – heavyweight (moved to Blackpool aged 15)
- Brian Rose – British Boxing champion – light middleweight (moved to Blackpool aged 8)
- Bunty Meadows – Comedienne (lived in Blackpool with Cecil Frederick Watson as “Frederick and Meadows”)
- Byl Thirlaway (Donovan and Byl) – Comedian
- Caroline O’Neill – Actress – 1958 (born in Salford, moved to Blackpool as young child)
- Charlie Cairoli – Clown (lived at 129 Warley Road)
- Cilla Black – Singer (rented 30 Sunningdale Drive and another house on Wentworth Drive, Thornton during summer seasons)
- Danny Ross – Comedy actor (lived on Warley Road)
- Dave Morris – Comedian (lived on Duchess Drive)
- David Ball – Musician (Soft Cell – born Salford, grew up in Blackpool)
- David Whitfield – Singer (lived in Madison Avenue, Bispham and with his parents off Marton Drive)
- Derek Batey – Television presenter (Mr and Mrs – moved to St Anne’s in 1987)
- Desmond Bagley – Author (born Kendal, educated in Blackpool)
- Dick Emery – Comedian (stayed on Hornby Road)
- Dougie Clark – Comedian (moved to South Shore in 1973 and ran a café in South Shore)
- Eddie Pratt – Saxophonist (opened the Pratt guest house in Blackpool)
- Elizabeth Larner – Actress (born Wigan moved to Blackpool during War)
- Frank Carson – Comedian (owned the Shadwell Hotel on Knowle Avenue, and then lived at 120 Newton Drive in Layton until his death in 2012)
- Frank Randle – Comedian (born in Wigan - moved to Blackpool aged 6 and later lived at 97 Bispham Road until his death)
- Fred Walmsley – Comedian (lived on Central Drive, then at 15 Second Avenue)
- Freddie Davis – Comedian (lived on Westmorland Avenue, then Warbreck Hill Road)
- Freddie Starr – Comedian (lived on Meadows Avenue in Thornton)
- Geoffrey Marshall – Political Scientist (born Chesterfield, grew up in Blackpool)
- George Formby – Singer/comedian (lived in Poulton and Fairhaven)
- Henry Allen – Hangman (retired to Fleetwood) – known as Harry Allen
- Harry Korris – Comedian (lived on Dunes Avenue)
- Horace Finch – Organist (moved to Blackpool in 1919 – died here 1980)
- Hylda Baker – Comedienne (lived at Squires Gate Holiday Camp before moving to West Point on Thornton Gate)

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- Ian Anderson – Musician, Jethro Tull (born Dunfermline, moved to Blackpool aged 12)
- Ian Hunter – Musician (Mott the Hoople) did NOT live in Blackpool – his parents did
- Jack Diamond – Comedian
- Jack McCormick – Bandleader (lived in Blackpool from 1939 to 1952)
- Jack Pye – Wrestler (lived at the Castle at North Shore)
- Jack Rosenthal – Script writer (lived on Rossendale Road in Thornton)
- Jack Storey – Comedian (had a hotel called Storeyville at 44 Seafield Road)
- Jacqui Scott – Singer (moved to Blackpool aged 1)
- James Drake (Sir) – Civil engineer (born Burnley moved to Blackpool in 1937 and became Borough Surveyor) was a pioneer of the modern motorway network
- Jean Bennett – Singer (the Blackpool Belle – born in Chorley but moved to Blackpool when very young)
- Jesse Pye – Footballer (born in Rotherham, became a Blackpool hotelier in 1967)
- Jimmy Buchanan – Clown (lived on Westmorland Avenue until his death at Devonshire Road Hospital in 1996)
- Jimmy Clitheroe – Comedian (lived on Bispham Road and at the Fernhill Hotel, Preesall)
- Jimmy James – Comedian
- Jock Dodds – Footballer (owned several local hotels and guest house after retirement)
- Joe Longthorne – Singer (born in Hull, lives in Derrymeade in Layton)
- John Bennett – President of the Football League (died at his home in Fairhaven in 1918)
- John Comer – Actor (café owner Syd in Last of the Summer Wine, lived on Links Road)
- John Fyffe – Musician (sang and played guitar in the Settlers – went to Manor Road School in Fleetwood)
- John Inman – Comedy Actor (born Preston, moved to Blackpool aged 12)
- John Sykes – Guitarist (born in Reading – moved to Bispham aged 17, “Streetfighter”, “Tygers of Pan Tang”, “Thin Lizzy” and “Whitesnake”)
- Jonas Armstrong – Actor – Robin Hood (born Dublin, moved to St Anne’s aged 6)
- Josef Locke – Singer (sold his Fairhaven house to George Formby)
- Kathleen Ferrier – Opera singer (lived in Warton during WW2)
- Keith Harris (and Orville) – Ventriloquist (lived in Poulton)
- Ken Platt – Comedian (lived in Bispham)
- Kenny Baker – Actor (R2D2 in the film Star Wars etc – lived in Bispham)
- Lawrence Wright – Impressario (lived on Carlin Gate)
- Len Ganley – Snooker referee (lived in Cleveleys)
- Les Dawson – Comedian (lived in Islay Road, St Anne’s)
- Linda Nolan – Singer (lived in St Anne’s)
- Lucille Millway – Singer (born Margate, moved to 24 Maybelle Avenue in 1946)
- Lucy Morton – Swimmer (born Knutsford, lived at 13 Mereland Road in Marton)
- Lynne Carol – Actress (Martha Longhurst – Coronation Street) (lived on Waterloo Road)
- Lynette Horsburgh – Pool Player (2008 world champion)
- Marti Caine – Comedian (lived on Queens Walk)
- Matty Askin – English Boxing champion – cruiserweight (moved to Blackpool aged 20)
- Maureen Lipman – Actress (lived on Rossendale Road in Thornton)
- Mick Miller – Comedian (lives in Poulton)
- Mo Moreland (the Mighty Atom) – Dancer and comedian (owns Morelands hotel on Station Road)
- Moya Brady – Actress – Actress (born Manchester, grew up in Blackpool)

©

- Nat Jackley – Comedian (lived in St Anne's)
- Nellie Boswell – Equestrian performer (lived at 11 Cyprus Grove)
- Norman Evans – Comedian (lived on East Park Drive)
- Owen Oyston – Estate Agent/Entrepreneur (moved to Blackpool aged 2)
- Peter Purves – TV Presenter (born New Longton, moved to New Mayfair Hotel aged 3)
- Reginald Dixon – Organist (lived on Woodlands Drive, off Hardhorn Road)
- Reginald Holland – Organist and band leader (moved to Blackpool aged 26)
- Robbie Vincent (Frank Randle's Enoch) – Comedian
- Rose Marie – Singer (stayed in Norbreck)
- Roy Castle – Entertainer (briefly lived in Willoughby Avenue in Cleveleys from the age of 15)
- Roy Chubby Brown - Comedian
- Roy Fuller – Poet and Writer (born Failsworth, moved to Blackpool aged 10)
- Roy Harper – Guitarist (born Rusholme moved to Blackpool at the age of 6)
- Roy Walker – Comedian (lives in Lytham)
- Rudi Mancini – Accordion player (owned the Queens Hotel)
- Russell Grant – Astrologer (Lived on Clifton Drive in St Anne's and on Kingsway in Blackpool)
- Sabrina – Model (born Norma Anne Sykes in Stockport in 1936, she lived in her parent's Blackpool guest house at 1 Saville Road)
- Samuel Laycock – Poet (born Marsden Yorkshire, moved to Fleetwood)
- Shirley Crabtree (Big Daddy) – Wrestler and Blackpool lifeguard
- Spencer Hall – Writer and mesmerist
- Stanley Matthews – Footballer (lived on St Anne's Road)
- Stephen Tompkinson – Actor (born Thornaby, Teesside, move to St Anne's aged 5)
- Susan Littler – Actress (Born Sheffield, brought up in Fleetwood attending Milton Street School and Fleetwood Grammar)
- Tessie O'Shea – Singer (lived on Breck Road, Poulton)
- The Black Abbotts – comedy group (stayed at 108 Caunce Street, with Mrs Patricia Woolner)
- Tom O'Connor (stayed on Highcross Road)
- Tommy Trafford – Comedian (owned a Blackpool guest house)
- Tommy Steele – Singer (rented in Stanah during summer seasons)
- Tony Ashton – Musician (Ashton, Gardner, and Dyke - born Blackburn but grew up in Blackpool)
- Tony Gubba – TV Commentator (evacuated from Manchester, stayed at the Ardwick Hotel, and went to Blackpool Grammar)
- Tony Melody – Comedy and character actor (lived in Moorland Road in Poulton and then in Seattle Avenue, then Toronto Road, Bispham)
- Tony Williams – Musician (Stealers Wheel and Jethro Tull)
- Vera Lynn – Singer (stayed at Wayfarers on Clifton Drive, St Anne's)
- Veronica Doran – Actress (born Carlisle grew up in Blackpool) – played Marion Willis in Coronation Street
- Violet Carson – Actress (Ena Sharples, born Manchester, lived and died in Bispham)
- Walter Clegg – MP and solicitor General (born Bury, lived in Raikes Road, Thornton – partner in Ingham, Clegg, and Crowther)
- Wilfred Owen – Poet (lived at 111 Bold Street, and on Lord Street in Fleetwood for a short time)
- William Regal – Wrestler (born Staffordshire, moved to Blackpool aged 15)
- Winifred Atwell – Singer and pianist (rented on Carlin Gate)

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Many other stars, of course, stayed in local hotels and guest houses during their summer seasons, for example:

- Adam Faith stayed in a house at Poulton when appearing in Blackpool. He regularly rode horses from the Indomba stables on Fleetwood Road South.
- Anne Ziegler and Webster Booth stayed on North Park Drive.
- Bernie Winters used to stay on Queens Walk.
- Carl Brisson, a 1920s' actor, had to stay in a caravan at Little Singleton to avoid his hordes of fans, and his son attended Rossall School.
- Cliff Richard stayed in Queens Road, St Anne's.
- Danny la Rue, Ruth Maddoc, Anthony Quinn, Kate O'Mara, Gorden Kaye, and Bobby Crush stayed at Ashley Hall (formerly Arnfield House on Skippool Road).
- Engelbert Humperdink stayed on Heyhouses Lane.
- Gerry Marsden stayed with his brother Freddie for the 1965 summer season in a house on the corner of Kenilworth Gardens and Lytham Road.
- Julie Andrews stayed at Wayfarers on Clifton Drive, St Anne's.
- Nina and Frederick stayed on Beaufort Avenue.
- Pearl Carr and Teddy Johnson stayed at Bispham Court on Norbreck Road, as did Sid James, Edmund Hockridge, Howard Keel, and Eric Sykes, amongst others.
- PJ Proby and Freddy Starr stayed in Larkholme with local singer Brian Rossi.
- Rod Hull stopped at Kismet on Croyde Road, St Anne's.
- Russ Abbott stayed in many hotels, and when with the Black Abbotts, he lodged at 108 Caunce Street – Patricia Woolner's unofficial guest house!
- Thora Hird stayed in a flat above Lovatt's dentists on Dickson Road.
- Tommy Cooper rented a house off Devonshire Road.
- Val Doonican stayed in Shalbourne Road, St Anne's.
- Van Morrison stayed on George Street during the 1960s, when he was a member of the Wheels.
- Vera Lynn and Lana used the same bungalow – at different times – off Thornton Gate.
- Vince Hill and his wife Ann, often invited friends around for a barbequed breakfast!

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Appendix C: Local Fauna

Mammals:

Badger (Meles meles)
Bank vole (Clethrionomys glareolus)
Brown hare (Lepus europaeus)
Brown long eared bat (Plecotus auritus)
Brown rat (Rattus norvegicus)
Common shrew (Sorex araneus)
Daubenton's bat (Myotis daubentonii)
Feral cat (Felis catus)
Field mouse (Apodemus sylvaticus) – aka Wood mouse, aka Long-tailed field mouse
Field vole (Microtus agrestis)
Grey squirrel (Sciurus carolinensis)
Harbour seal (Phoca vitulina)
Harvest mouse (Micromys minutus)
Hedgehog (Erinaceus europaeus)
House mouse (Mus musculus)
Mink (Mustela vison) – considered a pest at Marton Mere
Mole (Talpa europaea)
Noctule bat (Nyctalus noctula)
Otter (Lutra lutra)
Pipistrelle (Pipistrellus pipistrellus)
Pygmy shrew (Sorex minutus)
Rabbit (Oryctolagus cuniculus)
Red fox (Vulpes vulpes)
Reeves' Muntjac Deer (Muntiacus reevesi)
Roe deer (Capreolus capreolus)
Short tailed mouse (Mus spretus)
Sika Deer (Cervus Nippon)
Stoat (Mustela erminea)
Water shrew (Sorex palustris)
Water vole (Arvicola terrestris) – rediscovered in 2009 on the Waste Technology Park at the former Burn Hall industrial estate
Weasel (Mustela nivalis)
Whiskered bat (Myotis mystacinus)

Visitors:

Grey seal (Halichoerus grypus)
Harbour porpoise (Phocoena phocoena)
Basking shark (Cetorhinus maximus)
Common dolphin (Delphinus delphis)
Bottlenose dolphin (Tursiops truncates)

Birds:

Arctic tern (Sterna paradisaea)
Bar-tailed godwit (Limosa lapponica) – known in the Fylde as stone runners

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Barn owl (Tyto alba)
Barnacle goose (Branta leucopsis)
Bewick's swan (Cygnus columbianus)
Bittern (Botaurus stellaris) – a regular visitor to Marton Mere
Blackbird (Turdus merula)
Blackcap (Sylvia atricapilla)
Black-headed gull (Chroicocephalus ridibundus)
Black-tailed godwit (Limosa limosa)
Bluetit (Parus caeruleus)
Canada goose (Branta canadensis)
Cettis warbler (Cettia cetti)
Chiffchaff (Phylloscopus collybita)
Coaltit (Parus Ater)
Common tern (Sterna Hirundo)
Coot (Fulica atra)
Cormorant (Phalacrocorax carbo)
Corn bunting (Miliaria calandra)
Crow (Corvus corone)
Cuckoo (Cuculus canorus)
Curlew (Numenius arquata)
Didopper – or grebe (Podiceps ruficollis)
Dipper (Cinclus cinclus)
Dunlin (Calidris alpine)
Fieldfare (Turdus pilaris)
Fulmar (Fulmarus glaciaris)
Gannet (Morus bassanus)
Godwit (Limosa limosa)
Goldcrest (Regulus regulus)
Golden Plover (Pluvialis apricaria)
Goldeneye (Bucephala clangula)
Goldfinch (Carduelis carduelis)
Grasshopper warbler (Locustella naevia)
Great-crested grebe (Podiceps cristatus)
Great-spotted woodpecker (Dendrocopos major)
Great tit (Parus major)
Greenfinch (Carduelis chloris)
Grey heron (Ardea cinerea)
Grey partridge (Perdix perdix)
Grey plover (Pluvialis squatarola)
Guillemot (Uria aalge)
Herring Gull (Larus argentatus)
House martin (Delichon urbica)
House sparrow (Passer domesticus)
Jack snipe (Lymnocryptes minimus)
Jackdaw (Corvus monedula)
Kestrel (Falco tinnunculus)
Kingfisher (Alcedo attis)
Kittiwake (Rissa tridactyla)

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Knot (Calidris canutus)
Lapwing (Vanellus venellus)
Lesser black-backed gull (Larus fuscus)
Lesser whitethroat (Sylvia curruca)
Linnet (Carduelis cannabina)
Little grebe (Tachybaptus ruficollis)
Little gull (Larus minutus)
Little Tern (Sterna albifrons)
Long-eared owl (Asio otus)
Magpie (Pica pica)
Mallard (Anas platyrhynchos)
Manx shearwater (Puffinus puffinus)
Meadow pipit (Anthus pratensis)
Merlin (Falco columbarius)
Mistle thrush (Turdus viscivorus)
Moorhen (Gallinula chloropus)
Oystercatcher (Haematopus)
Peregrine falcon (Falco peregrinus)
Pheasant (Phasianus colchicus)
Pink-footed goose (Anser brachyrhyncus)
Pintail (Anas acuta)
Pochard (Aythya ferina)
Razorbill (Alca torda)
Red-breasted merganser (Mergus serrator)
Redshank (Tringa tetanus)
Red throated diver (Gavia stellata)
Reed bunting (Emberiza schoeniclus)
Reed warbler (Acrocephalus scirpaceus)
Ringed plover (Charadrius hiaticula)
Robin (Erithacus rubecula)
Rook (Corvus frugilegus)
Sand martin (Riparia riparia)
Sanderling (Calidris alba) – one of the best places in Europe for these is Lytham
Sandwich Tern (Sterna sandvicensis)
Scoter (Melanitta nigra)
Sedge warbler (Acrocephalus schoenobaenus)
Shelduck (Tadorna tadorna)
Shore lark (Eremophila alpestris)
Short-eared owl (Aseo flammeus)
Shoveler (Anas clypeata)
Skylark (Alauda arvensis)
Snipe (Gallinago gallinago)
Snow bunting (Plectrophenax nivalis)
Song thrush (Turdus philomelos)
Sparrowhawk (Accipiter nisus)
Starling (Sturnus vulgaris)
Stonechat (Saxicola torquata)
Storm petrel (Hydrobates pelagicus)

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Swallow (Hirundo rustica)
Swift (Apus apus)
Tawny owl (Strix aluco)
Teal (Anas crecca)
Tree sparrow (Passer montanus)
Tufted duck (Aythya fuligula)
Turnstone (Arenaria interpres
Turtle dove (Streptopelia turtur)
Twite (Carduelis flavirostris)
Wheatear (Oenanthe oenanthe)
Whinchat (Saxicola rubetra)
Whitethroat (Sylvia communis)
Whooper swan (Cygnus cygnus)
Wigeon (Anas Penelope)
Willow warbler (Phylloscopus trochilus)
Woodcock (Scolopax rusticola)
Woodpigeon (Columba palumbus)
Wren (Troglodytes troglodytes)
Yellow wagtail (Motacilla flava)

A number of rarities have been recorded since 1982. These include Marsh Harrier, Osprey, Black Redstart, Subalpine Warbler, Barred Warbler, Firecrest, and Lapland Bunting.

Amphibians, Reptiles etc.

Common frog (Rana temporaria)
Common lizard (Lacerata vivipara)
Common toad (Bufo bufo)
Great crested newt (Triturus cristatus)
Natterjack toad (Bufo calamita)
Palmate newt (Triturus helveticus)
Sand lizard (Lacerata agilis)
Smooth lizard (Lacerata laevis)
Smooth newt (Triturus vulgaris)

Fresh Water Fish (In local ponds, pits, and lakes):

Barbel (Barbus barbus)
Bream (Abramis brama)
Brook Lamprey (Lampetra planeri)
Carp (Cyprinus carpio)
Catfish (Silurus glanis)
Chub (Leuciscus cephalus)
Crucian carp (Carassius carassius)
Eel (Anguilla anguilla)
Grayling (Thymallus thymallus)
Minnow (Phoxinus phoxinus)
Perch (Perca fluviatilis)
Pike (Esox lucius)
River lamprey (Lampetra fluviatilis)

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Roach (Rutilus rutilus)
Rudd (Scardinius Erythrophthalmus)
Stickleback (Gasterosteus aculeatus aculeatus)
Tench (Tinca tinca)

Sea Fish etc. (found off the Fylde Coast):

Local species:

Angler fish (Lophius piscatorius) – All year round
Bass (Dicentrarchus labrax) – Apr – Sept
Brill (Scophthalmus rhombus) – All year round
Bull Huss (Scyliobinus Stellaris) – Apr – Sept
Coalfish (Pollachius virens) – Nov-Feb
Cod (Gadus morhua) – All year round
Conger Eel (Conger conger) – Apr – Sept
Dab (Limanda limanda) – Apr – Sept
Dogfish (Scyliorhinus canicula) – Nov – Feb
Flounder (Platichthys flesus) – Nov-Feb
Haddock (Melanogrammus aeglefinus) - May - Feb
Hake (Merluccius meluccius) – Mar - Nov
Lesser spotted dogfish (Scyliorhinus canicula) – All year round
Mackerel (Scomber scombrus) – Apr-Sept
Megrim (Lepidorhumbus whiffiagonis) – All year round
Nilsson's pipefish (Syngnathus rostellatus) – May-Aug (first found in August 2013)
Plaice (Pleuronectes platessa) – Apr – Sept
Pollack (Pollachius pollachius) – All year round
Pouting (Trisopterus luscus) – Nov-Feb
Red Gurnard (Aspitrigla Cuculus) – Jul-Feb
Skate (Dipturus batis) – Apr – Sept
Sole (Solea Solea) – Jul - Mar
Solenette (Buglossidium luteum) – Jul - Mar
Spurdog (Squalus acanthias) – Sept
Thornback ray (Raja clavata) – Apr – Sept
Tope (Galeorhinus galeus) – Apr –Sept
Turbot (Scophthalmus maximus) – All year round
Whiting (Merlangius merlangus) – Nov –Feb

Migratory species:

Atlantic Salmon (Salmo salar)
Eel (Anguilla anguilla)
Sea trout (Salmo trutta)
Smelt (Osmerus epurlanus)

Shell fish:

Edible cockle (Cerastoderma edule)
Mussels (Mytilus edulis)
Brown shrimp (Crangon crangon)
Common shrimp (Crangon Vulgaris)

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There are currently 13 **County Biological Heritage Sites** within the Blackpool Local Authority area. All of these are protected due to rare flora, with a few having rare fauna too. They are:

Salisbury Garden, Woodside Drive;
Island in Stanley Park Lake (north) - nesting ground for grey herons *Ardea Cinerea*;
Broad Oak Lane Field ponds;
Blackpool South Railway Line – Squires Gate Station to Lytham Road Bridge;
Herons Reach Golf Course, Marton Mere, Habitat Complex;
Field pond west Bispham Road;
Bispham Marsh;
Queen's Promenade Coastal Grassland – North Shore Boating Pool to Little Bispham - the striped snail *Cernuella Virgata* lives here, a species of restricted distribution in the county;
Carleton Cemetery pond cluster - home to various rare newts, frogs, dragonflies, damselfies;
Robins Lane pond cluster - protected home of great crested newts;
Heron Way Pond Whitemoss. Although Heron Way pond is no longer considered to be of BHS quality as per Lancashire County Council Assessment 2004;
Holyoake Reed Bed, Warbreck (Now forms part of Carleton Cemetery Pond Cluster);
Rough Heys, north of Yeadon Way. Now lost to development but one individual of the significant plant species still survives and is likely to continue to do so. Planning permission was granted before designation;
Field off Chapel Road – for Common Meadow Rue

Three other sites are being considered:
Devonshire Road Rock Gardens – for butterfly populations; and
Field between Kipling Drive and Marton Mere - for butterfly populations;
Land adjacent Cherry Tree Allotments - for water voles; and Lawson Road Wetland - for great crested newt.

There are several **Tree Preservation Orders** in place for Blackpool, as follows:
1 - Squirrel Hotel, Bispham Road 08/11/1968
2 - Warbreck Hill Road/Leys Road/Hillstone Lane 04/02/1970
3 - Cherry Tree Gardens, Cherry Tree Road 07/06/1972
4 - 142/142a Preston Old Road 24/10/1973 – Revoked 2011
5 - 143 Hornby Road 28/11/1973
6 - Cancelled - See Order 21
7 - Land Adjacent Layton Station, Depot Road 06/02/1974
8 - 176 Warbreck Hill Road 19/06/1974
9 - Chelsea Mews, Bispham Road 31/07/1974 – Revoked 2011
10 - Knowle Chambers off Devonshire Road 20/11/1974
11 - Former Grammar School, Raikes Parade/Leamington Road 29/01/1975
12 - Layton Primary School, Lynwood Avenue 19/01/1976
13 - Willowdene, South Parade 25/05/1977
14 - Rear 3 Sandon Place 28/06/1978
15 - Elstree Court, 81 Bispham Road 13/02/1979 – Revoked 2011
16 - 145/147 Newton Drive 23/05/1979 - cancelled 2012
17 - Land adjacent to 325 Vicarage Lane 27/05/1981
18 - Former Refuse Destructor, Bristol Avenue 21/04/1982
19 - Preston New Road/Cherry Tree Road 14/09/1982

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20 - Land at Condor Grove (formerly Tyldesley School) 15/02/1983
21 - Land between 40/42 Raikes Parade 22/03/1983
22 - 64 Park Road (former St John's Vicarage) 26/05/1983
23 - Land at Newton Drive (former St Joseph's College) 19/04/1984
24 - Land at Beech Avenue (former Collegiate School) 19/04/1984
25 - Glenroyd, Whitegate Drive 15/08/1985
26 - The Bungalow, Old Meadow Lane 19/09/1985
27 - 199/209 Whitegate Dive 19/12/1985
28 - Lane at Mansfield Road 18/06/1992
28 - Land Fronting Mansfield Road 20/08/1992
29 - 20 Princeway 1993
30 - 121/123 Hornby Road 06/04/1998
31 - Springfield Court, Old Meadow Lane 21/01/2000 – Revoked 2011
32 - 170 Preston New Road (to rear and Gazette Buildings) 18/11/1999
33 - Land at Ingleway Avenue, Newton Drive 09/10/2000
34 - Land at Marton Institute, Oxford Square 02/11/2000
35 - Land rear 1-9 Lyddesdale Ave 09/11/2000
36 - 194 Whitegate Drive (former Elmslie Girls School) 10/08/2000
37 - Bennet Avenue (Refectory Site) 13/09/2001
38 - 157 Whitegate Drive 10/09/2010

Fylde County Biological Heritage Sites are as follows:

Black Poplar, Newton Crossroads, Newton;
BNFL Springfield Works Ponds, Salwick;
Bucks Moss Wood, Salwick;
Clifton Hospital Site, Lytham St Anne's;
Deepdale Wood, Salwick;
Freckleton Naze, Freckleton;
Freshfield Farm Pond, North, Freckleton;
Freshfield Farm Pond, South, Freckleton;
Great Plumpton Sidings, Westby with Plumptons;
Halls Wood Meadow, Kirkham;
King Edward VII and Queen Mary School Playing Field Margins, Lytham St Anne's.
Lea Marsh, Lea;
Lytham Foreshore Dunes and Saltmarsh;
Lytham Hall Woods, Lytham St Anne's;
Lytham Moss Copses, Lytham St Anne's;
Medlar Ditch, Medlar with Wesham;
Medlar Meadows, Medlar with Wesham;
Pippy Lane Banks, Newton with Clifton;
Pond West of Chain Lane, Staining;
River Ribble, Lower Tidal Section, Lea, Newton with Clifton, Freckleton;
Royal Lytham St Anne's, Golf Course;
Savick Bridge, Lea;
Shard Bridge Field Ditch, Skippool;
Smithy Farm Pond, Staining;
St Anne's Old Links Golf Course and Blackpool South Railway Line, Lytham St Anne's;
St George's Park, Swamp, Kirkham;

Warton Brows, Bryning with Warton;
Wesham Marsh, Medlar with Wesham;
Westby Clay Pit, Westby with Plumptons;
Westby-with-Plumptons; and
Willowmead Park Swamp (Moss Side).

Fylde also has 6 **Keep Britain Tidy Green Flag** sites: Ashton Gardens, Promenade Gardens, Fairhaven Lake and Gardens, Lytham War Memorial Gardens, Lowther Gardens, and Elswick Village Hall and Garden. There are 3 **Historic Parks**: Ashton Gardens, Promenade Gardens, and Lytham Hall Park.

Fylde currently has a total of 14 Council-supported parks: Memorial Gardens, Freckleton, William Pickles Park, Clifton Green, Clifton, Memorial Gardens, Kirkham, Ashton Gardens, St Anne's, Lytham Hall Park, Lowther Gardens, Lytham, Beauclerk Gardens, Church Road, St Anne's, Promenade Gardens, South Promenade, St Anne's, Fairhaven Lake, Inner Promenade, Fairhaven, Park View Road, Lytham, The Crescent, St Anne's, St Anne's Square, Sparrow and Robin Parks, Lytham, and Lytham War Memorial Gardens.
There are an additional 7 "Amenity Green Spaces": Jubilee Way, Playing Field, Blackpool Road North, St Anne's, Frobisher Drive, St Anne's, Waddington Road, St Anne's, Mornington Road, Lytham, Fleetwood Road, Wesham, Ansdell Playing Fields, and Hope Street Recreation Ground, St Anne's.

Wyre also has several County Biological Heritage Sites:

Poulton-le-Fylde:
Dinmore Avenue Swamp and fields, Poulton-le-Fylde
Garstang Road West Field Pond, Poulton-le-Fylde
Woodhouse Farm Swamp and adjacent ponds, Poulton-le-Fylde

Thornton:
Fleetwood Railway Branch Line, Trunnah to Burn Naze
ICI Hillhouse Estuary Banks

Fleetwood:
Fleetwood Golf Course
Fleetwood Marsh Industrial Lands
Fleetwood Model Yacht and Boating Pools
Fleetwood Promenade - Coastal and Dune Grassland - Rossall School to Marine Gardens
ICI Hillhouse International Pool
Jameson Road Saltmarsh, Fleetwood
Rossall Lane Wood and pasture, Fleetwood
Rossall School Fields - ditches and bankings, Fleetwood

Preesall:
ICI Salt Pools, Preesall

Inskip:
Carr House Green Common, Inskip

Out Rawcliffe:
Fentons Cottage Moss, Out Rawcliffe

©

River Wyre - Upper Tidal Section - Out Rawcliffe/Little Eccleston-with-Larbreck
Tinsleys Lane Moss, Out Rawcliffe

Bilsborrow:

Lower House Wood, Goosnargh/Bilsborrow
Poultons Wood and Lower Brock Wood, Bilsborrow

Wildfowl/Wader Roosting and Feeding Areas:

Cockerham and Winmarleigh Moss Edge
Fleetwood Farm Fields, Fleetwood
Pilling Moss - Eagland Hill
Pilling Moss - Head Dyke
Rawcliffe Moss

Ancient Woodlands:

Ned Croft Wood, Bilsborrow
Poultons Wood, Bilsborrow

©

Appendix D: Ghostly sightings

I have found many reports of ghostly goings-on in and around Blackpool. Although I cannot class them as "factual", I have included them in this book for interest's sake; who really knows - they may be true! Below is a list of the most well-known of these, together with the dates of their first occurrence:

1002 There was an alleged battle between Danes and the local Saxons at Weeton Lane Ends. A ghost, or *boggart*, haunted the battlefield for years thereafter.

1066 Mains Hall at Singleton was originally called Monks Hall, and legend tells of 12 monks who died of the Plague, being buried under 12 trees behind the hall. Their ghosts haunt the grounds, as does the ghost of *"Lily"*, a lady who stands at the top of the stairs by the Tudor Room.
Also, the ghost of a Cavalier was seen by twelve guests, in the corner of the Great Hall, and an *incubus* is supposed to be attracted to women staying in room 9.

1086 Legend tells of a Boggart in Marton Mere, which was cast into the waters by a local priest.

1154 Rawcliffe Hall - The ghost of a servant girl *"Miss Kitty"* is said to wander the grounds.

1550s Bourne (or Burn) Hall was said to have been haunted by the ghost of a headless wild mare.

1583 At Mowbreck Hall on All Hallow's Eve, Vivian Haydock is said to have seen the *"gory head"* of his son George who shortly afterwards was martyred.
In more recent times, the dim and vanishing figures of priests and monks are supposed to have been seen in rooms adjoining the chapel, together with occasional glimpses of a spectral man walking his dogs.

1585 The Eagle and Child Inn at Weeton was built, and the pub claims to have a ghost going by the name of *"Bleeding ears Murph",* and after midnight, you can hear him moaning at the bar, scaring away customers. He was said to be an old highway robber from London who came to hide from his previous crimes. Another haunting at the pub was seen by a German Shepherd dog, who would stare at the same spot on the ceiling above a wooden dresser. This same spirit is once said to have made a fitted carpet ripple like water, before tearing itself from the wall.

1643 The *"headless boggart"* of Whitegate Lane was the ghost of a farmer – either Mr Greatorex, a tenant of Whinney Heys, or Mr Singleton of Marton – dependant on which version you read. He was found headless in a copse, after a hard night of drinking at the Saddle Inn and haunted his killer until he committed suicide.
There were two later tales of Whitegate *boggarts* – *"Hobthurst, the lubber friend"* and the *"Headless Lady"* – she was seen in May 1857 by two men leaving the Number 3 inn.

1645
St Michael's Hall and the bridge at St Michael's-on-Wyre began to be haunted by the spirit of Major Ralph Longworth which also to haunt the river bank near St Michael's Hall.

1655 Hackensall Hall had its own ghost, a *boggart* (or *"hob"* in the form of a horse), which would plough fields and work around the farm in return for a warm place to spend the night.

©

1750s
The Plough at Eaves inn was regularly visited by the spirits of an old lady and young girl from now until the pub was greatly altered in 1980

1819
Another Saddle ghost entered its folklore: John Gretrix, a farmer working land owned by Whinney Heys Hall, stopped at the saddle for a drink, on his way back from selling his produce at Preston Market. Soon after he left the inn, he was driving his cart down what is now Old Meadow Lane, when he was attacked by "ruffians", killed and robbed. There then began tales of his spirit haunting the lane and the Saddle.

Note: I suspect that this is often mixed and confused with the Saddle ghost of 1643, as both men had the same name!

1844 Rossall Hall's only remains are a small tower or gazebo. Once there were two of these and legend has it that Lady Fleetwood's ghost frequents them every 31st of October.

1848 The "Ocean Monarch" sank off Blackpool, and its occupants are said to have been seen passing through walls in Blackpool Tower.

1860 The Raikes Hotel has a ghost – one of its former nuns who drowned herself nearby comes back to visit from beyond the grave and move items around the pub. Late at night, regulars have heard strange noises from cellars.

1883 Bowker tells of a Preston woman who travelled to the Fairies' Well near Blackpool to heal her blind daughter. She apparently saw a small green man who gave her some magic ointment to rub on the girl's eyes. The girl was cured, but several years later, the mother saw the same little man at Preston Market. When she told him what she had done, he hit her on the eye, which went blind.

1905 At Glendower College in St Anne's, a pupil committed suicide by poisoning herself with acid. Her ghost is said to roam the corridors of the Glendower Hotel today.

1915 At the Shard Inn on the 15th of January, Norman Renshaw's dog, Jack, died. His master had drowned in 1905, trying to save the dog. Jack's ghost is said to haunt the Shard Inn to this day.

1919 On Christmas Eve, the body of Kitty Breaks was found among the sand dunes at St Anne's. She had been murdered by Frederick Holt, her lover. Many people have claimed to see her ghost.

1924 Blackpool Corporation erected a hangar on the site of the Rigby Road donkey stables. It is now the permanent home of the Illuminations and has its own ghost, *"Ted"*, a drowned boatman.
Also, at the Rigby Road depot, there have been claims of hauntings by the spirit of a 21-year old boy who died in 1915, after being pushed over by a donkey.

1925 At Fleetwood Fish Market, a photograph was taken of some packers, and when it was developed, it showed the image of a Mr Haig, who had died one year before.

1936 In December, the Evening Gazette carried an article *"Carleton Ghost? A Layton taxi-driver claims he has seen a ghost with a green face, near the gates of Carleton Crematorium".*

©

1936 After Whinney Heys Hall became a Nurses' Home serving Victoria Hospital, there were tales of it being haunted by a *"figure in grey"*.

1937 A construction worker named Patrick was killed during the building of the new Pleasure Beach Casino. He has haunted the place ever since it opened, especially in the maintenance area.

1939 A *"Great patch of light"* floated past two girls cycling down a country lane in Thornton.
Also, nearby, a phantom baker's van was reported by two people out cycling at dusk shortly before the outbreak of World War Two.

1940 Tom Miller and his dog drowned in a pond next to Westby Windmill. Locals told of their ghosts for many years afterwards.

1948 Servicemen at RAF Warton saw ghost on site several times. It had a white face and wore a green flight suit and *"Yankee flying boots"*. It was mainly reported at B Group – the loneliest part of station. *"One young airman told a reporter that he was on duty at about two o'clock in the morning, sitting by the fire in the Picket Post when he saw the 'thing' a few yards away. It was all in white except for some greenish legs and it wore flying boots. It did not seem to have a face and stayed for about a minute and then glided away. Another man said he saw the ghost when he was on duty near a hangar. This time it had a white face and was in a green Yankee flying suit and flying boots. It made no noise, stood for a moment then moved away silently"*. It was thought that it was ghost of an American flyer who had hanged himself at the base during the war.

1955 Mowbreck Hall was reportedly haunted by the ghost of a butler who had hanged himself.
In later years, the spirit of a priest who had been beheaded was seen in the chapel.
Also, the ghost of Lord Derby and his dog was allegedly seen in the garden.

1962 The Lobster Pot restaurant (later Brannigan's and the Superbowl) had its own ghost; the phantom would grab female staff by the arm and leave red blemishes – but only on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.
In 1998, the Superbowl reported unmanned machinery working at night.

1962 A tram driver was killed at Rigby Road tram depot after driving tram number 712 along the Marton Route for the closing ceremony. The tram ran him over as he disembarked, and on some nights, ghostly rumbles and braking sounds are now heard around Rigby Road.
Also, after all the regular trams have stopped running for the night, a phantom tram is reported to travel slowly and silently down the rails along the Promenade. There are stories of the bell of tram 703 ringing in the wind!

1970 Peter Roscow and his Arnold School occult society held a séance in the school cellars, and allegedly contacted the spirit of a murdered woman.

1971 Ripley's Odditorium had its own ghost during the 1970s. When the skull of a local girl was displayed there, several people reported seeing a spectral female figure standing by it. The skull's owner was convinced the item was cursed and died a week after finally giving it away.

1971 The Royal Pavilion Cinema, reported a ghost. When "contacted" by a medium, the spectre claimed to be a 1920s' coach driver called *"Herbie"*. Evening workers had reported flickering lights and cold spots.

©

1971 The *"Thornton Thing"* haunted a house on Windsor Avenue in Thornton. The Ross family told the Gazette how the *"Thing"* pulled at their bed covers while they were asleep. They also told how they sensed a vile smell and felt something breathing in their ears. In 1996, the owners had the house exorcised, after taps were turned on full force in an empty bathroom. A "spirit cleansing" was performed in 2009 after that owner's wife began sending him text messages after her death.

1972 Poltergeist activity was reported in an old cottage next to Preesall Windmill.

1973 Westmorland House was built on Orchard Road in St Anne's on the site of the old Westmorland Hotel. There were tales of cold areas, and of the new back staircase being haunted by a deceased chambermaid.

1975 Higher Fall Farm (now called Levens House) on Clifton Road in Marton has its own ghosts – a tradesman's assistant working upstairs suddenly shrieked, ran outside giving no reason for his behaviour but vowing he would never set foot in the house again.
On another occasion, a pair of old spectacles appeared in a drawer which had been cleared the day before. Also, after a pet cat had died, the owner entered her bedroom one day to find an indentation in the middle of her bed in the shape of a curled-up cat.

1975 22 Somerset Avenue, Blackpool was regularly visited by a spirit with a bony hand which would appear in one bedroom and grab hands.

1978 The Ship and Royal Hotel at Lytham was said to be haunted by a tall, dark man who they strangely called *"Charlie"*, even though they thought it was possibly Squire John Talbot Clifton. A tall dark figure, thought to be the departed soul of the Squire, who died in Tenerife in 1928, was seen on the second floor in 1983. Also, in 1978, *"Charlie"* had ordered meat from suppliers and tampered with the inn's files. Nowadays, the sound of running water is heard in empty rooms that have no plumbing – thought to be caused by the spirits of a mother and son who committed suicide by drowning in the early 1900s. Recently, staff tell of seeing the shape of a man in an empty room in the cellar – he then disappeared around a corner into another empty room.

1980 The Ghost Train at the Pleasure Beach has a "real" ghost – the footsteps of "*Cloggy*" (or "*Mr Cloggs*"), a clog wearing ride operator who died around now (not in 1913 as reported elsewhere), have been heard.

1985 At Chingle Hall, sounds of bricks being moved were recorded by a visitor in the Priest's Room, which seemed to originate in the Priest hole. He peered in and saw part of a human hand moving one of the bricks. As he watched, the hand stopped moving and disappeared. This witness later managed to capture the sounds of footsteps on tape and a shadowy form on film. Later bricks were found scattered on the floor of the chapel on the ground floor. The ghost is said to be that of John Wall a resident who was hanged in 1679 – his head was said to have been later buried by nuns, under a cellar at Chingle.

1994 HM Land Registry moved to Wray Brook Court at Warton, where a ghost called *"Black Bob"* is said to have caused lights to activate spontaneously during the building's construction. Bob is reputedly a murdered US airman whose ghostly apparition has also been seen on the site

1994 Blackpool woman Jill Cook called in a priest, two psychics and a Mormon missionary to rid her of a ghost that she claimed regularly sexually attacked her and had ripped a towel off her wet hair. Sadly, the location is unknown.

©

1995 Blackpool woman Angela White visited a house for sale on Greenwood Avenue. When she went upstairs, she saw a young baby on the bed, so closed the door gently. When she mentioned this to the owner downstairs, she was told that there was NO baby in the house.

1996 At the Star pub, two workmen saw a figure who *"looked like Karl Marx"* in the bar.

1996 Landlord Sam Betts of the Railway Inn in Kirkham found a network of tunnels behind the cellars of the 150-year old pub, but on the day one tunnel was opened, and an apparition flew through the bar above it.

2002 Frenchman's Cove bar on South King Street, in the Duckworth's Tobacco Warehouse building, has its own ghost. This is allegedly *"the spirit of a girl called Laura Schoons, who came from Scarborough"*.

2002 TV programme "Most Haunted" visited the Pleasure Beach, looking for evidence of its various ghostly inhabitants. Apparently the "Alice" ride is home to a phantom hanging man, and the "tunnel of love" is said to be haunted by a blood-stained woman.

2002 The Grapevine at 17-19 Market Place Poulton began to manifest several phenomena that have since been attributed to a ghost named *"Freddy",* who is allegedly a man who hanged himself from the beams on the bar in the 1800s. Also, strange noises emanate from the pub cellar when it is empty, and glasses have been seen to fly through the air.

2003 A Poltergeist was reported haunting a newsagent's shop on Lord Street, Fleetwood.

2004 TV programme "Most Haunted" visited Ripley's Odditorium and claimed to have contacted the spirits that the staff had reported.

2006 TV programme "Ghost Towns" spent a night at the Grand Theatre, reporting many supposed spectral occurrences.

2006 TV programme "Most Haunted" visited Mains Hall and may have filmed a ghost on TV for the first time.

2007 Lytham Library staff reported the building being haunted by a spirit they called *"Albert"*, who threw things around and made bangs and footsteps.

2007 The manager of the Ashley Club on Victoria Road Thornton reported a strange atmosphere and snooker balls moving on their won. Investigators "contacted" a spirit called *"Harold"*.

2008 The Boars Head pub in Marton was found to be the location of several wandering spirits. A boy called Sean died on the site in 1855 and moves things. Also, a previous landlord, called *"Charlie"*, who died in 1838, still visits. The ghost of a local farmer *"George"* also appears.

2008 At Skippool Creek, four people stopped in the car park to chat. Three of the four glanced out of the windscreen, just in time to watch a white mist, the height, and rough shape of a person, pass the front of the car at a hurried walking pace.

©

2009 TV programme "Living with the Dead" visited a house on Central Drive, calling it *"one of the most haunted houses in England"*. A *"child with ringletted brown hair was seen sitting on the stairs"* and a *"strict-faced governess"* was also encountered.

2013 The Regent Cinema on Church Street was visited by investigators, and strange phenomena were photographed.

2014 While walking along the promenade, a witness watched as a cyclist slowly approached him. The witness looked away for a moment, and when looking back ready to move out of the way, the cyclist had vanished, with no visible exits to be taken. After the sighting, the witness realised that the cyclist and his bike had been the same single colour, either dark blue or grey.

Unknown dates:

The Pleasure Beach has other ghosts. There is a female ghost in the **Arena**, where staff working late at night, and walking across to the tractor bay, have become chilled to the bone, and felt an *"awful"* presence. The **Ice Drome** has regular visitations from someone called *"Julian".* Also, the ghost of a small girl has been seen at **Sir Hiram Maxim's Gift Shop**.

The Tower and the Winter Gardens also have their fair share of ghostly appearances, ranging from Charlie Cairoli's laugh, to George Formby's ukulele, through to ghostly figures walking hand-in-hand.
The ghost of an elderly man walks through areas of the tower, and a white lady plays the piano in the ballroom.

The Grand Theatre also has several ghostly visitors. People have been tapped on the shoulder in the upper dress circle.
The ghost of a man called *"Charlie"* is also said to haunt the stage door and upper circle, since he plunged to his death into the pit in the 1930s. *"Charlie's Seat"* on the front row of the upper circle is now the centre of any "paranormal" activity.

Lytham Road has had reports of the ghost of a *"wrecker"* appearing in the window of an unnamed house, swinging his lantern.

The Old Coach House hotel on Dean Street has known guests tell the owner about the spirits that reside and watch over them. Allegedly, the guests told of a male figure, staring at them eating a meal, wearing a cap and black cloak.
A second spectre is called *"Shirley"* and looks after the dining room.

The Foxhall pub has had several "sightings" over the years, ranging from priests to smugglers.

The Cedar Tavern has several reports of unusual activity: moving items, unexplained footsteps etc.

Louis Tussaud's Waxworks is said to be regularly visited by the ghost of *"Carol"*.

Number 90 Charles Street has been reported to have up to 3 ghosts.

©

Blackpool Football Club's boardroom was once said to be haunted by the ghost of Lord Nelson because its oak panelling was salvaged from his flagship, Foudroyant! Mysterious cool spots are regularly encountered.

The Dorric Guest House on Coop Street is reputed to have several spirits in residence – one of which snores in empty bedrooms.
The Mecca ballroom was alleged to have been haunted by the spirit of a young lady.

Squires Gate Airport
1. In *"the late 1950s, Julia Wolfe-Harlow was at Squires Gate Airfield, on the southern outskirts of Blackpool, as a trainee air hostess alternating her time there by staffing a pleasure-flight booking kiosk across the airfield. One particular wet day, while she stood in the booking kiosk, she felt she was not alone, turned and looked towards the door where she saw a young man staring straight ahead of him with his arms folded. He was wearing a light grey uniform but no cap and despite the weather outside his clothing was quite dry. When she spoke to the man saying 'hello, I didn't hear you enter', he ignored her and disappeared as she watched"*.

2. In the 1960s, there were frequent tales of a white figure haunting the British United Airways hangar.

Victoria Hospital has stories of several ghosts – mainly of nurses – who haunt various wards. The stories about wards 6 and 10 are the most commonly heard. Nurses today regularly scare new recruits with the tales whenever they are posted to those wards.
Also, in 2004, while a ward, *"a worker felt a tug at her tunic, as if a small child was trying to attract her attention. She turned around but no-one was there. Several staff have shared the same experience at the hospital, including a cleaner who was so unnerved they ran off, leaving their floor polisher running"*.

St Mary's High School (once Layton Hill Convent) has several rumours of ghostly goings-on. There is a grey lady walking the old orchard area.
Also, the ghost of a nun, who fell to her death from a third-floor window, haunts that floor.

Marton Moss: There are legends of a "Demon of Marton Moss", which would afflict locals with an ague from its evil breath in the white evening mists.

Stanley Park Lake is the home of the ghost of a young woman, who walks down into the lake – possibly reliving her own suicide.

Blackpool Zoo has reports of hauntings in the keepers' flats and in the Elephant House. The spirits are thought to belong to airmen, based there in its days as an aerodrome.

Blackpool tramway has tales of up to three different ghosts, including a deceased pointsman near Bispham Tram Station.

South Shore Hospital apparently had a ghostly nun who wanders wards at night making sure that all the patients are in bed asleep.

The Norbreck Castle is allegedly haunted by an old lady who is lost.

©

Robins Lane at Bispham is reputedly haunted by a green-faced ghost – allegedly a lady that lived in a cottage at the Carleton end of the lane.

Staining Windmill has 2 spectres - Archie Cameron, a local pedlar in the 18th Century, begged the miller's wife for food and lodgings for the night. Whilst asleep, he was brutally murdered and his ghost walks Staining Old Road when there is a full moon.
There is also Jennie's ghost: a lost Scotsman, returning from fighting the English. Leaving the Green Man pub in Poulton, he was followed by two men who stabbed him to death at the door of Staining Mill. He is said to have scrawled "Goodbye Jennie" on the door – the name of his true love. Jennie's ghost wanders the area in search of her dead lover.

Staining Hall had its own *boggart* - said to be the *"wandering ghost of a Scotchman who was murdered there near a tree, which has since marked the deed by perfuming the soil around with a sweet odour of Thyme"*.

Baines School at Poulton has long-told tales of the *"Free School Boggart"*. The headmaster John Porter wrote of it in about 1870 *"In the darkness of the still waters of the ditch at the side of the Free School abode the Free School Boggart, a siren deity, concerning whom the old inhabitants held that she was ever ready to reward the good and punish the evil doer. The lady of the ditch was to be seen when night hid the land and the full moon shone down upon its waters. At such times, eye of man beheld a sudden ripple and marked the goddess rising from her grotto in the depths. Then unearthly melody would float upon the air and the chance beholders would be rewarded or punished according to their deserts"*.

Butler's Farm at Poulton was reputed to be stalked by the *"little red woman".*

The Walmsleys of Poulton, were haunted by a boggart *"always making its appearance with alarming noises before the decease of one of the family"*.

The Ashley Conservative Club in Thornton has reports of footsteps in the empty games room.

The Little Theatre at Thornton has been known to have lights switch on in empty rooms.

The Burn Naze pub at Thornton has seen customers reporting "presences".

Bourne Hall (or Burn Hall) had its own two *boggarts*. One was a white lady, and the other a headless horse which roamed the hillside at night.

Fleetwood High School is said to be haunted by the spirit of a one-time Larkholme headmaster, which wanders the grounds.

Fleetwood Hospital has its own ghost, called "*Gertie*". She is said to have fallen down the stairs and been killed. Now she appears before patients are about to die.

Fleetwood Marine Hall is haunted by the spirit of an old caretaker. The white-shirted figure of *"Old Bill"* has been seen walking through walls.

The Victoria pub, on Dock Street in Fleetwood has reports that the spirit of a former landlord haunts there. Door handles rattle and strange sensations are felt.

©

The Victoria Cinema on Poulton Road in Fleetwood was apparently haunted by a white lady.

Hesketh Press on Warren Street in Fleetwood reported its own poltergeist moving things about.

Anthony House on St George's Road, St Anne's was reputed to be haunted by the spirit of *"Ted"*, a maintenance worker's foreman, who haunted the lift shaft at night. Allegedly, he had fallen down the shaft during construction.

The Glendower Ladies College at St Anne's was haunted by a pupil who committed suicide by poisoning herself with acid. Her ghost is said to roam the corridors. It is now the Glendower Hotel.

Fancy Lodge at Heyhouses was reported to be haunted by a lady in white.

From the sea off Lytham have been reported the sounds of bells ringing during bad storms. This is taken locally to be from the old church at **Kilgrimol.**

Lytham Hall is reputed to be haunted, one of the ghosts being Sir Cuthbert Clifton, seen in various parts of the grounds. One bedroom is said to be particularly haunted, the manifestation, complete with clanking chains and stomping feet. Allegedly he was determined to join the Crusades but died before he could go so - hence his restless spirit.
The "White lady of Lytham Hall" is also the stuff of local legends. In early 2015, *"gate staff reported hearing a car pull up - on more than one occasion - only for nothing to be there. And Mr Clifton was a car enthusiast".*

Lytham's Witchwood has many reports of a *"white lady"*.

Number 7 Ballam Road, Lytham - the Owls - had to be exorcised in the 1970s after many disturbing happenings frightened the residents into drastic action.

Clifton Walks at Lytham has a resident ghost.

The site of the old **Orchard House at Freckleton** is visited at times by an apparition seen near Kirkham Road. She is known as the *Bannister Doll*.

The Seven Stars pub at Stalmine has tales of a grey lady.

St James's Church at Stalmine had a *boggart*, which was exorcised by being removed to the house next door and buried under the doorstep!

Town Foot in Preesall was said to be haunted by a red-coated cat in the 19th century.

Pilling Hall's barn was haunted by a boggart in the form of a donkey. In order to ward away this evil spirit, local children were told to cross their fingers whilst repeating "*Buttermilk and barley corn"*.

Cockerham was once *"visited by Old Nick himself"* according to legend. *"Night after night he prowled about with clanking chains and shed an unpleasantly-suggestive odour of sulphur"*. At an agreed time, the local churchwarden recited the Lord's Prayer backwards and the Devil appeared. He trapped the Devil in a

©

magic ring and tricked him. Satan tried to grab him, but instead *"in one stride, crossed pilling Moss and Broadfleet and vanished"*.

Singleton was reported to have its own *"Hell Hound"* that foretold the death of the person who saw it.

"Moor Hey" at Weeton Lane Head was a field, sometime before 1832, which saw a farmer apparently chased by a beast shaped *"somewhat like a calf"*, which became known as the *"Demon of the Fylde"*.

At **Cross House, at Lane Heads in Great Eccleston** *"It is said that strange and unaccountable noises have been heard in the house, and on several occasions a lady dressed in white has appeared at a small window looking out of the attics into the garden below"*.

Also, at **Cross House**, there was in the 19th century a tale of the *"Cross House Boggart"* – a speedy apparition that was seen by the landlady passing by. *"It wor a woman baht a heyd!"* she said.

Westby Crossroads have been the location of many sightings of the top half of bodies crossing the road – thought to be Romans.

The Hillside Restaurant at Kirkham has reports of the ghost of a servant who committed suicide.

Carr Hill House in Kirkham had a ground floor room that was said to be haunted by a spirit who would not "stay dead", according to servants there.

Kirkham Windmill had a red-haired spirit who set things alight with his hair.

The Railway Hotel at Wesham is said to be haunted by a man in a trench coat, carrying a lantern and looking at his watch. Apparently, he is called Thomas Pilkington!

Fox's Biscuits at Wesham has a ghost who is reputed to be an elderly sugar boiler from Parkinson's Biscuits. He appears as a solid person in a white work coat.

Manor Farm in Greenhalgh is said to be haunted by a cloaked ghost, and a coffin has been reported gliding across a field towards a pit off Greenhalgh Lane.

The Bell and Bottle outside Kirkham is said to be haunted by two ghosts. One haunts a corridor, while the second – the spirit of a stable boy – haunts the restaurant where he was kicked to death by a horse in years gone by. The spirits date from when the building was Highgate Hall – pre-pub times!

The Hand and Dagger at Salwick has a ghost that locals call Fred. Bar stools and tables have been found in different positions to those they were left in overnight.

Swillbrook House at Catforth is said to be haunted by the ghost of a child who died in a trap set by her father for her unfaithful mother.

St Michael's Hall at Tarnacar is meant to have secret visits paid to it by the spirit of "the old major" (Ralph Longworth), but eventually, a priest and a parson exorcised him. They condemned his ghost to rest as *"long as the ivy is green and the river runs down from the hills"*. A slight hollow place near the hall is supposed to be the place where the *"spirit was laid"*.

©

The River Wyre at Churchtown was supposed to be haunted by a giant *boggart*, named *"Crappencrop"*. A rope bridge stood at the spot for many years, but a metal bridge now crosses at the location. The Crappencrop Stone, was a large boulder just north of St Helen's Church, which was supposed to turn around whenever the church bells rang. The stone was broken up by council workmen in the late 20th century.

The Plough at Eaves inn at Woodplumpton was haunted by the ghosts of an old woman and a child between the 1750s and 1980.

The Wheatsheaf Inn at Woodplumpton is said to be haunted by the spirit of a little girl who can be seen sitting at the fire grate, polishing brasses.

This must be a good list – I've already discovered 26 websites that have stolen it wholesale!

©

Appendix E: Translations of Domesday Book names

Actun	-	Aughton
Agemundreness	-	Amounderness
Alia Eglestun	-	Great Eccleston (literally the “other”)
Alia Rodeclif	-	Middle Rawcliffe (“ “ “)
Aschebi	-	Ashby
Bartun	-	Barton
Bifcopham	-	Bispham
Bileuurde	-	Dilworth
Broctun	-	Brock
Brune	-	Bourne
Carlentun	-	Carleton
Chereftanc	-	Cheriton
Chicheham	-	Kirkham
Chipinden	-	Chipping
Clactune	-	Claughton
Clistun	-	Clifton
Crimeles	-	Crimbles
Edelesuuic	-	Elswick
Eftun	-	Ashton
Eglestun	-	Eccleston
Fifcuic	-	Fishwick
Fortune	-	Forton
Frecheltune	-	Freckleton
Greneholf	-	Greenhalgh
Grimefarge	-	Grimsargh
Gufanfarghe	-	Goosnargh
Halctun	-	Halton
Hameltune	-	Hambleton
Inscip	-	Inskip
Latun	-	Layton
Lea	-	Lea
Lidun	-	Lytham
Meretun	-	Marton
Michelefcherche	-	St Michael’s
Midehope	-	Mythop
Neuhufe	-	Newhouse
Neutune	-	Newton
Pluntun	-	Woodplumpton
Poltun	-	Poulton
Preffouede	-	Preesall
Prestune	-	Preston
Ribelcastre	-	Ribchester
Rigbi	-	Ribby-with-Wrea (Wrea Green)
Rodeclif	-	Upper Rawcliffe

©

Rushale	-	Rossall
Saleuuic	-	Salwick
Seunefat	-	Saundersfoot
Singletun	-	Singleton
Sorbi	-	Sowerby
Stainighe	-	Staining
Stalmine	-	Stalmine
Tcia Rodeclif	-	Out Rawcliffe
Torentun	-	Thornton
Trelefelt	-	Threlfall
Treueles	-	Treales
Wartun	-	Warton
Watelei	-	Wheatley
Westbi	-	Westby
Widetun	-	Weeton
Witingheham	-	Whittingham

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Appendix F: Blackpools around the world

- Blackpool – a settlement on Waiheke Island in northern New Zealand
- Blackpool Bridge " "
- Blackpool Bridge, near Lydney, Gloucestershire
- Blackpool China Clay Pit, Trewoon, St Stephen, St Austell, Cornwall
- Blackpool Circle, Las Vegas, Nevada, USA
- Blackpool Corner, near Axminster, Devon
- Blackpool Farm, Alford, Aberdeenshire
- Blackpool Gate in the parish of Bewcastle, in Carlisle
- Blackpool House, High Street, Lanjeth, St Austell, Cornwall
- Blackpool Mill " "
- Blackpool river, Massachusetts, USA
- Blackpool, a suburb of Cork, Ireland
- Blackpool, British Columbia, Canada
- Blackpool, Long Horsley, near Morpeth, Northumberland
- Blackpool, Mississippi, USA
- Blackpool, near Cathcart, Eastern Cape, South Africa
- Blackpool, near Causeway, County Kerry, Ireland
- Blackpool, near Killmallock, Limerick, Ireland
- Blackpool, near Narberth, Pembrokeshire
- Blackpool, near Stoke Fleming, South Hams, Devon
- Blackpool Sands Beach, on Start Bay, Devon
- Blackpool, north of Newton Abbott, Devon
- Blackpool, Quebec Bar Harbour, Canada
- Blackpool, south-east of Plymouth, Devon
- Blackpool, Sri Lanka
- Blackpool, Tough, Aberdeenshire

Dublin in Ireland originated from the Gaelic *"Dubh Linn"* – meaning Black Pool

The football team "Mighty Blackpool" was founded in Sierra Leone in 1923.

Blackpool Lights are a band from Kansas City, Missouri.

Blackpool is a New York punk band made up of Melody Bleak, Graham van der Veen, Dave Ciauro, and Erik Nyquist.

The singing group The Fleetwoods were NOT named after our local town, but after their local telephone exchange in Washington USA.

The pop group Fleetwood Mac are not from here either – nor was their drummer Mick Fleetwood born here.

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Appendix G: Local School Mottos (and internal Houses)

Not all Blackpool and Fylde schools have mottos, but these are some, together with "Houses":

Anchorsholme Primary:	"*Happy to Learn*".
Armfield Academy:	*"Academy to be Proud of".* Houses are Citrine, Amethyst, Sapphire, Ruby, and Emerald.
Arnold:	"*Honor Virtutis Praemium*"- meaning "Honour is the reward of Virtue". Houses were Howarth, Liston, Pennington, and School.
Arnold High (Bispham):	*"For God and my neighbour".* In recognition of the school's development, the houses were Abingdon (yellow), Yorkbourne (red), Northlands (green), High (dark blue), Nova (pale blue), and Bispham (purple).
Arnold Junior:	Houses are Tower and Beach.
Arnold Villa:	*"Dilgentia vincit omnia"*, meaning "diligence conquers all".
Bailey:	Houses were - Nelson (green) Raleigh (yellow) Drake (red), and Grenville (blue) for the boys. The girls were Lune (yellow), Ribble (blue), Mersey (red), and Hodder (green). The school uniform colours were royal blue, light blue, and white. The motto was *"Bonaventure"* meaning lucky.
Baines Endowed, Marton:	"*Nil Sine Labore*" – meaning "Nothing Without Effort". Houses are Founder's, Whittington's, Hodgson's, and Hibbert's (last two are now joined as Stafford).
Baines Endowed, Thornton:	"*Reaching up".*
Bispham Endowed:	"*Shun not the Struggle*". Houses are Mars, Saturn, Venus, and Jupiter.
Bispham High:	"*The best for all, the best from all*".
Blackpool Grammar:	"*Meliora Sequamur*" – meaning "Let us strive for better things". Houses were Peel (yellow), Bright (green), Stanley (blue), and Lancaster (red), later becoming simply Alpha and Beta. The school song was Tarantara - "When the foeman bares his steel", a song from the Pirates of Penzance by Gilbert and Sullivan.
Boundary Primary:	*"We work as one to be the best we can be".*
Burn Naze:	Houses are Mars, Mercury, Jupiter, and Saturn.
Cardinal Allen Secondary:	Houses were Aiden, Augustine, Columba, and Gregory. Allen and Bede were added in the late 20th century

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Cardinal Allen Primary:	"*Tenaces Propositi*" – meaning "Holding fast to the Faith".
Carter's Charity:	"*Learn to live*".
Charles Saer:	*"Respect, Achieve, Succeed"*. Houses were Balmoral, Buckingham, Sandringham, and Windsor.
Chaucer Primary:	"*Enjoy challenge – experience success"*.
Claremont:	Boys' Houses were Durham (Blue), Lancashire (Red), Yorkshire (Yellow), and Chester (Green). Girls' Houses were St Joan (yellow), St Elizabeth (Red), St Margaret (Blue), and St Clare (Green).
Collegiate Girls:	"*Meliora Sequamur*". Houses were – Bowland (green), Longridge (red), Parlick (yellow) and Pendle (purple), and the school song was "*Lift up Your Hearts*".
Collegiate High:	"*Meliora Sequamur*". Houses are Drake (blue), Hawkins (red), Raleigh (yellow), and Granville (green), and years are divided into Port and Starboard.
Elmslie:	"*Omne bonum dei donum*" - meaning "Every good gift is a gift of God" (or all good things come from heaven). Houses were - St George, St Andrew, St Patrick, and St David.
Flakefleet:	Houses were St Andrew (Blue), St David (Yellow), St George (Red), and St Patrick (Green).
Fleetwood Grammar:	"*Cogitate Altiora*" – meaning "Think on Higher Things". Houses were – Bailey (Blue and White), Grange (Red), and Wyre (Yellow). School uniform colours were dark green, with a white, red, and gold stripe.
Fleetwood High:	Houses were Wembley (Blue), Twickenham (Green), Lords (Yellow), Wimbledon (Red).
Freckleton C of E Primary:	"*In fide scientia consistat*" – meaning "Let knowledge be grounded in faith". Houses are Balderstone (Yellow), Hillock (Green), Marsh (Red), and Naze (Blue).
Grange Park Primary:	Current motto is *"Proud to shine"*. Houses were Windsor, Hanover, Stuart, and Tudor.
Hawes Side Primary:	"*Community, Learning, and Creativity in Harmony*".
Hesketh High:	Houses were Bailey, Hope, Wheeler, and Robertson.
Highfield High:	*"We Serve"* (until the 1990s). Now "*Working Together*". Houses are Lune, Mersey, Ribble, and Wyre.

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Holy Family, Warton: The children's Mission Statement is *"Our job is to love and care for each other as Jesus taught us"*.

King Edward VII: "*Sublimis Ab Unda*" – meaning "Raised from the Waves". On opening, the seniors were Adventurers, Lancastrians, St John's, and Templars, with Argonauts being added in 1909. The juniors – added in 1914 - were Drake, Hood, Nelson, and Rodney – known as Squadrons. Senior houses now are Ashton, Talbot, Lowther, and Clifton, with juniors being Windsor, Sandringham, Balmoral, and Holyrood.

Kincraig Primary: "*Growing and Learning Together*".

Kirkham Grammar: "*Ingredere Ut Proficias*" – meaning "Enter in order to Profit". Houses are Fylde (green), Kirkham (yellow), Preston (light blue), and School (red) – There also used to be Ashton (white) and Lytham (dark blue) Houses. The school hymn is "*Jerusalem*" (and did those feet).

Kirkland and Catterall St Helen's C of E: "*Growing together*".

Langdale Preparatory: "*Ad Plene Vivendum Para*" – meaning "Prepare to be fully alive".

Larkholme Juniors: *"Working together to do our Best".* Houses were Wyre (yellow), Boston (red), Marr (blue) and Hewitt (green).

Larkholme High: Houses were Yarmouth (yellow), Brixham (blue), Grimsby (green) and Lowestoft (red).

Layton Hill Convent: "*Facta, non Verba*" – meaning "Actions Not Words".

Layton Primary: "*Growing great minds*".

Lytham C of E Primary: "*Together we Grow*".

Lytham College: "*Concilio ex animis*" – meaning "With wisdom and strength".

Lytham Hall Park Primary: *"Discamus As Vivendum"* meaning "Let's Learn to Live".

Lytham St Anne's High School: The original motto was "*Loyalty binds us*", and the original houses were Plantagenet, Gaunt, Beaufort, and Fitzgerald.
The new motto is *"A Learning Community In Pursuit Of Excellence"*. The school is divided into six colleges: Whittle (red), Curie (purple), Lennon (blue), Newton (green), Holmes (yellow), and King (orange).

Manor Beach Primary: "*Ensuring success for all*". Houses are Fry, Nightingale, Shaftesbury, and Wilberforce.

Marton Primary: *"Working together to be the best we can be"*.

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Medlar with Wesham C of E Primary: "*More than I am".*

Millfield: Houses are Bronte's Bears, Hawkins' Hawks, Rowling's Rhinos, and Shakespeare's Sharks.

Montgomery: "*Be Strong, and of a Good Courage*". Houses on opening were Arnhem, Alamein, Normandy, and Tobruk. Current houses are Bloomfield, Stanley, Tower, and Grand. The motto from the 1990s has been "*Learning for Life*".

Moor Park Primary: "*Learning for Life*". Houses were Red, Green, Yellow, and Blue.

Norbreck Primary: The original motto was "*Do right, fear nothing*" and is now "*Whatever we do, we do it well*". The houses were Wyresdale (yellow), Mallowdale (green), Bleasdale (blue), and Ribblesdale (red).

Our Lady of the Assumption: "*In all things charity*".

Palatine Central: "*Patriotism, Co-operation, Self-Effort*", later "*Per Ardua ad Alta*".

Palatine: Houses are Lewis, Thompson, Moorhouse, and Redgrave.

Park School: "*Grow, Learn, Achieve*".

Queen Mary: "*Semper Fidelis, Semper Parata*" – meaning "Always Faithful, Always Prepared". The school had no houses, but forms were split into four sections – Q, M, S, and L.

Red Marsh Special: *"Learn, Care, Challenge, Share"*.

Roseacre: *"Excellence for All, Excellence from All"*. Houses are Angles, Saxons, Celts, and Danes.

Rossall: "*Mens Agitat Molem*" – meaning "mind over matter". Houses on opening were Angles, Saxons, Celts, and Danes. Current Senior Houses are Maltese Cross, Mitre Fleur de Lys, Spread Eagle, Pelican, Rose, Anchor, Dolphin, Lugard Boys, and Lugard Girls. Middle School Houses are Stags Head, Dragon, and Falcon.

St Aidan's: "*That they might have life*".

St Anne's: "*Vel Primus Vel Cum Primis*" - meaning "either the first or with the first".

St Anne's High School for Girls: *"Vincit qui se vincit"* – meaning "She Conquers Who Conquers Herself".

St Bede's: "*Fons Sapientiae*" – meaning "Fountain of Wisdom". The original houses were Gaunt (green), Beaufort (blue), Plantagenet (yellow), and FitzRoger (red).

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	The current houses are Bamber, Beesley, Cottam, Finch, Harcourt, and Haydock.
St Bernadette's:	Houses were Rigby (blue), Southworth (red), Wall (yellow), and Barlow (green). Motto was "*Pro Deo Optima*" – meaning "all good for God".
St Catherine's:	"*Veritas*" – meaning "Truth". Houses were Rome, Canterbury, Sienna, Beverley, Lima, and Assisi.
St George's:	Houses on opening were, Stanley (blue), Clifton (yellow), Hamilton (red), and Ashton (green). These have now become York, Durham, Lincoln, Carlisle, and Chester.
St John Vianney:	"*Seeking Growth Together*".
St Joseph's:	"*In Cruce Vita*" – meaning "In the Cross – Life". Houses were - Newton, School, Clifton, and Layton.
St Mary's Catholic Primary:	Houses were Allen (blue), Bamber (yellow), Clitheroe (Green) and Ward (red). Also known as Fatima, Lourdes, Walsingham, and Knock.
St Mary's High:	"*Semper Fidelis*" – meaning "Always Faithful".
St Paul's Warton:	"*Believe. Be the Best You Can*".
St Teresa's:	"*Per minima ad maxima*" – meaning "Through smallest things to the greatest".
St Thomas of Canterbury:	"*Per Deo Pro Deo*" – meaning "Of God, For God".
St Thomas's St Anne's:	Houses were Blackburn, Canterbury, and York.
Stanley Primary:	"*Learning Together*". Houses are Yellow, Blue, Red, and Green.
Stanley Juniors:	Houses were Patterdale (yellow), Loughrigg (blue), Lancaster (red) and Cartmell (green).
Tyldesley:	"*Deus noster refugium"* – meaning "God is our refuge". Houses were Keller (green), Anderson (blue), Lister (red), Scott (yellow).
Warbreck High:	Houses were Lancaster, Chester, Durham, and York.
Waterloo Primary:	"*Here to Learn*". In 1955, the houses were Buttercup, Daisy, Snowdrop and Violet. More recently, they were Nelson (Yellow), Raleigh (red), Drake (Blue), and Scott (Green).
Woodlands:	"*Shine*".

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Appendix H: Knights and Peers

The following is a list of people known to have been knighted or elevated to the peerage for either their services to Blackpool, or whilst living in Blackpool or the Fylde:

- Sir Albert Lindsay Parkinson knighted in June 1922
- Sir Alexander Rigby knighted in 1695
- Sir Andrew Parmley knighted in 2018
- Sir Barry Thornton knighted in 2007 (Commander in Chief Personnel and
- Training Command)
- Sir Edward Gardner knighted in 1983
- Sir Cuthbert Grundy knighted in 1919
- Sir Frank Taylor knighted 1974 (then Baron Taylor of Hadfield in 1982)
- Sir Fred Pontin knighted in 1976
- Sir Fred Parkes knighted in 1958
- Sir James Drake knighted in 1973
- Sir John Bickerstaffe knighted in 1926
- Sir John Roland Robinson knighted in 1954
- Sir Ernest Woodhouse Smith knighted in 1930
- Sir Harold Grime knighted 1959 (Chairman of the West Lancashire
  - Evening Gazette)
- Sir Martin Holdgate knighted in 1994
- Sir Matthew Ridley knighted in 1877 (Home Secretary – then made
  - Viscount Ridley in 1900)
- Sir Peter Blaker knighted in 1983 (then Baron Blaker of Blackpool- Life
  - Peerage in 1984, and then Lord Blaker of Blackpool and
  - Lindfield in 1994)
- Sir Peter Hall knighted in 1998
- Sir Peter Hesketh (-Fleetwood) knighted in 1838 (also Baronet Fleetwood)
- Sir Richard Henriques knighted in 2000
- Sir Richard Evans knighted in 1996
- Sir Stanley Matthews knighted in 1965
- Sir Toby Low knighted in 1957 (Baron Aldington of Bispham –
- elevated in January 1962 (hereditary)
- Sir Thomas Clifton knighted in 1663
- Sir Thomas Tyldesley knighted in 1643
- Sir Walter Clegg knighted in 1980
- Sir Walter de Freece knighted in 1919
- Sir William Hodgson knighted in 1935
- Sir William Jackson knighted in 1971
- Sir William Lyons knighted in 1956

Elevated to the Peerage:

- Baron Martonmere – John Roland Robinson – elevated in 1964 (hereditary)

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- Baroness Dean of Thornton-le-Fylde – Brenda Dean – Life Peerage in 1993
- Baron Aldington of Bispham – Charles Low – succeeded in December 2000 (hereditary)
- Baron Patten of Barnes – Chris Patten – elevated in 2005
- Dame Sandra Burslem – Dame Commander of the British Empire in 2004
- Dame Sheila Quinn – Dame Commander of the British Empire in 1987
- Lord Butler of Brockwell – Robin Butler – elevated in 1998
- Lord Tom McNally – elevated in January 1996

Note: Local comedian Frank Carson was recognised for his charity work when he was made a Knight of St Gregory by Pope John Paul II, at the Vatican, in 1987. It is the highest honour in the Catholic Church.

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Appendix I: Listed Buildings

Blackpool:

Grade 1:

Blackpool Tower, Promenade

Grade 2*:

Grand Theatre, Church Street
Sacred Heart Church, Talbot Road
Thanksgiving Shrine, Whinney Heys Road
Winter Gardens, Church Street

Grade 2:

1 and 2 Fishers Lane
3 Telephone Kiosks, Talbot Road
8 Telephone Kiosks, Abingdon Street
Big Dipper, Pleasure Beach
Bispham Parish Church, All Hallow's Road
Blowing Sands, 166 Common Edge Road
Cemetery Chapel, Layton Road
Central Library and Art Gallery, Queen Street
Clifton Hotel, Talbot Square
Elmslie School, Whitegate Drive
Holy Trinity Church, Dean Street
Imperial Hotel, Promenade
King Edward, Central Drive
Little Marton Mill, Preston New Road
Methodist Church, Dickson Road
Miners' Home, Queen's Promenade
North Pier, Promenade
Odeon Cinema, Dickson Road
Post Office, Abingdon Street
Raikes Hall, Liverpool Road
Regent Cinema, Church Street
Salvation Army Citadel, Raikes Parade
Savoy Garage, King George's Avenue
Shelter, Queen's Promenade between Duchess Drive and Pembroke Avenue
Shelter, Queen's Promenade between Sandhurst Avenue and Montpelier Avenue
Shelters, Promenade opposite Alexandra Road, Trafalgar Road, and Wellington Road
St John's Church, Church Street
Sundial, All Hallow's Road
Synagogue, Leamington Road
The Cabin Lift (as of the 8th of March 2010)
Town Hall, Talbot Square
Walkers Hill Farmhouse, Midgeland Road
War Memorial, Princess Parade
White Tower, Promenade

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Also: A plaque was placed on the wall of the Railway Hotel in 1993 by the Blackpool Heritage Committee, to celebrate the first Catholic Mass said in town.
And: Stanley Park is Grade 2 listed on the Register of Historic Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest, maintained by English Heritage (1st of April 1986).

Fleetwood:
Grade 2:

Rossall School -	Block north of Sanatorium
	East range of Quadrangle
	Gazebo
	Library
	North range of Quadrangle
	School Chapel
	Wall leading south from Gazebo
	West range of Quadrangle
Dock Street -	Former Fielden Library
	Number 26 and 28
	Number 124 (The Cove Club)
	Number 126 (former British Rail LMR Club)
	Pennine View - Numbers 114 - 120
	Victoria Public House (nos. 40-46)
Esplanade -	Drinking Fountain east of Euston Park
	Lower Lighthouse
	North Euston Hotel
	Radar Training Station
	The Mount grounds and cobbled wall
	The Mount Pavilion
Kemp Street -	Fleetwood Working Men's Club
	Presbytery to St Mary's Roman Catholic Church
Kent Street -	Number 3
Lord Street -	Numbers 23 to 27
	Number 29
	Number 32
	Numbers 45 and 47
	Parish Church of St Peter
	Prince Arthur Hotel (Number 48)
	Roman Catholic Church of St Mary
Memorial Park	The whole park
Milton Street -	Chaucer County Junior School
	Perimeter wall around playground of above school
Mount Road -	Citizens Advice Bureau
Mount Street -	Numbers 2 - 40
	Numbers 50 - 96
	Numbers 51 - 97
North Albert Street	Number 32
Pharos Place -	Upper (Pharos) Lighthouse
Pharos Street -	Numbers 1 - 9
Queens Terrace -	Numbers 3 - 5

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Number 7 (Borough Treasurer and Housing dept)
Number 8
Numbers 16 - 20
Numbers 21 - 23
Numbers 24 - 29
St Peter's Place - Number 15
Warren Street - Number 34

Thornton:
Grade 2*

Marsh Mill, Fleetwood Road

Grade 2:

Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Heys Street
Calf Heys, Meadows Avenue
Greenside, the Rest and Ivy Cottage, Way Gate
Marsh Farmhouse, Victoria Road East
Number 1 (Trunnah Farmhouse), Woodland Avenue
Number 39 (Poolfoot Cottage), Crabtree Road
Number 117 (Delph Cottage), Rossall Road
Number 118 Rossall Road
Raikes Farmhouse, Raikes Road
St Andrew's Church, Rough Lea Road
Tarngate Farmhouse, off Tarn Road
York Cottage, Red Cottage and Mitre Cottage, Way Gate

Poulton:
Grade 2*

Church of St Chad, Church Street

Grade 2:

Fish Stones, Market Place
Former chapel of St John and attached priests house, Breck Road
Fox's Farmhouse, Fairfield Road
K6 Telephone kiosk outside HSBC Bank, Market Place
Market Cross, Market Place
Number 1 Vicarage Road
Number 2 Market Place
Numbers 4, 6 and 10 Queens Square
Numbers 25, 27, 29 and 31 Market Place
Number 28 (Old Farm) and Number 30 (End Cottage), Little Poulton Lane
Stocks, Market Place
The Manor, Moorland Road (Alexandra Nursing Home)
The Old Cottage, Fairfield Road
Whipping Post, Market Place

Lytham:
Grade 1:

Lytham Hall

Grade 2*

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Church of St Cuthbert
Church of St Cuthbert, surrounding walls
Church of St Cuthbert, grounds
Church of St Cuthbert, grounds
Church of St Cuthbert, War Memorial
Church of St John, East Beach
Dovecote to north west of Lytham Hall (in woods behind stables)

Grade 2:

"Laura Janet" Monument approximately 30 metres north of the Church of St Cuthbert, Church Road
Boundary Wall to west side of Fairlawn (Not Included) and its western continuation to Fosbrooke House, Fairlawn Road
Boundary Wall to Vicarage Garden, Church Road
Church Lodge to Lytham Hall, Church Road
Clifton Arms Hotel, West Beach
Clifton Memorial Fountain between Station Square and Ballam Road, Station Square
Estate Boundary Wall (to north east), Blackpool Road
Former Estate office with attached Screen Walls, Hastings Place - now Number 2
Former Methodist Chapel, Bath Street
Former Stable South Clifton Street, to rear of Talbot Hotel
Former Sunday school to Lytham United Reformed Church, Bannister Street
Garden Wall in front of and between numbers 15 and 16 Central Beach
Garden Wall in front of Numbers 17 and 18 Central Beach
Gate Piers and Quadrant adjoining to Church Lodge, Church Road
Lecture Hall Attached to Lytham Methodist Church, Park Street
Lych Gate and Southern Boundary Wall to Church of St John, East Beach
Lytham Heritage Centre, Henry Street
Lytham Methodist Church, Park Street
Lytham police station and Lytham Magistrates Court, Bannister Street
Lytham United Reformed Church, with attached Garden Wall and Gate Piers, Bannister Street
Main Lodges and Entrance Lytham Park Lytham - amended to Gate to Lytham Hall, and Attached Boundary Wall to north east
Number 1 Beach Street
Number 10 Central Beach
Number 11 (the Coppice), Central Beach
Number 11 West Beach
Number 14 Henry Street
Number 14a Central Beach
Number 15 West Beach
Number 19 Convent of The Holy Cross and Passion and St Paul's Nursing Home, Central Beach
Number 2 Lytham Heritage Centre, Dicconson Terrace
Number 2 Station Road
Number 20 Ivy Cottage with railing to front, Henry Street
Number 23 Seafield Road
Number 27 Public Library Institute and Hewitt Lecture Room, Clifton Street

©

Number 3 Queen Street
Number 4 Dicconson Terrace
Number 4 Queen Street
Number 7 Ivy House, West Beach
Number 9 Bath Street
Numbers 1 and 2 Sydhall Cottage (1), West Beach
Numbers 1 and 3 Bath Street
Numbers 1-16 (Consecutive), Hastings Place
Numbers 12 and 12a Pinewood and Fountain House (12a), Central Beach
Numbers 13 and 14 Corby House, West Beach
Numbers 13 and 15 Henry Street
Numbers 13, 13a and 14 Central Beach
Numbers 14-18 Henry Street
Numbers 14-22 and attached Walls, Station Road
Numbers 15, 15a, 16 and 16a Central Beach
Numbers 16 and 16a West Beach
Numbers 17 and 18 the Lees (Flats) Central Beach
Numbers 1-7 Market Hall and Lloyds Bank Market Square
Numbers 17-25 Henry Street
Numbers 2 - 10 (Even) Bath Street
Numbers 2, 3 and 4 Beach Street
Numbers 25 and 26 East Beach
Numbers 29 and 30 East Beach
Numbers 292-294 (Public offices) Clifton Drive
Numbers 4-19 (Even), Clifton Street
Numbers 47, 49 and 51 Warton Street
Numbers 5 and 6 Queen Street
Numbers 5 and 7 Dicconson Terrace
Numbers 51-61 Westby Street
Numbers 8 and 9 Central Beach
Numbers 8 and 9 Market Square
Old Lifeboat House, East Beach
Pair and Single K6 Telephone Kiosks (Outside Pizza Express), Clifton Street
Promenade Shelter opposite Lowther Pavilion, West Beach
Queens Hotel, Central Beach
Railings and Gateway across drive approximately 250 metres east of Lytham Park
Screen Wall attached to south west of rear wing of Lytham Hall and attached Cottage and Privy
Stable Block approximately 40 metres north west of Lytham Hall
Statue of Diana the Huntress in Car Park to south of Lytham Hall
Summerhouse in south Boundary Wall of Garden of Fairlawn, Fairlawn Road
Sundial approximately 3 metres south east of Porch of Church of St Cuthbert
Vicarage, Church Road
War Memorial, Market Square
Windmill, East Beach

In addition, Lytham Park and Ashton Gardens are Grade 2 Registered Gardens.

©

Ansdell and Fairhaven:

Grade 2*:

Fairhaven United Reformed Church, Clifton Drive South, Fairhaven

Grade 2:

Ansdell Baptist Church, Ansdell Road North
Ansdell Institute
Gate Piers and Boundary Wall to grounds of Fairhaven United Reformed Church, Clifton Drive South, Fairhaven
Number 23 Church Farm and Garden Wall (north side) Commonside, Ansdell
Numbers 1 and 2 Regent Avenue, Ansdell
Numbers 62-74 Tambourine Cottages, with Front Garden Walls, Commonside, Ansdell
Queen Mary School, Clifton Drive, Ansdell
Roman Catholic Church of St Joseph, Woodlands Road, Ansdell
Wayfarers, 34 Clifton Drive

St Anne's:

Grade 2*

War Memorial Ashton Gardens

Grade 2:

Bandstand approximately 70 metres south east of St Anne's Pier, South Promenade
Boundary Wall to Grounds of Grand Hotel, South Promenade
Church of St Anne, St Anne's Road East
Church of St Thomas, St Thomas Road
Former College of Further Education, Clifton Drive South
Grand Hotel, with front garden wall, South Promenade
Gravestone of Sir Charles Wright Macara, St Anne's Churchyard
Laura Janet Memorial Cross, St Anne's Churchyard
Lifeboat Monument approximately 100 metres south east of St Anne's Pier, South Promenade
Lychgate and Boundary Wall to Churchyard of Church of St Anne, St Anne's Road East
Midland Bank, St Anne's Road West
Number 254 District Central Library, Clifton Drive South
Octagonal Pavilion approximately 30 metres south east of St Anne's Pier, South Promenade
Promenade Shelter opposite western end of Boating Pool, South Promenade
Promenade Shelter opposite western end of Open-Air Baths, South Promenade
St Anne's Pier, South Promenade
Victoria Fountain, St Anne's Promenade

Kirkham:

Grade 2*:

Church of St Michael, Church Street

Grade 2:

Church of St John the Evangelist, Ribby Road
Churchyard Wall and Gateway south of the Church of St John the Evangelist, Ribby Road
Fish stones and Lamp, Market Square
Grammar School (Front Range only), Ribby Road
Number 14 Preston Street
Number 2 Church Street

©

Number 32 Poulton Street
Number 4 Church Street
Number 48 Hillside and attached Wings, Preston Street
Numbers 4 and 6 Freckleton Road
Railway Hotel, Station Road
Sundial in Churchyard approximately 20 metres south of the South Porch of the Church of St Michael, Church Street
Tomb of Edward and Dorothy King in Churchyard approximately 50 metres south east of the Porch of the Church of St Michael, Church Street
Tomb of Edward and Elizabeth Birley in Churchyard approximately 50 metres south east of the Porch of the Church of St Michael, Church Street
Tomb of William Birley and others in Churchyard approximately 50 metres south east of the Porch of the Church of St Michael, Church Street
Trustee Savings Bank, Poulton Street

Wesham:
Grade 2:

Bradkirk Hall Farmhouse, Weeton Road
Christ Church, Fleetwood Road
War Memorial with surrounding railings, Garstang Road/Weeton Road

Elswick:
Grade 2:

Barn on corner of Copp Lane to rear of Chapel Farmhouse, Back Lane
Elswick Lodge Farmhouse, Watery Gate Lane
Elswick Manor, Watery Gate Lane
Forest Farmhouse, High Street
Gravestone of Robert Moss 5 metres north of Old Congregational Chapel, Lodge Lane
Lodge to Elswick Manor, Watery Gate Lane
Old Congregational Chapel, Lodge Lane
Stable House approximately 150 metres west of Elswick Manor, Watery Gate Lane

Great and Little Eccleston:
Grade 2:

Barn on east side of Lane approximately 70 metres north of Wall Farmhouse, Wall Lane
Barn on south side of Lane approximately 150 metres east of Little Eccleston Hall
St Anne's Church, Copp Lane, Great Eccleston
Farmyard Buildings, Little Eccleston Hall
Hodgkinson Farmhouse, Great Eccleston
Little Eccleston Hall, Meagles Lane, Little Eccleston
Milestone, Raikes Road, Great Eccleston
Pinfold, High Street, Great Eccleston
Wall Farmhouse, Wall Lane, Little Eccleston
Western House, south side of Square, Great Eccleston
Willow Cottage, High Street, Great Eccleston

A dovecote in a field at Great Eccleston is a registered Ancient Monument (no 159)

©

Warton and Freckleton:
Grade 2:

Barn approximately 30 metres north of Ravold Farmhouse, Lower Lane, Freckleton
Church of the Holy Trinity, Lytham Road, Freckleton
Hall Cross Farmhouse Kirkham Road, Freckleton
Number 204 Lytham Road, Warton
Number 76 Preston Old Road, Freckleton
Warton Post Mill, Mill Lane, Warton

Greenhalgh and Thistleton:
Grade 2:

Barn approximately 15 metres east of Guild Farmhouse, Fleetwood Road, Greenhalgh
By-The-Way, Fleetwood Road, Greenhalgh
Ivy House, Thistleton
Malt Kiln Farmhouse, Thistleton
Plane Tree Farmhouse, Thistleton

Wrea Green and Westby:
Grade 2:

Church of St Nicholas, Wrea Green
Fox Land Ends Cross, Station Road (Wrea Green), Westby
Garage approximately 20 metres west of Westby House, Ballam Road, Westby
Number 2 (Church Grove House) Ribby Road, Wrea Green
Number 27 (Hawthorn House) Ribby Road, Wrea Green
Ribby Hall, Ribby Road, Wrea Green
Roman Catholic Church of St Anne, Weeton Road, Westby with Plumptons
White House, Ballam Road, Westby
Willow Cottage, Ballam Road, Westby

Weeton, Singleton and Staining:
Grade 2:

Barn approximately 50 metres east of Church Road End Farmhouse, Mythop Road, Weeton
Knowsley Farmhouse, Kirkham Road, Weeton
Church of St Anne, Church Road, Singleton
Dovecote in Field, approximately 150 metres north of Mains Hall, Mains Lane, Singleton
Fire Engine House at Corner of Church Road and Miller Road, Singleton
Lychgate to Church of St Anne, Church Road, Singleton
Mains Hall (Including Moat, Well, Barn and Dovecote) off Mains Lane, Singleton
Staining windmill, Mill Lane, Staining
Stanley Cottage, Staining Road, Staining

Stalmine:
Grade 2:

Peach Wall, Yew Tree Gardens
Carr Bridge, Carr Lane
Danson's Farmhouse, Staynall Lane
St James' Church
Town End Farmhouse, Wood View Lane

©

Hambleton:
Grade 2:

Hambleton Hall, Mill Lane

Grade DL:

Bank Farm

Out Rawcliffe:
Grade 2:

Cattle Pound, Chapel Lane
Church of St John, Crook Gate Lane
Liscoe, Bodkin Lane
Old Vicarage, Crook Gate Lane
Rawcliffe Hall

Pilling and Preesall:
Grade 2*:

Church of St John the Baptist, School Lane

Grade 2:

Bells Farmhouse, Head Dyke Lane
Crawley's cross, Boundary Stone at Sd 04260484
Hackensall Hall
Pilling Hall Farmhouse, Horse Park Lane
Preesall Mill
Springfield House Hotel, Wheel Lane
The Old Ship, School Lane

Woodplumpton:
Grade 2*:

Church of St Anne, Woodplumpton Road

Grade 2:

Adamson's Farmhouse, Brierley Lane
Ambrose Hall, Ambrose Hall Lane
Anderton House, Blackleach Lane
Barn circa 15 metres south of Catforth Hall Farmhouse
Church House Farmhouse, Woodplumpton Road
Cuckstool Farmhouse, Whinneyfield Lane
Eaves Cottage Farmhouse, Eaves Lane
Gateway at south side of Churchyard of Church of St Anne, Woodplumpton Road
Hollowforth Hall, Hollowforth Lane
Lancaster Canal Bridge Number 34
Lancaster Canal Bridge Number 35, Woodplumpton Road
Lancaster Canal Bridge Number 36, Hollowforth Lane
Mounting Block circa 5 metres south of Lychgate to Church of St Anne, Woodplumpton Road
South View, 115 Woodplumpton Road
Stocks circa 5 metres south of Lychgate to Church of St Anne, Woodplumpton Road
Sundial circa 20 metres south of west end of Church of St Anne, Woodplumpton Road

Wearden House, Blackleach Lane

Blackpool Local List:
In addition to all the above, Blackpool Council has compiled a Local List of buildings of historical significance. At the time of writing, this list is as follows:

1 Dean Street – former Blackpool ARP Fire Station
1 Queensway
1, 3, and 5 Stonycroft Place – Cottages – ex-Blackpool Tower Company Stables
136 Hornby Road – 1920s' bungalow
142 Preston Old Road - former Top o'th' Town Farm
15 Preston Old Road - former Lord Nelson Alehouse
170 Preston New Road – home of James Kay
19a and 19b St Bede's Avenue – former Redman's café and Bakery
2 and 4 Balmoral Road – John Outhwaite's former house
2 and 4 Mythop Road - former gamekeeper's cottages
2 Forest Gate – former house of Dr A MacIlraith
20 Moss House Road
20 to 32 Waterloo Road - former South Shore Post Office
203 and 205 Norbreck Road - includes cobble wall
22 Dean Street
22 to 28 Clifton Street - former Barclay's Bank
223 Whitegate Drive – former family home of the Walmsley family
237 and 239 Layton Road - includes original sea cobble wall
29 Leicester Road – 1920s' detached bungalow
29, 31, 33, and 35 Preston New Road - 1920s' hipped-roof houses
294 Queen's Promenade – extensive use of faïence on a 1920s' house
307 Lytham Road – Victorian detached house
456 Lytham Road – former Grundy House Museum
458 Lytham Road – house of similar construction to above
5 Bloomfield Road (part of Central Bowling) - former Swallow Sidecars workshop
51 and 53 Fleetwood Road – and cobbled walls
51 Dean Street – mid 19th century red brick cottage
56 to 60 Church Street – former Liberal Club and Clifton Palace Cinema
59 and 61 Preston Old Road – early 19th century cottages
59 to 113 Claremont Road – single run of red-brick terraced cottages
7, 9, 11, and 13 Stonycroft Place - Terrace
89 Park Road – turreted Victorian house
Abingdon Street Market - 14 to 24 Abingdon Street
Albert Hotel - 215 Lytham Road
Albion Restaurant – 226 Red Bank Road - former Old England
Alderlea and Glen May Villa - 8 and 10 Raikes Parade – built by RG Barlow
All Saints Church Hall – 98 Park Road
All Saints with Christ Church - Palatine Road
Arnold Schools both sites - Lytham Road
Artificial cliffs - Queen's Promenade
B&M Bargains - Promenade (and Adelaide Street West) – former Woolworths
Baines Primary School - Penrose Avenue

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Bandstand Stanley Park
Baptist Tabernacle - Springfield Road
Barclays Bank - 2 and 4 Birley Street (former Union Bank)
Barn adjacent 36 Moss House Road
Barnardo's (now part of Blackpool and Fylde College) – 16 Bennett Avenue
Beach Hotel (Birch's Apartments) – 453 to 459 Promenade
Bible Pattern Church - Shaw Road
Bickerstaffe memorials - Talbot Road, Layton Cemetery
Birthdays Card Shop - 17 to 23 Victoria Street – former Liberal Club
Bispham Court including cobble wall – 357 Norbreck Road
Bispham Hotel - 68 Red Bank Road
Bispham House - 284 and 286 Norbreck Road
Bispham Lodge Flats - 249 and 251 Norbreck Road
Bispham Methodist Church - Beaufort Avenue
Bispham Tram Station - Queen's Promenade
Blackpool and Fylde College - Bennett Avenue - former Palatine School
Blackpool and Fylde College - Palatine Road
Blackpool Lighting - 44 Waterloo Road – former Lloyds Bank
BLESMA Home – 539 Lytham Road
Bloomfield Hotel – 47 Ansdell Road
Blue Room – 139 Church Street – former Stanley Arms
Boars Head – 38 Preston Old Road
Boathouse Stanley Park
Boating pool - Queen's Promenade
Boundary stone (near Trebaron) - Common Edge Road
Boundary treatment, former Devonshire Road Hospital - Devonshire Road and Talbot Road
Bull Inn - 17 Waterloo Road
Butcher's Farm Cottage - Worthington Road
Café - Stanley Park
Camelot Seafront Hotel - 485 and 487 South Promenade – formerly Linden Lea
Carleton Crematorium burial ground - Stocks Road
Carleton Crematorium chapel and offices - Stocks Road
Castle/Genting Casino – 64 Queen's Promenade
Cavendish Road Congregational Church - Cavendish Road
Cedar Tavern – 15 Cedar Square
Central Pier - Promenade
Cherry Tree (Hungry Horse) – 319 Vicarage Lane – former Welcome Inn
Chilton Hotel - 14-16 Lytham Road
Churchill's - 83/85 Topping Street - former Criterion public house
Claremont Community Centre - Claremont Road – former Claremont branch library
Claremont Congregational Church - Warley Road
Claremont Park and Recreation ground - Claremont Road
Claremont Primary School - Westminster Road
Claremont West Family Centre - Egerton Road – former St Paul's Vicarage
Cliffs Hotel – 22 Queen's Promenade
Clifton Arms - Preston New Road
Cobble wall – 510 Lytham Road
Cobble wall – 512 Lytham Road

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Cobble wall – 565 Lytham Road
Cobble wall – 567/569 Lytham Road
Cobble wall – 84 Newton Drive
Cobble wall associated with Runnell Cottage - Chapel Road
Cobble wall to Arnold School - Lytham Road
Cocker Memorial Clock - Stanley Park
Colonnade - Princess Parade/Promenade
Comrades Club – 116 Adelaide Street – former Blackpool Grammar School
Connect Young People's Centre - 26 Talbot Road - former District/NatWest Bank
Corner House people's centre - 102 Dickson Road – former Imperial Cinema
Cottage Chippy – 31 Newhouse Road
Counting House - 10 Talbot Square – former Viener's Bazaar/Bank
County Cricket ground pavilion - West Park Drive
Crossgates – 243 Layton Road – former Bailey's Inn
Crossley's railway bridge - Plymouth Road
CSL - Waterloo Road/Oxford Square - former Thomas Motors
Cut Price Rock - 32, 32a, 34 Station Road – former Victoria Working Men's Club/Duple Club
Cut Price Rock - 94 to 100 Bond Street – former Victoria Working Men's Club
Devonshire Arms - Devonshire Road
Devonshire Road Rock Gardens - Devonshire Road
Drill Hall – 221 Talbot Road
Dunes Hotel – 561 Lytham Road
Dutton Arms - Promenade
Edith Centre – 76 to 84 Bank Hey Street
Electricity substation - Devonshire Road
Empire Bingo - Hawes Side Lane – former Empire Cinema
Empress Hotel – 59 Exchange Street
Farmer's Arms - 2 and 4 Highfield Road
Finger post, 1 Hall's Cottages - Stockydale Road
Flannagan's – 495 Promenade – former Beach Restaurant
Former Bispham Library - Devonshire Road/Bispham Road
Former coach house - rear 39 Station Road
Former Free Library - 205 Lytham Road -
Former Marton Library - Waterloo Road
Former Methodist Church - Raikes Parade
Former Methodist Sunday school - Raikes Parade
Former School - Talbot Road – was Talbot Road School, then Sacred Heart Primary
Foyer Plus Centre - Chapel Street – former Chapel Street Methodist Church
Friends meeting house - 30a Raikes Parade
George Hotel – 174 Central Drive
Golf Clubhouse - Stanley Park/North Park Drive
Gramsford Lodge Hotel – 235/237 Promenade – includes original Victorian tea room
Grasmere Road Methodist Church - Grasmere Road - former Bethesda Congregational
Gravestone to Richard Barlow - Talbot Road, Layton Cemetery
Gynn Hotel – 341 Dickson Road
Halfway House Hotel – St Anne's Road/Squires Gate Lane
Happy Dayz Amusements - 91 to 101 Promenade – former Huntsman
Harte's store - 7 to 11 Bond Street – former Woolworths

Hawes Side Lane Primary School - Pedders Lane
Hawes Side Library - Hawes Side Lane
Highbury House Care Home – 580/582 Lytham Road
Highfield Community Centre - Highfield Road - former Highfield Library
Highfield Hotel - Highfield Road
Highfield Wesleyan Methodist Church - Scarsdale Avenue
Holy Cross C of E Church - Central Drive
Holy Family RC Church - Links Road
Holy Trinity School - Dean Street
Hop Inn - 2 and 4 King Street – former Veevers Arms
Hope House – 162 Whitegate Drive
Horse trough - Simpson Street
HSBC Bank – 1 Newhouse Road - former London and Joint City Bank
HSBC Bank, Birley House - 20/22Birley Street -
Italio Italian Restaurant - 1 to 5 Highfield Road - former London City and Midland bank
Jewish Cemetery chapel (Ohel) - Westcliffe Drive
Johnson's of Bond Street - 29 and 31 Bond Street - former District Bank
Just Entertainment - Church Street (44 and 46)/Corporation Street (36, 38 and 40) former Rawcliffe's store
K6 telephone box - Midgeland Road
Kapers Nursery – 144 Newhouse Road - former Stodham farmhouse
King Edward Flats and shops – 35 Central Drive
King Edward VII pub – 39 Central Drive
Lane Ends Hotel – 57 Hawes Side Lane
Layton Cemetery including Gatehouse - Talbot Road
Layton Library - Talbot Road
Layton Railway Station - Bispham Road
Layton Square Toilets - Talbot Road/Layton Square – former Tram Shelter
Leonard Dews Jewellers - 43-47 Market Street
Lifeboat Inn – 58 Foxhall Road
Little Bispham Tram Stop - Queen's Promenade
Lloyds Bank – 30 Corporation Street
Marton Burial Ground - Preston New Road
Marton Institute - Oxford Square/Waterloo Road
Masonic Hall – 83/85 Adelaide Street
Mere Park Hotel - Preston Old Road
Metropole Hotel - Promenade
Michael's Restaurant - Whitegate Drive – former Shaw's Depository
Midgeland Farm - Midgeland Road
Mitre Hotel – 3 West Street
Molloy's – 23 Talbot Road – former Railway Hotel
Monsoon - 74 to 78 Church Street (former Lyon's Corner House)
Municipal Buildings - Corporation Street
National Savings Buildings - Mythop Road
New Life Community Church - Queen Victoria Road
New Road Inn – 244 Talbot Road
Norbreck Castle Hotel - Queen's Promenade
Norbreck Primary School - Norbreck Road

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Northwood – 165 Reads Avenue – early 20th century bungalow
Number 3 pub - Whitegate Drive
Number 4 and Freemasons Hotel - Layton Road
Old Coach House – 50 Dean Street – former Dean Villa
Old School House – rear of Division Lane
Our Lady of the Assumption RC Church - Common Edge Road
Palladium Buildings - Waterloo Road - former Palladium Cinema
Parade of shops - 90 to 104 Red Bank Road
Police Office - Stanley Park - former tea rooms
police station - Montague Street
Princess Hotel - 18-20 Alexandra Road
Pump and Truncheon – 13 Bonny Street
Queens Hotel - Talbot Road
Railings beneath railway bridge - Devonshire Road
Railings, gates, and gate piers - Talbot Road, Layton Cemetery
Railway bridge - Harrowside
Railway bridge - Squires Gate Lane
Railway building, Lilac Farm - Whalley Lane
Ramsden Arms Hotel – 204 Talbot Road
RBS Bank – 1 Red Bank Road – former Williams Deacon and Manchester and Salford Bank
RBS Bank - 87 Bond Street – former William's and Deacon's Bank
Red Lion Hotel - Devonshire Road
Regent Antiques centre – 181 to 189 Church Street - former Regent Cinema
Revoe Library - Central Drive/Grasmere Road
Richmond Fellowship home - 214 Hornby Road
Roberts Oyster Rooms – 90 Promenade
Rosehaven Residential Home – 200/202 Whitegate Drive – former Beechcroft
Royal Bank of Scotland - 1 to 9 Talbot Road – former Williams Deacon and Manchester and Salford Bank
Royal Oak Hotel – 322 Lytham Road
Runnell Cottage and barn - Chapel Road
Runnell Farm - Eastbank Avenue
Sacred Heart Presbytery and shop - Talbot Road
Saddle Public House – 286 Whitegate Drive
Salem Methodist Church - Westcliffe Drive
Salisbury Gardens - East Park Drive
Savoy Hotel - 2 and 4 Queen's Promenade
Scruffy Murphy's – 32 Corporation Street – former Grapes Hotel
Seventh Day Adventist Church - Bolton Street
Sherwood Hotel – 412/414 Promenade
Solaris Centre - South Promenade – former Harrowside Sun Parlours
South Pier - Promenade
Spiritualist Church – 71 Albert Road
Springfield Road Methodist Church - Springfield Road/Abingdon Street
Springfield Road Methodist Sunday school - Springfield Road
Squirrel Hotel - Bispham Road
St Cuthbert's Church - Lytham Road
St Cuthbert's Presbytery – 53 Crystal Road

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St John Vianney's RC Church - Glastonbury Avenue/Park Road
St John Vianney's RC School - Park Road
St Kentigern's church and presbytery - Newton Drive
St Kentigern's school - Newton Drive
St Mark's C of E Church - Westcliffe Drive
St Mary's Catholic College (early section) - St Walburga's Road
St Mary's Church - Stonycroft Avenue
St Nicholas C of E Primary School - School Road
St Paul's Church - Whitegate Drive/Honister Avenue
St Peter's C of E Church - Lytham Road
St Stephen's Church - St Stephen's Avenue
St Stephen's Church Hall - St Stephen's Avenue
St Thomas's C of E Church - Caunce Street/Devonshire Road
St Thomas's Parish Centre - Caunce Street
St Winefride's and Tremaine - Lower Moor Road
Stanley Arms – 7 Chapel Street
Stanley Buildings - Church Street/Caunce Street/Cookson Street
Stanley Park Gatehouses - West Park Drive
Stanley Primary School - Wordsworth Avenue
Sun Inn - 88 Bolton Street
Sunshine Deli - 43/43a Whitegate Drive – formerly William Ince, hairdresser
Talbot Court (apartments 1 to 9) - Promenade
Talbot Road Bus Station - Talbot Road
The Boathouse - 19 Lytham Road - former lifeboat house
The Church Apartments – 53 Dickson Road – former Unitarian Church
The Layton pub - Westcliffe Drive – former Layton Institute and bowling green
The Mount – 81 Patterdale Avenue
The Old Bank - 369 Whitegate Drive - former District Bank
The Old Bank Inn - 46 Bond Street - former Midland Bank
Tower of St Paul's Church - Dickson Road
Unitarian Church - Lytham Road (corner of Thames Road)
Victory Hotel – 105/107 Caunce Street
War memorial - Talbot Road, Layton Cemetery
Warbreck Hill Recreation Ground - Warbreck Hill Road
Warbreck Water Tower - Leys Road
Waterloo Hotel and bowling green - Waterloo Road
Waterloo Road Primary School - Waterloo Road
Watson Road Park - Watson Road
Werneth House – off Division Lane
Whalley Farm - Whalley Lane
Whittaker Dance and Drama Centre - 135 Hornby Road – former Terra Nova School
Wilton Hotel - 22 and 24 Alexandra Road – former Collegiate School for Girls
World Healing Crusade - 476 Lytham Road – formerly Calderbank
WWII pillbox - East Park Drive, Salisbury Gardens
WWII pillbox (South Shore Cricket Club grounds) - Common Edge Road
Yates – 100 Promenade (and 13/15 Market Street) - former Feldman's Arcade
Yates – 407 to 411 Promenade – former Lion Hotel
Zoo offices and Playschool - East Park Drive - former aeroplane hangars

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Blackpool also has 4 **Conservation Areas**. They are:

Foxhall area
Marton Moss Conservation Area
North Promenade Conservation Area
Raikes Hall area
Stanley Park conservation area
Town Centre conservation area

Fylde Borough Local List:

Fairhaven Zone:

2 – 10 Pollux Gate, Christadelphian Hall, Pollux Gate
225 Inner Promenade
253 Inner Promenade
277 Inner Promenade
51 Clifton Road
9 Beach Avenue
Ansdell Unitarian Church, Channing Road
Fairhaven Methodist Church, Woodlands Rd.
Former Boathouse, Fairhaven Lake (RSPB)
Isaac Dixon Boathouse, Fairhaven Lake
King Edward VII School, Clifton Drive
St Paul's CE Church, Lake Road North
Tram Shelter, Marine Drive

Ansdell Zone:

1 Central Drive
15 Worsley Road
17 Worsley Road
1a Central Drive
43 Woodlands Road
61 Woodlands Road
80 Woodlands Road
Ansdell Primary School
Edward VII Pillar Box, Ansdell Road South
Kingsway Garage, Kingsway
Pillar Box, Central Drive
Star Hills Lodge

St Annes South Zone:

192 – 198 Clifton Drive South
24 St Thomas Road Kismet, Croyde Road
54 All Saints Road
7-9 Park Road
Dormy House, Royal Lytham Golf Club
Matlock House, 300 Clifton Road South
Old Yorkshire Bank, 32 St Annes Road West
Post Office, Clifton Drive South RBS, St. Annes Road West

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St Anne Baptist Church, St. Andrews Road South
St Annes Grammar School, Clifton Drive South
St Annes Lifeboat House, East Bank Road
Town Hall
Victorian Post Box, Osborne Road St Annes

North Zone:

435 Clifton Drive North Boundary Wall and Railings at the former St Annes Hotel, St Andrews Road, St Annes Road West
Boundary Wall, Sefton Court, 42 North Promenade / Beach Road
Former Tram Shelter, Clifton Drive North / St Annes Road West
Imperial Hydro Arches and Boundary Wall, North Promenade / St Annes Road West
Joflor Mount, 54 North Promenade
Police Station, St Andrews Road North
St Annes Public Hall and Assembly Rooms, St. George's Road
Thursby Nursing Home, Clifton Drive North
United Reformed Church, Clifton Drive North / St Georges Road
Wall 10 – 12 North Promenade
Wall 24 – 26 North Promenade
Wall 46 North Promenade
Wall Summerfield, Todmorden Road / Clifton Drive North

St Annes North East Zone:

123 – 129 Church Road
2 Smithy Lane
29 – 31 Heyhouses Lane
Arnold England Headstone, Park Cemetery
Beauclerk Gardens, Church Road / St Annes Road East
Church Road Methodist Centre, St Albans Road
Church Road Methodist Church
East Chapel at War Memorial Homes, Church Road / Smithy Lane
Milestone Outside 242 Heyhouses Lane
Old Trawl Boat Inn and Cobble Wall, Heyhouses Lane
Our Lady Start of the Sea, St David's Road South / St Annes Road
The Elms, 56 Heyhouses Lane
Victoria Hotel, Church Road
Woodlands, Blackpool Road

Lytham West Zone:

1 and 2 Woodville Terrace including 45a Church Road
2 and 3 Gregson Street
4 – 9 Lowther Terrace
99 Ballam Road
Charley's Mast, Lytham Green
County Hotel, Church Road
Edenfield, Clifton Drive
Fairlawn, Fairlawn Road
Former Lowther College for Girls, 32 – 34 Church Road

©

Former Lytham Railway Station (now Station Tavern)
Former Midland Bank, 6 Clifton Square
Former Tennis Pavilion, Lytham Cricket Ground
Lowther Gardens
Lytham Cricket Ground
Milestone, Outside No. 9 Blackpool Road
Pagoda Shelter, Lowther Gardens
Robin Park and Sparrow Park
St. Cuthbert's Cross, Church Road
Taps Public House, Henry Street
The Elms, Clifton Drive
Watchwood Lodge, Ballam Road
Witch Wood Home Farm, Watchwood Drive

Lytham East Zone:

21 – 23 Westby Street
Assembly Rooms, Dicconson Terrace
Edward VII Post Box, Westby Street
Former Bank, 9 Dicconson Terrace
Former Post Office, 82 Clifton Street and former Williams Deacon's Bank, 84 Clifton Street
Former Talbot Hotel, Clifton Street
Ship & Royal Hotel, Clifton Street & adjoining shops: Berties No. 93, William Hill No. 95, Seniors No. 97-99
St Peter's Catholic Church, Clifton Street
St Peter's Cemetery and Mortuary Chapel, Saltcotes Road
Swiss Lodge, Saltcotes Road
White Cottage, 1 Central Beach

Fylde Borough has 10 **Conservation Areas**, which are:

Kirkham Town Centre
Larbreck
Lytham Avenues
Lytham (Town Centre)
Porritt Houses/Ashton Gardens
St. Anne's Town Centre
St. Anne's Road East
Singleton
Thistleton
Wrea Green

There are also two registered gardens within St Anne's, both Grade 2. These are Ashton Gardens, laid out in 1874-5, and the Promenade, established as a garden in 1914.

Wyre has the following **Conservation Areas**:

Calder Vale;
Churchtown;
Lower Dolphinholme;

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Fleetwood;
Garstang;
Poulton-le-Fylde; and
Scorton.

The 32 buildings within **Poulton-le-Fylde Conservation Area**, are on the Local List, and are as follows:

1-7 Victoria Road;
2 Queen's Square;
3 and 7 Queen's Square;
3-9 Ball Street;
5 Chapel Street;
4-8 Market Place;
9 Queen's Square;
11-19 Chapel Street;
14 Market Place;
14 and 16 Hardhorn Road;
15 and 17 Market Place;
17 Breck Road (Lloyd's Chemist);
19 and 21 Market Place;
23 Market Place;
32-38 Breck Road;
33 Market Place;
37-39 Breck Road;
48 Tithebarn Street;
63-65 Breck Road;
73 Breck Road;
Air raid shelter, rear of 10 Tithebarn Street;
Former Bank of Scotland;
Methodist Church;
Old Town Hall;
Poulton Railway Station;
Rear of 11 Church Street - former "lock up";
St Chad's Church Hall;
The Cube;
The Golden Ball;
The Queen's Hotel;
The Thatched House Pub; and
United Reformed Church.

Lancashire County Council has its own list of Local Assets and the places listed below are those which are covered by this work:

Broughton

Asset No	**Description**	**Address**
LLA 01	Fernyhalgh war memorial stone cross	Fernyhalgh Lane
LLA 02	Keyfold Farm	430 Garstang Road
LLA 03	Pinfold Cottage	466 Garstang Road
LLA 04	1 and 2 Toll Bar Cottages	476-478 Garstang Road

LLA 05	Toll bar post	Entrance to Park House and 470 Garstang Road
LLA 06	The Cottage - Queen Anne Cottages	483 Garstang Road
LLA 07	Broughton Police Station	495 Garstang Road
LLA 08	Rose Cottage	501 Garstang Road
LLA 09	Arkwright's Cottages	509-513 Garstang Road
LLA 10	Broughton Inn (was Shuttleworth Arms)	502 Garstang Road (North east corner of Garstang Road and Whittingham Lane)
LLA 11	Barton Mill	515 Garstang Road
LLA 12	Touch of Spice (was Golden Ball)	521 Garstang Road (South west corner of Garstang Road and Woodplumpton Lane)
LLA 13	Marriott hotel (was Broughton Park)	418 Garstang Road
LLA 14	King George V Playing fields and gate	Between 466-468 Garstang Road
LLA 15	Blundell Bridge	Garstang Road, south of the crossroads
LLA 16	Cardwell Bridge	Garstang Road, north of the crossroads
LLA 17	Laburnum House, 18th century cottage	5 Whittingham Lane
LLA 18	Wards Cottages	12-18 Whittingham Lane
LLA 19	Broughton Farm	20 Whittingham Lane
LLA 20	Broughton & District Club	26 Whittingham Lane
LLA 21	Daniels Cross stone & base	at entrance of Broughton Old Hall Farm, 54 Whittingham Lane
LLA 22	Broughton Old Hall (farm & gate posts)	54 Whittingham Lane
LLA 23	Whiteacres, Yates Farm	88 Whittingham Lane
LLA 24	Yates Farmstead	90 Whittingham Lane
LLA 25	The Cottage, Yates Farmstead	94 Whittingham Lane
LLA 26	Dobson's Farm	Entrance to Guild Wheel on Sandygate Lane
LLA 27	Church Hill Cottage and Farm Buildings	D' Urton Lane, just north of Motorway roundabout
LLA 28	White Cottage and its buildings	D'Urton Lane
LLA 29	Brooklands Cottage	D'Urton Lane
LLA 30	Springfield Cottage	D'Urton Lane
LLA 31	The Grange	D'Urton Lane
LLA 32	Edmundson's Farm	D'Urton Lane, on corner with Midgery Lane
LLA 33	Helms Farm	571 Garstang Road
LLA 34	Gates, gate posts and railings	Whittingham Lane, adjacent to Italian Orchard

Barton

Asset No	**Description**	**Address**
LLA 35	The Boars Head Public House	724 Garstang Road, south of Bridge House Farm & Preston Grindings
LLA 36	The Old School House	Garstang Road
LLA 37	Blacow House Farm	Jepps Lane

Woodplumpton

Asset No	**Description**	**Address**
LLA 38	Swillbrook Bridge	Garstang Road
LLA 39	Swillbrook House	Rosemary Lane
LLA 40	Swillbrook Cottage	Rosemary Lane
LLA 41	Red Lion Cottage	Catforth Road, Catforth

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LLA 42	Stone Chimney Bridge	Rosemary Lane
LLA 43	Roots Bridge	Blackleach Lane, Catforth
LLA 44	Woodplumpton Bridge	Roots Lane, Catforth
LLA 45	Wheatsheaf Public House	34 Woodplumpton Road
LLA 46	Woodplumpton War Memorial	Woodplumpton Road
LLA 47	Commemorative Tree and plaque	Woodplumpton Road
LLA 48	Bartle Hall	Lea Lane
LLA 49	Newsham Hall and farm buildings	Newsham Hall Lane
LLA 50	Threlfall Barn	Newsham Hall Lane
LLA 51	The Mortuary	Newsham Hall Lane
LLA 52	The Running Pump Public House	Catforth Road, Catforth
LLA 53	Catforth Memorial Hall	Catforth Road, Catforth
LLA 56	Catforth Hall (farmhouse)	School Lane
LLA 57	Sitting Goose Public House	Lea Lane
LLA 58	Saddle Inn Public House	Sidgreaves Lane

Lea and Cottam

Asset No	**Description**	**Address**
LLA 65	The Smiths Arms Public House	Lea Lane

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Appendix J: Blackpool's Famous Four Pubs

The whereabouts of the Number 1 and the Number 2 public Houses has long been the subject of debate among local historians. As two of the public houses in Blackpool were called the Number 3, and the Number 4, there must have been a Number 1 and Number 2, right?

I would like to offer my own take on the matter. There has been much debate, and local historian Ted Lightbown wrote an excellent article for the Evening Gazette, with which I agree in the main. However, nothing is really proven and may indeed never be.

The Number 1: About the only thing that has been agreed upon, is that if there was a Number 1, it would have been on the Promenade. If so, it was called the Lane Ends Hotel, and was built where Harry Ramsden's now stands in 1779.

Note: Bailey's Hotel was known for many years as "Blackpool's First" – it may be a contender!

The Number 2: An early candidate for the Number 2 was the Albion Hotel, opposite the Lane Ends, but this was not built until 1828. Many people think that it was the Adelphi Hotel, which was not built until 1835 (later becoming a shop on the corner with Church Street). Some believed that it was the Raikes Hotel (later the Grosvenor) on Church Street, but this was not built until 1874. Still others prefer the tale that it was the Saddle in Marton – the town's oldest pub. This had been built for over 200 years but does not stand between the Number 1 and Number 3.

It has been suggested that the Number 2 had been a beer house, located at a cottage numbered "2" in the small village of Layton Rakes. This was located between today's Devonshire Square and Cookson Street, and hearsay has it that Thomas Bagot used to drink there from the 1840s. There is however, NO record of it ever having been a beerhouse.

The Number 3: The earliest mention of the Number 3 is in William Hutton's description of Blackpool, published following a visit in 1788. Cronshaw's beerhouse was known to be on the site in 1780. Therefore, it seems sensible to assume that, if there were a series of pubs, the Number 2 would have been already around in 1788 too. It would also be probable that the Number 2, if it existed at all, was somewhere geographically between the Number 1 and the Number 3 at Devonshire Square.

The Number 4: This went under the Number 4 name by 1824, before which it was known as the Eagle's Nest. Its modern address is number 4 Newton Drive.

The likelihood that any 4, numbered pubs was a set of coaching inns is remote, as the early coaches came into Blackpool via Lytham, and then along the coast, leaving on the same route. It was not until the road was built from Ashton to Clifton and beyond in 1781, that they came via other routes. Only in 1816, did a service first enter the town via Whitegate Lane past the Saddle; even then, why have four pick-up points within 1 mile?

If they were not coaching inns, they could have been pick-up points for the wagons travelling from Blackpool to Poulton with passengers and supplies - in which case they would have been consecutively located on the route from Blackpool to Poulton. That route left the Promenade and went down Church

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Street, through Layton Rakes, before turning left in front of the Number 4 and passing through Great Layton (today's Layton Road), before turning right at Hoo Hill windmill and going on to Poulton.
The Number 2 must have been built or renamed between 1779 and 1788 and must have stood somewhere on today's Church Street. The Albion, the Adelphi, and the Raikes were all built too late – so nothing fits the bill!

I suggest that the Lane Ends was never called the Number 1, and that there was never a Number 2. The Number 3 could easily have been simply number three in a long-forgotten street in Layton Rakes hamlet, and the Number 4 was so called in 1824, in order to continue a romantic possibility. That works for me until such time as proof appears to the contrary.

Known Timeline:

1643 Saddle Inn known to exist – never renamed as the Number 2
1779 Lane Ends Hotel built – the Number 1 – who knows?
1780 Cronshaw's beerhouse on the site of the Number 3
1780 A Coach service begins from Manchester along the coast via Lytham
1781 Coaches begin to enter Blackpool via routes other than the coast
1788 Number 3 first recorded by William Hutton
1816 Coaches begin to run along Whitegate Lane
1824 Number 4 recorded in Baines Directory
1828 Albion Hotel built
1835 Adelphi Hotel built
1840s Brewhouse at Layton Raikes, used by Thomas Bagot
1874 Raikes Hotel (Grosvenor) built

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Appendix K: Mayor and MPs

Mayors of BLACKPOOL:

1876-1879	William Henry Cocker
1879-1880	Francis Parnell
1880	Thomas McNaughton MD
1880-1883	Henry Hall
1883-1884	John Hardman
1884-1885	William Henry Cocker
1885-1886	Thomas McNaughton MD
1886-1887	William Henry Cocker
1887-1889	James Fish
1889-1891	John Bickerstaffe
1891-1892	Henry Buckley
1892-1894	James Cardwell
1894-1896	Frederick Henry Parkinson
1896	James Cardwell
1896-1897	James Ward
1897-1898	Robert Butcher Mather
1898-1899	Joseph Heap
1899-1900	George C Kingsbury MA MD
1900-1901	Thomas Houldsworth Smith
1901-1902	James Howarth
1902-1903	James Heyes
1903-1904	Gillbert Blundell
1904-1905	Joseph Brodie
1905-1906	William Henry Broadhead
1906-1907	Samuel Hill
1907-1908	James Battersby
1908-1910	Thomas Fielding
1910-1911	William Henry Broadhead
1911-1912	John Collins
1912-1913	Milton Gough Wilde
1913-1914	James Dewhurst
1914-1915	William Cartledge
1915-1916	Richard Holt
1916-1919	Albert Lindsay Parkinson
1919-1920	Eli Hey Howe
1920-1921	Charles William Callis
1921-1922	David Dickinson
1922-1924	Henry Brooks
1924-1925	Thomas Pilling Fletcher
1925-1926	Thomas Bickerstaffe
1926-1927	Robert Fenton
1927-1928	Thomas Gallon Lumb
1928-1929	John Potter
1929-1930	George William Gath

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1930-1931	Peter James Tomlinson
1931-1932	Leonard Newsome
1932-1933	Thomas Fenton
1933-1934	Charles Edward Tatham
1934-1935	George Whittaker
1935-1936	Walter Newman
1936-1937	William Sandiford Ashton
1937-1938	John Robert Quayle
1938-1939	William Rostron Duckworth
1939-1940	Edward Stevenson
1940-1941	Harry Allan Thickett
1941-1942	Daniel Jennings Bailey
1942-1943	Percy Round OBE
1943-1944	Jacob Parkinson
1944-1945	John William Roberts
1945-1946	Frank Iddeson Nickson MBE
1946-1947	John Robert Frank Hill MM
1947	Rhodes William Marshall
1947	John Anderson
1948-1949	John Robert Furness
1949-1950	Alfred Salisbury
1950-1951	Rhodes William Marshall
1951-1952	Joseph Hill
1952-1953	Peter Fairhurst
1953-1954	Edwin Smith
1954-1955	Will Ogden
1955-1956	Charles Dunn
1956-1957	Herbert Henson
1957-1958	Harold Grimbaldston BEM
1958-1959	Joseph Parker
1959-1960	Ernest Alfred Machin CBE
1960-1961	Thomas Bagot Fairclough
1961-1962	Clifford Cross
1962-1963	Joseph Shepherd Richardson CBE
1963-1964	John Herbert Smythe MA
1964-1965	Albert Ashworth
1965-1966	Thomas Joyce
1966-1967	Robert Brierley
1967-1968	Leslie Pilkington
1968-1969	Jean Robinson CBE
1969-1970	Albert Edward Stuart
1970-1971	James Henry Hessey MBE
1971-1972	Horace Samuel Arthur Ward
1972-1973	Edmund Ernest Wynne
1973-1974	Raymond Jacobs
1974-1975	Walter Uriah Robinson
1975-1976	Harold Leslie Hoyle MBE
1976-1977	Alfred Hudson

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1977-1978	Cyril Nuttal MBE JP FCA
1978	Cyril Lowe JP ACIS
1978-1979	Margaret Riley JP
1979-1980	Robert Charles Dewhirst
1980-1981	Daniel Collin Hanson
1981-1982	James Blake
1982-1983	Thomas Waddicor Percival JP
1983-1984	Marjorie Hoggard
1984-1985	Cyril Lowe JP ACIS
1985-1986	James Ralph Hayes Battersby JP
1986-1987	Alfred John Lander JP
1987-1988	Leo Pomfret JP
1989-1989	Robert Daniel Crichton
1989-1990	Mary A Barnes JP
1990-1991	Alfred W Rhodes
1991-1992	Jack Smith
1992-1993	Dorothy Preston
1993-1994	John Livesey Preston
1994-1995	Stephen R Beilby JP DL
1995-1996	David Owen LLB
1996-1997	Leslie Kersh
1997-1998	Fred Jackson JP
1998-1999	Henry Mitchell
1999-2000	William Burgess
2000-2001	Granville Heap
2001-2002	Sue Wright
2002-2003	Ivan Taylor
2003-2004	Lily Henderson
2004-2005	Maxine Callow
2005-2006	Phillip Dunne
2006-2007	Allan Matthews
2007-2008	Robert Wynne
2008-2009	Mary Smith
2009-2010	Norman Hardy
2010-2011	Don Clapham
2011-2012	Joan Greenhalgh
2012-2013	Sylvia Taylor
2013-2014	Eddie Collett
2014-2015	Valerie Haynes
2015-2016	Peter Callow
2016-2017	Kath Rowson
2017-2018	Ian Coleman
2018-2019	Gary Coleman
2019-2020	Amy Cross

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THE FYLDE:

Mayors of the Borough of Lytham St Anne's:

1922-1925	Charles Critchley
1925-1926	Edward Lightwood
1926-1927	Arnold England
1927-1928	William Holden
1928-1929	Sydney Smith
1929-1930	Arthur Price
1930-1931	Wilfred Ingham
1931-1932	Harry Eastwood
1932-1933	James Dawson
1933-1934	Charles Sharman
1934-1935	William Hope
1935-1936	Charles Urwin
1936-1937	Charles Riley
1937-1938	Lady Edge
1938-1939	William Jowett
1939-1940	John Kay
1940-1941	Jane Rossall
1941-1942	Lindsay Dobson
1942-1943	John Horsfall
1943-1944	James Taylor
1944-1945	Frank Pickles
1945-1946	James Simpson
1946-1947	Ernest Wren-Hilton
1947-1948	John Butterfield
1948-1949	Thomas Banks
1950-1951	Ernest Kenyon
1951-1952	Charles Urwin
1952-1953	Ernest Hoyle
1953-1954	Arthur Williamson
1954	John Hinchcliffe
1954-1955	Walter Dewhirst
1955-1956	John Faulkner
1956-1957	William Crook
1957-1958	Isabella Coope
1958-1959	G Harold Smith
1959-1960	Traviss Carter
1960-1961	Norman Utley
1961-1962	Anthony Wilding
1962-1963	Edward Crossley
1963-1964	John Lloyd
1964-1965	Henry Nuttall
1965-1966	Doris Parfitt
1966-1967	Percy Nicoll
1967-1968	John Tavernor
1968-1969	Ernest Porter

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1969-1970	Wilfred Callon
1970-1971	George Bowley
1971-1972	Alfred Jealous
1972-1973	Jack Shepherd
1973-1974	John Gouldbourn

Mayors of the Borough of Fylde:

1974-1975	F Ronald Jordan
1975-1976	Robert Joyce
1976-1977	Harry Cartmell
1977-1978	Harry Dobson
1978-1979	John Braithwaite
1979-1980	Robert Fisher
1980-1981	George Bradley
1981-1982	David Howorth
1982-1983	George Warbrick
1983-1984	Eric Bamber
1984-1985	Christine Hodgson
1985-1986	Jack Payne
1986-1987	Joan Mason
1987-1988	Richard Spencer
1988-1989	John Tavernor
1989-1990	Wilfred Callon
1990-1991	Eileen Hall
1991-1992	Louis Rigby
1992-1993	J Milton Lane
1993-1994	Jean Wilding-Walsh
1994-1995	George Bamber
1995-1996	George Caldwell
1996-1997	Alfred Jealous
1997-1998	Dawn Prestwich
1998-1999	Elizabeth Smith
1999-2000	Margaret Procopides
2000-2001	Paul Hayhurst
2001-2002	Patricia Fieldhouse
2002-2003	Hannah Cummings-Miller
2003-2004	John Longstaff
2004-2005	Trevor Fidler
2005-2006	Ronald Wilson
2006-2007	Harold Butler
2007-2008	William Prestwich
2008-2009	Susan Fazackerley
2009-2010	Paul Rigby
2010-2011	Elizabeth Oades
2011-2012	Howard Henshaw
2012-2013	Heather Speak
2013-2014	Linda Nulty
2014-2015	Kevin Eastham

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2015-2016	Peter Hardy
2016-2017	Christine Akeroyd
2017-2018	John Singleton
2018-2019	Peter Collins
2019-2020	Angela Jacques

Mayors of St Anne's on the Sea:

2008-2009	Barbara McKenzie
2009-2010	Tony Ford
2010-2011	Tony Ford
2011-2012	Christine Akeroyd
2012-2013	Angela Jacques
2013-2014	Vivienne Willder
2014-2015	Edward Nash
2015-2016	Vince Settle
2016-2017	Cheryl Little
2017-2018	Karen Henshaw
2018-2019	Karen Henshaw
2019-2020	Viv Wilder

Mayors of Kirkham (part list only):

2000-2001	Peter Hardy
2001-2002	?
2002-2003	Liz Oades
2006-2007	" "
2007-2008	?
2008-2009	?
2009-2010	?
2010-2011	?
2011-2012	Elaine Silverwood
2012-2013	" "
2013-2014	?
2014-2015	?
2015-2016	Paul Hodgson
2016-2017	Elaine Silverwood
2018-2019	" "
2019-2020	Liz Oades

Mayors of Medlar-with-Wesham (part list only):

2006-2007	Geoff Dixon
2007-2008	David Ogden
2008-2009	Michael Devaney
2009-2010	Linda Nulty
2010-2011	Alan Clayton
2011-2012	Alan Clayton
2012-2013	Margaret Rawcliffe
2013-2014	?
2014-2015	Martin Howarth

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2015-2016	?
2016-2017	?
2017-2018	Alan Clayton
2018-2019	Linda Nulty
2019-2020	Angela Norris

WYRE:

Mayors of Fleetwood:

1895-1896	Alexander Davies
1896-1897	John Crookall
1897-1898	Richard Canada Ward
1898-1899	" " "
1899-1900	James Lofthouse
1900-1901	John Crookall
1901-1902	" "
1902-1903	Ernest Crosby
1903-1904	" "
1904-1905	John Crookall
1905-1906	George Humphreys
1906-1907	Douglas Rankin
1907-1908	William Whiteside
1908-1909	" "
1909-1910	Arthur Swarbrick
1910-1911	" "
1911-1912	Wallace Frith
1912-1913	" "
1913-1914	Robert Eaves
1914-1915	" "
1915-1916	George Robertson
1916-1917	" "
1917-1918	Christopher Atkinson
1918-1919	" "
1919-1920	" "
1920-1921	William Simpson
1921-1922	" "
1922-1923	Thomas Mellor
1923-1924	John Singleton
1924-1925	Richard Mann
1925-1926	Thomas Cardwell
1926-1927	Richard Crookall
1927-1928	Charles Saer
1928-1929	William Elliot
1933-1934	George Robertson
1934-1935	" "
1935-1936	Charles Saer
1936-1937	Williams Simpson
1937-1938	Charles Saer

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1938-1939	Thomas Cardwell
1939-1940	Patrick McNicholas
1940-1941	Theodore Clegg
1941-1942	Henry Blackburn
1942-1943	William Thompson
1943-1944	Thomas Roberts
1944-1945	William Ward
1945-1946	Alfred Wilkinson
1946-1947	William Bentney
1947-1949	Walter Minns
1949-1950	Charles Lofthouse
1950-1951	Francis Wilkinson
1951-1952	Edwin Lawrence
1952-1953	James Sutcliffe
1953-1954	John Robinson
1954-1955	Joseph Kennedy
1955-1956	Harold Pearce
1956-1957	Edward Mitchie
1957-1958	Thomas Smith
1958-1959	Harold Baker
1959-1960	James Sinclair Shaw
1960-1961	Margaret Rowntree
1961-1962	William Wheeler
1962-1963	Mary Hope
1963-1964	John Longton
1964-1965	Septimus Bond
1965-1966	Harold Formstone
1966-1967	Thomas Irvin
1967-1968	Robert Wright
1968-1969	Jonathan Nield
1969-1970	Thomas Bond
1970-1971	Edward Funk
1971-1972	Harold Chippendale
1972-1973	Terence Keating

Mayors of the Borough of Wyre:

1974-1975	Basil McGregor
1975-1976	Ralph Snape
1976-1977	W Ball
1977-1978	R Greenwood
1978-1979	Jack Davis
1979-1980	Nellie Atkinson
1980-1981	Frank Townend
1981-1982	Maurice Davies
1982-1983	Charles Stebbing
1983-1984	Harold Formstone
1984-1985	Thomas Croft
1985-1986	Frank Moreland

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1986-1987	Lilian Anderson
1987-1988	Anton Vink
1988-1989	Robert Williamson
1989-1990	Joseph Grime
1990-1991	Charles Ashworth
1991-1992	Geoffrey Roper
1992-1993	Thomas Ibison
1993-1994	Sally Preston
1994-1995	Jean Mutch
1995-1996	Pat Callow
1996-1997	Reginald Allen
1997-1998	Leonard Jolly
1998-1999	Robert Sharrock
1999-2000	Harold Taylor
2000-2001	James Lawrenson
2001-2002	David Sharples
2002-2003	Geoffrey Horrocks
2003-2004	Stanley Leadbetter
2004-2005	Maurice Richardson
2005-2006	Peter Pimbley
2006-2007	Peter Hawley
2007-2008	Keith Riley
2008-2009	Gordon McCann
2009-2010	Alan Vincent
2010-2011	Russell Forsyth
2011-2012	David Bannister
2012-2013	Don Lawrenson
2013-2014	John Hodgkinson
2014-2015	Ron Shewan
2015-2016	Tom Balmain
2016-2017	Terry Lees
2017-2018	Alice Collinson
2018-2019	Marge Anderton
2019-2020	Ann Turner

Mayors of Preesall (part list only):

2002-2003	Vivien Taylor
2009	Ian Stafford
2012	Chris Lamb
2015	Phillip Orme
2017-2018	Tom Riley
2018-2019	Lynda Woodhouse
2020-2021	Lynda Woodhouse

MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT:

Blackpool:

1885	Frederick Stanley	Conservative

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1886	Sir Matthew Ridley	Conservative
1900	Henry Wilson Worsley-Taylor	Conservative
1906	Wilfrid Ashley	Conservative
1918	Sir Albert Lindsay Parkinson	Coalition Conservative
1922	Leonard Greenham Star Molloy	Conservative
1923	Hugh Mowbray Meyler	Liberal
1924	Sir Walter de Frece	Conservative
1931	Clifford Erskine-Bolst	Conservative
1935	Roland Robinson	Conservative
1945	*constituency abolished - see Blackpool North and Blackpool South*	

Blackpool South:

1945	Roland Robinson	Conservative
1964	Sir Peter Blaker	Conservative
1992	Nick Hawkins	Conservative
1997	Gordon Marsden	Labour
2010	Gordon Marsden	Labour
2015	Gordon Marsden	Labour
2017	Gordon Marsden	Labour
2019	Scott Benton	Conservative

Blackpool North:

1945	Sir Toby Low	Conservative
1962	Norman Miscampbell	Conservative (by-election)
1992	Harold Elletson	Conservative
1997	*constituency abolished- see Blackpool North and Fleetwood*	

Blackpool North and Fleetwood:

1997	Joan Humble	Labour
2000	*constituency abolished – now Lancaster and Wyre and Blackpool North and Cleveleys*	

Blackpool North and Cleveleys:

2010	Paul Maynard	Conservative
2015	Paul Maynard	Conservative
2017	Paul Maynard	Conservative
2019	Paul Maynard	Conservative

Fylde:

1918	Wilfrid William Ashley	Conservative
1922	Lord Stanley	Conservative
1938	Claude Lancaster	Conservative
1950	*constituency split - see Fylde North and Fylde South*	

Fylde North:

1950	Richard Stanley	Conservative
1966	Walter Clegg	Conservative
1983	*constituency abolished - see Fylde*	

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Fylde South:

1950	Claude Lancaster	Conservative
1970	Sir Edward Gardner	Conservative
1983	*constituency abolished - see Fylde*	

Fylde:

1983	Sir Edward Gardner	Conservative
1987	Michael Jack	Conservative
2010	Mark Menzies	Conservative
2015	Mark Menzies	Conservative
2017	Mark Menzies	Conservative
2017	Mark Menzies	Conservative

Wyre:

1983	Sir Walter Clegg	Conservative
1987	Keith Mans	Conservative
1997	*constituency abolished - see Lancaster and Wyre*	

Lancaster and Wyre:

1997	Hilton Dawson	Labour
2005	Ben Wallace	Conservative
2010	*constituency abolished: changed to Lancaster and Fleetwood, and Wyre and Preston North*	

Lancaster and Fleetwood:

2010	Eric Ollerenshaw	Conservative
2015	Catherine Smith (Cat)	Labour
2017	Catherine Smith (Cat)	Labour
2019	Catherine Smith (Cat)	Labour

Wyre and Preston North:

2010	Ben Wallace	Conservative
2015	Ben Wallace	Conservative
2017	Ben Wallace	Conservative
2019	Ben Wallace	Conservative

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Appendix L:
Famous Ex-pupils of Local Secondary Schools

I list these schools in alphabetical order:

All Saints Roman Catholic High:

- Chris Cantrill – World Karate Champion and British Bodybuilding Champion
- Damian Eadie – TV Producer (Countdown)

Arnold School:

- Arthur Firth - Editor of the Daily Express
- Barrie-Jon Mather - Rugby league player
- Bob Hesford - Rugby union player
- Chris Lowe - Musician - member of the Pet Shop Boys
- David Ball - Musician - member of Soft Cell
- David Stephenson - Rugby league player
- David Wilde - Pianist and composer
- Geoffrey Marshall - Political scientist and constitutional expert
- George Eastham – Footballer
- Hamish Hamilton – Film director
- Harold Fox - Pathologist
- Jenna-Louise Coleman – Actress, Jasmine Thomas in Emmerdale
- Jimmy Armfield - Footballer
- John Schofield - World War 1 Victoria Cross
- Jonas Armstrong – Actor, Robin Hood
- Malcolm Phillips - Rugby union player and President of the Rugby Football Union
- Mark Robinson – Founder of Vantage cars
- Michael Austin - Organist
- Michael Smith - Nobel Laureate for chemistry
- Michelle Walton - Mezzo-soprano
- Paul Helm - Theologian, historian, and philosopher
- Peter Beighton - Geneticist
- Peter Purves - Actor and presenter of Blue Peter
- Sandra Burslem – Dame and educationalist
- Sir Ernest Woodhouse Smith - Fuel technologist
- Sir Harold Grime - Chairman of the West Lancashire Evening Gazette
- Sir Martin Holdgate - Environmental scientist and zoologist
- Sir Simon Bryan QC – High Court Judge
- Sir Walter Clegg - Politician
- Sir William Lyons - Co-founder of Jaguar Cars
- Terence Charleston - Harpsichordist and organist
- Tom Graveney - Cricketer

Bailey Seniors:

- John Lawrenson – Baritone

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Baines School, Poulton:

- Daniel Whiston – Champion Ice Skater
- Eric Bateson – World renowned Medical Radiologist
- Graham Kelly – Chief Executive of the Football Association
- Ian Stewart Donaldson – notorious Punk Rock Musician
- John Rishton – Chief Executive of Rolls Royce PLC
- Michael Barnett – renowned Theoretical Chemist and Computer Scientist

Blackpool and the Fylde College (all actors):

- Abigail Fisher – Hollyoaks, Heartbeat, Emmerdale
- Ben Heathcote - Beautiful Game
- Craig Kelly – Luke Strong from Coronation Street
- Craig Parkinson - Martin Guerre
- Dean Chisnall – Never Forget
- Dean Lennox Kelly – Shameless
- Glenn Carter – Les Misérables, Jesus Christ Superstar
- James Nairn - Buddy, Chitty Chitty Bang Bang
- Joanne Riding - Carousel, Me and My Gal, My Fair Lady
- Jodie Prenger – Nancy in Oliver
- John Simm - Actor
- Josie Walker - Beautiful Game
- John Simm - Human Traffic, The Lakes, 24 Hour Party People, Life on Mars
- Kate Ford - Tracey Barlow from Coronation Street
- Nicky Palmer – Nicola Blackstock in Emmerdale
- Vicky Entwistle - Janice Battersby from Coronation Street

Blackpool Grammar:

- Alfred Gregory - Mountaineer
- Alistair Cook - Writer and broadcaster
- Andrew Parmley – Lord Mayor of London 2016
- Ernest Mason – Pilot – World War 2 ace
- Ian Anderson - Musician - Jethro Tull
- Roger Uttley - Rugby union player (Head Boy)
- Roy Fuller - Poet
- Sir Peter Hall - Author and town planner
- Tom Whiteside - Mathematician
- Tony Gubba – Sports commentator

Blackpool Sixth Form College:

- Barney Harwood – Children’s television presenter
- John Robb - Musician
- Little Boots (Victoria Hesketh) – Singer
- Lewis Raines – Singer with G4
- Lucy Fallon – Actress (Coronation Street)

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Cardinal Allen:
- Alfie Boe – Operatic tenor

Carr Hill High School:
- Tom Atkinson – Actor (Emmerdale)

Collegiate Girl's School:
- Pat Astley – "Adult Actress" and model

Collegiate High School:
- Jordan Wylie – Security consultant

Elmslie:
- Carol Davies – Actress (stage name Rachel Davies)
- Dawn McDonald – Actress
- Emma Jesson – ITV Weather Presenter
- Jean Rigby - Mezzo-soprano
- Jodie Prenger – Actress and singer
- *Paula Yates – TV presenter (not substantiated yet)*
- Pauline Moran - Actress

Fleetwood Grammar:
- Cathryn Bradshaw - Actress
- John Fyffe – Singer (The Settlers)
- Robert Arnott – Ship's Captain – Queen Elizabeth II
- Susan Littler - Actress

Fleetwood Nautical College:
- Ian McNaught – Ship's Captain – Queen Elizabeth II
- Peter Baynham – Actor/Scriptwriter

Hesketh High:
- Jane Couch - Boxer

Highfurlong High School:
- Justine Moore – Wheelchair Fencing Paralympian

Hodgson High, Poulton:
- Lucy Fallon – Actress – Coronation Street

King Edward VII and Queen Mary:
- Anthony Murray - Poker professional
- Blair Martin - Equerry to Her Majesty the Queen
- Holly Newman – Actress, Lorraine Brownlow in Coronation Street
- Jenny Éclair - Comedian (real name Jenny Clare Hargreaves)
- John Sunderland - chairman of Cadbury Schweppes and president of the CBI
- Malcolm Archer - Organist and Director of Music at St. Paul's Cathedral

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- Mary Brown – Author
- Michael Jolly - Entertainer and property developer
- Michael Mingos - Principal of St Edmund Hall, Oxford University
- Roy Harper - Musician
- Simon Brailsford - Equerry to Her Majesty the Queen
- Stephen Barclay – Government Brexit Secretary

Kirkham Grammar:

- Alex Sanderson - Rugby player – England international
- Andy Rhodes – Chief Constable of Lancashire Police 2017
- Barry Johnson – High Sheriff of Lancashire 2016
- Clive Tyldesley - Football commentator
- Dan Bibby – England Rugby Sevens team (Olympic Silver medal 2016)
- David Holt – Actor (voice of Pinky on CBBC)
- David Walton - First chairman of the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR) Standing Committee on the Antarctic Treaty System
- Eric Laithwaite – Engineer and scientist
- Frank Dernie – Formula 1 engineer
- Graham Clark - Opera singer
- Keiran Brookes – Rugby player – England International
- Nick Moore – **ME** - Customs Officer and Local Historian
- Pat Sanderson - Rugby player – England international
- Ralph Copeland – Astronomer Royal for Scotland
- Ranvir Singh - Television presenter (BBC's Northwest Tonight and ITV News at Ten)
- Richard Wigglesworth - Rugby player – England international
- Tony Lewis – Co-inventor of cricket's Duckworth-Lewis scoring method
- Tupele Dorgu - Actress – Kelly Crabtree in Coronation Street
- Warren Sprag – Rugby player – Italian international
- Zachary Langton - Clergyman

Lawrence House Preparatory School:

- Frederick Edward Robin Butler – Politician, Lord Butler of Brockwell
- Richard Henriques – QC

Layton Hill Convent:

- Cecilia Loftus - Actress, singer, mimic, vaudevillian, and music hall performer
- Dorothy Byrne - Head of News and Current Affairs, Channel 4
- Mary Josephine Dunn - Writer of popular historical romance novels under her married name of Jo Beverley
- Moya Brady - Actress
- Sheila Quinn – Dame, and President of the Royal College of Nursing

Montgomery:

- Hayley Tamaddon – Actress, Delilah Dingle in Emmerdale
- Phil Kenyon – Squash (British Champion 1977, 81,83,85)
- Roger Uttley – Rugby Player

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Rossall School:

- Anthony Besch - Opera director
- Arthur John Bigge - First Baron Stamfordham
- Baron Frederick Lugard - Governor of Hong Kong
- Bill Ashton – Founder of the National Youth Jazz Orchestra
- Dan Dare - Fictional space pilot!
- Father Thomas Roussel David Byles - Clergyman on the SS Titanic
- Frederick William (Will) Harvey - Poet
- Geoffrey Kirk - Classicist and Professor of Greek - Cambridge University
- James Donald – Actor, Major Clipton in Bridge Over the River Kwai
- John Eldon Gorst – Politician
- Kelsey-Beth Crossley - Actress
- Leslie Charteris (born Leslie Charles Bowyer Yin) - Author - "the Saint"
- Liam Botham - Rugby union player
- Michael Barrett – TV presenter (Nationwide)
- Peter Winterbottom - Rugby union player
- Reginald Crummack ("Rex") - British Hockey Team – winners at 1920 Olympics
- Reverend Vernon Royle - England cricketer
- RM (Raymond) Patterson - Explorer
- Robert Pickering Ashe - Christian missionary
- Sir Alexander Carmichael Bruce - Assistant Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police
- Sir Francis Graham Smith - Astronomer Royal
- Sir Frederick Brundrett - Royal Navy Scientific Adviser
- Sir Henry Stuart-Jones - Classical historian
- Sir Thomas Beecham - Conductor
- Sir Thomas Richardson - Marine Engineer and MP
- Sir William Boyd Dawkins - Geologist and archaeologist
- Victoria Hesketh (Little Boots) - Singer
- William Blair Bell - Founder of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists
- William Rolleston - New Zealand politician

St Bede's:

- Stephen Tompkinson – Actor

St Catherine's:

- Anne Nolan - Singer
- Bernadette Nolan – Singer
- Denise Nolan - Singer
- Linda Nolan - Singer
- Maureen Nolan - Singer

St George's High:

- Rae Morris – Singer (Rachel Morris)
- Tony Ashton - musician

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St Joseph's College:

- George Carman - QC
- Lord Tom McNally - Liberal Peer
- Owen Oyston - Estate agent/entrepreneur

St Mary's Catholic Academy and Sixth Form:

- Cecilia Loftus - Actress, singer, mimic, vaudevillian and music hall performer
- Dorothy Byrne - Head of News and Current Affairs, Channel 4
- Eleanor Cardwell – England Hockey player
- Jake Roche – Singer with the band Rixton
- Lara Crooks – TV Presenter (See Hear)
- Mary Josephine Dunn (Jo Beverley) - Author under her married name
- Sheila Quinn - Nursing Administrator
- Stephen Tompkinson – Actor

Tyldesley Secondary School:

- Elizabeth Larner - Actress and singer, Ammonia in Up Pompeii

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Appendix M: Famous people buried or cremated locally

LAYTON CEMETERY:

- Ada Boswell - "Queen of the Gypsies"
- Charles Noden - known as Mr Blackpool
- Dave Morris – Comedian
- Edwin Hughes – Troop Sergeant Major - Charge of the Light Brigade
- George Washington Williams - Afro-American Historian
- Gerald Richardson - Police Superintendent
- Jack London (John George Harper) - Boxer
- James Wayman - Founder of the Blackpool Times
- John Bickerstaffe - saw Blackpool Tower to completion
- John Derham - Chief Constable of Blackpool Police
- John Grime - launched the Gazette and Herald
- Ohmy King (Joseph Smith) - Trapeze artist and circus owner
- Richard Gorton Barlow - English Cricketer
- Robert Bickerstaffe - built the Central Pier
- Samuel Laycock - Poet
- Spencer Hall - Poet
- Walter Munro (Joseph Jowett Walker) - Singer of "the Mystery of the Hansom Cab"
- William Butler – Troop Sergeant - Charge of the Light Brigade
- William H Strickler - built Noah's Ark at Pleasure Beach

CARLETON CEMETERY:

- Arthur Worsley – Ventriloquist
- Bernadette Nolan - Singer
- Brian Rossi (Brendon Rosbotham) - Entertainer
- Frank Randle (Arthur McEvoy) – Comedian
- Ken Platt – Comedian (lived in Bispham)
- Norman Evans - Comedian - Over the Garden Wall
- Norman Murray Walters - Australian escapologist (owned Murray's magic Mart on Rawcliffe Street, South Shore, close to the junction with Bond Street and then on King Street, and finally Cookson Street until 1986)
- Tony Carr – Song writer (CO-writer of March of the mods)

CARLETON CREMATORIUM:

- Beatrix Potter (Ellen Beatrice Heelis) - Author
- Bunny May - Theatrical impresario
- Charles Barlow - Bandleader
- Charlie Cairoli – Circus clown
- Ian Donaldson – Musician
- Jimmy Buchanan (Little Jimmy) – Circus clown
- Jimmy Clitheroe - Comedian
- John Comer - Actor
- Lawrence Wright – Impressario

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- Lenny Bennett - Comedian
- Reginald Dixon - Organist at Blackpool Tower
- Roy Greatrix - Footballer
- Stanley Mortenson - Footballer
- Tony Melody – Comic actor

ST STEPHEN'S ON THE CLIFFS:

- Arthur Leslie – Actor (Coronation Street – Jack Walker)
- Lawrence Wright – Impressario (Horatio Nicholls)

ALL HALLOW'S BISPHAM:

- Violet Carson - Ena Sharples (ashes in columbarium)

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Appendix N: Managers of Blackpool Football Club

There have been 30 different Blackpool managers:

- No Manager (1896 to 1903)
- Tom Barcroft (1903 to 1909) (secretary/manager)
- Jack Cox (1909 to 1911) (player manager)
- No Manager (1911 to 1918)
- Bill Norman (August 1, 1919 to May 31, 1923) (First full-time manager)
- Major Frank Buckley (July 1, 1923 to May 31, 1927)
- Sydney Beaumont (August 1, 1927 to May 31, 1928)
- Harry Evans (August 1, 1928 to May 31, 1933) (honorary manager)
- Sandy MacFarlane (July 1, 1933 to July 31, 1935)
- Joe Smith (August 1, 1935 to April 30, 1958)
- Ron Suart (May 1, 1958 to February 1, 1967)
- Stan Mortensen (February 1, 1967 to April 1969)
- Harry Johnston (April 1969 to April 1969) (caretaker manager)
- Les Shannon (May 1, 1969 to October 26, 1970)
- Jimmy Meadows (October 26, 1970 to December 20, 1970) (caretaker manager)
- Bob Stokoe (December 20, 1970 to November 23, 1972)
- No Manager (November 23, 1972 to January 1, 1973)
- Harry Potts (January 1, 1973 to May 5, 1976)
- Allan Brown (May 5, 1976 to February 6, 1978)
- Bobby Smith (February 6, 1978 to March 7, 1978) (caretaker manager)
- Jimmy Meadows (March 7, 1978 to May 20, 1978) (caretaker manager 2nd time)
- Bob Stokoe (May 20, 1978 to August 17, 1979) (second time)
- Stan Ternent (September 19, 1979 to February 1, 1980)
- Freddie Scott (February 1, 1980 to February 1980) (caretaker manager)
- Alan Ball (February 1980 to February 28, 1981)
- Allan Brown (March 1, 1981 to May 31, 1982) (second time)
- Sam Ellis (June 1, 1982 to March 28, 1989)
- Jimmy Mullen (March 28, 1989 to April 30, 1990)
- Tom White (April 30, 1990 to June 11, 1990) (caretaker manager)
- Graham Carr (June 11, 1990 to November 30, 1990)
- Billy Ayre (November 30, 1990 to June 10, 1994)
- Sam Allardyce (July 19, 1994 to May 29, 1996)
- Gary Megson (July 5, 1996 to July 1, 1997)
- Nigel Worthington (July 8, 1997 to December 23, 1999)
- Mick Hennigan and Mike Davies (December 23, 1999 to January 7, 2000) (temporary)
- Steve McMahon (January 7, 2000 to June 6, 2004)
- Colin Hendry (June 7, 2004 to November 10, 2005)
- Simon Grayson (November 10, 2005 to December 23, 2008)
- Tony Parkes (December 24, 2009 to May 18, 2009) (caretaker manager)
- Ian Holloway (May 21, 2009 to November 3, 2012)
- Steve Thompson (November3, 2012 to November 7 2012) (caretaker manager)
- Michael Appleton (November 7, 2012 to January 11, 2013) – shortest serving manager

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- Steve Thomson (January 11, 2013 to February 18, 2013) (caretaker manager – 2nd time)
- Paul Ince (February 18, 2013 to January 20, 2014)
- Barry Ferguson (January 20, 2014 to May 2014) (temporary player coach)
- Jose Riga (June 10, 2014 to Oct 27, 2014)
- Lee Clarke (October 20, 2014 to May 9, 2015)
- Neil McDonald (June 2, 2015 to May 18, 2016)
- Gary Bowyer (June 1, 2016 to 6 August 2018)
- Terry McPhillips (6 August 2018 – 5 July 2019)
- Simon Grayson (6 July 2019 – 12 February 2020)
- Neil Critchley (2 March 2020 - ??)

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Appendix O:
Blackpool Illuminations - Who switched them on

1912	Small display only
1913	Small display only
1925 to 1933	No Official Switch-on
1934	Lord Derby - first official switch-on
1935	Audrey Mossom (Railway Queen)
1936	Sir Joseph Stamp (Governor of the Bank of England) - by remote control from Oxenholme Station
1937	Alderman Ashton (followed later by the Duke of Kent)
1938	Mrs Quayle (Councillor)
1939	Cancelled although already erected
1940 to 1948	No Illuminations due to the outbreak of World War 2
1949	Anna Neagle (Actress)
1950	Wilfred Pickles (Comedian)
1951	Stanley Matthews (Footballer)
1952	Valerie Hobson (Actress)
1953	George Formby (Singer and Comedian)
1954	Gilbert Harding (Actor and Broadcaster)
1955	Jacob Malik (Russian Ambassador)
1956	Reginald Dixon (Tower Organist)
1957	John Hay Whitney (American Ambassador)
1958	AE “Matty” Matthews (Actor)
1959	Jayne Mansfield (Actress)
1960	Janet Munro (Actress)
1961	Violet Carson (Actress)
1962	Shirley Ann Field (Actress)
1963	Cliff Michelmore (Broadcaster)
1964	Gracie Fields (Singer and Actress)
1965	David Tomlinson (Actor)
1966	Ken Dodd (Comedian)
1967	Dr Horace King (Speaker of Commons)
1968	Sir Matt Busby (Football Manager)
1969	RAF / Battle of Britain (Douglas Bader, Ginger Lacey, and Actor Patrick Wymark) - plus a fly-by from a Canberra bomber
1970	Tony Blackburn (Disc Jockey)
1971	Dad’s Army cast
1972	Danny La Rue (Entertainer)
1973	Gordon Banks (Footballer)
1974	Wendy Craig (Actress)
1975	Tom Baker (Doctor Who)
1976	Carol Ann Grant (Miss United Kingdom)
1977	Red Rum and the Red Arrows
1978	Terry Wogan (Disc Jockey and Broadcaster)
1979	Kermit the Frog and the Muppets

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1980	Cannon and Ball (Comedians)
1981	Earl and Countess Spencer
1982	Rear-Admiral “Sandy” Woodward
1983	Cast of “Coronation Street” (Doris Speed)
1984	Johannes Rau and David Waddington (Politicians)
1985	Joanna Lumley (Actress) and BBC “Children in Need”
1986	Les Dawson (Comedian)
1987	Frank Bough, Ann Gregg, and Kathy Tayler, BBC “Holiday” programme
1988	Andrew Lloyd Webber (Composer) and Sarah Brightman (Singer)
1989	Frank Bruno (Boxer)
1990	Julie Goodyear and Roy Barraclough (Bet and Alec Gilroy - Coronation Street)
1991	Derek Jameson and Judith Chalmers (TV Presenters)
1992	Lisa Stansfield (Singer)
1993	Status Quo (Group)
1994	Shirley Bassey (Singer)
1995	Bee Gees (Group)
1996	Eternal (Group)
1997	Michael Ball (Singer)
1998	Chris De Burgh (Singer)
1999	Gary Barlow (Singer)
2000	Westlife (Group)
2001	Steps (Group) - this was the last in Talbot Square
2002	Ronan Keating (Singer) – aided by leukaemia victim Kirsty Howard
2003	Blue (Group)
2004	Geri Halliwell (Singer)
2005	Chris Evans (Disc Jockey)
2006	Dale Winton (TV Presenter)
2007	David Tennant (Actor - Doctor Who)
2008	The Stig - supported by Jeremy Clarkson and Richard Hammond (BBC’s Top Gear presenters - the third, James May, turned up 40 minutes late)
2009	Alan Carr (Comedian)
2010	Robbie Williams (Singer)
2011	Keith Lemon (Comedian)
2012	Olympic medallists Luke Campbell (gold in boxing), Steven Burke (gold in cycling), Sophie Hosking (gold in sculls), Max Whitlock (silver in gymnastics), Karina Bryant (bronze in judo), and Beth Tweddle (bronze in gymnastics)
2013	Jonathan Ross (Entertainer)
2014	Peter Kay (Comedian)
2015	Tim Burton (Film Director)
2016	Barbara Windsor (Actress)
2017	Jason Isaacs (Actor) as part of a fully-Star Trek-themed switch on ceremony
2018	Alfie Boe (Singer)
2019	Lucy Fallon (Actress)

Note: From 1959 to 1968, and from 1976 to date, Blackpool also had Christmas Lights during December and January.

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Appendix P:
Songs and tunes written about Blackpool

- AJ Goodman - The Blackpool Parade March (1901)
- Al Bowlly - The Blackpool Walk (1938)
- Arthur Irwin - Come and see the lights at Blackpool (1923)
- Arthur Laycock - We're havin' a grand time at Blackpool
- Beautiful South - Oh Blackpool (1989)
- Bert Tackler and Company - Blackpool – A Day Out (1932)
- Bertini - Play up the Pool (1933)
- Charles Warren and Rachel Lowe - Take me down to Blackpool (1907)
- Edward St Claire - Blackpool (1929)
- Erne Chester - Take Me Down to Blackpool (1906)
- Felix Goddard - A Trip to Blackpool (1922)
- FJ Mainey - The Blackpool Caledonians (1949)
- Fools Circle - The Blackpool Tower EP (2006)
- George Formby - Blackpool Prom (1944)
- George Formby - My Little Stick of Blackpool Rock (1936)
- George Formby - Sitting on the Top of Blackpool Tower (1936)
- Harry Lowther - Smile (The Blackpool Carnival Song) (1924)
- Head - Blackpool Cool (1977)
- Honeybus - She sold Blackpool Rock (1969)
- Horatio Nicholls - The Blackpool Walk (1900)
- Howard Broadbent - The Blackpool Belle (1975)
- Ian Anderson - Meliora Sequamur (
- Irvine Welsh and Vic Godard - Blackpool (2002) title song from their play
- Jack Judge - Blackpool (1918)
- Jasper Carrott - Day Trip to Blackpool (1981)
- Jay Wallis - Blackpool (1935)
- Jeremy Taylor - Blackpool (1975)
- Jeremy Taylor - Blackpool Rock (1975)
- Jeremy Taylor - Come to Blackpool (1975)
- Jeremy Taylor - Donkey's Charter (1975)
- Jeremy Taylor - Love on the Sands (1975)
- Jethro Tull - Up the 'Pool (1971)
- Jethro Tull - Big Dipper (1976)
- Lita Roza - The Blackpool Bounce (1953)
- Manic Street Preachers - Elvis Impersonator: Blackpool Pier (1996)
- Milton Allan - Blackpool by Twilight (1942)
- Mike Harding - Talking Blackpool Blues (1976)
- Milton Cass - The Blackpool Trot (1917)
- Mr and Mrs Fred Walmsley - Mr and Mrs Brown at Blackpool (1926)
- Boris Aljinovic - Miss Blackpool (2014)
- Mr Scruff - Blackpool Roll (1998)

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- Oliver Gaggs - The Tower Waltz (1894)
- Paul McCartney - Blackpool, from the unreleased film "The Backyard" (1971)
- Ronald Franklin - The Palace Hesitation (1920)
- Ronald Franklin - The Tower Tango (1920)
- Roy Harper - Blackpool (1968)
- Sham 69 - Blackpool (1976)
- Sonny Farrar - Blackpool Rag (1919)
- Tessie O'Shea - You're at Blackpool by the sea (1938)
- The Delgados - Blackpool (1999)
- The Macc Lads - Blackpool (1985)
- The Membranes - Tatty Seaside Town (1993)
- The Nolan Sisters - The Blackpool Song (1972)
- The Tornados - Blackpool Rock (1964)
- Timothy Taylor - Come to Blackpool (LP)
- Uncle Merry Mack - Dear Old Blackpool
- Weed and Ipsenfish - The Blackpool Lights

Blackpool is also mentioned in many other songs, which are not specifically about the town. These include "Autumn Almanac" by the Kinks, "Military Madness" by local lad Graham Nash, and "Let's Make Love" by Damerell and Evans.

There is a 1960 Blackpool Nights LP record, featuring several artists from the 1958 TV series.

Plus:
The Beatles' song "Magical Mystery Tour" was inspired by their tram rides through the illuminations.

Albert and the Lion – Stanley Holloway (1933) – not a song but worthy of mention! This is set in Blackpool Tower Zoo (a plaque was unveiled there in 1977) but based upon a real-life incident at London Zoo.

The "Blackpool Pier Polka" was specially written for the opening of the North Pier in 1863.

The "Fylde Waltz" was written in 1902 by T Almond and K Kaps and has been danced to at many Blackpool dance championships.

A song called "The Lytham Rhythm" was featured in the 1947 book "Leading Lady" by DL Murray.

There is a Country and Western dance called "Blackpool Rock", choreographed by Jean Thompson.

The "Blackpool Rockers" released a single in 1982 called "The San Francisco Disco Dancing School".

A Danish beat group between 1963 and 1968 called themselves "The Blackpools".

Note: The song "Oh I do like to be Beside the Seaside" was written in 1907 by John H Glover-Kind and is not specifically about Blackpool, although it has long been associated with the town.

The song "Happy? Yes! I've been to Lytham St Annes" was written by Wilkie Warren in 1927.

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Appendix Q: Statues and Sculptures

The area does not have many public statues or sculptures, but the better-known ones are listed here. I have not mentioned the stone obelisks, such as Blackpool War Memorial and other cenotaphs.

The *sundial* stone outside St John's Church is a glacial remnant that was donated to William Thornber when he was vicar (a similar stone once stood at Norbreck Villa).

A statue of *Diana the Huntress* adorns the ornamental garden (now a car park) at Lytham Hall, but its origins are unknown. It is assumed to date to the late 18th century.

The *Three Graces* frieze was carved on the side of the Temple of the Arts Photographic Studio on Church Street in 1853. The building is now the Bella Italia pasta Restaurant. The frieze was restored in 1988, but was damaged during building work, and replaced by a plastic copy.

The *Clifton Memorial Fountain* was erected in Lytham Square in 1883. It was moved to Sparrow Park in Station Square in 1909.

The *Lifeboat Monument* was unveiled on St Anne's Promenade in 1888, to commemorate the loss of life in the *"Mexico"* lifeboat disaster of 1886. It carries a sculpture of the lifeboat's coxswain William Johnson sculpted by WH Rhind and has the inscription *"The crew of the St Anne's lifeboat who lost their lives in a gallant attempt to rescue the crew of the German barque "Mexico" wrecked off Southport on the night of the 9th December 1886".*

A statue of a *Water Carrier* was installed in the Lily Pond of Ashton Gardens in St Anne's in 1916.

A Life-sized bust of *Queen Victoria* was unveiled in the Town Hall in 1904.

Wesham War Memorial was unveiled on Weeton Road on the 27th of February 1921. Its statue shows a rifleman with his weapon grounded.

Thornton War Memorial was unveiled at Four Lane Ends on the 11th of November 1923. Its statue was sculpted by Albert Toft.

St Anne's War Memorial was unveiled in Ashton Gardens on the 12th of October 1924. The statues around the memorial were sculpted by Walter Marsden.

The two bronze *Medici Lions* were placed in Stanley Park in 1926. They stand on large stone pedestals and are copies of the originals in Florence. John Magee of the brewers Magee Marshall and Company Limited donated them. In July 2012 they were moved, back to Stowe House, ready to be replaced by lead facsimiles – the change being necessitated by metal thieves in the area.

Four lead statues of *Regency Figures* were placed around the Italian Fountain in Stanley Park in 1926. In 1994, they were replaced by four statues of shepherds and shepherdesses, donated by Gilbert's Metals. These were destroyed by metal thieves in August 2011, and were replaced by similar ones sculpted in stone in March 2014. The new statues were fixed to newly renovated plinths, and each one will be marked

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with Selecta DNA advanced forensic marking, which can be used to uniquely mark and trace both items of property and criminals.

The statues are around five feet tall, similar in size, colour, and sculptural style to the old pieces, and are hand carved from a single block of stone.

Fleetwood War Memorial was unveiled in the Memorial Park in 1927 and dedicated to the memory of Fleetwood's war dead by Admiral Sir William Goodenough. The statue was sculpted by Herbert Tyson Smith. On the top of a plinth stands a Romanesque figure with his right arm upraised and supporting a pole with the eternal flame at the top. In his left hand, he holds a coiled snake and he has a laurel garland on his head.

A *Concrete Whale* was placed on the cliffs at Norbreck in 1977.

Helter Skelter was erected in 1995 by Lancashire County Council as a "welcome to Blackpool" monument on the Ashworth Road Roundabout on Yeadon Way. Its sculptor was David Annand. It was removed in December 2015 after being hit on the 12th of the month by a Renault car being chased by police. The driver died and the statue was too badly damaged to restore.

Three carved *Portland stone Conch shells*, incorporating flat portions to serve as seating were installed in Birley Street. They were sculpted by Philip Bews in 1997.

Two sculptures of *Ballerinas* by David Annand were installed at the east end of Clifton Street in 1997.

Magician Richard De Vere and his dog Schnorbitz were commemorated with a bronze statue, erected in front of the Pleasure Beach Casino in 1997.

Welcome Home, a bronze statue by Anita Lafford, showing a mother with her daughter and their dog, waving their man off to sea, was erected near the Lifeboat Station on the Promenade at Fleetwood in 1998.

The statue of *Eros* was installed on the roundabout on Amounderness Way, Fleetwood in 1999, being an aluminium copy of the one in Piccadilly Circus in London. It was bought by the Lofthouse family of Fleetwood, and the original statue was replaced by one in bronze on the 14th of June 2006. Eros in Piccadilly was sculpted by Albert Scott and was cast by the Morris Singer Foundry in Lasham, Hampshire. The Fleetwood replacement was number 8 of 10 copies of the original in London and was only the second to be cast in bronze.

The *Children of Cypress Point*, a series of 25 bronze statues by artist Colin Spofforth, was placed around the new housing estate in St Anne's in 1999.

Acrobats, a sculpture by Glynn Williams, was erected in Bank Hey Street in 1999.

A sculpture of *A Seaside Postcard* by Judith Bluck was erected in the Pleasure Beach Park in 1999. It had been removed from its original site in the Hounds Hill Centre as being too risqué.

The *Fertility Statue* was unveiled at Ripley's "Believe it or Not Odditorium" on Ocean Boulevard in 1999.

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A statue of a traditional *Lytham Shrimper*, sculpted by Colin Spofforth, was unveiled in Lytham's Lowther Gardens Lake in 2003.

The *Great Promenade Show* comprises revolutionary sculptures and with background music supplied by local bands, such as The Corsairs, is located on the Promenade at South Shore. It comprises:

High Tide Organ by Liam Curtin and John Gooding – 2000
Eight large pipes connect from a 60metre stretch of the sea wall to a curved fin-like form on the promenade, which houses eighteen organ pipes. Air pressure from by incoming seawater produces a series of musical chords, varying in complexity and volume according to weather conditions.

Desire by Chris Knight – 2001
An abstract sculpture 8metres high, contrasting rusty steel with shiny stainless-steel spikes, it was inspired by Blackpool's reputation as a destination for 'dirty weekends', and its hidden fetish scene. It casts the shadow of a spiky heart on the promenade.

The Frankenstein Project by Tony Stallard – 2001
Like a sinister exhibit in one of Blackpool's Victorian freak shows, the skeleton of a killer whale made from pulsating dark blue neon can be viewed through portholes within a metal tank like a decompression chamber.

Water Wings by Bruce Williams – 2001
Designed to be viewed in motion from the adjacent tram track and road, the photographic image of a swimming child, laser cut into an 8meter long curved stainless-steel screen gradually resolves and disappears again as the viewer moves past.

Glam Rocks by Peter Freeman – 2001
This was inspired by Las Vegas and the Blackpool Illuminations. Three large pebble-like modelled shapes glitter after dark, as hundreds of fibre optic light points on their surfaces slowly change colour and sparkle.

They Shoot Horses, Don't They? By Michael Trainor – 2002
Blackpool is known as the *"ballroom capital of Britain"*, and this rotating glitterball, 6 metres in diameter and covered in almost 47,000 mirrors, has been claimed as the world's largest mirror ball, and is named after the 1969 film about a ballroom marathon. It was unveiled by Baron Isherwood on the 24th of October.

The Sound of the Wind Looks Like This by Stephen Hurrel – 2003
A circle of nine columns, three of which incorporate wind turbines and anemometers, and control the other six light columns that change colour with the direction and velocity of the wind.

Life as a Circus by Sir Peter Blake – 2004
Figures of circus entertainers cast in bronze reflect the artist's predilection for imagery from the world of fairground and circus entertainers, as well as the fact that Blackpool has the only permanent indoor circus in the UK. The artwork consists of two sculptures, *"Four Man Up*" and *"Equestrian Act"*. The two statues depict balancing acts as seen in a circus, of strongmen, horses, and a mermaid, each reaching around 10ft in height. The installation was vandalised in August

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2011, and reinstalled in June 2014, after being moulded in a material that is of no interest to vandals. The restored originals were then installed inside Bickerstaffe House in March 2015.

Swivelling Wind Shelters by Ian McChesney with Atelier One – 2004
Three 8-metre high, stainless steel shelters turn like weather vanes, keeping their occupants away from the prevailing wind. The graceful sculptural form of the shelters, shaped like whales' flukes, is structured like an aircraft wing, vibrating in strong gusts of wind.

Blackpool Rocks by Bruce McLean and William McLean – 2008
In sunlight, a 10-metre tall reflector tower captures the sun rays and directs them through a 5metre high prism. This casts a refracted rainbow of coloured light across seven stands on which boulders of varying sizes sit. The work is also designed to have a nocturnal presence, utilising artificial light.

"Daliesque" statues of *"L'Elephant-Giraffe"* and two *stilt walkers* were erected outside the Bling ride at the Pleasure Beach in 2004, being moved to the front of the Globe Theatre in 2005. They were designed and sculpted in-house by Dougie Stills and his team.

A bronze statue of footballer *Stanley Mortensen* was placed outside the Mortensen Stand at the Bloomfield Road stadium in 2005. It was made by local sculptor Peter Hodgkinson.

A six-foot bronze statue of the comedian *Les Dawson* by Graham Ibbeson was unveiled in the sunken gardens on St Anne's front on the 23rd of October 2008, by his widow Tracy and daughter Charlotte.

The *Choir Loft* beside the Cenotaph is a space for a choir to sing, constructed in white granite with a blue granite insert. The Insert bears text that reads *"Sing softly. Be still. Cease"* and the Dedication reads *"This memorial is dedicated to those who struggle for freedom in all conflicts, and those who remember them. It is sacred to all non-combatants who lay down their lives. Those who are forever still; we remember you. Violence is not the only strength"*. The work was designed by Ruth Barker as a permanent public memorial and opened at a ceremony on Veteran's Day 2008 by HRH the Duchess of Cornwall.

A life-sized statue of a *British Soldier* by Thompson Dagnall was erected on top of the Pill Box in the Woodland Gardens at Stanley Park in 2009.

The large *Hand* sculpture in polished vitreous glass mosaic by Shane Johnstone was erected at Carleton Baby Cemetery for the "SANDS" (Stillbirth and Neo-Natal Death Society) in 2009.

The Wave was installed in St John's Square in September 2009. It was designed by Lucy Glendinning to reflect Blackpool's coastal location and resort status. A giant curl of steel representing a breaking wave is studded with coloured resin inserts lit internally by LED colour change lights that give the sculpture a feel of constantly changing when seen from different angles. The top of the wave is pierced by a twice life size figure diving through it and which is internally lit.

A statue of footballer *Jimmy Armfield*, by Les Johnson, was placed on a plinth outside the Armfield Stand at the south-west corner of the Bloomfield Road Football ground on the 1st of May 2011.

The Mythical Coastline project was begun in Cleveleys in 2012. It comprised:

Sea Swallow Beacon
Fylde Coast Memorial

©

Golden Shell Blow Hole
Princess Mary Driftwood
Whirlpool Listening Shell
The Ogre and the Golden Seashell, along with a nine-metre Wooden Paddle were installed in September and October 2013, and

Mary's Shell - delivered on the 13th of September 2015. Its 8 metres long and 4 metres tall, and weighs 16 ½, with words from the story of the Sea Swallow etched inside. When the tide goes out, people can climb inside, to listen for the sounds of the sea and waves.

The *Fylde Coast Memorial* to lost ships was unveiled on the promenade at Cleveleys in June 2012. Known as The Shipwreck memorial, it is made of cast iron and lists the names of all ships wrecked there between 1643 and 2008. The names were laser-cut into the iron.

A statue of *Charlie Cairoli* by Brian Nicholson was unveiled in Stanley Park Rose Garden on the 21st of April 2013. Made from glass fibre to deter metal thieves, it was soon vandalised, and was removed on the 20th of July to be repaired and then re-sited inside Blackpool Tower on the 5th floor, where it was unveiled on the 3rd of October.

The *Blue Light memorial* to the emergency services, set on the edge of the sunken gardens at Gynn Square, was officially opened on the 27th of June 2013. The monument consists of four 6-foot-high figures representing the police, fire brigade, ambulance service, and Coastguard with linked hands, and was designed by Matthew Titherington.

A 5-foot-tall stainless-steel statue of artist *LS Lowry and his dog* was unveiled in Knott End in September 2015. It was created by apprentices at engineering and fabrication company WEC Group.

An 8-foot-tall bronzed statue of *Eric Morecambe and Ernie Wise*, cast to mark the 75th anniversary of the duo first appearing on stage together in 1941, was sculpted by Graham Ibbeson. It was unveiled in the domed entrance of the Winter Gardens, which is thought of as their "spiritual home" by those closest to them. It was revealed by the families of the duo on the 14th of October 2016.

A life-sized bronze statue of *Sir Peter Hesketh Fleetwood* was unveiled in Euston Gardens in Fleetwood on the 6th of May 2018. It was sculpted by Lancaster man Alan Ward, and sited on a sandstone block weighing around 1750kg. The sculpture weighs around 180kg. The edifice sits on a substantial concrete footing designed by a local structural engineer, as the load is located on sand and shale being so close to the sea. It contains a time capsule.

On the 18th of May 2017, a large statue was erected at Victoria Hospital to commemorate the hundreds of O*rgan Donors* that have helped the hospital. It was created by artist Stephen Broadbent, sculptor Adrian Wright, and poet Adele Robinson.

The *Kirkham Covenant* sculpture was installed on the 25th of September 2018, on Remembrance Way.

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Appendix R: Who was Mister Blackpool?

The original Mister Blackpool was undoubtedly Sir John Bickerstaffe. Many people however, associate the title with Reginald Dixon, the Tower organist from 1930 to 1970, and there have been many other "pretenders" to the crown (some being self-billed and quite laughable!), several of the main ones of whom I have listed below – in alphabetical order:

- Barry Morris – Director of Tourism, Blackpool Council, 1990s
- Basil Newby – Entrepreneur (real name Joseph Warren Basil Newby)
- Billy Fontaine – Comedian, 1990s
- Brian Crompton – Show business consultant and archivist, died 2001
- Brian Rossi – Singer and compere
- Charles Noden – Local Government official
- Doug Garrett – Chief executive of ReBlackpool, 2005
- Geoffrey Thompson – Chairman of the Pleasure Beach, died 2004
- Jack Taylor – Theatrical impresario, died 1964
- Jimmy Armfield - Footballer
- Joe Longthorne – Singer, born 1955
- Johnny Galimore (Gally) – Cabaret performer and Landau driver, died 2012
- Josef Locke – Singer, born 1917
- Phil Kelly – Singer, died 2006
- Phil Kelsall – Tower Organist since 1975
- Reginald Dixon – Tower Organist
- Trevor Hemmings – Businessman and Tower owner, born 1937

Alys Milner of Thornton was known as the *"Face of Blackpool"* during the 1930s.

Brian London was known as *"The Blackpool Rock"*, as was footballer Eddie Shimwell.

Carl Myerscough is known as *"The Blackpool Tower"*.

Elaine Smith gained the nickname *"Mrs Blackpool"* for her work with the Civic Society.

Henry Banks was known as *"the Father of Blackpool".*

James Parrott was known as the *"Grand Old Man of Blackpool"*.

Jean Bennett was known as the *"Blackpool Belle".*

Pat Mancini was known as the *"Queen of Blackpool"* during her tenure at the Queens Hotel.

Stan Mortensen was nick-named the *"Blackpool Bombshell".*

Stephen Blackpool is a well-known character in Charles Dickens' novel Hard Times.

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Appendix S:
Filmed about or in Blackpool, Fylde, and Wyre

Many films which featured Blackpool have been made for showing in cinemas. These include the following:

1913 "Blackpool – The Coney Island of England" an American documentary.

1917 "Bunkered at Blackpool" a silent film starring Harry Lauder featured scenes from all over Blackpool.

1918 "Hindle Wakes" starred Colette O'Neill and Norman McKinnon and was filmed in the Palace Ballroom, the Tower, and the Pleasure Beach. It was remade three times for the cinema and once for television.

1926 "Hindle Wakes" starred Estelle Brody and Peggy Carlisle and was filmed in the Pleasure Beach.

1927 "The Champions" filmed Preston Ladies' Football Club, the World Champions, training on the beach and in South Shore Baths.

1927 "A Minute with the Midgets" was filmed at the Tower

1929 "The Three Kings" was a circus film, made in the Tower Circus and at the Pleasure Beach during 1927 and 1928, starring John Hamilton and Evelyn Holt, and directed by Hans Steinhof. *"At a circus in Blackpool, a violent rivalry breaks out between two of the performers over a woman"*.

1930 "No Lady" was shot at the Pleasure Beach. *"A comedy film directed by Lupino Lane. While on a family holiday in Blackpool, a mild-mannered man is mistaken for an international spy"*.

1931 "Hindle Wakes" was shot partly on location at the Pleasure Beach, starring Edmund Gwenn, Sybil Thorndike, Belle Chrystall, and Mary Clare.

1931 "City of Pleasure" was based on Arnold Bennett's 1907 story, and filmed in town and at the Pleasure Beach.

1934 "Sing as We Go" starred Gracie Fields and was partly filmed at the Tower Circus.

1937 "Cotton Queen" starred Will Fyffe and Stanley Holloway and was filmed around the Pleasure Beach. Also known as Crying Out Loud, this is a comedy film, whose setting *"was an attempt to capitalise on the popularity of the George Formby series of films".*

1941 "Love on the Dole" starred Deborah Kerr and Clifford Evans and was partly filmed around Blackpool.

1943 "They met in the Dark" starred James Mason and was partly filmed in Blackpool.

1947 "Dick Barton Strikes Back" starred Don Stannard and Sebastian Cabot and featured a fight scene on the Tower.

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1947 "Dual Alibi" starred Herbert Lom and was partly shot in the Tower Circus. *"A top French acrobatic act, the de Lisle twins, are hired by a British promoter to perform in his Blackpool show. While they are working there one of the twins falls in love with a cigarette girl"*.

1948 "Holidays with Pay" starred Frank Randle and Tessie O'Shea and was filmed in and around Blackpool. The Rogers family visit Blackpool for their annual holidays, and can't find rooms. They are befriended by a wealthy young man who takes them to stay in his haunted mansion.

1949 "Forbidden" starred Douglas Montgomery, Andrew Cruikshank, and Patricia Burke, and was filmed in various streets with a finale at the Tower. Trained chemist Jim Harding is reduced to making a living peddling potions and medicines from a fairground stall with colleague Dan Collins.

1949 "Warner Bros. Sports Parade 5507" Covers the traditional outdoor activities in Britain, including boat races, grouse hunting, sheep-dog contests, horse racing, and motor hill-climbing. It ends with the day at Blackpool, the English version of Coney Island.

1952 "Hindle Wakes" starred Sandra Dorne, Leslie Dwyer, and Joan Hickson was part filmed at the Pleasure Beach and the Tower Ballroom.

1960 "The Entertainer" starred Laurence Olivier and although set in Blackpool, **was actually filmed in Morecambe.**

1960 "Playground Spectacular" featured Bruce Forsyth extolling the virtues of Blackpool as Britain's best holiday destination.

1961 "A Taste of Honey" starred Rita Tushingham and was filmed at the Pleasure Beach and the beach.

1961 "Il Mondo di Notte" a documentary on side show acts featured Blackpool amongst other locations

1962 "A Kind of Loving" starred Alan Bates and June Ritchie (from Blackpool), and was partly filmed on St Anne's promenade.

1967 "The Cuckoo Patrol" starred Freddy and the Dreamers, and the starting scenes were filmed in Blackpool, as the group were in Summer Season

1969 "Sling Your Hook" in the BBC's Wednesday Play series followed a group of Nottingham miners on a trip to Blackpool.

1972 "Nearest and Dearest" starred Hylda Baker and Jimmy Jewel on holiday in Blackpool, and featured filming on Tyldesley Road and the Pleasure Beach.

1974 "The Town from the Sand" was specially commissioned by Gabriel Harrison, then Chairman of the St Anne's on the Sea Land and Building Company, to mark the town's centenary. The film had its premiere at the Dorchester Hotel in London, followed by a northern premiere at Studio One Cinema in St Anne's. BBC TV filmed a "Nationwide" report during the making of the film.

1975 "Blackpool by the Sea" was a documentary directed by Heather Holden.

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1975 "The Evacuees" by Jack Rosenthal starred Maureen Lipman and Ray Mort. It was filmed in and around Blackpool, St Anne's, and Lytham.

1976 "Second City Firsts: Summer Season" starred Paul Shane and was set in Blackpool.

1976 "Edgar Wallace: The man who made his name" a drama documentary, was partly filmed at Blackpool Pleasure Beach.

1977 "Valentino" starred Rudolph Nureyev and was partly filmed in the Tower Ballroom and the circus.

1980 "The Great British Striptease" was filmed in Blackpool, starring stripper Lisa Taylor and comedian Bernard Manning.

1983 "Slayground" starred Peter Coyote, Mel Smith, and Billie Whitelaw and was partly filmed at the Pleasure Beach.

1985 "Number One" starred Bob Geldof and featured his snooker player character playing in Blackpool

1987 "Treacle" starred Stephen Tompkinson and Freddie Davies and was filmed in town.

1988 "Angel Voices" a BBC play was about a trip to Blackpool by a boys' choir. It starred Alan Rothwell.

1990 "Oranges are not the only fruit" starred Charlotte Coleman and Catherine Bradshaw and was partly filmed in Blackpool.

1990 "Coasting: Blackpool Rock" starred Peter Howitt and was filmed around the Pleasure Beach.

1992 "Bossanova Blues" was set in Blackpool and featured three young people who were thought to be Irish terrorists.

1993 "UFO" starred Roy "Chubby" Brown. Chubby is captured by a gang of feminist aliens from the 25th century and beamed up to their spaceship during his live show in Blackpool.

1993 "Tomorrow Calling" was a Short and Curlies presentation shot in Blackpool and Pinewood with Colin Salmon and Toyah Wilcox.

1993 "The Last Dance" was a film by Colin Nutley about a young Swedish couple involved in a ballroom dancing love story. It was filmed in Stockholm, Blackpool, and Barbados.

1993 "Sista Dansen" a Danish-Norwegian-Swedish film directed by Colin Nutley about a murder at the Blackpool Dance Festival.

1994 "Funny Bones" starred Lee Evans, Jerry Lewis, and Lesley Caron, and was directed by local man Peter Chelsom at the Tower Circus, the Pleasure Bach and on the beach.

1994 "Bahji on the Beach" starred Jimi Harkishin and Kim Vithana, and was directed by Gurinder Chadha, being filmed on Blackpool beach.

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1994 "Seaview Knights" starred James Bolam in a fantasy about a man who has a painting fall on his head while asleep in a Blackpool guesthouse.

1995 "Dreamtown" was written by and starred David Thewlis. Thewlis returned to the town of his childhood visiting the anatomical exhibitions at the waxwork museum, the Pleasure Beach, the Tower Ballroom and the Odditorium.

1996 "Shall We Dansu" a Japanese film, which closes with a scene at the World Ballroom Dancing Championships in Blackpool. The 2004 remake, "Shall we Dance", starring Richard Gere and Jennifer Lopez does not show the town as Ms Lopez – diva extraordinaire – refused to come to Blackpool.

1996 "Married to Malcolm" starred Mark Addy and Josie Lawrence and was partly shot in Blackpool, where Addy played a karaoke-singing taxi driver.

1996 "Bob's Weekend" starred Bruce Jones, Ricky Tomlinson, and Brain Glover. It was filmed around town and at North Pier, where Jones's character thinks about suicide.

1998 "Like It Is" starred Roger Daltrey and Steve Bell. Opening scenes were filmed in the Flamingo club.

1999 "Whatever Happened to Harold Smith" starred Tom Courtenay and Vince Smith in a film about psychic powers and love in the 1970s. It featured the Pleasure Beach.

1999 "Adult Lives" - Bradford People worked with BBC 2 to make a documentary about relationships and sexuality of people with learning disabilities. The documentary was filmed in Blackpool and screened on TV the following year.

1999 "Strippers" was a documentary filmed about life in Images Table Dancing Club.

2001 "The Parole Officer" starred Steve Coogan as a Blackpool Parole Officer.

2001 "Vacuuming Completely Nude in Paradise" was partly filmed in Blackpool. It starred Timothy Spall as a vacuum salesman.

2001 "Tina takes a break" this TV film is about *"Tina wanting to take her kids on holiday to Blackpool unfortunately, she is arrested after a failed robbery attempt to raise the funds. The kids get hold of a bag of money left by a local drug dealer for Tina's other half to look after. They use this to fund their trip to Blackpool, parent-free"*.

2002 "The Quest" starred David Jason and Roy Hudd reminiscing about their youth on holiday in Blackpool and the Lake District. Partly filmed at the Renton Guest House on Rigby Road.

2001 "Heartlands" starred Michael Sheen, Celia Imrie, Mark Addy, Ruth Jones, and Paul Shane. A comedy about a man who has always been content to settle for the simpler things in life, until his wife runs off with the captain of his Sheffield darts team.

2003 "My Family and Autism" this documentary about the Jackson family was partly filmed in Blackpool.

2004 "Punch" starred Suranne Jones and Jeff Hordley running a burger bar on the beach.

©

2005 "If I Never Sing Another Song" Capturing Joe Longthorne on and off stage, the documentary follows Joe through his 2004 Spring Tour and his 9-week Summer Spectacular in Blackpool.

2005 "Heatwave" starred mainly unknown actors, but narrated by Bernard Hill, and was filmed partly at the Pleasure Beach.

2005 "Douglas Byrne: Freelance Journalist" was filmed in and around Lancashire, about a journalist who invented a story about a seagull stealing Blackpool Tower.

2005 "Madrasi" – an International Indian Production: filmed on location in Blackpool and Lancaster.

2006 "Mobile" an ITV drama about mobile phone related murders, was partly filmed at Weeton Barracks.

2006 "Viva Blackpool" – a one-off sequel to "Blackpool", starring David Morrisey.

2007 "Boy A" Jack Burridge (Andrew Garfield) is released from prison and, with the help of his case worker Terry (Peter Mullan), sets about trying to leave his past behind.

2007 "Super Casino" was filmed around Blackpool and is about Blackpool's bid for Super Casino status.

2008 "Reflections" directed by Ashok Baker is a story about three Blackpool students.

2008 "Tough Justice" directed by Peter Hallett, is a martial arts thriller filmed in Blackpool.

2008 "The consolation of Children" In the wake of his death, the two survivors of English ventriloquist, Arthur Worsley (1920-2001), incorporate his dummy into their daily lives in Blackpool.

2009 "Nowhere Man" a film about the life of John Lennon and starring Kristin Scott-Thomas and Anne-Marie Duff, was partly filmed in Trafalgar Road in Blackpool.

2009 "Blackpool, Joe" a short film by Kate Murphy, about an old lady and her pet, was filmed in Blackpool.

2009 "Can you bank on me?" a short feature, filmed at the Queens Hotel, South Promenade.

2011 "Best Little Whorehouse in Rochdale" a comedy filmed in Rochdale and Blackpool.

2013 "The Harry Hill Movie" was filmed in June on the beach, promenade, Central Pier, Pleasure Beach and in the Tower.

2014 "Rock" a short film starring Michelle Collins was filmed around Blackpool in August.

2014 "Playing with Fire" was a gangster film shot in Blackpool, rapidly followed by episode 2.

2015 "Away" was partly filmed on the Comedy Carpet, North Pier, and in the Cliffs Hotel in March, starring Timothy Spall and Juno Temple.

©

2015 "Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children" A Hollywood film by director Tim Burton was shot in May at the Tower, on the Promenade, and on North Pier, starring Samuel L Jackson, Dame Judi Dench, Eva Green, Chris O'Dowd, Terrence Stamp, and Rupert Everett. Opening scenes were shot in Kirkham.

2015 "A Monster Calls" starring Liam Neeson and Sigourney Weaver was partly shot at the Pleasure Beach and at North Pier.

2016 "Little Boy Blue" a drama about the murder of Liverpool lad Rhys Evans was partly filmed at the Pleasure Beach, which was portrayed in the film as being Disneyland in Florida.

2017 "Away" a film starring Timothy Spall and Juno Temple was filmed almost entirely in Blackpool and the Fylde coast.

2017 "Eaten by Lions" a comedy in the vein of a contemporary East Is East-type story, was filmed in Blackpool and St Anne's, by Manchester-based director Jason Wingard. It featured Blackpool-born actress Hayley Tamaddon, and comedian Johnny Vegas – as a cross dressing B&B owner.

2017 "The Phantom Thread" a film starring Daniel Day Lewis came to the Tower Ballroom, to shoot a glittering party sequence.

2017 "Murder on The Blackpool Express" TV channel Gold, filmed this comedy drama about a coach driver in town during June and July, for broadcast on the 11th of November. It stars Johnny Vegas, Sian Gibson, Nigel Havers, and Una Stubbs. It was filmed using the Holm-Lea Hotel on Palatine Road in April, and featured various town shots

2018 "The More You Ignore Me" Sheridan Smith and Jo Brand filmed many parts of this comedy film in and around Blackpool and in Great Eccleston from the 7th to the 13th of November 2016. Game of Thrones actor Mark Addy played Smith's on-screen husband Keith, and Sheila Hancock played Alice's grandmother

2018 "Redcon-1" This film, starring Oris Erhuero, Carlos Gallardo, and Mark Strange was partly filmed around the Fylde coast and especially on St Anne's beach. After a deadly viral outbreak in England, an elite squad of special forces soldiers must infiltrate a quarantine zone to rescue a scientist who holds the only cure to save mankind. Filmed for Amazon Prime.

2020 "Cinderella" a live-action film of this old fairy story was filmed partly in the Tower Ballroom from the 2nd of March for 7 days. It will star singer Camilla Cabello, James Corden, Pierce Brosnan, and Minnie Driver. The film is *"writer-director Kay Cannon's re-telling of "Cinderella" for Sony Pictures. Cabello will be involved in the music for the project, which grew out of an original idea from James Corden. The film will be produced by Corden and Leo Pearlman through their Fulwell73 banner"*.

In addition to the above, the town has been used as the setting for many television series, such as:

- **Come Dancing** (from 1949 to 1998) from the Tower Ballroom, amongst other UK venues
- **Wilfred Pickles invites you to Blackpool** (1951) Wilfred Pickles introduced the FIRST Television programme from Blackpool. There was a glimpse of the illuminations, followed by half-an-hour of fun with Blackpool folk, and with North-country miners and their families at the Miners' Convalescent Home. It was screened by the BBC on the 16th of October

©

- **From the North** (1951) Wynford Vaughan Thomas broadcast from a ringside seat for a special performance of part of the Tower Circus on the BBC on the 19th of October
- **The Memory Man** (1951) Leslie Welch demonstrated his remarkable memory for sporting data as members of the Blackpool and Arsenal FA Cup teams put their questions on the BBC
- **Holiday Town Saturday Night** (1956) ABC broadcast the first of these variety shows "live" from the Central Working Men's Club on the 1st of September
- **Blackpool Night** (1958)
- **Blackpool Show Parade** (1959) by the BBC from the Grand on the 19th of June
- **Coronation Street** (1961) - its first ever outside broadcast was recorded in Blackpool in April and shown on the 22nd of May. The show also showed an episode on the 16th of October, where residents visited the Illuminations
- **Putting on The Donegan** (1963)
- **Big Night Out** (1964) from the ABC
- **BBC Master bowls** (1966) the BBC began to film this competition from the Waterloo until 1970
- **Blackpool Night Out** (1964) from the 5th of July until the 8th of September at the ABC
- **Blackpool Night Out** (1965) from the ABC
- **The Blackpool Show** (16 shows between June 1966 and August 1967)
- **BBC Crown Green Masters** (1972) the BBC relaunched their Waterloo bowls competition
- **Top Crown** (1973) from now until 1979, this BBC series began to be broadcast from the Waterloo
- **Odd Man Out** (1977)
- **Paul Daniels' Blackpool Bonanza** (1978) Granada filmed the live shows from the Norbreck Castle from the 16th of June to the 3rd of September
- **Rising Stars** (1979) from the ABC with Arthur Askey
- **BBC Top Pairs** (1980) the BBC tried their Top Crown recipe again from the Waterloo
- **Summertime Special** (1981)
- **Airline** (1982) this TV series was filmed in and around Blackpool Airport, with some supplementary scenes being filmed in Lytham
- **Seaview** (1983) was filmed in a Blackpool guest house. The 6-part BBC children's series starred Aaron Brown, Yvette Fielding, Maggie Ollerenshaw, and David Gooderson. It was first screened on the 20th of February 1985
- **The Embassy Champion of Champions** (1983) ITV televised this bowls from the Waterloo
- **Lost Empires** (1986)
- **The Crown Challenge** (1987) this bowls competition was filmed by ITV, live from Marton Institute
- **Coasting (**1990)
- **The Wetter the Better** (1990) from the Sandcastle
- **September Song** (1993)
- **Bass Master Bowls** (1994) Granada TV started filming this bowls championship from the Waterloo
- **Funny Girls - Serious Business** (1995) ITV filmed a 6-part series on the local gay nightclub
- **Pleasure Beach** (1998) a six-part series filmed in 1997
- **The Entertainers** (2002)
- **Ted and Alice** (2002)
- **Blackpool** (known as Viva Blackpool in America) (2004)
- **Heatwave** (2005)
- **Funland** (2005) filmed on Bond Street
- **Hotel on Sea** (2005)
- **Blackpool Medics** (2007 and 2008) from Victoria Hospital

©

- **Red Riding Trilogy** (2008) for Channel 4 – based on the best-selling David Peace novels
- **Blackpool on Film** (2010) a BBC4 documentary featuring new and historical scenes
- **Backstage Blackpool** (2011) for Sky TV – a 12–week series showing behind the curtain of the Blackpool entertainment scene
- **999: What's Your Emergency?** (2012) a Channel 4 documentary series followed all three emergency services around the resort
- **Blackpool Big Night Out** (2012) a history of Blackpool's entertainment was screened on BBC2 on Boxing Day
- **Summer in Blackpool** (2013) The BBC screened a 1-hour documentary in January featuring local people working to keep the town at the top of the tourism game
- **Testing Britain's Worst Drivers - Crash Course** (2014) ITV filmed Jason, a local lad for a one-off documentary screened on the 16th of July
- **Hot Tub Britain** (2014) this ITV series, shown in September, followed staff from Blackpool company the Hot Tub Store as they carried out their duties
- **Saving Lives at Sea** (2016) the BBC filmed this series about the Blackpool RNLI volunteers in March and April, to screen in July
- **Bargain Loving Brits** (2017) Channel 5's six-part documentary series features various local business owners, not only in Blackpool, but in Lytham and Great Eccleston. It first screened on the 26th of October

Blackpool has also been featured regularly in one-off episodes of many other TV shows, such as the soaps Coronation Street, EastEnders, Emmerdale, Where the Heart is and Brookside, as well as several one-off programmes of series, such as:

- **The Symbol of Entertainment Supreme** (1950) was filmed at various theatres around Blackpool and featured stars such as Nat Jackley
- **Blackpool Tower Circus** (1951) an excerpt from the show was broadcast by the BBC on the 16th of October
- **Blackpool Tower Circus** (1952) an excerpt from the show was broadcast by the BBC on the 6th of May
- **Olympic Swimming Trials** (1952) the BBC broadcast two slots from the Derby Baths on the 14th of June
- **The Secret Garden** (1952) as part of an 8-part series on the BBC, at 5.30 to 6.0 on the 17th of June, The Tower Children's Ballet performed "Happy Days", a ballet produced by Annette
- **Beside the Seaside** (1952) on the 4th of August, Reginald Dixon performed at the organ of the Tower Ballroom
- **Northern Amateur Snooker Championships** (1953) on the 4th of March, the BBC filmed the final from the Tower. The final was followed by an exhibition game featuring Fred Davis, the world professional match play champion
- **Stars at Blackpool** (1953) the BBC filmed the show from the Palace Theatre
- **Boxing at Blackpool Tower** (1953) On the 7th of March, one of Johnny Beat's weekly BBC promotions featured the principal fight: the ten-round welterweight contest between Leslie McKenzie, the Welterweight Champion of South Africa, and Tommy Hinson of Dagenham
- **The FA Cup Final** (1953) On the 2nd of May, the BBC televised this Blackpool versus Bolton Wanderers final from the Empire Stadium, Wembley
- **International Swimming** (1953) on the 27th of June, the BBC showed the match between Great Britain and Holland from the Derby Baths

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- **Stars at Blackpool** (1953) The BBC filmed this show on the 3rd of July and the 28th of August from the Palace Ballroom
- **The Royal Show** (1953) On the 6th and 7th of July, the BBC transmitted coverage of the show from East Park Drive, with commentary by Alfred Hall, and presented by Derek Burrell-Davis
- **The Love Match** (1953) On the 30th of August, the BBC showed a special performance before an invited audience from the stage of the Grand Theatre, Blackpool, starring Arthur Askey
- **The National Swimming and Diving Championships** (1953) BBC Television broadcast three programmes from Derby Baths on the 4th and 5th of September
- **Blackpool Illuminations Switch On** (1953) the BBC filmed two programmes on the 9th of September
- **International Men's Hockey** (1954) on the 10th of April, the BBC showed the match between England and Ireland live from Stanley Park
- **Top Town** (1954) on the 15th of April, the BBC featured a football match in Manchester, between Blackpool and Bristol. Blackpool, led by Stanley Matthews challenged a Bristol team led by Test Pilot Bill Pegg. Also, in the programme was a team of local show artists, including singer Lucille Millwall
- **Stars at Blackpool** (1954) on the 15th of July, the BBC showed Terry –Thomas, Nat Jackley, Anne Shelton, The Kordites, Arthur Worsley, Jeffrey Lenner, The Falcons, and the Voices of Vernons, introduced by Marianne Lincoln from the Spanish Hall at the Winter Gardens
- **The Blackpool Story** (1954) On the 3rd of August, the BBC screened Allan Prior's documentary programme showing the growth of a great seaside resort
- **Stars at Blackpool** (1954) On the 15th of September, the BBC screened another show, this time starring Charlie Cairoli and Paul Esterella, Joan Turner, The Kentones, Frank Randle, Viviane and Tassi, Reg Varney, and The Four Ramses from the Spanish Hall
- **Modern Swimming Lessons** (1954) was filmed by the BBC on the 17th of September at Derby Baths, showing a class of children give a demonstration of land-drill, water practice, and figure floating
- **The National Swimming and Diving Championships** (1954) were again screened from Derby Baths by the BBC on the 17th and 18th of September
- **Music from Blackpool** (1954) On the 1st of October, the BBC screened the Northern Variety Orchestra, conducted by Alyn Ainsworth with Ronald Rogers, Nick Lundon and Pat Lundon,
- The Kordites, and Josef Locke
- **Fabian of the Yard: The Man from Blackpool** (1955) was filmed, partly in Blackpool, by the BBC and shown on the 4th of May
- **Holiday Hotel** (1955) a BBC programme broadcast from the Norbreck Hydro
- **Holiday** (1956) a documentary by Peter Hennessey
- **Holiday Town Parade** (1956-62) a TV Talent Show and beauty competition was regularly filmed in Blackpool
- **Sunday Night at Blackpool** (1956) ATV filmed at the Hippodrome on the 1st, 8th, 15th, and 22nd of July, the 5th, 12th, 19th and 26th of August, and the 2nd of September
- **Holiday** (1957) a travel documentary by Edgar Anstey
- **Seeing Sport** (1957) a sports programme from the Metropole and Bispham Court Riding School
- **Revels of 1957** (1957) Nat Jackley stared in clips from various Blackpool shows
- **Meet the Stars: Sunday Night at Blackpool** (1957) ITV filmed on the 30th of June, 7th of July, 14th of July, 21st of July, 28th of July, 4th of August, 18th of August, 25th of August, 1st of September, and the 8th of September
- **Blackpool Show Parade** (1957, 1959, and 1960) Three episodes were filmed, starring Jimmy Clitheroe in 1957, and then Morecambe and Wise in 1959 and 1960
- **Sunday Night at Blackpool Tower Circus** (1958) ATV filmed on the 7th of September

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- **British Open Golf** (1958) the BBC broadcast the championships from the Royal Lytham and St Anne's Golf Club
- **Blackpool** (1959) in the TV documentary series Farson's Guide to the British, by Daniel Farson
- **Sunday Night at Blackpool Tower Circus** (1959) ATV filmed on the 25th of October
- **The Ken Dodd Show** (1959) one show was broadcast "live" from the Opera House
- **Golf: The Dunlop Tournament** (1959) the BBC broadcast the championships from the Royal Lytham and St Anne's Golf Club in May
- **Playground Spectacular** (1960) Harold Baim films toured Blackpool and featured many local attractions and stars. The film was shown on Sky Arts in November 2012
- **Coronation Street** (1961) the first episode to feature an outside broadcast, showing the Whit Monday picnic, was filmed around town and up the Tower, and the second was filmed in front of a back projection of the beach
- **Blackpool Summer Show** (1961) was filmed at the Orion Theatre in Cleveleys
- **The Jo Stafford Show** (1961) ATV filmed part of one show in Blackpool
- **Sunday Night at Blackpool Tower Circus** (1961) ATV filmed on the 3rd of September
- **Sportsview** (1961) the BBC broadcast the Ryder Cup match between Britain and the USA from the Royal Lytham and St Anne's Golf Club in October
- **You'll See Stars** (1962) broadcast from the Queen's Theatre in August
- **Blackpool Tower Circus** (1962) filmed twice by ATV (27th of May and 28th of October)
- **Tinga and Tucker** (1962) ATV filmed one episode at the Pleasure Beach with Cliff Richard
- **Coronation Street** (1963) Len Fairclough takes Elsie Tanner on a romantic break
- **British Open Golf** (1963) the BBC broadcast the championships from the Royal Lytham and St Anne's Golf Club in July
- **World Championship of Golf** (1963) filmed at North Shore Golf Club in July
- **Chronicle** (1963) the US TV episode on the 30th of October featured Charles Collingwood covering life in Blackpool
- **Armchair Theatre** (1964) Allan Prior wrote a trilogy of teleplays, the common theme being the people of Blackpool and its Golden Mile. The first, "They throw it at you" starred Julia Foster, Megs Jenkins, Lennard Pearce, and Jack Smethurst, and was broadcast on October 25th. The second, "The Girl in the Picture", introduced Nicola Pagett and give a TV debut to Peter Purves. The third was broadcast in January 1965, and was "I've Got a System", starring Derek Francis, Avis Bunnage, Keith Baxter, and Kika Markham
- **Adam Adamant** (1966) an episode called "Death has a Thousand Faces"
- **It's a Knockout** (1966) was broadcast live from the Open-Air Baths and Promenade car park at St Anne's on the 21st of August – Lytham beat Fleetwood
- **It's a Knockout** (1966) was broadcast live from Blackpool South Shore baths on the 4th of September. Blackpool played Lytham St Anne's in the national final.
- **The Ken Dodd Show** (1966) was filmed live in Blackpool on the 24th of July.
- **It's a Knockout** (1967) the Lytham St Anne's team won at Fairhaven Lake on the 14th of May, beating Southport
- **Jeux Sans Frontiers (It's A Knockout)** (1967) the international final was filmed at South Shore Baths and on the beach on the 23rd of August
- **Let's Away** (1967) The BBC showed this programme on the 21st of August from Pontin's New Blackpool Holiday Camp. It featured host Alan Weeks introducing archery, with Charlie Chester, swimming, with Freddie and The Dreamers, and spots from the Caravelles, with special guests, Dandy Nichols, Hugh Lloyd, Jimmy Thompson, and Ann Sidney. The camp orchestra was directed by Geoff Alderson

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- **It's a Knockout** (1968) was filmed in Blackpool on the 19th of May
- **International Golf** (1968) BBC2 filmed match number 4 in the USA versus the World – Phil Rodgers versus Bob Charles at Royal Lytham and St Anne's Golf Club on the 19th of January
- **Nearest and Dearest** (1969) program 2 of series 2 was set and filmed in Blackpool
- **The Granada Roadshow** (1969) an episode was filmed at North Pier, featuring the songs of the Houghton Weavers
- **British Open Golf** (1969) The BBC covered the championship live from Royal Lytham in July
- **Jeux Sans Frontieres (It's a Knockout)** (1969) the international final was filmed at South Shore Baths on the 3rd of September
- **Quiz Ball** (1970) a Blackpool Football Club team of Jimmy Armfield, Glynn James and manager Jim Meadows competed against Crystal Palace
- **Grandstand** (1970) on the 29th of August, the BBC covered the Wills World Sandyachting Championships from St Anne's beach
- **Blackpool by the sea** (1970) a BBC documentary
- **Sport on Two** (1970) The BBC covered the Dunlop Masters Golf from Royal Lytham St Anne's from the 12th of September
- **It's A Knockout** (1971) the Blackpool team won heat 6 at South Shore Baths on the 18th of August. They went on to win the final in Germany
- **Coronation Street** (1971) Ken Barlow and Yvonne Chappell have a weekend away
- **Coronation Street** (1971) Dave Smith took Minnie Caldwell to Blackpool beach when visiting the town for Minnie's birthday
- **Circuses** (1971) the BBC filmed at Blackpool Tower Circus on the 21st of October
- **Ernie's First £50,000** (1971) BBC1 on the 2nd of August, showed the live draw for Britain's biggest ever Premium Bonds prize
- **Circuses** (1972) the BBC filmed at Blackpool Tower Circus on the 27th of August
- **Family at War** (1972) parts were filmed at Squires Gate
- **Blackpool Tower Circus** (1973) highlights of the year's show were filmed by the BBC
- **Morning Service** (1973) This BBC programme was broadcast live from Cleveleys Park Methodist Church on the 5th of August, and was conducted by the Reverend Wilfred Green
- **Songs of Praise** (1973) was broadcast live from Cleveleys Park Methodist Church on the 10th of August. The Prayer and Blessing were read by the Reverend Wilfird Green, local choirs were conducted by John Stalker, and the organist was Douglas King
- **Wheeltapper and Shunters Social Club** (1974) one episode filmed at Layton Institute
- **Holiday** (1974) an episode was filmed by the BBC asking pensioners to compare holidays in Blackpool and Benidorm
- **British Open Golf** (1974) the BBC broadcast the championships live from the Royal Lytham St Anne's club in July
- **Why Don't You** (1975) an episode was filmed showing a boy looking around the Rigby Road depot
- **Seaside Special** (1975) on the 19th of July, starring Ken Dodd and his Diddymen, Dana, Neville King, Wild Honey, and compere David Hamilton, was filmed at Gerry Cottle's Circus on the Central Station site, with sections at the Pleasure Beach
- **Seaside Special** (1975) starring Mike and Bernie Winters, The Three Degrees, and Peter Gordeno and New Edition was also filmed in Blackpool, later in the year
- **The Spinners in Blackpool** (1975) The music group filmed a dedicated Blackpool episode
- **Blackpool Tower Circus** (1975) The BBC filmed and entire show on the 25th of August. Ringmaster Norman Barrett introduced Mary Chipperfield with her tigers, leopards and lions, Charlie Cairoli and

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Company, the "cyclobatic" Five Bertinis, the Monkey Derby, juggler Kris Kremo, trapeze artists, the Marilee Flyers, and the Tower Circus Fountain Finale with the Skating Rolwoods

- **The Dick Emery Show** (1976) two episodes filmed on the Promenade and at Norbreck
- **Hindle Wakes** (1976) a TV film starring Donald Pleasence
- **Waterloo Handicap Bowls** (1976) this year the BBC began broadcasting the final. The winner this year was local chap Keith Illingworth
- **Seaside Special** (1976) was filmed from Gerry Cottle's Circus on the 19th of June at Blackpool, starring Wendy Richard, Mollie Sugden, Frank Thornton, John Inman, (all from Are You Being Served?), Showaddywaddy, Charlie Cairoli, Tony Blackburn, and The Goodies
- **Songs of Praise** (1976) The BBC broadcast live from Lytham Methodist Church on the 20th of July. It was introduced by Geoffrey Wheeler, and hymns were Ye servants of God (Laudate Dominum), Soldiers of Christ, arise (From strength to strength), Spread the table of the Lord (Culbach), Away with our fears (Ardwick), How shall I sing (Soli's Sein), And can it be (Sagina), How beauteous are their feet (Day of praise), and Captain of Israel's host (Marienlyst). The conductor was Nora Kirby and the organ was played by Frank Dickinson, with the Prayer and Blessing by the Revered Gordon Farkhouse
- **Circuses** (1976) the BBC filmed at Blackpool Tower Circus on the 27th of August
- **Seaside Special** (1976) on the 17th of July starred Al Dean, Rod Hull, and Emu, Little and Large, and New Edition. The show's dancers also filmed at the Italian Gardens in Stanley Park
- **Jeux Sans Frontieres (It's a Knockout)** (1976) the international final of the BBC competition was held in South Shore Baths on the 22nd of September
- **Get Some In** (1977) episode 3 of season 4 featured a trip to Blackpool
- **George and Mildred** (1977) the episode "the right way to travel" was partly filmed in Blackpool
- **Super Crystalate UK Championship Final** (1977) this snooker was filmed at the Tower Circus
- **Songs of Praise** (1978) was broadcast from St John's Church
- **World in Action: On Site** (1978) Granada TV's Ray Gosling filmed an episode in Blackpool and Fleetwood on the 6th of July
- **Star Town: Star Town Gala** (1978) was filmed by the BBC using Blackpool as a link
- **BBC Rising Stars** (1979) and episode of the talent show was filmed at the ABC on the 7th of November. It was won by local singer Jacqui Scott.
- **Seaside Special** (1979) was filmed in Blackpool on the 14th of July, starring Little and Large, and Mick Miller
- **Seaside Special** (1979) was filmed again on the 28th of July with Angels, Ken Dodd and his Diddymen, and the Brother Lees
- **Introduction to Blackpool Tower and Pleasure Beach** (1979) was filmed, presented by Ken Dodd
- **Wish You Were Here** (1979) Judith Chalmers examined Blackpool tourism facilities
- **Life on Earth** (1979) David Dimbleby's documentary feature on Potaroos was filmed at Blackpool Zoo as none could be found in their native Australia
- **British Open Golf** (1979) The BBC broadcast the championships live from Royal Lytham St Anne's Golf Club from the 19th of July
- **Fred Dibnah: Steeplejack** (1979) one episode showed Fred and family on "holiday" in Blackpool, when Fred demolished a local chimney. Dibnah also filmed at the Pleasure Beach on the 2nd of July 1980 and on the Big One ride in 1998
- **Clapperboard** (1979) Granada TV Reporter Chris Kelly filmed in Blackpool in February
- **Coronation Street** (1980) Rita Sullivan and Len Fairclough discuss their marriage whilst walking on the beach

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- **Jim'll Fix It** (1980) a feature for the Jimmy Saville BBC show was filmed at the Pleasure Beach, when a group of scouts rode the Revolution eating ice cream (this was filmed again in 2007 for a **"Jim'll Fix It Strikes Again"** show, featuring the same people as adults)
- **Morning Service** (1981) In June, Granada Television broadcast this live from the Victoria Chapel
- **Jack of Diamonds** (1983) starring Dick Emery, the episode entitled "The fun of the fair" was filmed at Blackpool Pleasure Beach and Blackpool Airport during late 1982
- **Changes** (1984) BBC Northwest filmed the demolition of South Shore Baths and other aspects of Blackpool life
- **Under the Blackpool Tower** (1984) Ken Dodd introduced this documentary for BBC1 in January – it was filmed during the 1982 and 83 seasons
- **The Tube** (1985) a special edition was filmed at the Vinyl Drip Club in January, featuring local bands the Membranes and Section 25
- **A Century of Stars** (1985) was filmed in and around Blackpool for TV
- **Anything Goes** (1985) the BBC filmed two series of this game show in the Tower Circus
- **Coronation Street** (1985) Rita Sullivan, Bet Lynch and Mavis Riley have a short break
- **Coronation Street** (1986) Ian Latimer takes Gail Tilsley on a break
- **Songs of Praise** (1986) the BBC broadcast live from Lytham on the 14th of September, and Cliff Michelmore met Arthur Wignall, coxswain of the lifeboat, then Wynn Saunders, who at 89 still played table tennis, and finally, Pauline Knott, whose faith was challenged by her work at ERNIE's seaside headquarters. Locals were joined by supporters of the RNLI at the old Lifeboat House. The programme featured the Lytham Music School wind band, directed by Ian Whittaker, and conducted by Peter Jebson. Also, Lytham lifeboatman Frank Kilroy was interviewed by Michelmore about the centenary of the "Mexico" disaster
- **Lost Empires** (1986) Blackpool was occasionally featured in several episodes of this series about a magician, starring Colin Firth
- **Granada Crown Challenge** (1987) Granada TV filmed a round of this crown green bowls competition at the Marton Institute
- **Mastermind** (1987) Mrs Elsie Sadek, a former teacher at Millfield School, appeared on the BBC show
- **Top of the Town** (1987) an episode was filmed at Blackpool Tower, starring Les Dawson
- **Coronation Street** (1988) Don Brennan organised a coach trip, and Alf Roberts tried to catch his wife's affair, searching from a tram
- **British Open Golf** (1988) The BBC broadcast the championships live from Royal Lytham St Anne's Golf Club from the 15th of July
- **Coronation Street** (1988) Jenny Bradley, Martin Platt, Shirley Armitage, and Curly Watts enjoyed the Pleasure Beach while on a coach trip
- **Blue Peter** (1988) filmed the recent changes at the Pleasure Beach when Yvette Fielding and Mark Curry tested the new Avalanche ride
- **Wogan** (1988) one show was filmed in the sun lounge at North Pier
- **The Last Resort** (1988) Jonathan Ross's Channel 4 chat show was filmed from the Elliott family's home on Kingfisher Drive in Poulton on the 23rd of September, featuring Latoya Jackson, Chris Quentin, Nick Heyward, champion cucumber chopper Norman Johnson and Rowland Rivron
- **Portrait of Blackpool** (1989) a TV programme in the Arena series
- **Arena: the "Blackpool Wakes"** (1989) this episode featured Blackpool memories by famous people such as Tony Benn
- **A Hundred not out – Centenary of the Blackpool Opera House** (1989) was narrated for the BBC by Ken Dodd

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- **This is Your Life** (1990) featured ringmaster Norman Barrett and was filmed at the Tower Circus on the 5th of October (broadcast on the 31st)
- **Rab C Nesbitt** (1990) one episode showed the Scottish star on holiday in Blackpool
- **Crimewatch** (1990) The BBC programme on the 6th of September, featured the case of two Lytham schoolboys, aged 10 and 11, who were almost strangled and left for dead in a pond where they had been fishing on the 15th of July
- **British Seniors Open Golf** (1991) The BBC broadcast the championships live from Royal Lytham St Anne's Golf Club from the 21st of August
- **Blackpool Trams** (1992) a half-hour documentary by the BBC, narrated by actor Warren Clarke, was reshown on the 6th of December 2011 on BBC4
- **Coronation Street** (1992) Curly Watts and bookie Des Barnes spent Christmas in Blackpool
- **Travel Trails – Blackpool** (1993) a TV documentary by Sarah Cameron
- **Coronation Street** (1993) Jack Duckworth treated Vera to a trip in a landau, telling her not to worry about the money
- **Rab C Nesbitt** (1993) In the episode called Rich, Rab (Gregor Fisher) goes to Blackpool, and some filming took place on the Pleasure Beach
- **Blackpool Night Out** (1994) BBC2's documentary in three parts: Perpetual Motion: The Blackpool Tram, Dream Town: A Brief Anatomy of Blackpool, and Three Salons at the Seaside
- **Coronation Street** (1994) Rita went on holiday with the Websters, and lost toddler Rosie. Vera was also back, visiting Tommy, and bumped into an old flame, bingo caller Lester Fontayne
- **Summer Praise** (1994) the BBC featured Blackpool's shows and interviewed Ked Dodd
- **Coronation Street** (1994) Percy Sugden and Maud Grimes had an OAP trip to Blackpool
- **Prime Suspect** (1995) the "Scent of Darkness" episode starring Helen Mirren was partly filmed in Blackpool, featuring North Pier
- **Ballroom Dancing** (1996) was filmed by Associated Producers of Canada around Blackpool
- **A Touch of Frost** (1996) an episode featured action on North Pier
- **British Open Golf Championships** (1996) filmed by the BBC at Royal Lytham St Anne's Golf Club from the 13th of July
- **EastEnders** (1996) in three episodes beginning on the 26th of August, cast members visit Blackpool
- **Coronation Street** (1997) Bill and Maureen Holdsworth go on holiday
- **Changing Rooms** (1997) a Blackpool family was featured
- **Top Gear** (1997) filmed a "special" called the TVR Story, to celebrate the company's 50 years in business. It first screened on the 22nd of December.
- **Cold Feet** (1998) some of episode 2 was filmed in Blackpool
- **Women's British Open Golf** (1998) The BBC broadcast the championships live from Royal Lytham St Anne's Golf Club from the 13th of August
- **Time Team History Hunters** (1998) filmed in and around the Pleasure Beach
- **If you Can't Stand the Heat** (1999) featured Blackpool restaurant Kwizeen
- **Coronation Street** (1999) Danny Hargreaves and Sharon Gaskell have a romantic break in town
- **Collector's Lot** (1999) Channel 4 filmed a sci-fi collection in Blackpool
- **Funny Turns** (1999) an episode featuring John Inman was filmed partly in Blackpool
- **The Antiques Roadshow** (2000) an episode of the BBC staple was filmed in the Winter Gardens
- **Northwest News** (2000) Ian Levine filmed a class reunion at Arnold School, broadcast on the 6th of March
- **Coronation Street** (2000) Tyrone Dobbs proposes to Maria Whittaker on top of the Tower

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- **That Peter Kay Thing** (2000) the episode Eyes Down was filmed in the Apollo Bingo Club on Waterloo Road
- **Coronation Street** (2000) Norris Cole and Vera Duckworth were in a dancing competition at the Tower Ballroom
- **Fred Dibnah's Magnificent Monuments** (2000) an episode of the series featured Blackpool Tower, the Big One rollercoaster, and North Pier
- **Coronation Street** (2000) Gary Mallett rescued Warren Shipley from drowning in the sea at Blackpool beach
- **Wish You Were Here** (2001) Mary Nightingale filmed around Blackpool for the ITV holiday review programme in June
- **Some liked it Hot: Blackpool to Butlins** (2001) examined the heyday of the 1950s and 60s in town
- **Homeground (Viva Las Blackpool)** (2001) BBC2 examined Blackpool's bid to become the gambling capital of the north
- **British Open Golf** (2001) The BBC broadcast the championships live from Royal Lytham St Anne's Golf Club from the 22nd of July
- **Emmerdale SoapStars** (2001) were featured in an ITV "Special" filmed in Blackpool
- **Coronation Street** (2001) Doggie Ferguson and Sunita Parekh have a weekend in Blackpool
- **Most Haunted** (2002) from the Pleasure Beach and the Grand Theatre
- **Naked in Blackpool** (2002) Sky 1 filmed the story of the town's lap dancing clubs
- **Coronation Street** (2002) Norris Cole and Vera Duckworth appeared in dance competition
- **Coronation Street** (2002) Toyah Battersby and Goran Milanovic stay in a caravan and Fiz Brown impersonated a fortune teller when she ended up in her booth while running from a candy floss seller
- **The Weakest Link** (2002) filmed a seaside special in August, with all the contestants from Blackpool
- **Russell Grant's Postcards** (2002) featured the illuminations
- **Stan the Man** (2002) one episode, starring John Thompson, was filmed in Blackpool
- **Wudja? Cudja?** (2002) one episode of the challenge game show starring Abbie Eastwood was filmed on Blackpool beach and Promenade
- **Salvage Squad** (2003) Blackpool tram 304 was rebuilt by a celebrity team on Channel 4
- **Blackpool Uncovered** (2003) Channel 5 filmed a short series about strippers in the town
- **Coronation Street** (2003) Liz MacDonald was filmed working in a bar in Blackpool
- **Women's British Open Golf** (2003) The BBC broadcast the championships live from Royal Lytham St Anne's Golf Club from the 3rd of August
- **Coronation Street** (2003) Jim MacDonald's prison escape was partly filmed in Newton Hall Caravan Site
- **Viva Las Blackpool** (2004) an afternoon television play set in a bingo club
- **Bed and Bardsleys** (2004) set in a Blackpool B and B – the Holme Lea Hotel on Lord Street
- **Christmas Lights** (2004) starring Robson Green, filmed at Weeton Camp
- **Suburbia** (2004) was filmed by and starred Andrew Robinson in Lytham
- **Casanova** (2004) was partly filmed at Lytham Hall and starred David Tennant
- **Most Haunted Live 12** (2004) was based in the Princes Theatre at Pontin's
- **Max 'N' Paddy's Road to Nowhere** (2004) one episode filmed around Blackpool
- **Geronimo** (2004) BBC2 filmed a scrap building challenge on the Beach on the 22nd / 23rd of October
- **Strictly Come Dancing** (2004) the final was screened live from the Tower Ballroom
- **Gordon Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares** (2004) visited Clubway 41 on Market Street in December, and again in 2006. During the revisit, the restaurant was renamed Jackson, but it closed in 2007.

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- **Songs of Praise on Ice** (2005) from the Pleasure Beach, presented by Pam Ayres and featuring skater Nicky Slater
- **The Magnificent Seven** (2005) filmed at the Waterloo Road home of Jacqui Jackson and her autistic son
- **Northern Lights** (2005) starring Robson Green was filmed at Ribby Hall Village in Wrea Green and at Weeton Camp
- **The Real Wife Swap** (2005) followed a Blackpool couple engaged in the activity
- **Chuckle Vision** (2005) three episodes "Put Upon Job", "Tailor's Dummies" and "Clowning Around" were shot in and around Blackpool
- **Coast** (2005) was filmed in and around the Fylde coast and did a feature on the Mexico disaster
- **Songs of Praise** (2005) was broadcast from Blackpool Beach, with St John's Church choir
- **Oshu Tetsudo no Tabi /Euro Train** (2005) a Japanese travel show filmed in Blackpool and Lancaster
- **Question Time** (2005) broadcast from Blackpool
- **Flog It!** (2005) The BBC filmed an auction at Gerrard's in St Anne's and host Paul Martin reported on the history of the Blackpool tram system. Shown on the 6th of June
- **B and B Inspectors** (2005) the pilot BBC programme featured Blackpool's Dean Decor
- **Disappearing Britain** (2006) a programme about Wakes Weeks trips to Blackpool
- **Ghost Towns** (2006)
- **The Hotel Inspector** (2006) The Channel 5 Show featured Sparkles Hotel in July
- **Coast** (2006) in and around the Fylde coast
- **The Great British Summer** (2006) was filmed in part, in Blackpool
- **Flog It!** (2006) The BBC filmed an auction at Gerrard's in St Anne's and host Paul Martin was given a ride on a Blackpool tram. Shown on the 10th of May
- **Women's British Open Golf** (2006) The BBC broadcast the championships live from Royal Lytham St Anne's Golf Club from the 3rd of August
- **Where the Heart Is** (2006) Denise Van Outen and ex-Coronation Street actor Phil Middlemiss strapped themselves in on top of the Big One for the TV cameras
- **Most Haunted** (2006) visited Mains Hall and claim to have filmed a ghost on television for the first time, when a face appeared to move across the screen
- **Lenny's Britain** (2006) Comedian Lenny Henry filmed an episode of his BBC series in Blackpool in November
- **Small Railway Journeys** (2006) episode 4 of series 1 was filmed on the trams of Blackpool and Fleetwood
- **End of the Pier** (2006) Comedian Alan Carr filmed the pilot of his own variety show for Channel 4 with Lionel Blair as his stooge. It was filmed at North Pier in September
- **Downsize Me** (2006) featured a Lancaster architect seeking to move home to Lytham. Broadcast on the 14th of April
- **The Great British Holiday** (2007)
- **GMTV** (2007) filmed a rollercoaster world record attempt by Richard Rodriguez in July
- **Living with the Dead** (2007) the BBC filmed an overnight "ghost walk" at the Grand Theatre, hosted by psychic Ian Lawman
- **Ant and Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway** (2007)
- **The Big Day** (2007) a BBC1 programme was filmed in the heritage gallery next to North Pier Theatre
- **Inside Out - Northwest** (2007) the BBC filmed an episode in Freckleton in January, to remember the air crash of 1944

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- **Ken Dodd's Happiness** (2007) BBC 2's Arena programme was filmed in Blackpool, London and Liverpool
- **Songs of Praise** (2007) Aled Jones presented a look back over the previous year
- **Britain's Favourite View** (2007) David Dickinson filmed an episode about Blackpool
- **Dickinson's Real Deal** (2007) Gerrard's Auctioneers in St Anne's, (2008) Lowther Pavilion, and Imperial Hotel, (2009) Gerrard's, (2009) Imperial Hotel, (2011) Imperial Hotel, 2012 (Gerrard's)
- **Britain's Got Talent** (2008) was filmed at the Winter Gardens in January
- **Songs of Praise** (2008) an interview was filmed in Blackpool Tower Ballroom
- **Caprice's Travels** (2008) an episode was filmed where she had fish and chips, watched the firework display, and visited the Pleasure Beach
- **Michaela's Zoo Babies** (2008) featured Blackpool Zoo on Channel Five on Friday 22nd August. The crew spent five weeks filming many of the zoo's baby animals
- **Top Gear** (2008) filmed a special Illuminations programme as the presenters raced to be the one to switch on the lights
- **Coast** (2008) The BBC's Nicholas Crane visited Lytham to learn about the Mexico disaster
- **When Britain first had talent** (2008) Amanda Holden interviewed Blackpool resident Neil Reid about his childhood stardom
- **Miss Naked Beauty** (2008) One show in the series by fashionista Gok Wan was filmed on North Pier and in the Winter Gardens on September the 11th
- **Wish You Were Here? Now and Then** (2008) Mark Durden-Smith investigated tourism in Blackpool
- **Dispatches** (2008) Blackpool clubs were featured in the "Hidden world of lap dancing" episode of this Channel 4 series
- **The Holiday Programme** (2009) Laurence Llewelyn Bowen filmed an episode of this holiday review show in Blackpool
- **Strictly Ballroom** (2009) an episode of the Sky TV show filmed at the Tower on the 21st of March
- **The Antiques Roadshow** (2009) was filmed in the Tower Ballroom on the 3rd of April
- **Strictly Come Dancing** (2009) filmed one episode from the Tower Ballroom on the 7th of November
- **Little Boots** (2009) Blackpool's Victoria Hesketh was filmed by Channel 4 at Blackpool Sixth Form College
- **Michaela's Animal Road Trip** (2009) filmed episode 8 of series 1 at Blackpool Zoo
- **Women's British Open Golf** (2009) The BBC broadcast the championships live from Royal Lytham St Anne's Golf Club from the 1st of August
- **The Hotel Inspector** (2009) featured the Sunnyside Hotel
- **J'aime La Tour** (2009) SKV Ltd showed various locations across the resort from the Pleasure Beach and the Tower, to Stanley Park's art deco inspired café
- **Royal Variety Performance** (2009) filmed at the Winter Gardens in December
- **Let's Dance** (2009) episodes of this series were filmed at the Tower Ballroom
- **Ruth Watson's Hotel Rescue** (2009) was filmed at the Kenbarry Hotel by Channel 4
- **Secret Millionaire** (2009) an episode was filmed at Donna's Dreamhouse and Vincent House, Grange Park in March, featuring Gary Eastwood
- **Coronation Street** (2010) filmed from Blackpool North Pier and its environs in January
- **Great British Railway Journeys** (2010) part of an episode shown in January was filmed showing Michael Portillo looking at Blackpool as a holiday destination
- **Top Gear** (2010) filmed part of one episode at the empty TVR factory in March
- **Strictly Come Dancing** (2010) filmed one episode from the Tower Ballroom on the 21st of November

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- **360 Sessions** (2010) Little Boots was filmed in her hometown of Blackpool, where she performed at her local college and childhood garage.
- **A Sense of Place** (2010) the BBC filmed one episode starring Chorley children visiting the Promenade
- **Three in a Bed** (2010) filmed in the Granville Hotel (now the Number 1) by Channel 4 in April
- **Newsround** (2010) the BBC show filmed an episode from Weeton Camp School in July, showing life in an Army Camp school
- **Frank Skinner on George Formby** (2010) was partly filmed in Blackpool for BBC4
- **Waterloo Road** (2011) the BBC soap filmed on the Promenade, Pleasure Beach, and various cafés
- **Blue Peter** (2011) on the 22nd of February the BBC children's programme filmed at Blackpool Zoo, where one of the presenters swam with the sea lions
- **All Over the Place** (2011) the episode entitled "Cuckoo Clocks, Chimps, Pantomime Horses" was partly filmed in Blackpool
- **The Antiques Road Trip** (2011) episode 5 of series 2 was partly filmed in Blackpool and St Anne's and shown on BBC2 on the 7th of January
- **Coronation Street** (2011) filmed around the promenade in March when Amy wandered off as Steve McDonald and Tracy Barlow had a bust-up in an amusement arcade
- **Show me the Funny** (2011) – episode 6 filmed in two B and Bs and at the Pleasure Beach
- **The Hotel Inspector** (2011) one episode was filmed at the New Lyngarth Hotel
- **Geordie Shore** (2011) an episode filmed the stars on holiday in Blackpool in July
- **A Question of Sport Live** (2011) filmed at the Opera House in October
- **Zingzillas** (2011) The children's BBC show filmed their video for the song "Superman" at the Pleasure Beach
- **Same Smile** (2011) the CBeebies show was filmed at Kapers Nursery on Newhouse Road
- **Word on the Street** (2011) The BBC filmed fictional siblings Stephen and Ashlie in Blackpool. They have fun at the Pleasure Beach and then visit the ballroom at the bottom of the Tower
- **This Morning** (2011) filmed from Blackpool on the 18th of August
- **Four in a Bed** (2011) filmed in the Vidella Hotel in April – Channel 4
- **Reel History of Britain** (2011) episode 20 of Melvyn Bragg's series was filmed around Blackpool on the 30th of May, with memories from comedian Les Dennis
- **All the Fun of the Fair** (2011) parts were filmed at the Tower Circus and screened in August
- **GMTV** (2011) filmed a piece from the Winter Gardens in September, featuring contestants from the Urban Dance championships
- **Long Lost Family** (2011) Blackpool man Wane Leyland featured in this ITV series with Davina McCall
- **The Golden Age of Trams: A Streetcar named Desire** (2011) episode 8 of the BBC4 programme Timeshift featured Blackpool's trams on the 5th of December
- **Strictly Come Dancing** (2011) the final was filmed live in 3D from the Tower Ballroom on the 17th of December
- **Britain's Got Talent** (2012) – filmed on the Promenade (18th Jan) and the Winter Gardens (24th Jan)
- **Out on a Limo** (2012) Channel 4 followed local firm Jet Set Limousines at work around Blackpool (screened in March but filmed in 2011)
- **Strictly Baby Disco** (2012) a children's dance competition was filmed at the Tower Ballroom in April by Channel 4
- **Come Dine with Me** (2012) filmed in Blackpool in March by Channel 4
- **Britain's First Photo Album** (2012) one episode partly filmed in Blackpool, starred John Sergeant showing Francis Frith pictures and their modern equivalents

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- **From Blackpool to Benidorm** (2012) Yesterday TV filmed parts in Blackpool and screened it on the 22nd of March
- **Mr Biggs** (2012) part of one episode was filmed on North Pier by Granada TV in March. The 5-part series starred Daniel Mays and Sheridan Smith
- **FY1** (2012) the pilot show for a planned series about the town was filmed in May
- **Coast** (2012) featured Blackpool's High Tide Organ in June
- **Four in a Bed** (2012) the Glenwalden Hotel was featured by Channel 4 in July
- **Northwest Tonight** (2012) the BBC broadcast a full programme from Blackpool and the Tower Ballroom on the 22nd of June to follow the Olympic Torch
- **Great British Ghosts** (2012) Michaela Strachan visited the Pleasure Beach and Grand Theatre
- **Secret Removers** (2012) episode 5 of the Channel 4 series was filmed in Blackpool
- **Who do you think you are?** (2012) part of an episode featuring actor William Roach was filmed around Foxhall and the Golden Mile, following two of his ancestors who worked in the town
- **Something Special** (2012) Mr Tumble and Justin Fletcher from CBeebies filmed an episode at the Sandcastle in June
- **Celebrity Antiques Road Trip** (2012) episode 3 of series 2 was shown on BBC2 on the 5th of September, starring choreographer Arlene Phillips and dancer Anton Du Beke and featured Blackpool Tower
- **Flog It** (2012) was filmed at the Tower Ballroom and around town on the 19th of October, and featured a piece on local character Cyril Critchlow
- **Celebrity Wedding Planner** (2012) an episode filmed at the Pleasure Beach for screening in August
- **Don't Tell the Bride** (2012) episode 2 of the BBC3 series followed a Blackpool couple as they planned their local wedding, and was screened in November
- **Blackpool Lights** (2012) was filmed in October by Channel 5 – a three-part documentary following various local people. It was screened in December 2013
- **Len Goodman's Dancing Feet: The British Ballroom Story** (2012) Strictly Come Dancing judge Len Goodman filmed in the Tower Ballroom – broadcast on the 27th of December
- **Kitten Chic** (2012) and episode of the Sky TV series **"Love Matters"**, this is a 30-minute comedy starring Poppy Rush, Lynda Baron, and Tanya Franks
- **Jedward's Big Adventure** (2013) series 3 - episode 4 was filmed around town on the 23rd of January.
- **Bizarre Burials** (2013) Channel 5 featured a Blackpool man getting buried in a tangerine aeroplane wearing his Blackpool Football Club top. It also showed Fleetwood's Darren Abbey, who runs an "Only Fools and Horses" funeral service
- **Four in a Bed** (2013) Channel 4 featured the Winterbourne Hotel on Clarendon Road in an episode in January. The New Osborne Hotel had featured previously
- **Flog It** (2013) an episode once more featured the Tower Circus and Gerrard's Auctions
- **A Golden Age? History of Britain** (2013) Timelines.tv filmed the documentary mainly in Blackpool
- **Saturday Night Takeaway** (2013) featured dancer Alana Stevens live from the Viva Showbar on the 3rd of March
- **The Hairy Bikers** (2013) a programme in their BBC food series featured Seniors Fish Restaurant in Thornton in April
- **Rory Bremner's Great British Views** (2013) - episode 7 aired on ITV on the 23rd of April and featured a profile of Blackpool
- **The Laughter of Blackpool** (2013) A film by Jack Kelly featured interviews with many of the comedy stars for whom Blackpool brought fame and fortune

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- **May the Best House Win** (2013) – an episode was filmed in May in the house of Liam Halewood and Samantha Daniels
- **Home Grown** (2013) ITV filmed an episode of the holiday review series around Blackpool, starring 3' 6" actor Warwick Davies and his family on the 20th of August
- **Victoria Wood's Nice Cup of Tea** (2013) parts of the mini-series were filmed around Blackpool
- **Coronation Street** (2013) Characters Roy and Hayley Cropper were filmed in the Imperial Hotel, the Tower Ballroom, North Pier and around town in September, for screening in October
- **Inside Out** (2013) BBC1 filmed on the 9th of September, featuring Blackpool animal rescue centre's attempts to save abandoned and neglected horses, a report on beach pollution in the region and a feature on Wrea Green
- **Animal Maternity** (2013) Blackpool Zoo was featured in a Channel 5 series looking at pregnancy in the animal kingdom. The camera crew spent several weeks following a number of animals as they prepared to give birth
- **Coronation Street** (2013) several characters visited town in October, and actors Jack P Shepherd (David Platt) and Paula Lane (Kylie Platt), got to ride the Big One at Blackpool Pleasure Beach as part of a launch day for episodes featuring many scenes filmed in the resort
- **Planners** (2013) BBC2 filmed an episode featuring five Blackpool war veterans from the Sanctuary charity shop on Bank Hey Street in September
- **Salvage Hunters** (2013) an episode was filmed at the Pleasure Beach and at a Blackpool Self Store facility by UK TV
- **Countdown to Murder** (2013) on the 25th of July 2010 ambulance technician Jonathan Vass stabbed his ex-partner Jane Clough over 70 times in the car park of Blackpool Victoria Hospital where she worked. This episode on the 31st of October covers the story
- **Obsessive Compulsive Cleaners** (2013) episode 2 of this Channel 5 series featured Blackpool couple Scott and Faith from Daventry Avenue, North Shore
- **Antiques Road Trip** (2013) an episode of this BBC series was part filmed at Gerrard's Auctions in St Anne's on the 6th of November
- **Strictly Come Dancing** (2013) one round of the BBC series was filmed live from the Tower Ballroom on the 16th and 17th of November
- **The Hotel Inspector** (2014) one episode of the Channel 5 programme featured the Vidella Hotel on Dickson Road on the 13th of February
- **Antiques Road Trip** (2014) episode 3 of series 5 was partly filmed in Blackpool, and shown on BBC2 on the 24th of March
- **Flog It** (2014) the Tower Circus hosted an episode screened on the 7th of April
- **Northwest Tonight** (2014) the BBC1 news show was broadcast live from Blackpool Tower on the 13th of May
- **BBC World War One at Home Live Event** (2014) filmed on the seafront on the 24th of June
- **Long Lost Family** (2014) an episode of the ITV series featured the Sandersons from Blackpool
- **Coast** (2014) the episode of the BBC series shown on the 22nd of July featured the Big One at the Pleasure Beach
- **Coronation Street** (2014) in August, an episode was filmed including the scattering of Hayley Cropper's ashes into the sea at Blackpool
- **Pressure Pad** (2014) an episode of the BBC quiz screened in September featured a team from Blackpool Zoo. They won
- **Hollyoaks** (2014) was filmed by Channel 4 on the promenade by South Beach, Central Drive and by Central Pier in October, for screening on the 17th to the 21st of November
- **Benefits by the Sea** (2014) filming by Channel 5 took place around town in October

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- **Holiday of my Lifetime** (2014) in episode 4, screened on the 23rd of October, Len Goodman took Ainsley Harriott back to his favourite holiday in Blackpool
- **Xtreme Waterparks** (2014) the series came to Blackpool on the 20th of October, to film on The Masterblaster - the World's Longest Indoor Rollercoaster Waterslide
- **60 Minute Makeover** (2014) Series 11, episode 2 of the ITV series was filmed in Blackpool, featuring Bryan House fund raised Sheila Swan being helped out by Peter Andre and Linda Barker in her house on Wharfedale Avenue in Thornton
- **Benefits Britain: Life on the Dole** (2014) Channel 5 filmed in several places around town during October and November, for the programme looking at unemployed people in Blackpool and how they used their benefits
- **The One Show** (2014) the BBC magazine filmed their "Children in Need" Rickshaw Challenge at North Pier on the 7th of November
- **Children in Need** (2014) the Northwest sections of this annual charity programme were all broadcast by the BBC from the Tower Ballroom on the 14th of November
- **Strictly Come Dancing** (2014) was filmed from the Tower Ballroom on the 15th of November
- **The Wonders of Britain** (2015) episode 2 of this BBC series, screened on the 13th of January, featured presenter Julia Bradbury climbing Blackpool Tower
- **The Gift** (2015) the episode screened on the 17th of February featured a Blackpool man meeting with someone he had bullied at school
- **Big Band Special** (2015) BBC4 filmed this one-off concert starring Jools Holland and his band, with singers Rumer and Marc Almond, at the Winter Gardens on the 24th of June
- **Dancing through the Blitz: Blackpool's Big Band Story** (2015) Jools Holland spent much of June in town shooting this documentary on the history of big band music and its place in post-war Britain
- **Pressure Pad** (2015) in June, a team from Blackpool Zoo appeared in this BBC2 quiz show, hosted by John Barrowman, and won
- **Right on the Money** (2015) Denise Lewis and Dominic Littlewood were filmed dancing in the Tower Ballroom during one episode in this BBC series
- **The Instant Gardener** (2015) Reality TV Presenter Helen Skelton filmed in Peter and Sarah's garden
- **Prey (2015)** Scenes from an episode of the 2nd series of this ITV thriller series, starring Phillip Glenister, were filmed outside Coral Island and on the Golden Mile on the 30th of June
- **Coronation Street** (2015) an episode was filmed on the 14th of July, featuring Roy Cropper on a date with new romantic interest Cathy Matthews, played by Melanie Hill, taking in the sights of Blackpool on North Pier, tucking into ice creams, and frolicking on the sands
- **One Hundred and Eighty** (2015) ITV filmed their new darts game show with Davina McCall and Freddie Flintoff at the Winter Gardens in August
- **BBC Breakfast** (2015) filmed parts of its morning TV show from Wrea Green village green
- during the first week in September
- **CBBC's Saturday Shout Out** (2015) Thousands of people celebrated 30 years of children's TV at a live show on the Festival Headland on the 5th of September. Stars of CBBC appeared in a special show to mark the anniversary, together with an exclusive Northern screening of the first full episode of the new Dangermouse cartoon show "Attack of The Toilets"
- **Banished** (2015) several beach sequences in the BBC2 drama series were filmed at Squires Gate
- **Strictly Come Dancing** (2015) was filmed at the Tower Ballroom on the 25th of November
- **Top Gear** (2016) presenters Chris Evans and Matt le Blanc raced each other from London to Blackpool in Reliant Robins in February
- **Coronation Street** (2016) filmed around town in April

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- **DIY SOS – The Big Build** (2016) this BBC series was featured as the crew – assisted by dozens of local tradespeople - fully refurbished Blenheim House on Newton Drive ready for a future showing
- **Strictly Come Dancing** (2016) was filmed at the Tower Ballroom on the 9th of November
- **Britain's Got Talent** (2017) An audition was filmed in the Winter Gardens on the 19th of January, starring judges Simon Cowell, Amanda Holden, David Walliams, and Alesha Dixon, along with presenters Ant and Dec
- **Four in a bed** (2017) The channel 4 series again visited Blackpool and featured the Highlands Pub.
- **Great British Railway Journeys** (2017) Michael Portillo again visited Blackpool, also going to Fleetwood
- **Just Tattoo of Us** (2017) Tattooist Danny Robinson, of the tattoo Lounge on Park Road features in the MTV series aired on the 3rd of April
- **The Detectives: Inside the Major Crimes Team** (2017) ITV went behind the scenes with Lancashire police, to spotlight the investigation of the fatal stabbing of a Polish man on Central Drive
- **Antiques Road Trip** (2017) An episode of the BBC2 series was filmed in the regent Antiques Centre, when expert Christina Trevanion was filmed on the 27th of April.
- **Tattoo Fixers** (2017) An episode of this E4 series was partly filmed in and around the orang utan enclosure at Blackpool Zoo in February
- **Inventions** (2017) A BBC1 documentary on the North-West inventions that won World War 2 was filmed partly at the Blackpool Aviation Museum. It was screened on the 23rd of June.
- **Strictly Come Dancing** (2017) was filmed at the Tower Ballroom in November
- **Britain's Got Talent** (2018) The ITV talent show recorded an audition at the Winter Gardens on the 16th of January
- **Question Time** (2018) The BBC's political discussion programme was broadcast live from Highfield Academy on the 1st of March
- **Antiques Road trip** (2018) an episode of the BBC2 series was filmed at Gerrard's Auction Rooms in St Anne's in May, being screened in September 2018
- **Britain In Bloom** (2018) The BBC gardening team filmed one episode in this series in Lytham. They followed the Lytham In Bloom team for 6 months while they were preparing for the 2017 campaign
- **Explorify** (2018) CBeebies films an episode at Marton Primary Academy on the 3rd of October, where presenter Maddie Moate showed pupils about hedgehogs and renewable energy
- **Horizon** (2018) 117 local people with back pain were filmed for the BBC's Horizon programme in October. Their episode was entitled "Can My Brain Cure My Body"
- **Armchair Britain** (2018) – episode 5 of series 1 was filmed in Blackpool and first shown on the 5th of October 2018
- **Antiques Road Trip** (2018) an episode of the BBC2 series was filmed at Gerrard's Auction Rooms in St Anne's on the 18th of October
- **Family Cooking Showdown** (2018) St Anne's man Andrew Whitaker, his wife Qidi, and their daughter Jasmyn reached the final in Cardiff in summer
- **Make me a Dealer** (2018) In an episode of this BBC1 series, the buyer of an early Clifton-monogrammed glass was filmed returning it to its home at Lytham Hall
- **Strictly Come Dancing** (2018) was filmed at the Tower Ballroom on the 17th of November
- **World on Fire** (2019) Scenes for this BBC wartime drama were filmed on the beach and in the sand dunes in February, with the area acting as the Dunkirk beaches
- **Antiques Road Show** (2019) was filmed at Lytham Hall on the 11th of June, being spilt into two separate broadcasts – the 29th of September 2019 and the 11th of June 2020
- **The Hotel Inspector** (2019) was filmed at Georgina Beardman's Sea Croft guest house in St Anne's for an episode shown in June

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There have been many one-off comedies shows recorded at Blackpool theatres, including:

- **Chubby Brown - The Helmet's Last Stand** (1992)
- **Freddie Starr - Live and Dangerous** (1994) was filmed at the Opera House
- **Chubby Brown - Clitoris Allsorts – Live at Blackpool** (1995)
- **Lily Savage - Live from the Lilydrome** (1995) drag artist Paul O'Grady was filmed at Layton Institute
- **8 - Live from the Top of the Tower** (2000)
- **Ted Robbins - Big, Bad, and Dangerous – Live** (2004) was filmed at the Winter Gardens
- **Cannon and Ball Live** (2005) was filmed at the Grand Theatre
- **The Chuckle Brothers – Live at the River Rother** (2005) was filmed in the Winter Gardens
- **Paddy McGuinness - The Dark Side Tour** (2006) was filmed at the Opera House
- **Little Britain Live – David Walliams and Matt Lucas** (2006) from the Opera House
- **Best of British Variety Tour** (2008) featuring Frank Carson, Paul Daniels, Cannon, and Ball, The Krankies, Jimmy Cricket and the Brotherhood of Man - filmed at the Opera House
- **Steve Coogan Live** (2008) filmed at the Opera House
- **Chubby Brown – Dirty Weekend in Blackpool – Live** (2008)
- **Michael MacIntyre – Comedy Roadshow** (2010) – filmed at the Opera House
- **The Comedians – 40th anniversary concert** (2011) filmed at the Grand Theatre
- **Peter Kay in Conversation** (2012) was filmed at the Opera House on the 20th of October
- **Darcy Oake – On the Edge** (2014) the magician was filmed at the Opera House and around Blackpool in November
- **Peter Kay: 20 Years of Funny** (2014) the BBC documentary was based around an interview given in the Winter Gardens

Numerous Blackpool musical performances and promotional videos have been recorded on film, such as:

- **"Blackpool Stars"** from the Palace Ballroom (1953)
- **"Variety from Blackpool"** (1955)
- **"Ticket for Friday"** (1958)
- **The Beatles** (1965) Blackpool Night Out at the ABC
- **Jimi Hendrix** (1967) at the Opera House, was filmed by Peter Neal for a short documentary called See My Music Talking (shown later on the BBC)
- **The Spinners** (1975) live from Central Pier was filmed by the BBC
- **Chelsea** (1983) "Live at the Bier Keller"
- **The Fall** (1987) "Hit the North" was filmed all around Blackpool
- **Eric Delaney and his Little Big Band** (1988) "Drummer Man" filmed in Blackpool Tower ballroom
- **The Stone Roses** (1989) "Live in Blackpool"
- **Shakin Stevens** (1990) recorded "The Best Christmas of Them All" - A promo video shot at Blackpool Opera House and never released for Commercial use.
- **Oceanic** (1991) the rave video for "Insanity" was filmed in the Palace nightclub
- **Fuzzbox** (1991) "Rockin' with Rita" filmed at the Pleasure Beach
- **Cicero** (1991) "Heaven must have sent you back to me" filmed on the Golden Mile and at the Pleasure Beach
- **Robert Plant** (1991) "The Hurtin' Kind (I've got my eyes on you)" video was filmed on the Golden Mile and at the Pleasure Beach in December
- **Bobby G** (1992) "Live Solo" filmed at Blackpool Gala Bingo Club

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- **808 State** (1992) "One in Ten" was filmed around the Royal Pavilion Cinema
- **Simply Red** (1994) filmed the video for "Fairground" at the Pleasure Beach
- **Elton John** (1995) many of the scenes in the video for "Made in England" were filmed in Blackpool
- **The Buzzcocks** (1996) "Boredom" was filmed at the Winter Gardens
- **Slaughter and the Dogs** (1996) "Cranked Up Really High in Blackpool" a live show recorded at the Holidays in the Sun festival
- **Ultrabeat** (2003) "Feelin' Fine" was filmed on the beach and the Golden Mile
- **The White Stripes** (2004) "Under Blackpool Lights" filmed at the Winter Gardens
- **Jerry Lee Lewis "Live"** (2004) filmed at the Empress Ballroom on the 24th of February
- **David Straightjacket** (David Duckworth) (2004) was filmed on the 19th of October, escaping from the Infusion rollercoaster at the Pleasure Beach. He had been chained, padlocked, and straightjacketed to a car, and escaped after 3 revolutions
- **Robbie Williams** (2005) filmed the video for his song "Advertising Space" at the Belle Vue Hotel and on the Promenade
- **The BBC's "Children in Need" night** (2006) a live gig hosted by Liberty X at the Opera House
- **The St Petersburg Ballet Theatre** (2007) filmed The Nutcracker in Blackpool
- **Discovering Tchaikovsky** (2007) was filmed at the Empress Ballroom
- **Fotos** (2008) The German Indie band filmed the video for their single "Explodieren" in town
- **NSG and Ortopilot** (2009) filmed their video for the single "Jolly Good Fun" at the Pleasure Beach
- **The Doves** (2009) filmed their music video for "Kingdom of Rust" in Blackpool and St Anne's Pier on the 21st of January
- **Lasgo** (2009) filmed the video for "Lost" in and around Blackpool
- **Little Boots** (2009) recorded a song, "Remedy", live at HMV on the 6th of June
- **Professor Green** (2010) "Monster" the video single filmed at Carnesky's Ghost Train in Blackpool
- **Black Lace** (2011) filmed the video for their single "Do the Conga" on North Pier
- **Beady Eye** (2011) their concert in the Empress Ballroom on the 11th of November was filmed for DVD release, as "Beady Eye - Live at The Empress Hall"
- **The Dandy Warhols** (2012) used footage filmed outside the Sandcastle in the music video for their "Autumn Carnival" single
- **JP Cooper** (2012) filmed the video for the song "my father's house" in September
- **The Killers** (2012) filmed the video for their single "Here with me" at the Tower Ballroom and around town on the 15th of November, starring Winona Ryder and directed by Tim Burton
- **Johnny Marr** (2014) filmed parts of his "Easy Money" video in town on the 28th of July, including outside Hart's Amusements, a fortune teller at the Pleasure Beach, Brun Grove Club, Las Vegas Amusements, Howarth's Bingo, Dale Street, Wiseguys pawn shop, and Bispham Conservative Club
- **EE (**2014) The Network provider screened an advert at the Pleasure Beach on the 19th of May. It starred film star Kevin Bacon on the Big One rollercoaster
- **Rae Morris** (2014) filmed the video for her single "wait a while" at the Pleasure beach
- **Wesley Gonzalez** (2015) filmed the video for his single "Come through and see me" at a closed Pleasure Beach and Louis Tussaud's
- **Bruno Tonioli – Bruno's Bellissimo Blackpool** (2018) is a DVD only film, compiled by the Italian judge of Strictly Come Dancing. He filmed all his own inserts in the Tower Ballroom, between many clips of celebrities dancing there in the BBC shows
- **Rae Morris** (2018) filmed the video for her single "Someone out there" in town, with Rae playing on the Wurlitzer at the Tower Ballroom, sitting in a camper van driving along the Promenade, and visited the fire station in Forest Gate

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In addition, many TV advertisements have used Blackpool and the Fylde as a backdrop:

- **Cadbury's Dairy Milk** (1978) filmed Cilla Black singing the virtues of the chocolate bar around Blackpool and on the top deck of an open tram
- **Whitbread's Trophy Bitter** (1980s) filmed an advert at the crazy golf course north of the Metropole
- **Everest Double Glazing** (1985) filmed TV personality Ted Moult at the installation of their windows at the top of the Tower
- **Boddington's Beer** (1994) filmed an advert on the beach, starring a young Sarah Parish
- **BBC 1** (1998) – a linking video segment (ident) of the Tower for use between programmes
- **Manweb/Scottish Power** (1999) filmed a segment of an advert on the Pleasure Beach
- **The RNLI** (1999) filmed a cinema advertisement using the Blackpool lifeboat
- **McDonald's** (2004) - the burger chain filmed part of a TV advertisement in town
- **O2** (2004) - the mobile phone company filmed an advert in Blackpool
- **Zurich Bank** (2004) filmed an advertisement in Blackpool and Lytham
- **AOL** (2004) filmed Elvis impersonator Louis Rockafella at his show in Blackpool (Broadband only)
- **Renault Cars** (2005) filmed part of their ad for their new Clio model in front of the Tower
- **Churchill Insurance** (2006) filmed in Blackpool and around the Fylde
- **DFS furniture stores** (2006) filmed in Lytham
- **Nokia mobile phones** (2007) filmed on the beach at Blackpool
- **Irn-Bru** (2007) the "Goths" video was filmed on the beach with views of the Tower
- **BBC 1** (2007) – a linking video segment (ident) of the Illuminations for use between programmes
- **Specsavers** (2009) filmed in the Pleasure Beach on the Infusion ride
- **Channel 4** (2010) filmed an ident on the Promenade to show between programmes
- **Nokia mobile phones** (2011) filmed at the Pleasure beach using blind cameraman Gary Waite
- **NatWest Bank** (2011) used their Preesall branch in an advert for "the last bank in town"
- **Foxy Bingo** (2012) filmed an advert in the Tower Ballroom on the 3rd of October
- **Comparethemeerkat.com** (2013) ITV used Blackpool front as the backdrop for four adverts featuring their famous meerkat characters
- **SSE** (2015) filmed their home energy advert on Blackpool's piers on a June night, featuring a digitally produced Maya the orangutan

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Fleetwood has also been the setting for several films and television programmes, such as:

- **Deep Sea Days** (c. 1930) James Blair filmed life on board a Fleetwood trawler in the fishing grounds by St Kilda
- **Bellbottom George** (1943) starred George Formby
- **Top Town** (1954) Fleetwood were also filmed by the BBC in a match at the Marine Gardens – shown on the 5th of April 1955
- **Tomorrow's Man** (1955) This New Year's Eve BBC programme was partly filmed in Fleetwood, with a report by William Cave
- **Trawler Boy** (1956) filmed a junior deckhand on a Fleetwood trawler
- **A Life Apart (anxieties in a trawling community)** (1973) a Granada documentary was filmed around Fleetwood and featured the trawler Wyre Victory
- **Who Killed Julia Wallace?** (1975) - The tram scenes used in the film were filmed in Fleetwood
- **Emu's Broadcasting Company** (1976) an episode was filmed by the Market and Quayside, and on one of the Isle of Man ferries
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- **Inside Story** (1979) featured Fleetwood man George Roberts's story as he changed into a woman (Julia) it was re-filmed in 1980 and revisited in 1994 and 1999
- **History Around You** (1983) an episode of the Granada TV series featuring Fleetwood was screened on the 1st of June
- **Trawlertown Memories** (1986) was a film made on video which was sold to raise funds for the Fishing Community Memorial
- **Fleetwood the Movie** (1986) made to be sold at Tram Sunday to raise funds for charity
- **Flood Tide** (1987) an ITV series starring Philip Sayer was partly filmed in Fleetwood
- **Conference Question Time** (1988) Robin Day introduced the BBC programme which was broadcast live from the Marine Hall on the 29th of September
- **Songs of Praise** (1989) was broadcast from the small park by the North Euston Hotel, where Debbie Thrower met *"Jack and Freda Kelly who have known the joys and sorrows of the fishing industry. She also visits the factory where Linda Lofthouse 's family manufactures a traditional product enjoyed all over the world. The people of Fleetwood join Debbie in the North Euston Gardens overlooking Morecambe Bay to sing their songs of praise. Alleluia raise the anthem (Unser Herrscher); Pull for the shore; Fight the good fight (Duke Street); Bread and fishes; Just as I am (Misericordia); I watch the sunrise; Eternal Father, strong to save (Melita); Manx fishermen's evening hymn (Peel Castle)"*. The organist was Mr Fishwick, and there was singing by the Fleetwood Choral Society and local school children.
- **Conference Question Time** (1989) Peter Sissons introduced the BBC programme which was broadcast live from the Marine Hall on the 12th Of October.
- **The Man from the Pru** (1990) starred Jonathan Pryce and Geoffrey Hughes
- **GBH** (1991) a 7-part Channel 4 series by Alan Bleasdale
- **Question Time** (1991) Peter Sissons introduced the BBC programme live from the Marine Hall on the 10th of October
- **Common as Muck** (1994) an episode was filmed around the Mount and Savoy hotels
- **White Socks and Telemacs** (1994) was filmed on video about Fleetwood fishermen
- **All Quiet on the Preston Front** (1995) an episode was filmed by the docks by the BBC
- **Hetty Wainthropp Investigates** (1997) one episode was filmed partly in Fleetwood
- **Chuckle Vision** (1999) an episode used locations around town
- **The Biederbecke Affair** (1985) part of an episode was filmed at Fleetwood's Savoy Hotel
- **Peter Kay's Phoenix Nights** (2002) part of an episode was filmed at Fleetwood Docks
- **Margery and Gladys** (2003) was filmed in Fleetwood Harbour Marina and at Poulton railway station, with June Brown and Penelope Keith
- **Coronation Street** (2003) was partly filmed in Fleetwood Hospital
- **Frozen** (2003) was a thriller set in Fleetwood and in Morecambe Bay. Shirley Henderson played a disturbed fish processor investigating the disappearance of her sister. It was released in 2005
- **Coronation Street** (2003) Jim MacDonald's prison escape was partly filmed in Fleetwood Marina (during filming, the cast helped rescue two stranded windsurfers!)
- **DIY SOS** (2005) The BBC programme featured a story where *"The team try to turn a Dickensian attic into a trendy teenage bedroom in a house in Fleetwood, Lancashire, where the father's job as an oil-rig worker means DIY tasks are often left unfinished".* It was broadcast on the 6th of April
- **Leah's Dream** (2011) ITV filmed a documentary about Fleetwood girl Leah Garfitt and her disability
- **Fern meets Alfie Boe** (2012) BBC filmed a documentary where Fern Britton interviewed the Fleetwood opera singer and examined his upbringing in town
- **The South Bank Show** (2013) the episode screened on the 16th of May featured Alfie Boe revisiting his Fleetwood origins

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- **Dickinson's Real Deal** (2014) an episode of the ITV antiques show was filmed in Fleetwood Marine hall on the 20th of September
- **Hairy Bikers Best of British** (2014) part of episode 2, series 2 was filmed in Fleetwood
- **Safe House** (2014) parts of the ITV drama, starring Christopher Eccleston were filmed in Fleetwood in November
- **Our Girl** (2015) TV star Michelle Keegan filmed parts of the series at the Nautical College and on the promenade
- **Home Front Heroes** (2018) Local singer Alfie Boe filmed the story of his grandfather's WW2 in an episode shown on BBC1 on the 6th of November
- **Britain's Got Talent** (2019) The school choir from Flakefleet School in Fleetwood reached the final of the ITV talent show on the 1st of June

The Nautical College training pool at Fleetwood has been used to film drowning and emergency sequences for many programmes, including Coronation Street (four times), Emmerdale (2007), A Touch of Frost, the Royal, and Hollyoaks.

TV chef Jamie Oliver filmed in Stalmine in August 2013, to recreate the local Tossett Cake for Channel 4's **Friday Night Feast**. Tossett is thought to be a corruption of "St Oswald" of the local church.

The Pleasure Beach appears within a scenario of the very successful video game **"Rollercoaster Tycoon"**, which features most of the rides within the park that existed at the time of the game's release.

Two children's DVDs were filmed in and around Blackpool in 2007. **"The Wheels on the Bus"** and **"Row Row Row Your Boat"** featured children from the Michael Hall Theatre School in Marton.

A one-off Audio drama entitled **"Doctor Who – Death in Blackpool"** was produced on CD in 2009, starring Paul McGann and Sheridan Smith.

BBC Question Time was filmed at the Imperial Hotel and at Fleetwood Marine Hall in the 1980s.

Beadle's About filmed a prank in Blackpool in the mid-1990s, where a girl was persuaded to open a balloon shop and sing to the Mayor.

John Godber wrote a play for theatre **"September in the Rain"** in 1983, set on a holiday in Blackpool.

Comedian Freddie Davies filmed some of his ITV show **"The Small World of Samuel Tweet"** in Wrea Green in 1974. Filming took place inside a local cottage and 176 schoolchildren were featured walking around the village green with over 80 different pets.

ITV filmed the final episode of **"Two in Clover"** starring Sid James and Victor Spinetti in Wrea Green. A cricket scene was shot on the village green, starring Fred Trueman. It was screened on the 24th of March 1970 and featured the TV debut of Blackpool's John Inman.

Note: The town's appearances on Radio are far too numerous to mention and are not listed here.

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Appendix T:
Winners of the Blackpool Professional Ballroom Dance Championship

The Blackpool Dance Festival began in 1920 and evolved over future years into the competition of today, whose professional winners at the Open championships have been:

1931	Maxwell Stewart and Pat Sykes	London
1932	Timmy Palmer and Kathleen Price	London
1933	Timmy Palmer and Edna Deane	London
1934	Henry Jacques and Mavis Deeming	London
1935	Henry Jacques and Mavis Deeming	London
1936	Henry Jacques and Mavis Deeming	London
1937	Cyril Farmer and Adele Roscoe	Leeds
1938	Cyril Farmer and Adele Roscoe	London
1939	Timmy Palmer and Ella Spowart	London
1940	Sidney Lee and Vera Dunham	London
1941	(Suspended due to war)	
1942	(Suspended due to war)	
1943	(Suspended due to war)	
1944	(Suspended due to war)	
1945	(Suspended due to war)	
1946	Charles Thiebault and Doreen Beahan	London
1947	Tie between:	
	Wally Fryer and Violet Barnes	London
	John Wells and Miss Renee Sissons	London
1948	Wally Fryer and Violet Barnes	London
1949	Wally Fryer and Violet Barnes	London
1950	Len Scrivener and Nellie Duggan	London
1951	Len Scrivener and Nellie Duggan	London
1952	Len Scrivener and Nellie Duggan	London
1953	Sonny Binick and Joyce Hayward	London
1954	Tie between:	
	Alf Davies and Julie Reaby	Australia
	Sonny Binick and Sally Brock	London
1955	Sonny Binick and Sally Brock	London
1956	Alf Davies and Julie Reaby	London
1957	Sonny Binick and Sally Brock	London
1958	Sonny Binick and Sally Brock	London
1959	Harry Smith-Hampshire and Doreen Casey	London
1960	Harry Smith-Hampshire and Doreen Casey	London
1961	Harry Smith-Hampshire and Doreen Casey	London
1962	Bill and Bobbie Irvine	London
1963	Bill and Bobbie Irvine	London
1964	Bill and Bobbie Irvine	London
1965	Peter Eggleton and Brenda Winslade	London

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1966	Bill and Bobbie Irvine	London
1967	Peter Eggleton and Brenda Winslade	London
1968	Peter Eggleton and Brenda Winslade	London
1969	Anthony Hurley and Fay Saxton	Adlestone
1970	Anthony Hurley and Fay Saxton	Adlestone
1971	Anthony Hurley and Fay Saxton	Adlestone
1972	Anthony Hurley and Fay Saxton	Adlestone
1973	Richard and Janet Gleave	Windsor
1974	Richard and Janet Gleave	Windsor
1975	Richard and Janet Gleave	Windsor
1976	Richard and Janet Gleave	Windsor
1977	Richard and Janet Gleave	Windsor
1978	Richard and Janet Gleave	Windsor
1979	Michael and Vicky Barr	Rickmansworth
1980	Richard and Janet Gleave	Windsor
1981	Richard and Janet Gleave	Windsor
1982	Michael and Vicky Barr	Chalfont St Peter
1983	Michael and Vicky Barr	Chalfont St Peter
1984	Michael and Vicky Barr	Chalfont St Peter
1985	Michael and Vicky Barr	Chalfont St Peter
1986	Stephen and Lindsey Hillier	Buckhurst Hill
1987	Stephen and Lindsey Hillier	Buckhurst Hill
1988	Stephen and Lindsey Hillier	Buckhurst Hill
1989	John Wood and Anne Lewis	Esher
1990	Marcus and Karen Hilton	Rochdale
1991	John Wood and Anne Lewis	Esher
1992	Marcus and Karen Hilton	Rochdale
1993	John Wood and Anne Lewis	Esher
1994	Marcus and Karen Hilton	Rochdale
1995	Marcus and Karen Hilton	Rochdale
1996	Marcus and Karen Hilton	Rochdale
1997	Marcus and Karen Hilton	Rochdale
1998	Marcus and Karen Hilton	Rochdale
1999	Luca and Loraine Baricchi	England
2000	Luca and Loraine Baricchi	England
2001	Luca and Loraine Baricchi	England
2002	Augusto Schiavo and Lyn Marriner	Italy
2003	Christopher Hawkins and Hazel Newberry	England
2004	Christopher Hawkins and Hazel Newberry	England
2005	Timothy Howson and Joanne Bolton	England
2006	Mirko Gozzoli and Alessia Betti	Italy
2007	Mirko Gozzoli and Alessia Betti	Italy
2008	Mirko Gozzoli and Alessia Betti	Italy
2009	Mirko Gozzoli and Alessia Betti	Italy
2010	Arunas Bizokas and Katusha Demidova	USA
2011	Arunas Bizokas and Katusha Demidova	USA
2012	Arunas Bizokas and Katusha Demidova	USA
2013	Arunas Bizokas and Katusha Demidova	USA

2014	Arunas Bizokas and Katusha Demidova	USA
2015	Arunas Bizokas and Katusha Demidova	USA
2016	Arunas Bizokas and Katusha Demidova	USA
2017	Arunas Bizokas and Katusha Demidova	USA
2018	Arunas Bizokas and Katusha Demidova	USA
2019	Arunas Bizokas and Katusha Demidova	USA
2020	Cancelled due to COVID-19 pandemic	

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Appendix U:
Sections stationed at RAF Squires Gate and HMS Nightjar (Inskip) during World War 2

(With thanks to Peter Moran for some Squires Gate additions)

The following is a list of the RAF detachments at **Squires Gate** aerodrome during World War 2. It lists all those for which I have found evidence of a stay – no matter how brief:

- P Squadron – 6th Wing;
- 63 Squadron "C" Flight, flying Fairey Battles, from September 1939 to January 1940;
- 75 Squadron "A" Flight, Bomber Command Detachment's Wellington bombers, from September 1939 until November 1939;
- 96 Squadron "A" Flight sent four Hurricanes to Blackpool from Cranage on the 21st of December 1940 for the defence of Liverpool. The rest of "A" flight was detached in January 1941;
- 215 Squadron, Bomber Command Detachment's Wellington bombers, from November 1939 until January 1940;
- 229 Squadron from January 1941 using Hurricanes;
- 256 Squadron, flying Boulton Paul Defiants, from the 26th of March 1941 until the 1st of June 1942 – converting to Defiant 2s in October 1941;
- 285 Squadron briefly in early 1942;
- 312 Squadron from the 9th of January 1941 for one week, flying Hurricanes;
- 319 Squadron briefly in 1941;
- Number 42 Elementary and Reserve Flying Training School, formed on the 1st of August 1939 to the 2nd of September 1939 (operated by Reid and Sigrist Limited);
- Number 9 Civilian Air Navigation School (CANS), from the 25th of September 1939 until the 27th of May 1940 (operated by Brooklands Aviation Limited) – re-designated Number 9 Air Observers Navigation School on the 31st of October 1939 and took over Number 8 AO and NS on the 25th of November;
- Number 9 RC RAF Volunteer Reserve station from 1940. Number 10 was also here, as was Number 6 from September 1941;
- Number 1 School of General Reconnaissance, flying Anson aircraft, from the 11th of July 1940 until the 30th of September 1940;
- Number 2 School of General Reconnaissance from the 28th of May 1940 to the 16th of December 1940;
- Number 3 School of General Reconnaissance from the 16th of December 1940 until the 18th of August 1945;
- Number 3 School of Technical Training from the 20th of October 1939 until the 31st of April 1944;
- Number 12 School of Technical Training (Motor Transport MTM) from the 16th of December 1940, with four Botha aircraft;
- Number 1 Anti-Aircraft Co-operation Unit "F" Flight, from the 28th of April 1939 until the 7th of January 1942;
- Number 1 Anti-Aircraft Co-operation Unit "R" Flight from mid-1941 until 13th of September 1941;
- Number 1510 Flight – originally Number 10 Blind Approach Training Flight – from the 15th of August 1944 until the 31st of August 1945;

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- Number 10 Signals School;
- Number 2 School of Photography;
- Number 9 and 10 Recruit Training Centres;
- Number 5 School of Technical Training;
- Number 3 Coastal Operational Training Unit between 1941 and 1942;
- Number 4050 Special Flight (renamed 4149 Anti-aircraft Flight) from the 3rd of November 1942 until the 25th of March 1943.
- School of Air Sea Rescue from the 25th of April 1943 until the 12th of February 1945;

Two Polish squadrons (307 and 308) also operated from here:

- The 307 (Polish) Mosquito Squadron was formed as a night fighter unit on the 24th of August 1940, and finally moved to RAF Blackpool on the 9th and 23rd of January 1941, after originally being posted to the Isle of Man on December the 27th 1940. They were sent to defend Liverpool against Luftwaffe attacks, and moved out on the 26th of March 1941.

- The 308 (Krakow) Squadron was formed at the RAF Polish Depot in Blackpool on the 5th of September, but moved to Speke for training at Speke on the 12th of September. Its Hurricanes arrived in October and it was declared operational on the 12th of December. In April 1941, the Squadron received Spitfires, and had 52 confirmed kills of enemy aircraft, the highest in Fighter Command.

Also, at Squires Gate from the outbreak of the War was the depot of the Army's East Lancashire Regiment, which had been moved from Fulwood Barracks for infantry training duties.

The squadrons at HMS Nightjar at Inskip were as follows:

Operational Training Units (OTU):

- 747 – arrived on the 9th of May 1943 with Swordfish and Barracudas – moved to Fearn on the 26th of January 1944
- 766 – arrived on the 11th of May 1943 with Swordfish – left for Rattray in February 1946
- 735 – arrived on the 23rd of August 1943 with more Swordfish for ASV radar training – moved to Burscough on the 17th of March 1944
- 737 – reformed at Inskip in spring 1944 for ASV training with Swordfish – moved to Arbroath on the 28th of August 1944
- 760 – reformed at Inskip in spring 1944 anti-submarine training – disbanded in October 1944
- 763 - reformed at Inskip in spring 1944 anti-submarine training – disbanded in August 1945

First line squadrons:

- 787 – several months in 1944 with Swordfish
- 813 – several months in 1944 with Swordfish
- 838 – several months in 1944 with Swordfish
- 1791 – arrived on the 19th of April 1945 for night-fighter training with Fireflies – left for Drem on the 18th of June
- 1792 – also arrived in 1945 for night-fighter training with Fireflies – left on the 9th of August
- 816 – arrived on the 11th of August 1945 for night-fighter training with Fireflies – left on the 11th of October

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Appendix V: Second World War fortifications around Blackpool and Fylde

The local area was awash with man-made fortifications during the war. The following are those that survive today:

Concrete Pillboxes (type 22 – hexagonal):

- At the junction of Leach Lane and Blackpool Road, within Squires Gate airfield;
- By Marton Mere until the 1980s;
- Fisher's Field off Highfield Road until the 1970s;
- Fleetwood Road North, Fleetwood (opposite Cala Gran) – there were others around Fleetwood, notably one on either side of Copse Road;
- Fleetwood – behind the former Eastham Kitchens factory.
- In a small wood (The Salisbury Garden) near the access road to Stanley Park aerodrome (Woodside Drive – now Stanley Park Zoo) (protecting Stanley Park aerodrome);
- In a small wood, within Blackpool Airport, off Leach Lane opposite Leach Lodge farm (TWO boxes);
- Inside the boundary of Blackpool Airport, at the west end of Division Lane;
- Inside the boundary of South Shore Cricket ground, at the junction of Division Lane and Common Edge Road;
- Nateby, by the canal; and
- Near Plumpton, Great Marton (protecting Weeton Camp);
- On the railway bridge over Devonshire Road, North Shore (protecting North Station);
- Preesall, covered by sea wall; and
- Westby with Plumpton. On the south side of the A583, near Peel Hill Bridge, on the west side of the stream (protecting Weeton Camp);
- Newton-with-Clifton. Between Clifton and Newton beside the A583 road.

Various pillboxes and other defences stood on the east and west sides of Preston Road at Warton and around Weeton Camp

Coastal Gun Batteries:

- 4 emplacements on the sea wall near Fluke Hall at Pilling;
- At Squires Gate, there was a large concrete emplacement for a naval gun, this covered the estuary and is now the site of the sailing club. It was never armed;
- At the western end of Fairhaven Lake, in the front of Fairhaven Road/Lightburne Avenue. It has recently been turned into a children's playpit. Nissen huts for staff accommodation were erected on the green by the lake;
- On the Outer promenade, at the model yacht pond, Fleetwood;
- On the Outer promenade, Fleetwood; and
- west of the railway in St Anne's Nature Reserve.

Concrete Anti-Tank Pimples:

- At Fairhaven Lake opposite the end of St Paul's Avenue;

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- At the junction of Saltcotes Road and Cartmell Lane, north of Lytham;
- From the edge of the Lancaster Canal to the bottom of the canal bank near to Nateby Hall, there is a line of eight antitank cubes, with five lengths of railway line running in a westerly direction;
- In the grass banking beside the tram tracks at Rossall;
- In the hedge on the west side of Fleetwood Road;
- On the south side of the railway line by Sandringham Road, Fairhaven – a 6-metre length running parallel to the railway, across the Royal Lytham Gold Course; and
- On the eastern side of the Lancaster Canal at Cabus and in the grounds of Nateby Hall.

Combined two-pounder anti-tank gun emplacement, with a light AA position attached:

- RAF Inskip – in conjunction with anti-tank blocks and rails.

Coastguard Observation Post:

- Near the Lancaster Canal by Snapewood Farm in Cabus.

In addition, various "Tank Traps" were constructed in fields – for example off Smithy Lane in Lytham.

Note: The "tank traps" on the promenade at Rossall are nothing to do with the War. They were built to break up the waves before they reached the open-air swimming pool that stood there.

An Anti-landing obstacle consisting of an iron and concrete cylindrical base is partly buried in the earth and two attached vertical lengths of railway line. It has been unearthed and now lies on its side on Freckleton Marsh.

The air-raid shelters that were built in the area are far too numerous to list. Some have disappeared, some survive in other guises, and some are just there.

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Appendix W:
Air crashes and bombs dropped in Blackpool and the Fylde during World War 2

This official list of incidents was taken from the County Incident Control Book of Charles Beswick – controller of Sub-Area C – Fylde in 1944, and is supplemented by newspaper reports that I have found:

29/8/40 10:35 – Westby-with-Plumpton off Blackpool Road – 1 High Explosive (H.E.): slight damage to road, causing diversion down A584 to Lytham.
07:40 – Peel – 1 H.E. off Blackpool Road causing diversion down B5259.
19:17 - Westby – 2 H.E. and one incendiary near crossroads, causing diversion past Clifton Arms.

28/08/40 North Shore Golf Links, Blackpool – 1 H.E. no damage apart from a crater.

30/8/40 00:35 – North Shore Golf Links, Blackpool – 1 H.E. Unexploded Bomb (UXB) – no damage.

1/9/40 04:13 - Freckleton Road between Higher House Farm and the Plough Hotel, Freckleton – UXBs and 1 incendiary – road closed to traffic until 10:23.
Fairhaven Lake – 1 UXB – no damage – not found until 8/9/40.

3/9/40 20:55 – Lytham – 7 bombs fell into sea – no damage.

4/9/40 Freckleton Marsh – 1 H.E. – no damage.

5/9/40 09:27 Freckleton Marsh – 10 H.E. – no damage.
14:56 – Squires Gate sand hills, Blackpool – 1 UXB – NOT found by police.

6/9/40 Squires Gate Camp, Blackpool, northern entrance – 3 UXBs.

13/9/40 00:11 – Blackpool North Station – 2 H.E. – one on railway line.
02:15 – Blackpool North Station, railway track damaged, 2 on nearby Seed Street were partly demolished, 10 totally demolished. 8 people were killed and 14 injured. The dead were:

Emma Catterall-Higginson, age 73 - died the day after at Victoria Hospital.
Geoffrey Donovan age 66 at 27 Seed Street.
Sarah Donovan age 66 at 27 Seed Street.
Hannah Harding age 61 at 20 Seed Street.
Ada Howarth age 58 at 37 Seed Street.
Mabel Lea age 32 at 37 Seed Street.
Doreen Owens age 6 at 25 Seed Street.
Thomas Packin age 68 at 20 Seed Street.

16/9/40 01:11 – Freckleton railway line – 8 H.E. – smithy demolished, water main burst, 100 yards east of Preston Road.
01:11 – Warton – 4 H.E. – 3 houses damaged.

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03:07 – Warton – 1 H.E. - no damage.
10:30 – Freckleton – 3 UXBs – damage to Kirkham road – closed for water repairs.
10:38 – Freckleton – 3 UXBs – A584 closed.
12:40 – Freckleton – 1 H.E.

17/9/40 12:07 – Freckleton – 3 UXBs – exploded by military.

18/9/40 20:45 – Clock Garage at Peel – 20 incendiary bombs – no damage.
21:34 – Midgeland Road Blackpool – 1 H.E. and 2 UXBs – broken windows only.
21:34 – Preston New Road, Blackpool – 1 UXB near Burlington Motor Body Works and 20 incendiaries near Marton Gas Works on Clifton Road. They were extinguished by the local fireguards.
23:00 - Lytham – 3 H.E. dropped near the Birks on Ballam Road – water and gas mains damaged, road blocked.

19/9/40 11:30 – Lytham – 1 H.E. dropped near the Birks on Ballam Road – no damage.

27/9/40 20:55 – 6 incendiaries near Lytham Pier – slight damage to a nearby house.

1/10/40 20:20 – St Anne's, Church Road – H.E. and incendiaries – houses damaged, some needing to be demolished, some casualties.
22:40 – St Anne's, Church Road – 4 H.E.

7/10/40 11:40 – South Shore, Blackpool – H.E. and Incendiaries dropped in the sea between Harrowside and South Pier – no damage. Also, Incendiaries (about 10) were dropped on or by several houses, the Promenade gardens, and the pier – fires and slight damage but no casualties.

8/10/40 23:30 and 01:00 – 8 Incendiaries dropped at White House on Ballam Road near Wrea Green – no damage or casualties.

19/10/40 21:11 – Kirkham – incendiaries – no damage.
22:45 – South Shore, Blackpool – 2 incendiaries – slight damage.
22:45 – Poulton, Fylde Farm School – 3 or 4 H.E. – no damage.

20/10/40 02:15 – South Shore, Blackpool – 3 H.E. and 7 incendiaries dropped near Vickers aircraft factory at Squires Gate – no damage. 1 UXB at 72 Farringdon Avenue causing damage to all mains services. Local rumour has it that this bomb was English.
02:55 – Poulton – 1 UXB.

22/10/40 22:20 – Poulton – 1 H.E.

25/10/40 23:04 – Cockerham – several incendiaries dropped on beach.
20:34 – Wrea Green – several incendiaries.
23:00 – Wrea Green and Weeton – several incendiaries – no damage.

26/10/40 08:50 – Weeton – 1 UXB.
10:05 – Weeton – several UXBs.

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11:08 – Weeton – 9 UXBs between Church Road and Weeton Road.
15:35 – Weeton – several incendiaries.
22:31 – Lytham – 2 H.E. dropped in Ribble estuary.

11/12/40 20:45 – Fleetwood – 1 H.E. dropped behind Wyre Dock – machine gunning also reported.

12/12/40 11:45 – Fleetwood – 1 H.E. in centre of Timber Pond.

21/12/40 00:18 – Fleetwood – Flares and rockets reported to the southeast.
11:15 – Weeton – 10 UXBs.

24/12/40 2 x parachutes seen at Hillock Lane. They carried 2 x land mines which exploded at Tarnbrick.

23/12/40 12:04 – Weeton – last of 10 UXBs exploded at Bryning after extraction.

20/01/41 16:20 – German parachute flare collected by RAF – ½ mile into the sea off King Edward School.

16/02/41 00:08 – Many German parachute flares over Ribble estuary since 23:40.

24/02/41 22:28 – Fleetwood – flare dropped over sea and 2 explosions reported.

12/03/41 12:10 – Fleetwood – 3 flares reported.
21:10 - Weeton – 6 flares reported.
23:02 – Bryning – 2 H.E. at Dobson's Farm at Bryning Hill.
23:58 - Bryning – 1 H.E damaged house and water main.

13/03/41 00:50 – Bryning – 2 parachute mines; 1 blocked Hillock Lane with a large crater and the 2nd damaged a house and outbuildings.

08/04/41 00:07 – Cleveleys – 3 German flares off Rossall School.
00:30 – Lytham – German aircraft down in flames off Lytham Windmill (this was actually a German JU88 which crashed on Bank Marsh after being shot by a Botha). The Luftwaffe pilot ejected onto Lytham beach and was captured by the local Home Guard.

10/04/41 01:45 - Blackpool – 2 H.E. near Squires Gate aerodrome.
03:00 – St Anne's – 6 H.E. south of Squires Gate aerodrome.
16:30 – Blackpool – 6 H.E. on Squires Gate aerodrome.
18:17 – St Anne's – 2 H.E. south of Squires Gate aerodrome.

16/04/41 03:30 – St Anne's – incendiaries on a house in Moorland Road and on the Ministry of Pensions buildings.
03:30 – Freckleton – 2 H.E. in open country.
09:00 – Warton – 2 UXBs at Winstanley's Black Field Farm.
15:55 – St Anne's – incendiaries – no damage.
16:20 – Bryning – 2 H.E. and 2 UXBs in open country.
12:20 - Blackpool – 2 H.E. in field behind Nickson's Farm at 253 Vicarage Lane.

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02/05/41 23:59 – Blackpool – 4 H.E. at Squires Gate RAF camp.

03/05/41 01:35 – Blackpool – 1 H.E. at Squires Gate RAF camp, 1 H.E. at Vickers factory and 2 on airfield.
03:15 – Blackpool – 2 H.E. at Kilnhouse Lane, 200 yards east of Moss Edge Road, 1 H.E. at Squires Gate aerodrome, 400 yards north of Division Lane, and 1 H.E. in Vickers factory grounds.
12:00 - Blackpool – 1 UXB, 200 yards south of Squires Gate lane on the aerodrome.
12:35 - Blackpool – 1 H.E. at 4 Kilnhouse Lane, and 1 H.E. on a hangar at Squires Gate.
16:35 - Blackpool – Unknown bomb damaged a house being built in BCB (?). Two workmen injured.

04/05/41 01:05 - Preesall – incendiary bombs destroy a wooden bungalow on Bourdles Lane.

09/05/41 03:15 – Blackpool – Squires Gate – 7 H.E. near Common Edge Road.

29/05/41 02:35 – Poulton – 500 incendiaries. 1 man injured but little damage.
03:15 – Lytham – 3 H.E. dropped into Ribble.
04:30 – Blackpool – Squires Gate – 5 H.E.s dropped on RAF station. 1 Liberator damaged.
09:17 – Blackpool – Squires Gate – 1 H.E.
11:35 – Blackpool – Squires Gate – 2 UXBs near runway.

02/06/41 03:55 – Greenhalgh – 2 H.E.s – minor damage.
17:55 – Greenhalgh – 1 UXB at Beech Grove.

20/06/41 11:00 – Freckleton – 1 H.E. crater found in WR Eastham's garden on Preston New Road.

24/07/41 03:10 - Fleetwood – 1 H.E. 400 yards south of refuse dump, 1 H.E. by Broadwater, 200 yards from Fleetwood Road.
03:10 - Fleetwood – 1 H.E. near Wyre Field Farm and slight damage to adjacent houses.
04:50 – St Anne's – Incendiaries 4 miles south west of pier.
05:00 – Kirkham – 1 H.E. in field 50 yards north of Blackpool Road at Tarnbrick.
10:41 – Nateby – 14 H.E. in fields around Primrose Hill Farm – no damage.
10:41 – Nateby – 3 H.E. near Southwoods Farm – no damage.

27/08/41 Two aircraft from Squires Gate crashed over Blackpool. Blackburn Botha L6509 from Number 3 School of General Reconnaissance went through Central Station roof and 18 people died. Bolton Paul Defiant N1745 from 256 Squadron with a New Zealand crew demolished number 97 Reads Avenue, the home of Mr and Mrs Lionel Franceys, a prominent local couple, and all the crew were killed. There were 19 people killed in the Botha disaster:

- 40760 Sgt Lincoln Ellmers RNZAF (24) Pilot of Defiant N1745 Killed in Regent Road.
- 402166 Sgt Noel Clifford RNZAF (23) Air gunner of Defiant N1745 Killed in Regent Road.
- 68147 Pilot Officer Aubrey "Pinder" Horne RAFVR (26) Pilot of Botha L6509 Killed on seafront.
- 105168 Pilot Officer Kenneth "Jack" Sale RAFVR (24) of Botha L6509 Killed on seafront.

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- Mr Frank Longson (19) Passenger in Botha L6509 Killed, Central Station.
- Dorothy Andrew - of Blackpool Girl's Club, Hornby Road (36) Killed in Central Station.
- Muriel Elliott - of Oldham (5) Killed in Central Station. - Her mother was injured and detained in hospital.
- Paul Grainger - of Aspley, Nottinghamshire (2) Died in hospital on 23 September 1941 of injuries. - On family holiday and both his mother and sister were injured and detained in hospital.
- Ellen Jervis - of Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent (43) Killed in Central Station.
- Harold Jervis - of Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent (45) Killed in Central Station - Husband of Ellen Jarvis.
- Betty Mitchell - of Darwen (3) Killed in Central Station - Her father, Cpl. George Mitchell RAF, was injured and detained in hospital.
- Mary Popplewell - of Castleford (56) Killed in Central Station.
- Jennie Sheldon - of Scholes, Cleckheaton (44) Died in hospital on 25 September 1941 of injuries.
- John Sheldon - of Scholes, Cleckheaton (45) Killed in Central Station - Police constable in West Riding Constabulary and Husband of Jennie Sheldon.
- Alice White - of Chorley (26) Died in hospital on 28 August 1941 of injuries. - Staying with family and her mother was injured and detained in hospital.
- Alice Zeun - of Manor Park, Essex (30) Died in hospital on 3 September 1941 of injuries. - On family holiday.
- Jean Zeun - of Manor Park, Essex (5) Died in hospital on 28 August 1941 of injuries. - Daughter of Alice Zeun.
- Victor Zeun - of Manor Park, Essex (35) Killed in Central Station - Father of Alice Zeun and husband of Jean Zeun.

29/09/41 00:20 – Kirkham – H.E. on Gasworks in Orders Lane. 2 killed (including Gilbert Eadon), 3 injured taken to Preston Royal Infirmary, 7 others treated at First Aid Post. 133 houses damaged – in Preston Street and other areas, 18 homeless.
10:05 – Kirkham – Many incendiaries.
17:50 – Kirkham – 8 H.E. 2 killed, 10 injured.

13/10/41 00:01 - Fleetwood – several H.E.
09:11 – Fleetwood – 1 H.E. in pasture south east of Woodcock Wood.

01/11/41 23:29 – Lytham – 1 H.E. on cinder track between North Houses and Wildings Lane.

02/11/41 13:45 – Lytham – 4 H.E. on Moss around Heyhouses.

05/12/41 Lytham - Sergeant Otton Pudrycki of "A" Flight, Number 306 Polish Squadron, crashed his Spitfire at the end of King Edward VII School playing field.

1942 The Air Defence Cadet Corps Squadron Headquarters in the Drill Hall on Buchanan Street, was bombed.

01/43 Blackpool – 1 Sea Mine exploded near North Pier breaking glass.

©

05/09/43 A Fairey Swordfish aircraft (DK689 of 766 Squadron), flown from RNAS Inskip by Sub Lt T Judd, was on an Anti-Submarine bombing exercise over Pilling, when it hit a pole and had to make a forced landing.

22/01/44 An Avro Anson EG321 from Squires Gate crashed in to the ground at the Warton base. The crew of Flight Officer William John Rogers (Royal Canadian Air Force), Flight Officer Walter Wardrope "Wally" (Royal New Zealand Air Force), and Sergeant Roger Belpaire - Navigator (Belgian) were all killed.

03/02/44 19:30 – Fairhaven – 4 UXUP (Unexploded Unrotated Projectile) fired by the 1st Battery, Royal Artillery on the foreshore (missed).

23/08/44 B-24 Liberator H-20 42-50291 "Classy Chassis II" was being test-flown by 1st Lieutenant John Bloemendal. Soon after take-off from Warton in terrible weather, the B-24 ripped the top off a tree and shed its right wingtip as it chopped off the corner of a building, leaving the rest of the wing ploughing along the ground through a hedge. The bomber carried on, demolishing three houses and Whittle's "Sad Sack" Snack Bar in Freckleton. It continued, raking across Lytham Road, and finally disintegrating. Another part of the plane destroyed the infant's wing of Holy Trinity School.

There were 61 victims of the Freckleton crash: 38 children, 2 teachers, 7 civilians, 10 USAAF personnel, and 4 RAF personnel. They were:

Freckleton Children:
Howard Allanson, John Hardman, Alice Rayton, Martin Alston, Annie Herrington, Malcolm Scott, Edna Askew, Beryl Hogarth, June Stewartson, Sylvia Bickerstaffe, William Iddon, Dorothy Sudell, Kenneth Boocock, Elizabeth (Kathleen) Isles, John Sudell, Jean Butcher, Vera Jones, Joseph Threlfall, David Carr, Georgina Lonsdale, John Townsend, Maureen Clarke, Thomas Mullen, Barrie Truscott, John Cox, Gillian Parkinson, Lillian Wailte, Sonia Dagger, June Parkinson,
Alice (Sylvia) Whybrow, Peter Danson, George Preston, Alan Wilson, John Foster, Michael Probert, Richard (William) Wright, Judith Garner, Thomas Rawcliffe

Teachers:
Jenny Hall (She only arrived at the school the previous day), Louisa Hulme

British Civilians:
Kathleen Forshaw, Alan Whittle, Rachel Whittle, Pearl Whittle (their daughter), Gwendoline Franken, Peral Whittle, Evelyn Rhodes, Rachel Whittle, James Silcock

USAAF Personnel:
1st Lieutenant John Bloemendal, Private Samuel Mezzacappa, Private George Brown, Sergeant Theodore Edwin Nelson, Corporal Herbert George Cross, T/Sergeant James Maunel Parr, Private Minas Philip Glitsis, Corporal Arthur James Rogney, Sergeant Gordon Wilbur Kinney, Sergeant Frank L Zugel

RAF Personnel:
Sergeant Douglas Bastson, Sergeant Walter Cannell, Sergeant Robert Bell, Sergeant Eric C Newton

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29/11/44 Two USAAF A-26 bombers collided over Warton Marsh. Both crews were killed.

24/12/44 A Lancaster bomber crashed into a field at Whinbrick.

13/04/45 A Wellington bomber (LP981) crashed into the sea opposite the Mount in Fleetwood. 5 crew were killed – the Pilot, Wing Officer Leon Trzebiatowski, W/Op/Air/Gnr Harold Harris, W/Op/Air/Gnr Sergeant Michael Brennan, W/Op/Air/Gnr Sergeant Norman Drake, and W/Op/Air/Gnr Sergeant Ronald McMillan.

Note: Official figures released in 1944, show that 163 high explosive devices were dropped on the area, along with 1,200 incendiary bombs and 2 parachute mines. These resulted in 11 deaths, with 33 injuries and over 300 houses damaged – 13 of which required demolition.

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Appendix X: Honorary Freemen and Aldermen

FREEMEN

Honorary Freemen of Blackpool:

19th June 1897	William Cocker JP
19th November 1907	Joseph Heap JP
6th February 1912	John Bickerstaffe JP
	James Fish JP
16th November 1914	James Ward JP
	Robert Mather JP
3rd November 1915	John Grime JP
	James Heyes JP
6th August 1918	Right Hon David Lloyd George PC MP
2nd August 1922	Colonel (Honorary Brigadier-General) Thomas Topping CB CMG DSO TD ADC
4th August 1926	Thomas Bickerstaffe JP
	Sir Albert Lindsay Parkinson JP
	William Broadhead JP
3rd October 1928	Henry Brown JP
	Samuel Hill JP
	John Collins JP
	Thomas Fielding JP
1st August 1934	Right Hon Edward George Villiers Stanley, 17th Earl of Derby KG PC GCB GCVO
23rd March 1937	Baron Stamp GCB GBE LLD DSc FBA
31st January 1938	Sir Cuthbert Grundy JP RCA RI RWA RDS
4th September 1946	Right Hon Sir Winston S Churchill KG OM CH MP
21st July 1948	Field Marshall Viscount Montgomery of Alamein KG GCB DSO
3rd March 1950	Eli Hey Howe JP
	Thomas Lumb JP
	Thomas Fenton JP
	Sir Harold R Grime JP
15th March 1961	the Council conferred upon R (Blackpool) Battery, 288 (2nd West Lancashire) Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment Royal Artillery, Territorial Army, the right, honour, and distinction of exercising all customary Regimental privileges when parading in or passing through the streets of the County Borough on ceremonial occasions
2nd May 1973	Rhodes Marshall
	Harold Grimbaldeston BEM JP
	Ernest Machin CBE JP
	Joseph Richardson CBE JP
	Leonard Broughton DL
25th June 1984	Raymond Jacobs MBE
	Walter Robinson
	Harold Hoyle MBE
	Percy Hall JP
25th November 1989	Stanley Mortensen
21st March 1990	HMS Penelope
9th April 2003	Lilian Doris Thompson OBE JP
11th April 2003	James Armfield OBE

©

19th June 2017 Duke of Lancaster's Regiment

Freemen of Lytham St Anne's include:

Charles Critchley
John Talbot
William Holden
The Duke of Lancaster's Regiment
AFC Fylde
Michael Jack

Freemen of Wyre include:

Doreen Lofthouse
HMS Sheraton
Sir Walter Clegg
Duke of Lancaster's Regiment

ALDERMEN

The title of Honorary Alderman recognises long-serving councillors who made an outstanding contribution to a Borough and their community during their time in office. It is traditionally bestowed on councillors who have served the Borough for 20 years or more.

Blackpool Aldermen:

This list has been compiled for me by the Local History Centre:
"The following list is taken from directories and municipal diaries. It provides the decade during which the signatory represented the council as an alderman, but does not reflect the date at which alderman status was conferred, or the date at which the signatory first became a councillor.
This list is not intended to represent an exhaustive search, and is an initial survey of the above sources. It is possible there may be omissions. The list can be amended and added to as required.
Municipal diaries cease to refer to aldermen from the early to mid-1970s.
The historic list so far researched is as follows:

1870s/80s

Alderman Henry Hall
Alderman John Marsden
Alderman Thomas L Masheter
Alderman Francis Parnell
Alderman Thomas NcNaughtan
Alderman Thomas Challoner
Alderman William Henry Cocker
Alderman Lawrence Hall
Alderman William Birch
Alderman John Hardman
Alderman John Bickerstaffe
Alderman James Blundell Fisher
Alderman James Cardwell

©

1890s

Alderman Frederick Henry Parkinson
Alderman Henry Buckley
Alderman Joseph Heap
Alderman James Ward
Alderman John Grime
Alderman Robert Butcher Mather
Aldermen John Hodgson
Alderman Richard Dickinson
Alderman Frederick Nickson
Alderman Thomas Houldsworth Smith
Alderman Thomas Bickerstaffe
Alderman James Fish
Alderman Joseph Brodie

1900s

Alderman John Nickson
Alderman George Chadwick Kingsbury
Alderman James Howarth
Alderman James Heyes
Alderman Gilbert Blundell

1910s

Alderman James Battersby
Alderman William Hall Hampson
Alderman Henry Brown
Alderman John Collins
Alderman Samuel Hill
Alderman Albert Lindsay Parkinson
Alderman Joseph Roberts Gath

1920s

Alderman William Henry Broadhead
Alderman Milton Gough Wilde
Alderman William Cartledge
Alderman Joseph Heap
Alderman Joseph Wood Scholes
Alderman William George Bean
Alderman Eli Hey Howe
Alderman Thomas Fielding
Alderman Robert Fenton
Alderman John Potter
Alderman Thomas Pilling Fletcher

1930s

Alderman Tom Gallon Lumb
Alderman Thomas Fenton
Alderman R Swarbrick

©

Alderman Peter James Tomlinson
Alderman George William Gath
Alderman William Rostron Duckworth
Alderman William Sandiford Ashton
Alderman Walter Newman
Alderman Leonard Newsome
Alderman John Robert Quayle
Alderman Charles Edward Tatham
Alderman George Whittaker

1940s

Alderman Daniel Jennings Bailey
Alderman Edward Stevenson
Alderman Harry Allan Thickett
Alderman Frank Iddeson Nickson
Alderman Jacob Parkinson
Alderman Percy Round
Alderman John Robert Furness
Alderman Alfred Salisbury

1950s

Alderman Robert Brierley
Alderman Clifford Cross
Alderman Harold Grimbaldeston
Alderman Herbert Henson
Alderman James Henry Hessey
Alderman Ernest Alfred Machin
Alderman Joseph Parker
Alderman Edwin Smith
Alderman William Stevenson
Alderman Edmund Ernest Wynne
Alderman Peter Fairhurst
Alderman Joseph Hill
Alderman Rhodes William Marshall
Alderman Charles Dunn
Alderman Will Ogden

1960s

Alderman Albert Ashworth
Alderman Thomas Bagot Fairclough
Alderman Raymond Jacobs
Alderman Tom Joyce
Alderman Leslie Pilkington
Alderman Joseph Shepherd Richardson
Alderman Jean Robinson
Alderman John Herbert Smythe
Alderman Albert Edward Stuart
Alderman Joe Walsh

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Alderman Arthur Wood
Alderman Frank Wilding
Alderman Charles Sheard Broughton
Alderman Walter Uriah Robinson
Alderman Horace Samuel Arthur Ward

1970s
Alderman George Edward Baguley

"on Monday 16 May 2016, at a special council meeting, honorary alderman status was conferred upon Mr Peter Evans, Mrs Joyce Delves, Mr Henry Mitchell, Mrs Sylvia Taylor, Mr Brian Doherty, and Mrs Val Haynes. All six were ex-councillors of Blackpool Council, and did not stand for Local Government re-election the previous year and so did not lose their seat. In recognition of their valued long-term service as councillors to Blackpool Council it was formally agreed through Council that these ex-councillors should receive the "honorary alderman" title". This list was compiled by Tony Sharkey, Blackpool Central Library, April 2016.

Fylde Honorary Aldermen:
Alfred Jealous
Anne Smith OBE
Colin Walton
Dawn Prestwich
Eric Bamber
George Bamber
Hannah Cummings-Miller
Harold Butler
Howard Henshaw
Jean Wilding-Walsh
John Longstaff
John Tavernor
Margaret Procopides
Milton Lane
Ronald Wilson
Wilf Callon

Wyre Honorary Aldermen:
Anthony Fox OBE
Basil McGregor
Charles Stebbing
David Bannister
Don Lawrenson
Earnest Melallieu
Gordon McCann
H Formstone
Harry Taylor
J Davis
Jean Mutch
Jim Hargreaves
Leonard Jolly

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Maurice Richardson
May Gandhi
Norman Irish
Patricia Catlow
Peter Pimbley
Reginald Allen
Robert Williamson
Roger Brooks
Sarah Preston
Thomas Croft
Thomas Ibison

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Appendix Y:
Winners of local Beauty Contests and Gala and Rose Queens

These listings are the winners of finals of some of the many Beauty Contests that have been held in Blackpool and on the Fylde Coast over the years. I have only shown FINALS.

Miss Blackpool:
Sporadic contests were held for the title from the 1920s at various venues, but nothing long-standing arose until 1954 - although an alternative Miss Blackpool competition was held from 1951. This was won by Sydney Walker, in 1952 by Wyn Wainwright, in 1953 by Maureen Williams, and in 1954 by Audrey Whitaker. Originally called the Blackpool Bathing Beauty Queen Competition, the new contests were held at South Shore Open-air Baths and then at the North Pier sun lounge until the venue and type of contest changed in 1998:

1954 Elaine Smith
1955 Eira Roberts
1956 Leila Williams
1957 Margaret Wroe
1958 No contest staged
1959 Marilyn Davies
1960 Barbara Smith
1961 Anne Thelwall (Miss United Kingdom and runner-up to Miss World)
1962 Joyce Kay
1963 Cheryl Driscoll
1964 Jennifer Gurley
1965 Pamela Harrison
1966 Julie Owen
1967 Nina Scott
1968 Marie Smith (or Ann Lamon – confusion here)
1969 Pat Brooks (NOT Pam Brookes)
1970 Dawn Cooke
1971 Linda Thomas
1972 Linda Benn
1973 Wendy Anne George
1974 Sheila Mitchell
1975 Ann Dunsford
1976 Gillian Clark
1977 Susan Hempel (Miss Great Britain)
1978 Janet Withey
1979 Pamela Jewitt
1980 Caroline Bell (Julie Duckworth from Blackpool won Miss England)
1981 Geraldine Fuller
1982 Linzi Butler
1983 Jane Kennedy
1984 Vicky Ellis

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1985 Karel Horton
1986 Zoe Bolsover
1987 Lesley Anne Steele
1988 Janet Pasquill
1989 Elaine Durr
1990 Helen Upton (Miss United Kingdom)
1991 Jane Collier
1992 Claire Smith (Miss United Kingdom and runner-up to Miss World)
1993 Julie Gillian
1994 Rhianydd-Lesley Jones
1995 Karen Smith
1996 Jennifer McLoughlin
1997 Vicki Lee Walberg (Miss United Kingdom)
1998 Caroline Loeben

Moved to Brannigan's nightclub:
1999 Caroline Porter
2000 Natalie James
2001 Joanne Birchall
2002 Tanya Robinson
2003 Lindsey Perry
2004 Terri Williams

Moved to the Winter Gardens:
2005 Donna Fleetwood
2006 Sally Hempel (the 1977 winner was her aunt)
2007 Gemma Louise Henry
2008 Nicola Cowell
2009 Jessica Berry

Moved to the Imperial Hotel:
2010 Ella Green (first Blackpool final to be streamed on the Internet)

Moved to Norbreck Hotel:
2011 Hollie Robinson
2012 Kim Braithwaite
2013 Kendall Rae Knight (appeared on ITV's Love Island in 2018)

Moved to the Hilton Hotel:
2014 Joanna Johnson (also won Miss Galaxy 2019)

Moved to Viva Showbar:
2015 Jessica Bradder
2016 Beth Dust

Moved to the Paradise Rooms at the Pleasure Beach:
2017 Shannon Hammill
2018 Lydia Murray

©

Moved to the Tower and the Norbreck Castle Hotel:

2019 Brittany Feeney

In recent years, the Miss Blackpool winner has gone on to be **"Queen of the Lights"** at the Illuminations switch-on party. Previous to this, the "Queen" was voted for separately (for example, 1982 – Leigh Davies, and 1985 – Karel Horton).

The short-lived **Miss Blackpool Town** was held at the Beat nightclub on Corporation Street:

2006 Carmen Hall
2007 Nickie Hedger
2008 competition not held
2009 Hollie Robinson

Miss Radio Wave was launched in 2010 to give entry into Miss Blackpool. Unlike the others, this is a photographic competition:

2010 Lauren Carr
2011 Sophie Heald
2012 Lisa Cox
2013 Charley Dee King
2014 Emily Baldwin
2015 Beth Dust

Miss Blackpool International was launched in 2014 to provide entry into the Miss Intercontinental and International competition. The winners are:

2014 Keeley Atkinson Strutton
2015 Joanna Johnson
2016 Christina J (Jones)
2017 Jade Hall
2018 Phoebe Drury

Miss Fleetwood took place from 1950 until 1973, supported by a junior winner too. Contests had been held since 1935, but without the awarding of a definitive name; for example, the **Fishing Queen** contest began in 1934, with its first winner being Annie Elvidge. In 1937, it was Renee McEvoy, in 1939, Edna Minns, and in 1949, it was Veronica Sullivan. Winners of Miss Fleetwood are:

1950 Audrey King
1951 Lucy Watson
1952 June Walker
1953 Phyllis Westhead
1954 Dorothy Peake
1955 Josephine Skilligern
1956 Drene Hardcastle
1957 Margaret Helsby
1958 Jill Lawrence
1959 Vickie Burns
1960 Hilda Fairclough
1961 Jackie Peterson
1962 Carole Redhead
1963 Elsie Baines

©

1964 Barbara Garvey
1965 Pamela Harrison
1966 Rita Dempsey
1967 Barbara Garvey
1968 Valerie Carroll
1969 Barbara Taylor
1970 Carol Jenkins
1971 Wendy George
1972 June Pickering
1973 Linda Lewis

In 1974, **Miss Wyre** superseded Miss Fleetwood and was also held at the outdoor baths and the Marine Hall:

1974 Susan Ward
1975 Sue Sykes
1976 Linda Lewis
1977 Susan Hempel
1978 Julie Curran
1979 Carole Ann Bird
1980 Leigh Davies
1981 Jo Moran
1982 Tracy Anne Murtagh
1983 Caroline Davies
1984 Linzi Butler
1985 Vicky Ellis
1986 Zoe Bolsover
1987 Justine Ealey
1988 Samantha Fogg
1989 Julie Paul
1990 Jane Kennedy
1991 Sara Whitehead
1992 Julie Cheeseman
1993 Shelley Hunt
1994 Jennifer McLoughlin
1995 Vicki Lee Walberg
1996 Joanne Birchall
1997 Karen Smith
1998 Lisa Karen
1999 Alexandra Bell
2000 Caroline Porter
2001 Sherene Fogg
2002 Jayne Earl

Miss Wyre in 2002 was the UK's last outdoor swimwear beauty contest. **Miss Wyre Junior** was also held.

Miss Lytham St Anne's was held at the open-air baths until moving onto the pier in 1965. Winners include:

1952 Jean Ferguson
1958 Marion Fall

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Miss Fylde Coast was launched in 2010, to provide entry into the Miss England contest. Winners at Lowther Pavilion include:

2010 Kerry Capoverde
2011 Sophie-Leigh Anderson
2012 no competition
2013 Jenna Howard
2014 Decia Mortimer
2015 Rebecca Copsey
2016 Ellie Wilde
2017 Emily Baldwin
2018 Coral Hopkinson

Junior Miss Fylde Coast was launched in 2014. The winners have been:

2014 Olivia Seed
2015 Chantal Blakey
2016 Lydia Reay (final at Thornton Little Theatre)

The Face of Blackpool Pleasure Beach was held briefly in the Paradise Room:

2007 Sarah Fletcher
2008 Abigail Tudor
2009 Georgia Zaryckyj - Competition ended

The Face of the Evening Gazette was voted for by readers:

2001 Heidi Cliff
2002 Lindsey Perry
2004 Ebti M
2006 Jade Slusarczyk
2007 Claire McDowell
2008 Charlie Latus
2009 Stacey Abraham
2011 Gina Carpenito
2012 Kendall Rae Knight - Competition ended

The Miss Teen Blackpool competition started, to enable entry into the **Miss Teen Great Britain** contest, held at the Globe Theatre. Winners have been:

2011 Lucie-jaye Whitehead
2012 Christina Avloniti
2014 Chantal Blakey
2015 Courtney Woodall - Competition ended
2019 Dannii Sproat – Competition re-started online only

Miss Teen Fylde Coast

2012 Freya Wade
2013 ?
2014 ?
2015 Lia Riley
2016 Ashleigh Wild
2019 Krystyna Nova

©

Miss Teen Wyre

2019 Krystyna Nova – Competition is online only

Miss Teen Great Britain (a personality contest) – the inaugural final was held at the Pleasure Beach Globe Theatre on the 25th of September 2011, with one stage at the Imperial Hotel:

2011 Constance Baldwin
2012 Daisy Whetlor
2013 Brittany Hargreaves
2014 Hayley Galloway
2015 Emma Collingridge
2016 Ashleigh Wild
2017 Evanjelin Elchmanar
2018 Imogen Chapman (also at the Village Hotel)
2019 Nancy Hodgson

The **Miss Earth UK** finals were held in the Paradise Room at The Pleasure Beach in 2010. The winners were:

England - Sandra Lees from Birmingham
Scotland - Cora Buchanan from Renfrewshire
Wales - Louise Hinder from Swansea
Northern Ireland - Judith Keys from Fermanagh
Ireland - Alesha Gallen from Donegal

They all went on to represent their countries in the Miss Earth final in Vietnam in November.

The **Miss United Kingdom** final was held in Blackpool from its inception in 1958, using such venues as the South Shore Baths, North Pier, the Locarno (later Tiffany's) Ballroom, and the Winter Gardens. The winners of the Miss United Kingdom contests which were held in Blackpool are:

1958 Eileen Sheridan
1959 Anne Thelwell
1960 Hilda Fairclough
1961 Rosemary Frankland (became Miss World)
1962 Jackie White
1963 Diane Westbury
1964 Ann Sidney (became Miss World)
1965 Lesley Langley (became Miss World)
1966 Jennifer Lowe
1967 Jennifer Lewis
1968 Kathleen Winstanley
1969 Sheena Drummond
1970 Yvonne Ormes
1971 Marilyn Ward
1972 Jennie McAdam
1973 Veronica Cross
1974 Helen Morgan (became Miss World but gave up her title after 4 days)
1975 Vicki Harris
1976 Carol Grant
1977 Madeleine Stringer
1978 Elizabeth Ann Jones

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1979 Carolyn Seaward
1980 The competition moved to London until a one-off return in 1998
1998 Emmalene McLoughlin

(This was the last true running of the contest. From 1999 separate representatives from England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland competed at Miss World, and the highest ranked woman of the four constituent countries was then named Miss United Kingdom.)

Note: The Miss Great Britain contest was NEVER held in Blackpool

Cotton Queen of Great Britain – the national finals were held in South Shore Baths, with the contestants staying at the Norbreck Hydro, and being crowned in the Tower Circus. The winners were:

1930/31 Frances Lockett
1931/32 Lois Heath
1932/33 Marjorie Knowles
1933/34 Alice Kirkham
1934/35 Gladys Wood
1935/36 Edna Taylor
1936/37 Doris Bower
1937/38 Vera Greenwood
1938/39 Marjorie Mason
1939/40 Elsie Kersley

Coal Queen of Britain: The national final of the competition was held in the Winter Gardens from 1973 until 1983, all the winners were:

1969 Rose McLachlan
1970 Jean Robson
1971 Judith Hargreaves
1972 Margaret Dominiak
1973 Cathy Wilkinson
1974 Pat Verey
1975 Sue O'Connor
1976 Yvette Shilton
1977 Marie Redford
1978 Ann Melling
1979 Debbie Johnson
1980 Heather Hardy
1981 Tricia Liedl
1982 Susan Brown
1983 Lyn Tomlinson

Miscellaneous Beauty Competitions:
Various other beauty contests have been held in the area, from as early as 1930 (the UK's first, the Miss England contest had started in 1928), but few progressed past the first staging. For example:

- Blackpool's **Queen of Beauty** was crowned for the 1923 and 1924 Carnivals;
- Blackpool's national **Queen of Queens** competition was held in 1935.

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- Britain's **Queen of Beauty** was crowned at the Imperial Hotel in July 1936 to celebrate the corporation's silver jubilee;
- The **Railway Queen of Great Britain** in 1935 was Blackpool girl Audrey Mossom, and a special reception was held for her in town;
- **Miss Fylde Coast** 1948 was Veronica Sullivan of Newhouse Road;
- **Miss Viking** was crowned at Fleetwood in 1949;
- **Miss Blackpool Hotel and Guest House Association** in 1952 – won by Doris Collinson;
- **Miss RAFA** was crowned at the Savoy Ballroom in 1951 – won by Joan Hitchen;
- In 1953, most areas elected a **Coronation Queen**. For example, Wesham chose Barbara Drought, and Kirkham chose Elizabeth Lee.
- **Princess Charming** was unveiled at St Anne's in 1955;
- **TV Girl of Great Britain** was held in Fleetwood in 1955 – won by Yvonne Humphries;
- **Miss Strand** (cigarettes) was held on St Anne's Pier during the 1950s and 1960s;
- The **Sunday Pictorial** (later to become the Sunday Mirror) ran Beach Beauty contests opposite the Manchester Hotel in the 1950s;
- The **Miss Squire Personality Girl** competition was run at Squires Gate Holiday Camp in the 1950s;
- **Pontins Personality Girl** finals were held at their Blackpool camp in the 1950s;
- **The St Anne's Personality Girl** contest was held at the open-air baths during the 1950s;
- **Holiday Town Parade** held a beauty contest between 1956 and 1962, with various heats and finals being occasionally held in Blackpool – winners were Marion Lewis, Christine Gregg, Caroline Thomas, Barbara Smith, Marny Birchall, and Sue Burgess;
- The **TV Bathing Beauty of Great Britain**, the **TV Fashion Queen**, and the **TV Adonis** competitions were televised live from the Central Working Men's Club in 1959;
- The **Candy Queen** competition – for girls working in the local confectionery trade - was held at the Candy Ball in the Winter gardens in 1960;
- **Blackpool Jazz Queen** at the Winter Gardens in 1962 – won by Carole Redhead;
- The **Miss Poulton-le-Fylde** competition was held in the 1960s and 1970s;
- **Gazette and Herald Girl of the Year** in 1964 – Patricia Minto was crowned at the Winter Gardens;
- **Miss Blackpool Supporters Club** was held in the mid-1960s;
- The **Baby of the Year** competition in 1968 was won in the Tower Ballroom by Andrea Tinker;
- The **Holiday Princess of Great Britain** contest was held in 1973 at the Metropole Hotel, sponsored by "Weekend" magazine;
- Local lass Karen Jones became the unofficial **"Face of Blackpool"** in 1974, when she became the first person to appear on the cover of the official town guide. Blackpool publicity chief Bob Battersby told a Gazette reporter that the Tower was pushed onto an inside page because of Karen's expression;
- **Miss Jubilee** was held at the Jubilee gardens in Cleveleys in 1994;
- Local girl Vicki-Lee Walberg won **Miss United Kingdom** in 1997;
- **Centenary Queen** at Blackpool in 1976 – won by Barbara Smith;
- **Miss Jubilee Personality Girl** at Jubilee Gardens in Cleveleys from the 1980s until 2002;
- **Miss Carleton** was chosen at the annual Gala, last held in 1960;
- **Miss Sunshine** at Blackpool;
- **Miss Illawalla** was held there in 1980 and 81, first won by Tracy Murtagh;
- **Miss Hounds Hill** was held in 1980 – won by Beverley Cowburn;
- The national final of **Miss Royal British Legion** was held at the Winter Gardens 1978, 1979, and 1980;

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- The **Daily Mirror Beach Beauty** contest was held on the Promenade in 1963, won by Carol Redhead;
- **Miss Premium Bonds** competition was held from the 1950s to the 1980s, in which employees of the agency entered during the annual Civil Service Sports and Social Club Day held in St Anne's;
- **Miss Lovely Legs** was won by Jayne Bonsor in 1986;
- **Junior Miss Blackpool and Mini Miss Blackpool** were held on North Pier from the 30th of July to the 27th of August 1987;
- **Miss Spring Babe 2000** was held in Blackpool;
- **Mr and Mrs Blackpool** – a bodybuilding competition – was held at the Bloomfield Club in 2005;
- **Mr Gay Blackpool** competition was held in 2007 at the Flamingo Club. Its winner Daniel Broughton went on to win the **Mr Gay UK** final at the same venue;
- **Little Miss Blackpool** was held in 2006 – won by Bethany Valentine;
- **Miss Poulton** was held in 2009 at the Residence nightclub won by Jade Slusarczyk;
- **Miss G Casino** was held in the Grosvenor Casino on the 28th of October 2011 – won by Charley Cockbain;
- **Miss Teen Lytham St Anne's** was held just once in 2012, and was won by Faye Butler;
- **Miss Fylde Coast Galaxy** in 2014 was Vickie Martin, and in 2017 was Jade H;
- **Junior Miss Blackpool Galaxy** was won in 2014 by Tia Woodall;
- **Miss Poulton-le-Fylde International** in 2014 was won by Hollie Robinson; and
- **Miss Junior Lancashire 2017** at the Sands Venue, was won by Ammie Shipton of Lytham.

Julie Duckworth of Blackpool won the **Miss England** title in 1980.

Local girl Abby Essien won both the **Miss Great Britain** and the **Model of the World** contests in 1998. Chloe Wakelin of Blackpool was crowned **Miss Natural Northwest** in 2012.

Norbreck girl Joanna Johnson won the **World Supermodel UK** competition in 2015.

Phoebe Hickling from Thornton was chosen as **Miss Junior Lancashire** in 2018.

Local Gala Queens, Rose Queens, and Carnival Queens:
For interest, I have listed below the winners of the main local competitions since their beginnings:

Wrea Green Rose Queens:

1924	Blanche Harrison	1981	C Marsden
1925	to 1928 Not Known	1982	H Morgan
1929	Jennie Whiteside (Bonney)	1983	Angela Unsworth
1930	Rene Laurance (Hornby)	1984	Marketta Wardle
1931	Mary Bilsborough	1985	Helen Johnson
1932	Miss Cardwell	1986	Angela Whiteside
1933	Monica Marsden	1987	Susan Walton
1934	Mary Bancroft	1988	Nicola King
1935	Jean Crompton	1989	Charlotte Smith
1936	Barbara McCall	1990	Emma Glen
1938	Gertrude Lancaster (Kirkham)	1991	S J Allen
	+ Connelley's Old English Fair	1992	Mary Stewart
1939	Nora Parkinson	1993	Amy Lancaster

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None during the war years	1994 Tracy Heywood
1946 Shirley Palmer	1995 Joanna Lancaster
1947 to 1952 Not Known	1996 Charlotte Rigby
1953 Phillis Dobson	1997 Jenna Rees
1954 Anne Jones	1998 Lucy Johnson
1955 Doreen Halsall (Walter)	1999 Sarah Hargreaves
1956 Not Known	2000 Dawn Gilbert
1957 Yvonne Smith	2001 Leah Gregson
1958 Eileen Kirkham	2002 Lucy Blaze
1959 Jennifer Parker	2003 Amy Pemberton
1960 Marion Higginson	2004 Jessica Mattler
+ Hamers Fair	2005 Helen Johnson
1961 Jean Dobson	2006 Claire Harbourne
1962 Jacqualine Harrison	2007 Alice Ann Eastham
1963 Sylvia Wright	2008 Helen Bradbrook
1964 Valerie Alston	2009 Victoria Greensmith
1965 Sylvia Bamber	2010 Jessica England
1966 Ann Whiteside	2011 Amber Metherell
1967 Elizabeth Bamber	2012 Jessica Millar
1968 Linda Nejzer	2013 Ella Cocksey
1969 Anaja Arrowsmith	2014 Holly Wensley
1970 Myra McQuillan	2015 Eponie Jones
1971 Gillian Leyland	2016 Charlotte Vos
1972 Marylin Jackson	2017 Olivia Hunt
1973 Fiona Jolly	2018 Evie May Sharpe-Fisher
1974 Ann Critchley	2019 Amelia Hatton
1975 Andrea Nejzer	
1976 Sally Howl	
1977 Jill Gregson	
1978 Tanya Nevin	
1979 C Whitehead	
1980 Catherine Johnson	

Poulton Gala Queens (an incomplete list – additions wanted please):

1946 Olive Armer	2006 Laura Davies
1948 Sylvia Foden	2007 Kelly Garrett
1949 Joyce Nightingale	2008 Alice Ormrod
1950 Jean Atkinson	2009 Megan Evans
1965 Denise Darlington	2010 Emma Hodgkiss
1971 Susan McWhinnie	2011 Rebecca Ashworth
1978 Carole-Anne Earnshaw	2012 Megan Crawforth
1988 Susan Mortimer	2013 Beth Roeves
1998 Alice Frost	2014 Freya Seville
1999 Rachel Vivian	2015 Katie Brandes
2000 Sian Simpson	2016 Rebecca Curl
2001 Emily Owens	2017 Phoebe Lyons
2002 Georgia Hindle	2018 Ella Humphries
2003 Olivia Martin	2019 Emily Drew

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2004	Josephine Cross	
2005	Grace Beddows	

Lytham Rose Queens – crowned in the Market Square**:**

1928	Marion Richardson	1975	Janet Kimber
1929	Margaret Dickinson	1976	Julie Richardson
1930	Marjorie Gardiner	1977	Angela Bowen
1931	Catherine Brown	1978	Helen Bowyer
1932	Edna Coward	1979	Jane Fretwell
1933	Doris Wilkin	1980	Kathryn Lucy
1934	Christine Nelson	1981	Katie Flatley
1935	Edith Maudsley	1982	Elizabeth Wood
1936	Marjorie Pemberton	1983	Tracy Bamber
1937	Frances Glass	1984	Alison Irvine
1938	Joan Morris	1985	Lindsey Nottingham
1939	Doreen Rose Eaves	1988	Mary Cooper
1940/5	World War 2	1989	Emma Dixon
1946	Jean Burnett	1990	Kimberley Nolan
1947	Joyce Parkinson	1991	Helen Swann
1948	Margaret Fort	1992	Nicola Tatham
1949	Brenda Hodson	1993	Sarah Beveridge
1950	Shirley Letts	1994	Nicola Jones
1951	Ruth Butcher	1995	Rachel Taylor
1952	Jennifer Lloyd	1996	Siorna McFarlane
1953	Margaret Cookson	1997	Helen Packer
1954	Jean Fielden	1998	Megan Porter
1955	Georgina Foster	1999	Lynne Carr
1956	Fay Waters	2000	Lesley Rowlings
1957	Lynne Butler	2001	Yvette Spedding
1958	Rosemary Baines	2002	Delyth Williams
1959	Gwen Whittaker	2003	Sarah Benett
1960	Dorothy Mayes	2004	Samantha Curtis
1961	Jacqueline Robishaw	2005	Annabel Lathwood
1962	Catherine Darbyshire	2006	Elizabeth Sullivan
1963	Susan Cartmell	2007	Laura Hopper
1964	Susan Matthews	2008	Alexandra Booth
1965	Susan MacKay	2009	Katie Ritchie
1966	Ruth Hawthornthwaite	2010	Sarah Hazeldine
1967	Judith Stocker	2011	Tabitha Riley
1968	Lynn Wignall	2012	Sian Thompson
1969	Jill Rossall	2013	Anna Jackson
1970	Jillian Hodge	2014	Isobel Russell
1971	Elaine Anderton	2015	Jennifer Pope
1972	Elizabeth Newsham	2016	Emily Leaper
1973	Deana Whalley	2017	Emma Clark
1974	Lynn Howarth	2018	Daisy Jones
1986	Lisa Hardman	2019	Aisha Berry
1987	Suzanne Barlow		

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St Anne's Carnival Queens (thanks Sharon):

1978	Lynsey Lacey	2002	Zoe Hibberd
1979	Elizabeth Cookson	2003	Sherilyn Godfrey
1980	Jackie Bradshaw	2004	Katie Nettleton
1981	Karina Pilkington	2005	Emma Howarth
1982	Rachel Haig	2006	Caroline Thompson
1983	Katie Cadley	2007	Holly Sagar
1984	Jenny Jackson	2008	Jennifer Moore
1985	Dawn Thomas	2010	Elle-Louise Moore
1986	Sharon Plant	2011	Rosalie Rothwell
1987	Amanda Hornby	2012	Elizabeth Drinkwater
1988	Carolyn Sumon	2013	Zara Harris
1989	Susie Nicholas	2014	Charlotte Griffiths
1990	Kate Tackett	2015	Hannah Jeffrey
1991	Victoria Shaw	2016	Emma Hanson
1992	Ann Palmer	2017	McKenzie Haas
1993	Caroline West	2018	Carys Burnett
1994	Rachel Young	2019	Georgia Roberts
1995	Helen Tate		
1996	Elizabeth Brett		
1997	Debbie Marsden		
1998	Sarah Pook		
1999	Lindsey Smith		
2001	Stacie Cartmell		

Bispham with Norbreck Gala Queens:

1924	Maggie Pye	1975	Barbara Hadfield
1925	Elsie Wroe	1976	Beverley Cairns
1926	Joan Gell	1977	Catherine Peake
1927	Edith Inghom	1978	Karen Taberner
1928	Dorothy Lingard	1979	Deborah Smith
1929	Dolly Spence	1980	Sandra Goode
1930	Lillian Dawson	1981	Helen Beswick
1931	Stella Sweet	1982	Alison Taberner
1932	Mollie Proctor	1983	Michelle Kirkham
1933	Winifred Winterbottom	1984	Lisa Bell
1934	Mary Barber	1985	Catherine Wheelan
1935	Lei Taylor	1986	Claire Culshaw
1936	Winnie Sunderland	1987	Elizabeth Fielding
1937	Annie Smyth	1988	Caroline Hardman
1938	Mary Jessop	1989	Kathryn Murphy
1939	Winifred Weatherhogg	1990	Sarah Atkins
1940/1	World War 2	1991	Michelle Court
1942	No new queen elected	1992	Lisa Snaith
1943	Doris Fraser	1993	Ruth Kirkman
1944	Maria Craven	1994	Clare Wolfendale
1945	Barbara Baker	1995	Andrea Stanworth

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1946	Kathleen Rogers	1996	Louise Steele
1947	Christine Pearson	1997	Susan Wright
1948	Jean Towers	1998	Ellie Parkinson
1949	Eileen Grimes	1999	Louise Bateson
1950	Marion Geddes	2000	Emma Howard
1951	Alice Brassington	2001	Sarah Kirkham
1952	Judith Critch	2002	Rebecca Sharp
1953	Ann Griffiths	2003	Rebecca Short
1954	Antoinette Smith	2004	Ciara Curtis
1955	Pamela Soar	2005	Caroline Nixon
1956	Barbara Forest	2006	Brogan McKeane
1957	Pat Jagger	2007	Jade Gregson
1958	Trudy Dewhurst	2008	Victoria Harper
1959	Valerie Greenhalgh	2009	Megan Whitely
1960	Maureen Wilson	2010	Ciara Curtis
1961	Gillian Wild	2011	Kathryn Lomas
1962	Beryl Healey	2012	Rebecca Hayes
1963	Sandra Wilson	2013	Holly Gregson
1964	Elaine Burton	2014	Olivia Mitchley
1965	Judith Forshaw	2015	Caitlin Davies
1966	Jennifer Wright	2016	Francesca Mitchley
1967	Lynn Rigby	2017	Tia Millard
1968	Susan Mottershead	2018	Amelie Hyams
1969	Karen Carman		
1970	Aileen Bass		
1971	Catherine Wolstenholme		
1972	Janet Hardman		
1973	Theresa Ryan		
1974	Janet Holloway		

Thornton Cleveleys Gala Queens (Thanks to John Davies-Allen etc):

1925	Kathleen Harden	1975	Christa Thornton
1926	Henrietta Rigg	1976	Alison Livesey
1927	Olive Ramsey	1977	Lorraine Roe
1928	Dora Rushton	1978	Michaela Wilson
1929	Jane Holland	1979	Gillian Smith
1930	Bertha Gillette	1980	Diane Carney
1931	Molly Bullen	1981	Kirsty Robertson
1932	Joyce Seeling	1984	Susan Hunt
1933	May Bramhall	1985	Debbie Wilde
1934	Kathleen McGuirk	1986	Melanie Longrigg
1935	Marjorie Counsell	1987	Diane Gyselman
1936	Alma Woods	1988	Susan Heaney
1937	Annie Didsbury	1989	Zoe Redman
1938	Alison Cheadle	1990	Gail Chamberlain
1939	Joan Pullin	1991	Clare Bilsborrow
1940/6	World War 2	1992	Katie Powell
1947	Margaret Spriggs	1993	Melanie Stewart

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1948	Margaret Whiteside	1994	Michelle Chapman
1949	Joan Richardson	1995	Emma Gleave
1950	Margaret Dutton	1996	Gemma Bullen
1951	Jeanne Farmery	1997	Lindsay Barnes
1952	Vary Shearer	1998	Leanne Mellor
1953	Christine Lang	1999	Kharena Cooke
1954	Joan Hawkins	2000	Candice Beckett
1955	Angela Hind	2001	Jennifer Whiteside
1956	Beryl Osman	2002	Kerryne Howe
1957	Gillian Roach	2003	Poppy Taylor
1958	Barbara Jenkins	2004	Sophie Stapleton?
1959	Christine Pearson		Gemma Tattersall?
1960	Lynn Graham	2005	Chloe Franklin
1961	Brenda Wilcock	2006	No Gala held
1962	Lorraine Maguire	2007	Chloe Major
1963	Sharon Bowker	2008	Ellie Bates
1964	Lynn Bowker	2009	Holly Moorhouse
1965	Susan Gowling	2010	Lucy Thistleton
1966	Joan Davies	2011	Katy Seddon
1967	Pamela Jackson	2012	Sophie Midgley
1968	Sheila Lloyd	2013	Abigail Eaves
1969	Kathleen Tuson	2014	Caitlin Diver
1970	Angela Street	2015	Laura Crane
1971	Carol Longland	2016	Ashleigh Baker
1972	Judith Clegg	2017	Natalia Ellis
1973	Joanna Bird	2018	Aimee Hudson
1974	Caroline Hamer	2019	Emilie Major
1982	Paula Cowen		
1983	Julie Franklin		

Normoss and Staining Gala Queens (Thanks to Bob Dobson):

1928	Nellie Rawcliffe	1978	Amanda Teale
1929	Amy Threlfall	1979	Sarah Price
1930	Joan Edsforth	1980	Tanya Hall
1931	Annie Pawson	1981	Sonya Hardy
1932	Dorothy Walsh	1982	Heidi Witts
1933	Edith Walsh	1983	Nadine Kelly
1934	Rene Rawcliffe	1984	Emma Teale
1935	Dorothy Dawson	1985	Maxine Rutter
1936	Peggy Gilbertson	1986	Lesley Gratrix
1937	Annie Smith	1987	Parminder Kaur Virk
1938	Connie Pye	1988	Julie Anne Franks
1939/48	World War 2	1989	Caragh Anne Walmsley
1949	Betty Stringfellow	1990	Emma Louise Calveley
1950	Barbara Taylor (Festival Queen)	1991	Diane Stark
		1992	Kerry Hornby
1951	Margaret Swan (Rose Queen)	1993	Katherine Phillips
1952	Barbara Taylor	1994	Shirley Nuttall

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1953	Sylvia Eccles	1995	Shirley Nuttall
1954	Joan Butler	1996	Louise Stapley
1955	Elizabeth Riley	1997	No Gala
1956	Pamela Johnson	1998	No Gala
1957	Jennifer Hesketh	1999	Gemma Eastwood
1958	Ruth Evans	2000	Vikki Clarke
1959	Penny Crooke	2001	Jet Smith
1960	Jennifer Jordon	2002	Sharon Shenton
1961	Judith Lawton	2003	Rebecca Helsby
1962	Susan Ashton	2004	Kerry Creegan
1963	Janet Allen	2005	Nathalie Jones
1964	Lynne MacLaren	2006	Summer Tomlinson
1965	Patricia Houghton	2007	Natalie Eastwood
1966	Jacqueline McDonald	2008	Nicole Nixon
1967	Teresa Whiteside	2009	Emily Whalley
1968	Carol Beresford	2010	Myan Roberts-Hodgson
1969	Gillian Speakman	2011	Molly Anne Grundy
1970	Janette Harper	2012	Megan Louise Raw
1971	Anita Houghton	2013	Harley-Brooke Royston
1972	Kathleen Hoyer	2014	Emma Slater-Stark
1973	Rhonda Sandham	2015	Shenice Williams
1974	Linda Wilkinson	2016	Luci Houghton
1975	Suzanne Bottomley	2017	Sophia
1976	Jill Earnshaw	2018	Tiegan Williams
1977	Joanne Gaskell		
1978	Nicola Copson		

Preesall and Knott End Gala Queens:

1947	Margaret Baines	1985	Tracy Dawson
1948	Joyce Wardle	1986	Wendy Ramwell
1949	Edith Bradshaw	1987	Claire Stevens
1950	Barbara Williams	1988	Lyn Tallentire
1951	Brenda Pinney	1989	Julie Anyon
1952	Jean Preston	1990	Kerry Ann Shanahan
1953	Muriel Anyon	1991	Kate Meylan
1954	June Storey	1992	Helen Butler
1955	Barbara Berry	1993	Paula Ramell
1956	Margaret Cross	1994	Alison Keating
1957	Ann Holmes	1995	Catherine Flynn
1958	Judith Stones	1996	Vicki Horn
1959	Agnes Danson	1997	Sarah Redman
1960	NO GALA	1998	Daleen Van-De-Sande
1961	Barbara Keighley	1999	Rachel Warnock
1962	Janet Turnbull	2000	Becky Cameron
1963	Mavis Taylor	2001	Rachael Clutton
1964	Hilary Gowling	2002	Lucy Miller
1965	Jean Shepherd	2003	Kirsty Miller
1966	Victoria Nixon	2004	Jenny Cross

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1967	Eileen Keighley	2005	Molly Isherwood
1968	Barbara Dawson	2006	Kayleigh Davidson
1969	Janice Bisbrown	2007	Alisia Copeland
1970	Susan Butler		Kathryn Naylor
1971	Elaine McPhee	2008	Millie Shepherd
1972	Lorraine Heys	2009	Natalie Danson
1973	Anne Crabtree	2010	Kathryn Naylor
1974	Elaine Rigby	2011	Morgan Sandford
1975	Gail Harrison	2012	Destiny Acton-Higginson
1976	Debbie Rayworth	2013	Millie Wallace
1977	Julie Wilson	2014	Chloe Hill
1978	Lucy Haworth	2015	Katie Wood
1979	Caroline Murphy	2016	Maisie
1980	Karen Sykes	2017	Lucy Fairhurst
1981	Elizabeth Reilly	2018	Brooke
1982	Jane Hodson	2019	Emily
1983	Claire Rimmer		
1984	Alison Schofield		

Great Eccleston and Little Eccleston Gala Queen (part list only):

1970 Melanie McCann
1971 Catheryn Molloy
1972 Susan Brown
1973 Ann Hallwood
1974 Jane Swarbrick
1975 Nichola Gardner
1976 Dorothy Ellwood
1977 Jackie Wilson
1978 Fiona Benson
1979 Bernadette Cardwell
1980 Anne Cragg
1981 Anna Maiden
1982 Jennifer Ashton
1983 Allison Holden
1984 Heather Wilson
1985 Nikki Butcher
1986 Suzanne croft
1987 Joanne Dorrity
1988 Carolyn Binns
1989 Joanna Carr
1990 Emma Cartmell

Fleetwood Carnival Queen (part list only):

2015 Hannah Praed
2016 Charlotte Kennedy
2017 Catherine Hoover
2018 Rhianna Gleave
2019 Eva Taylor-Arnall

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There have been several other Rose Queen competitions in our area over the years, for example:

- Margaret Gomersall (?) was crowned **Rose Queen of Blackpool** in the Coronation year of 1911.
- Doris Barrow was crowned **Rose Queen of Marton Moss** in September 1931.
- **Blackpool Cliffs Rose Queen** in 1933 was Irene Marsden, followed by Margaret Fitton in 1934, and Nora Gazey in 1935.
- In 1934, Vera Greenwood was crowned **Blackpool South Shore Rose Queen** in May.
- Mary Watson was crowned **Rose Queen of Marton** in September 1935.
- The first **Cleveleys Rose Queen** in 1925 was Kathleen Hardern.
- The **Warton Club Day Queen** in June 1954 was Jean Wilde.
- Kirkham and Freckleton each have several Rose Queens – one for each church in the town.
- The **St Anne's County School May Queen** for 1954 was Jennifer Swann.
- The **Freckleton Club Day Methodist Rose Queen** in July 1956 was Elizabeth Mason. The winner in 2019 was Sheilagh Whalley.
- **St Michael's Gala** was first held in 1969. The Rose Queen in 2016 was Lucy Phillips, in 2018 Constance Stewart, and in 2019 Marianna Ward.
- **Newton, Clifton, and Salwick Rose Queen** for 2017 is Robyn Westgate.
- **Hambleton Gala Queen** for 2013 was Xavia, 2014 was Cassidie, 2015 had a King – Samuel, 2016 was Livs, and 2017 was Ellie.
- **Singleton Gala Queen** in 2018 was Annabel.
- **Elswick Rose Queen** in 2019 was Christina Stone.

However, no lists are available for these smaller Rose Queens festival – churches, wards etc. but

Lists of the winners of other local galas would be welcome!

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Appendix Z
List of local Blue Plaques

Below is a list of Blue Plaques awarded by Blackpool Civic Trust. Where necessary, each plaque contains a description of its purpose:

- 251 Whitegate Drive (Cornelius Bagot)
- Abingdon Street Market
- Adelphi Hotel
- Alistair Cooke (10 Vance Road)
- Baileys Hotel
- Big Wheel (town centre)
- Birthplace of Swallow Sidecars - 23 King Edward Street – now the Berwick Hotel
- Blackpool Police Station (now Abingdon Street Market)
- Blackpool St John's National School
- Blackpool Tower – The original was lost and a new plaque was unveiled by the Countess of Wessex on the 1st of October 2019
- Blowing Sands
- Bonney's Farm – Plaque is missing
- Borough Theatre
- Central Library
- Central Picture Theatre
- Central Pier
- Central Station (plaque on toilet block – demolished in 2009)
- Church of the Sacred Heart
- Clifton Hotel
- Empire Theatre
- Former Odeon Cinema
- Foudroyant wreck site
- Foxhall Hotel
- Frank Swift (on Revoe Library)
- Revoe Library
- General Post Office
- Grand Theatre
- Great Marton Windmill and the Oxford Hotel
- Grundy Art Gallery
- Harold Larwood (Blackpool Cricket Club)
- Imperial Hotel
- Jimmy Armfield (on Revoe Academy)
- Lane Ends Hotel
- Little Marton Windmill
- Lucy Morton (on Blackpool Town Hall)
- Masonic Hall
- Mitre Inn
- Municipal Buildings

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- North Pier – Plaque is missing
- North Station
- Old Coach House, Dean Street
- Old No 3 and Didsbury Hotel – Plaque is missing
- Old Post Office
- Oxford Hotel and Great Marton Windmill
- Parish Church of St John
- Princes Parade
- Queen Vera Road
- Raikes Hall
- Railway Hotel – Plaque is missing
- Richmond Villa - 253 Whitegate Drive which became Marton telephone exchange
- Roberts Oyster Rooms
- Saddle Inn
- Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes
- Solaris Centre
- Squires Gate Aerodrome
- St Nicholas's School (Michael Smith - Nobel Peace Prize winner – one inside and one outside)
- St Stephen's on the Cliffs (Ian Anderson)
- Stanley Park Visitor Centre
- Temple of Arts
- The Gynn
- The Palace (Alhambra) – Plaque is missing
- The Swallow Sidecar Company – on the Number 1 Club at 5 Bloomfield Road
- Town Hall
- Victoria Promenade (destroyed in re-development)
- War Memorial
- Watson Road Park
- Winter Gardens

There is also a Green Plaque for the Swallow Side Car & Coach Building Co. in Cocker Street from the Blackpool Heritage Trust.

Ian Anderson unveiled a plaque from the Performing Rights Society in 2011, at Holy Family RC Church.

The Civic Trust also erected a bronze plaque in the Winter Gardens on the 8th of June 2011, with the legend *"This plaque commemorates all those who met and fell in love here at Blackpool Winter Gardens and marks the enduring affection of those people for this place. Thousands of love's stories, an enduring legacy all starting here..."*

The Civic Trust have also commemorated Blackpool's first school – St John's on Church Street – with a simple white, metal wall plaque.

There is a Blue Plaque on the wall of the Solaris Centre on the Promenade in commemoration of Sir James Drake, awarded by the Institution of Civil Engineers.

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A Blue Plaque was unveiled outside the Strand Hotel on the 8th of December 2009, to commemorate the Coronation Street episode where Alan Bradley was killed by a tram when fleeing the hotel.

Also, in 2009, a memorial plaque was unveiled at North Station, commemorating the deaths in the Central Station plane crash of 1941.

On North Pier, in 2018, Blackpool Heritage Trust installed a blue plaque on Sooty's 70th anniversary.

Tetley Inns awarded the Ramsden Arms their own Blue Plaque in view of its historical interest.

In March 2013, Merlin Entertainments erected a plaque in recognition of the music of Tower Ballroom bandleader Eric Delaney.

In 2011, JD Wetherspoon erected a black plaque at their new pub The Layton Rakes.

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The following are Blue and Black Plaques awarded by the Lytham St Anne's Civic Society:

Lytham:

- Assembly Rooms, Central Beach (blue)
- Clifton Arms Hotel, West Beach (black)
- Clifton Arms Vaults – The Taps (blue)
- Former Talbot Hotel, Clifton Street (blue)
- Henry Street, former Drill Hall (blue)
- Institute and Library, Clifton Street (blue)
- Market Hall, Market Square (blue)
- Mr Hincksman's chapel, Bath Street (black)
- Railway Station, Station Square (black)

St Anne's (all blue):

- Alpha House, Wood Street
- Carnegie Library, Clifton Drive South
- Frank Dickinson, optometrist, St Anne's Road West
- Lifeboat house, Eastbank Road
- Public Health Offices, Clifton Drive
- Railway Station – Sir Nigel Gresley
- Sir John Alcock, Heyhouses School
- St Anne's Church Parish Rooms
- Tram shelter, Clifton Drive North
- War Memorial Hospital, St Anne's Road East

Ansdell/Fairhaven (all blue):

- Ansdell Institute
- Beryldene, Inner Promenade (George Formby)
- Fairhaven Lake Boathouse
- Queen Mary School
- Starr Hills, Ansdell
- Tram shelter, Ansdell
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Another blue plaque was affixed at "The Bumbles" on Islay Road in 1995, for comedian Les Dawson. This one, at his home, was awarded by the Heritage Foundation. It disappeared after a house renovation.

JD Wetherspoon erected a black plaque on the Railway Hotel in Lytham after their renovation of the pub.

Wyre Borough Council has awarded Blue Plaques, which are at:

- 111 Bold Street (war poet Wilfred Owen)
- Lighthouse
- Lofthouse's old shop at 103 Lord Street
- Marine Hall (Alfie Boe's first performance – aged 14)
- North Euston Hotel
- The Fleetwood Arms
- The Mount Pavilion

There also are a number of information posts along The Esplanade containing Fleetwood's history.

Fleetwood Civic Society has awarded plaques to new buildings:

- Mayfair Mews – a row of houses on Poulton Road opposite St Wulstan's School
- Rimmer's shop Blakiston Street
- Rossall Hospital
- The Halifax Bank, Poulton Street
- The old Lifeboat house on Pharos Place
- The Thomas Drummond Public House (Wetherspoon's), London Street

There is also a blue commemorative plaque on a Preston and Wyre Railway milestone, which is now in the grounds of the Euston Park.

Poulton Conservation Area installed Information Plaques in 2008, on the following 19 buildings:

Amanda's Posy Bowl;
Arch between 7 and 9 Queen's Square;
Auction Mart;
Dry Cleaners at Queens Square;
Entrance to the Church of St Chad at Market Place;
James Baines;
Lloyd's TSB;
NatWest Bank;
Pork Shop;
Potts Alley;
Railway Station;
Savings Bank on Vicarage Road;
Teanlowe Centre;
Thatched House;
The Cube;
The Stocks;
The Sycamores;
Tithebarn; and
United Reformed Church.

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Appendix AA:
Local Brass Bands and when they were formed

- 1839 - Kirkham Harmonic Brass Band was active, later changing name to the Kirkham Brass band
- 1840s - Fleetwood Brass Band was active now, folding in 1860. It was re-formed in 1861, receiving new instruments in 1887. By 1894, the conductor was Mr Stone-Street
- 1850 - Lytham Brass Band was active, but soon folded, becoming active again in 1895
- 1861 - Lytham Rifle Volunteers Band - 29th of March
- 1862 - Blackpool Subscription Band had been formed by this year
- 1863 - Blackpool Brass band was formed, with 16 members. It first performed on the 9th of November. Active until 1877
- 1864 - Stalmine Brass Band played at the Pilling Sunday school party in September
- 1865 - Thornton Brass Band was active under conductor Thomas Farmer
- 1866 - Rossall School Rifle Corps Brass Band was founded as the 65th Lancashire Rifle Volunteers Brass Band – of the school cadet force
- 1868 - Marton Temperance Band was active
- 1870 - Blackpool Temperance Band – also active again in the 1930s and 1940s
- 1873 - Whittingham Asylum Military Brass Band was formed
- 1874 - Poulton-le-Fylde Brass Band was formed on the 25th of September. In 1891, the Conductor was Mr N Hodgson. In 1903, it amalgamated with the Thornton Subscription Band, and during World War 2, they were called the Home Guard Band, under Ernest Seed. Folded after the war, but was re-formed in 1955. An early name was the Poulton Silver band
- 1875 - A pipe and drum band was formed in Pilling. The conductor in 1878 was William Godfrey, and between 1881 and 1883 it was WR Bimson. It became Pilling Jubilee Silver Band after 1935 when the junior section split off
- 1879 - Band of the Raikes Hall Guards was formed at the complex
- 1884 - Blackpool Lifeboat Band - the only one of its type in the World was active until 1940. The conductor in 1896 was Howard Lees, and by 1910, the bandmaster was Tom Wylie. Also known as the Blackpool Fisherman's Band, which played at the lead-up to the first Fisherman's Saturday in Manchester in 1891
- 1884 - St Mathew's Brass Band was active
- 1886 - Blackpool Citadel Band (Salvation Army)
- 1886 - Freckleton Brass Band was active. First public performance was at the Primitive Memorial Chapel opening in 1891. Name changed to the Freckleton Subscription Brass Band in the 1950s
- 1886 - Fylde District Band of Hope - 23rd of March
- 1886 - St Anne's-on-the-sea Brass Band (later known as the St Anne's-on-the-sea Prize Band) played at the funeral of the lifeboat crew from the "Mexico" disaster
- 1888 - St Anne's Amateur Brass Band
- 1888 - Fleetwood Subscription was active from now until at least 1896
- 1890s - Preesall Temperance B and was active
- 1890 - Blackpool Amateur Banjo, Guitar, and Mandolin Band. It was formally established in 1895

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- 1891 - Kirkham Subscription Prize Brass Band performed at Club Day. They later changed Their name to the Kirkham Brass band, which played until the 1940s
- 1895 - Bispham Sunday school Brass Band – January
- 1895 - Fleetwood Fishermen's Brass Band was active
- 1896 - St Anne's Subscription Band played in the Blackpool Band Contest, and was active until the 1930s
- 1896 - Fleetwood British Legion Brass Band was operating by now
- 1896 - Jolly Jack Tar band played every day in front of the Blackpool Great Wheel
- 1897 - Lytham Volunteer Band 2nd East Lancashire Regiment was active
- 1898 - Blackpool Volunteer Band played at Fleetwood on August Bank Holiday Monday
- 1898 - Thornton Brass Band played at Club Day in June
- 1900 - Rossall Cadet Corps Bugle Band played at the Fleetwood festival for the Queen's Birthday
- 1900 - Blackpool South Shore Subscription Band – folded in 1910
- 1900 - Poulton Silver Band was playing, conducted by Mr Forester
- 1901 - St Anne's Promenade Band - taken over by the Council in 1902
- 1902 - Poulton Subscription Band was active
- 1905 - Lytham Town Band was formed, but folded by August
- 1905 - Preesall Orchestral Band played at the opening of Stalmine Village Hall. By 1911, they were called the Preesall Brass Band and performed until the 1930s
- 1906 - Marton Institute Band was formed
- 1906 - Blackpool Ambulance Brass Band was active. Dennis Stansfield was its conductor by 1908
- 1908 - Bispham Subscription Band - 8th of May, from the remnants of the Sunday school Brass Band
- 1908 - County Borough of Blackpool Band first performed on the 15th of May. Re-organised in 1910. During WW2 it was associated with the Auxiliary Fire Service to become the Blackpool County Borough AFS Band
- 1910 - Blackpool and Fylde Blind Brass Band
- 1910 - Blackpool GPO Band played at the funeral procession in honour of King George V
- 1914 - Kirkham Band played at the departure of local PALs recruits to Preston. In 1935, The band became the Kirkham and Wesham Band, folding in 1966
- 1915 - Staining Ladies' Band was set up while the menfolk were at war
- 1919 - Blackpool Citadel Young People's Band was set up by the Salvation Army
- 1916 - King's Lancashire Military Convalescent Hospital Band was formed at Squires Gate
- 1919 - Blackpool Excelsior Band was active from now until the 1940s
- 1920 - Blackpool Public Band was active in the 1920s
- 1924 - Temperance Brass Band played the Blackpool Carnival. By 1938, they were called the Blackpool Temperance Band.
- 1926 - Blackpool Special Constabulary Silver Prize Band played in March. By the 1940s, the name had changed to the Blackpool Silver Prize Band
- 1926 - Blackpool Public Band was also active by now
- 1929 - Blackpool Central Club Band was active
- 1930s - Thornton Cleveleys Brass Band was active from now until the 1950s
- 1935 - Pilling Jubilee Silver Band – formed when the junior section of the Pilling Brass Band split off

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- 1935 - Lytham Brass Band played at Club Day
- 1935 - Fleetwood Pipe Band were paying at civil functions
- 1936 - Blackpool Highland Band
- 1936 - Lytham British Legion Club Band were active
- 1938 - Blackpool Fire Brigade Band was appearing locally
- 1939 - VA Band of Vickers Armstrong was very popular locally from now
- 1939 - Carleton Brass Band was active now
- 1940 - Poulton Home Guard Band formed from the local Brass Band
- 1941 - Blackpool County Borough AFS Band
- 1943 - Blackpool Associated Works Brass Band competed in a brass band contest in Wigan
- 1946 - Lytham St Anne's Girls Band was formed from the Lytham St Anne's Women's Junior Air Corps Band
- 1947 - Fleetwood Naval Cadets Band
- 1949 - Bispham All Hallow's Silver Band was formed
- 1949 - Norman Memorial Youth Band was formed from the Air Training Corps Band
- 1949 - Thornton Cleveleys Public Band played the Morecambe Band Contest before becoming the Thornton Cleveleys Prize Band for a few years
- 1950s - Blackpool British Legion Band was active now
- 1951 - Blackpool Gentleman's Highland Band
- 1952 - Fleetwood Legion Band performed at the Miners' Home
- 1960 - Park School Brass Band started on Whitegate Drive
- 1962 - Thornton-Cleveleys Band formed
- 1966 - Blackpool Town Band
- 1970s - Bispham Parish Church Brass Band was active
- 1973 - Blackpool Town Band became the Dutton Forshaw Motors Band
- 1985 - Dutton Forshaw Motors Band became the Marton Mere Band
- 1986 - Fleetwood Sea Cadets Old Boys Band were formed – reforming in 2009
- 1988 - Guardian Concert Band
- 1990 - Marton Mere Band reverted to the name of Blackpool Brass
- 2002 - Blackpool Salvation Army All Stars Band - soon became the Blackpool Citadel Fellowship Band
- 2010 - Freckleton Youth Band was formed.

Also – details needed please for:

Blackpool Artillery Band
Blackpool Youth Silver Band
Civil Service Band
Fylde Ex-Service Liaison Band
ICI Ltd Works Band
Lytham Subscription Band (practiced at the gasworks)
North Fylde Band

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Appendix BB: Local Lifeboats

Blackpool Lifeboats:

Name	From	Started	Ended	Launches	Lives Saved
Robert William	Mrs and Miss Hopkins of Leeds	1864	1885	21	81
Samuel Fletcher of Manchester	Estate of Mr W Fletcher by order of HM The Queen	1885	1896	5	21
Samuel Fletcher of Manchester	Estate of Mr W Fletcher by order of HM The Queen	1896	1930	12	28
John Rowson Lingard	Mrs MC Linghard of St Leonards-on-Sea	1930	1937	1	0
Sarah Ann Austin	Mrs Sarah Ann Walker of Leeds	1937	1961	47	30
Maria Noble	Mrs Sarah Ann Walker of Leeds	1961	1970	26	3
Edgar, George, Orlando, and Eva Child	Legacies of Mr RB Pol, Mr OF Child and Major GW Wilson, and Miss LE Cockroft	1970	1975	18	3
Edgar Law (D442)	Dorothy Law and Violet Kay	1993	2001		
Bickerstaffe (B748)		1993	2013		
William and Rose Nall (D588)	Godfrey and Desmond Nall	2000	2010		
Norah Cadman (D566)		2001	2010		
Eileen Mary George (D729)	Legacy of Eileen George	2010	Present		
Basil Eric Brookes (D732)	Legacy of Basil Brookes	2010	Present		
William and Eleanor (Atlantic 85 B825)	William Seed	2013	Present		

Since 1965, the station has had a variety of inshore lifeboats – both permanent and temporary. It currently has one Atlantic and two D type inshore rescue boats.

Fleetwood Lifeboats:

Name	From	Started	Ended	Launches	Lives Saved
Unnamed	NLI	1859	1862	9	32
Edward Wasey	Mary Wasey	1852	1880	11	28
Child of Hale	NLI	1880	1887	15	24
Child of Hale	NLI	1887	1892	5	13
Edith	Miss Carew	1887	1894	3	19
Maude Pickup	James Pickup	1894	1933	26	17
Sir Fitzroy Clayton (1st motor boat)	RNLI – named after the fund chairman	1933	1935	4	14

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Frederick H Pilley	Frederick H Pilley of Northwood	1935	1939	12	19
Ann Letitia Russell (Watson class - 813)	Miss Russell's Manchester family	1939	1966	205	158
Unnamed (D class) No 91	RNLI	1966	1976		
Lady of Lancashire (Waveney class)	Named by the Duke of Kent from an anonymous donor	1975	1989	170	95
William Street (Tyne class 47-038)	His own legacy	1989	2016	369	34
Saddleworth (D556)	Saddleworth Ladies Lifeboat Guild	2000	2009	293	14
Margaret Jean (Mersey class 12-21)	RNLI	2000	2000	3	1
Mary Elizabeth Barnes (D719)	Mary Preston (nee Barnes)	2009	Present		
Kenneth James Pierpoint (Shannon Class)	Kathleen Pierpoint	2016			

Note: The Ann Letitia Russell was returned to Fleetwood from storage and decay in Lowestoft in September 2015, for restoration.

St Anne's Lifeboats:

Name	From	Started	Ended	Launches	Lives Saved
Laura Janet	James Chadwick	1881	1886	6	6
Nora Royds	Colonel CM Royds	1887	1908	6	10
The Brothers	Daniel Proctor	1888	1902	3	4
Mary Adelaide Harrison	Heath Harrison	1888	1898	2	4
Daniel Proctor	SL Helm	1889	1898	2	2
Brothers	Daniel Proctor	1892	1910	4	13
Edward and Lucille	Lucille Collinson	1893	1901	2	0
James Scarlett	James Scarlett	1908	1910	9	20
Station covered by Lytham		1910	1997		
John Kennedy (D509)	John Kennedy - charity	1997	2007		
Fisherman's Friend (Mersey class 12-33)	Lofthouse of Fleetwood	1999	1999		
Her Majesty the Queen (Mersey class - 12-30)		1999	2018		
Sally (D657) ILB		2006	2016	230	
Fisherman's Friend (Mersey class 12-33) AWLB	Lofthouse of Fleetwood	2014	Present		
MOAM (D800)	Anonymous	2016			
Barbara Anne – Shannon Class 13-24	Barbara Anne Cameron-Roberts and fund raising	2018			

Boats marked with a black dot were/are on the combined Lytham St Anne's Station

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Lytham Lifeboats:

Name	From	Started	Ended	Launches	Lives Saved
Clifton	SFMRBS *	1851	1855	8	8
Due to a tragedy, the Clifton was renamed to:					
Eleanor Cecily	Institute funds	1852	1863	22	8
She was again renamed:					
Wakefield	RNLI	1854	1863	34	-
Wakefield 2	T Clayton of Wakefield	1863	1878	-	58
Charles Biggs	Wakefield was renamed	1878	1886	43	85
Charles Biggs	Miss LM Biggs	1886	1912	16	13
Kate Walker	John Walker	1912	1931	4	8
JHW (Watson class 738)		1931	1939	11	1
Dunleary (Watson class 814)	Civil Service Lifeboat Fund	1939	1951	58	30
Sarah Townsend Porritt ON886 (Watson class)	Kate Porritt	1951	1978	78	35
City of Bradford 3 (Watson class)	Bradford Lifeboat Fund	1978	1985	27	6
Robert (AWB)	Anonymous	1985	1988	25	11
The Voluntary Worker (Tyne class 47-031)	Volvo and Tesco	1988	1990	10	8
Sarah Emily Harrop (Tyne class 47-037)	Sarah Emily Harrop	1990	1998		
Margaret Jean (12-21)	RNLI	1997	1999	14	3
Fisherman's Friend (Mersey class 12-33)	Lofthouse of Fleetwood	1999	1999	***Transferred to St Anne's***	

* SFMRBS stands for the Shipwrecked Fishermen and Mariners' Royal Benevolent Society

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Appendix CC:

HMS Blackpool, HMS Ribble, HMS Fleetwood, HMS Singleton

There have been FIVE versions of **HMS Blackpool**:

1. The first **HMS Blackpool** (pennant J27) - a Bangor Class Minesweeper, was launched by Harland and Woolf in Govan on the 4th of July 1940. She was commissioned for use on the 3rd of February 1941. As part of the 9th Minesweeping Flotilla, on the 19th of August 1942, she took part in the raid on Dieppe – Operation Jubilee, and on the 6th of June 1944, she was part of the assault team on Juno Beach in the D-Day landings. In September 1943, HMS Blackpool received a direct hit by a shell, which fortunately did not explode - it entered the paint locker through the foredeck and went out of the ship's side by the port anchor.
   She was eventually sold to the Royal Norwegian Navy, being renamed the HNoMS Tana in 1946, and was scrapped at Bergen in 1962.

2. The second **HMS** Blackpool (pennant F77) - one of the Royal Navy's six Type 12 "Whitby" class of anti-submarine frigates, was launched on the 14th of February 1957 at Harland and Woolf Limited in Belfast. She was commissioned for use on the 14th of August 1958. Her class were the first frigates to have the "V" form hull, which is certainly the most outstanding small warship design of the 20th century. The evolutionary design made it possible to be driven into a prevailing swell without the usual slamming, which occurred with conventional destroyers of the time. Each Frigate cost 3.5 million pounds to construct. They each carried 2 x 4.5" main guns in a twin turret forward, 2 x 40 mm Bofors anti-aircraft guns in a twin mount aft, 12 x Torpedo tubes in 8 single and 2 twin swivel mounts, and 2 x triple barrel Limbo depth charge mortars.
   HMS Blackpool was leader of the 6th Frigate Squadron between 1958 and 1960, and then between 1964 and 1966 she was leader of the 28th Escort Squadron. The ship visited Blackpool in 1965, and some crew members were taken ashore in her Liberty Boats. Due to 4 days of gale force 6 storms, those men were obliged to find accommodation ashore. However, the captain then decided to return to Chatham, and the stranded crew had to beg, steal, or borrow their own way back.
   She served mainly in the Far East before being loaned to the Royal New Zealand Navy between November 1966 and June 1971. On her return, HMNZS Blackpool was used for target practice for ships based at Rosyth, and eventually was scrapped by JA White, at Rosyth dockyard on the 23rd of May 1978.

3. A model of **HMS Blackpool** was produced by Triang Minic Limited in 1959 (M793) – much sought after by toy collectors.

4. The Frog (models) Co produced a plastic model kit of **HMS Blackpool** in its "P" series, to a scale of 1:500.

5. The **"HMS Blackpool"** illuminated tram came into service on the 3rd of September 1966. It had previously been tram number 736. It was taken out of service in 2001, but returned in 2004.

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FOUR vessels of the Royal Navy have been named **HMS Ribble**:

1. **HMS Ribble**, a River-class destroyer, was launched at Yarrow in 1905, but sold for scrap in 1920. After September 1913, she was known as an "E" class destroyer. She participated in the 1915 naval operations in the Dardanelles Campaign.

2. **HMS Ribble** (K251) was a River-class frigate launched by W Simons and Company Ltd of Renfrew, Scotland on the 23rd of April 1943. The vessel was transferred to the Royal Netherlands Navy before completion and commissioned as Hr Ms Johan Maurits van Nassau.

3. **HMS Ribble** (K525) was another River-class frigate, originally to have been called HMS Duddon. She was constructed at Blyth and launched on the 10th of November 1943, but was lent to the Royal Canadian Navy from the 24th of July 1944, and recommissioned HMCS Ribble. Returned to the Royal Navy on the 11th of June 1945, the vessel was broken up in 1957.

4. **HMS Ribble** (Class MS) is a River-class minesweeper launched at Great Yarmouth on the 7th of May 1985 and transferred to the Brazilian Navy on the 10th of January 1995, being renamed Garnier Sampaio.

There have been THREE incarnations of **HMS Fleetwood**:

1. **HMS Fleetwood**, a 20-gun Royalist ship, weighing 150 tons, was captured by the Parliamentarians in 1655, and renamed HMS Wexford. She came to an ignominious end when she was sunk as a fire ship at the battle of Lowestoft in March 1665.

2. **HMS Fleetwood** was a Hunt class minesweeper of the Royal Navy. Prior to launch in 1918, she was renamed as HMS Ford. In 1928, she was converted into a car ferry between Dover and Calais, fitted with a stern door, which folded down onto the quay. She could carry 165 passengers and 26 cars. During WW2 Ford served under the Admiralty as a salvage vessel, and was then refitted at Southampton, and returned to Dover as a car ferry on the 12th of April 1947. She was withdrawn in October 1949, sold to Bland Line, renamed "Gibel Tarik", and finished her days as a car ferry between Gibraltar and Tangier, being scrapped in Malaga in 1954.

3. **HMS Fleetwood**, a "Grimsby Class" sloop, was launched at Devonport docks on the 24th of March 1936 by Lady Plunkett Ernie Erle Drax, being completed on the 9th of November.
   She actually visited Fleetwood between the 24th of May and the 1st of June 1937.
   The ship was popularly known as the *"White Swan"* because she was painted white with a yellow funnel whilst serving in the Red Sea. Her pennant number was F47.
   In 1943, she sank two German U-Boats: U528 on the 11th of May, and U340 on the 2nd of November. HMS Fleetwood was placed in Reserve in 1945, and was brought forward in February 1946 for use as a Radar Training Ship. Amongst her earliest tasks was to carry out a demonstration of the first British commercially produced radar set for use in merchant ships. She was scrapped from the 10th of October 1959 in Gateshead.

Also - HMAS Ibis was a Ton class minesweeper built by the Montrose Shipyard in Australia, launched on 18 November 1955, and commissioned into the Royal Navy as **HMS Singleton**.

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Appendix DD:
Mileposts/Milestones in the area

Poulton	A595	Amounderness Way	By the road: “Preston 19”
Little Singleton	A585	in Hedge	
Singleton	A586	Bankfield Farm	By the road
Hardhorn	-	north-east of Fairfield Farm	Fairfield Road
Little Eccleston with Larbreck	A586	west of Little Eccleston	on the verge of the road
Great Eccleston	B5293	Raikes Road	in the village
Upper Rawcliffe	A586	Garstang Road	
Upper Rawcliffe	A586	west of St Michael’s village	on grass verge
Upper Rawcliffe	A586	Garstang Road	south of Tarnacre Hall
Kirkland	A586	Ainspool Lane	under hedge
Kirkland	A6	North Hook	on the verge
Broughton	A6		50 metres North of Helm’s Farm
Lytham	B5261	by 9 Blackpool Road, Ansdell	by the road by Skew Bridge
St Anne’s	B5261	by 242 Heyhouses Lane	by the road near Smithy Lane
Blackpool	A583	by 21 Preston New Road	on the verge
Westby-with-Plumptons	A583	Peel Hill Bridge	by the road
Westby-with-Plumptons	A583	Little Plumpton	by the road
Westby-with-Plumptons	A583	Westby Crossroads	Mere Farm/Reservoir junction
Kirkham	A583	Ribby Corner	on the verge
Kirkham	B5192	73 Preston Road, opposite Glebe Lane	on the verge
Kirkham	-	Carr Lane	south of railway line, west of Sidings Farm
Wesham	-	Richard’s Street	near railway line
Newton-with-Clifton	A583	Newton-with-Scales	by the road
Newton-with-Clifton	A583	west end of Clifton village	by the road
Newton-with-Clifton	A583	west of Savick Bridge	by the road

Also, on the A583, is a metal boundary post separating Blackpool Borough from Fylde Rudal District. It probably originated after 1896, but was re-erected in 1976, to mark the creation of Blackpool Civic Trust.

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Appendix EE:
Pre-Roman relics in the area

- A 4,500-year-old stone axe head dug up by Eric Carr at Cross Moor near Inskip in 1979. It was described as *"of fine red sandstone"* and *"is 197mm long, 125 mm wide, with a 42mm perforation for the shaft hole"*;
- A Neolithic hammerhead, which was found when Blackpool Cemetery was being extended in the 1920s;
- Funerary urns and broken pottery were found in a large Barrow in a field formerly called "Lim'd Hall Moorfield" at Weeton Lane Heads (near Stanley House farm) in 1844. There are several low-lying burial sites in the Weeton area, at Whitprick Hill, which were recorded in the mid-19th century during their destruction. One appears to have been a stone cairn with *"many urns"* and another find of urns came from close by. There are also records of a series of cairns of *"fireburnt broken stones"* in the vicinity, which are as likely to have been burnt mounds as burial cairns;
- There is a record of the former presence of a line of *tumuli* running along the line of the Roman road from Kirkham to Preston, by Moss Side Farm on Station Road in Salwick;
- At Salwick Hall before 1700, were discovered a Bronze Age whetstone, and an *"axe" "of mixed metal and is a palstave of early type without a loop and would date from the Middle Bronze Age circa 1500-1000 BCE"*.
- Hammers and spears were dredged from the bowels of Marton Mere;
- Several "Druid's Eggs" have been unearthed in the Fylde – some near a fabled Druid sacred grove near Lund;
- A bronze horseshoe, which was excavated at Staining;
- Many and varied pieces of worked flint have been found around Great Plumpton;
- A Celtic bronze axe was dug from Marton Moss near Midgeland;
- Brass pans and ancient measures found at Foxhall;
- In 1824, a female human head with long auburn hair, wrapped in a coarse yellow cloth, and accompanied by some cylindrical jet beads and one round amber bead was found at Pilling Moss close to Kentucky Farm. It was found *"at a depth of six feet"* and is thought to have been a Neolithic Bog Burial;
- Bronze Age animal skin coracles were found in 1850 by Mr E Jolly during drainage work whilst digging the Main Dyke of Marton Mere;
- In 1856, a circular ditch "*18 inches wide, 20 inches deep and 12 feet in diameter*" was found near the southern end of Bone Hill near Pilling;
- A Neolithic hammer (a stone *"celt"* – no relation to the Celts) was unearthed whilst Blackpool Gas Works were built in 1881. It was claimed and kept by Mr R Drummond;
- In 1889, at Crossmoor in Inskip, workmen uncovered an urn, portions of a rusted sword and *"a large dagger"*. Of the Inskip artefacts, all that can now be found is a Viking sword, which is kept upstairs in the Grundy Art Gallery.
- A Bronze Age (c1200-1000 BCE) palstave axe was dug up at Carleton Crossing;
- A second palstave was later found to the west side of the railway embankment, south of Mythop Road in Weeton. It was described as *"a heavy brass celt without a loop"*.
- An *"ancient"* (possibly pre-Neolithic) canoe was discovered at Well House Farm in Pilling in 1926;
- Branching antlers and animal bones from long-extinct species, plus flint instruments, were found in 1928 on the river banks in the Gymkhana field behind Illawalla at Little Thornton;

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- A Neolithic hand axe was dug up at Bone Hill near Pilling in 1940;
- Potential evidence for the earliest use of metal in the region comes from the axe marks found on wood excavated from the track way known as Kate's Pad in 1949/50 at West Moss Farm in Pilling, where narrow mortise holes may indicate bronze axe use. The track way has been dated recently, by stratiographic association, to between 2259 and 1950 BCE. Its name may well be derived from the Gaelic word "*caoi"* meaning "path", or "way";
- A polished stone axe and a stone axe were found in a field between Cogie Hill and Blacklane Head in Pilling in 1957;
- In 1972, near Slack House in Wesham, an axe-hammer was found whilst he was harrowing by Mr GW Lawson;
- Excavations at Bonds Farm, Skronkey, near Pilling in 1978, revealed stake structures together with coarse pottery, metalwork and an amber bead or spacer plate, with radiocarbon dates from 1445 to 1397 BCE. The farmer had found a bronze axe blade there in 1977;
- At Crossmoor near Kirkham, Eric Parr ploughed up a 4,500-year-old stone axehead at his farm;
- The remains of a Neolithic homestead were found near Bradshaw Lane in Pilling in 1980;
- A band of charcoal was found in the sand dunes to the west of Lytham Moss in 1995. It was radiocarbon dated to the Mesolithic period. Scatterings of stone artefacts from the same period were found on the northern edge of the moss at the same time;
- A human skull, dated to 1212-843 BCE, was identified at Briarfield Nurseries near Poulton-le-Fylde in 1997. It was thought to have been deliberately deposited in the wetland in the Late Bronze Age and the site appears to have been inundated possibly as a consequence of Iron Age beaver damming - there were beaver gnawing marks in wood found nearby;
- At Fern Bank Farm in Greenhalgh, there are some earthworks, which may be the remnants of prehistoric burial grounds. A recent survey states *"Two mounds, roughly 20m diameter each, with several smaller (possibly truncated) mounds to the south and there is evidence for several windmills occurring in the vicinity. The HER suggests the apparent clustering of earthworks of this form and scale would be consistent with the configuration of a prehistoric barrow cemetery"*;
- A horse skull was found near Poulton in 2003, within a late Bronze Age ring ditch. There was also evidence of a possible ritual burial and "*coarse hand-made pottery*" apparently associated with fragments of cremated human bone;
- There are four potential Neolithic sites from the Over Wyre mosses as well as numerous stone axe finds, with another to the south, on the edge of Lytham Moss;
- Bourne Hill in Thornton was excavated in 2005, and the remains of an Iron Age settlement were discovered. Bourne Hill is the highest point around Fleetwood, and the settlement comprised roundhouses, defensive earthworks, a triangular entrance, and a cobbled track, which encircled the settlement before heading towards Stanah, where it met with the Roman road crossing Stanah Hill. Dating of a fragment of a mixing bowl found on a roundhouse floor placed it in the 2nd century CE;
- An Iron Age settlement may have existed on Knowl Hill (we now spell this Knowle Hill), based on initial findings unearthed by a storm in 2007. A flint chipping and a layer of burnt earth were revealed when a tree was uprooted; and
- Another, possibly, Iron Age settlement may have been located in 2007, in what is now "Wall Field" in Carleton, where there is a circular mound which cannot be otherwise explained.
- In February 2020, during digging for a possible by-pass between Windy Harbour and Skippool, a petrified elm leaf was found – thought to be 6,000 years old. Ancient stone spear heads and knives were also found, as well as pottery shards and petrified fruit.

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Appendix FF:
Roman relics in the area

- A Roman wine strainer made in silver, found at Stalmine;
- Brass pans and an ancient measure - used for salt panning - found at Foxhall;
- A Roman altar used today as a font in the Church of St John the Baptist in Lund;
- A Roman brass medal and a Roman *melon* bead were found in the area close to the proximity of the postulated Roman road by Whitprick Hill. The bead was *"A bead, made of white earth, somewhat oval, perforated, painted or dyed blue and ribbed"*;
- A Roman shield boss (or *Umbo*), found near New England Spring in Mill Hill Field near Dow Brook in Kirkham by John Willacy in 1792. This was the first *umbo* to be found in Britain, and is now in the British Museum;
- Bronze coin of Vespasian found in July 1820 near the church at Woodplumpton. The reverse bore a figure with the letters "SC", standing for "*Senatus Consulto*", and the obverse had the inscription *"IMP CAESAR VESPASIANUS UG PRUIS TRP COS III"*;
- In about 1840, *"In straightening a brook near Dowbridge, Mr Loxham (of Dowbridge) found an ivory needle .... similar to a flattened quill and 5 inches long. In the adjoining field, where bricks were being made, as many as 10 or 12 urns have been found together. The urns were filled with ashes and calcined bones, with apparently steel ornaments, something like beads"*. The same person later found a *"small lachrymatory"* nearby. On the 7th of May 1853, the evidence was substantiated.
- Another 400 silver *denarii* and *siliquae* coins unearthed in Mr Walmsley's brickfield at Fenny Farm, Rossall in September 1840 by brick makers. *"They were in good preservation, and were of Vespasian, Titus, Domitian, Nerva, Trajan, Hadrian, Sabina, Antoninus Pius, Faustina, Severus, Caracalla, &c"*. This is locally known as the *"Rossall Hoard"*. A similar hoard was discovered during the sale of Rossall Hall, and was displayed in the Harris Museum in Preston in 2014;
- Near the railway at Weeton, there is *"Documentary record of a Labourer finding the coin amongst gravel near the railway. It is a brass coin of Vespasian "and with the exception of a portion it is in good preservation It is inscribed as follows, obverse: The head surrounded by the legend IMP.CAES. VESPASIAN.AUGUST. and another word beginning with what seems to be an M., Reverse: Two naked figures conversing. The reverse is illegible"*.
- The tombstone of a Roman soldier was found in the foundations of the tower of St Michael's Church in Kirkham in 1822. The conventional design of a Roman cavalry man riding down his foe, suggests that the garrison of Kirkham at one time might have been a detachment of a cavalry, an *ala,* stationed at Ribchester, where similar tombstones have been found;
- Traces of a Roman road, found in the bed of Marton Mere in 1850. It was 12 yards wide and 2 yards thick;
- A Roman coin found at Breck Railway Station in Poulton in 1852. Hardwicke describes the find as *"two copper coins of Hadrian were found near the church at Poulton, and a large medal of Germanicus in a garden behind the market place. A coin of Domitian has likewise been discovered at the Breck".*
- A Roman coin hoard found in Kirkgate off Poulton Street in Kirkham in 1853. The Samian *olla* (gritware vase) contained 35 *denarii* and one *semis*. Examination found the age of deposition to be c238 CE. The hoard was found during road-widening. The coins range from Tiberius to Balbinus, before the debased coinage flooded Britain. They were all denarii and were: 1 Tiberius RIO 3, 1 Nero R1C379, 1 Otho RIG 12, 3 Vespasian RIG 7, RIO 109, RIC 118, 1 Domitian RIC 10, 2 Nerva RIG 1,

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RID 23, 1 Trajan RIC 223, 2 Hadrian RIG 1 98d, RIO 233d, 5 Pius and Faustina i RIG 156, RIO 1.75, RID 261k, RIG 338, RIC 362, 2 Faustina ii RIG 507, RIG 729, 1 Verus RIO 576, 2 Commodus RIG 2141 (both), 1 Severus Cohen 64, Cohen 471, Cohen 535, Cohen 795, 3 Caracalla Cohen 175, Cohen 658, Cohen 211, 1 Geta Cohen 68, 1 Macrinus Cohen 108, 3 Severus Alexander Cohen 9, Cohen 204, Cohen 236, 1 Mamaea Cohen 17, and 1 Balbinus Cohen 27;

- *"On the 2nd of June 1853 Mr T Langton Birley Esq. exhibited an elegant gold coin of the Emperor Vespasian, found in Kirkham"*.
- A bronze coin of Roman emperor Nerva was found at Skippool in 1873, the obverse side bore the following: TMP NERVA CAES TRAJAN AUG GERM PM and on the reverse: OPTIMUS PRINCEPS;
- Several bronze coins of Nerva were found at Skippool in 1887;
- The remains of a Roman road, twelve feet beneath the surface were found by workmen digging out for the building of Station Road in St Anne's (now St Anne's Road West) in 1893;
- In 1897, when annexes were being built at Victoria Hospital, half of a Roman quernstone was found;
- A Roman quernstone was found near Wharles village centre. Its site is known to be in front plot of a building opposite "Ladies Row" in the village centre;
- A Roman beehive quern was found close to the Scholar Brook in 2003, roughly half a kilometre north of Carr Wood outside Kirkham;
- Roman coins, minted in Alexandria, found in the sand dunes between the Star Inn and Harrowside in November 1906. Nearby were the remains of an *"ancient building"*;
- 325 Roman coins dug up at Hackensall by Jack Parkinson on the 3rd of September 1926, estimated to have been buried around 273 CE. A paper at the time described "*Almost all the coins are in good condition, and the majority are Antoninani, silver washed. The 318 coins identified are as follows: - Valerian I, Gallienus 36, Salonina 2, Valerian II 2, Postumus 2, Victorinus 87, Marius 1, Claudius II 25, Tetricus I 116, and Tetricus II 46".* Professor RG Collingwood wrote of the find *"the importance of the discovery is so great that it may necessitate the entire rewriting of the history of Roman Britain. There are a number of coins struck in Rome among the hoard, and these are not only a rarity, but are exceedingly important because they are likely to throw light upon the problem of ' coin drift,' the new theory amongst archaeologists who maintain that the speed of travel of coins in those days could be judged just as to-day the progress of a bottle flung into the sea may be forecast. Two coins bear the names of the Emperors Valerian and Gallienus, and were minted in Rome, so that by the ' coin drift' theory the date of the occupation of the North-Western regions of England by the Romans may be definitely fixed, and it is likely to revolutionise all previous ideas".* The coins were found in a leather bag under a flat stone, at about 3 feet below the surface, not, as previously suggested, in a stone-lined cist. We now know that Parkinson gave a lot of other coins to friends and neighbours before he declared the find. A radiate copy of Victorinus was found in 2003;
- Roman *amphorae* (big jars) at Pilling Mill in the 1920s;
- Another hoard of coins, found on Preesall Hill in 1934, when soil was removed for the construction of the Marine Gardens in Fleetwood;
- In 1937 Mr E Creed of Horncliffe Road, South Shore found an ancient silver coin, which proved to be a *denarius* of Julius Caesar of 44 BCE;
- *Amphora*, Samian, and coarse ware sherds were found in the spring of 1938 in what had been a field on the south side of Dowbridge Road, formerly called Nan's Flats.
- A coin from the time of emperor Nero was found at 269 Fleetwood Road North in Thornton in 1946;
- A terracotta Roman Vase was netted by Fleetwood fishermen in the Wyre estuary;

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- A hoard of Roman coins – *radiates* – found at Treales in the 1950s; in 1955, Mr Sergeant found a Samian *mortarium*, coarse ware, and *amphora* sherds on Carr Hill at Kirkham. A *mortarium* is perhaps best described as a Roman food mixer. The small pieces of gravel stuck inside the surface would help to grind up food before cooking.
- Leather shoes and waste were found during excavations for the road and new houses on the north slope of Carr Hill in Kirkham in around 1958;
- A clay and turf Roman rampart was unearthed near South Farm in Kirkham, and new building by the Air Ministry in Myrtle Drive also revealed Roman pottery.
- Also, at number 16 Myrtle Drive at the same time, house owners Mr and Mrs Smith were excavating their foundations, and found: *"Three pieces of mortaria in buff fabric, 1 amphora body sherd (brown sandy fabric) with a heavily corroded nail cemented to it, 1 fragment of flagon neck, 1 further piece of mortaria (buff fabric large grits) and some post medieval sherds - brown glaze with yellow slip decoration and black ware base"*.
- A Roman pottery lamp was found in a contractors' trench at the end of Pennine View, Kirkham in 1960;
- A drachma of Trajan, minted at Alexandria was found in 1978, in the vicinity of Bonds Farm, Skronkey, near Pilling in 1960;
- Two Roman coins were found near Chain Bridge, near Staining, in 1967;
- A bronze Roman coin dated 22 BCE, found in a Mr Crellin's garden in Leyburn Avenue, Fleetwood in 1968;
- Roman kitchen implements and pottery were found in 1971, during the widening of the Broadfleet Stream at Stakepool;
- A single Roman coin was found at Leighton Avenue, Fleetwood in 1974;
- A Roman coin of the time of emperor Gracian was found at Skippool in 1982;
- At Naze Mount in Freckleton in 1989, 17 denarii were recovered during agricultural activity. The coins are mostly poorly-preserved and are: Marcus Antonius 2, Nero 1, Vitellius 1, Vespasian 3, Titus (as Caesar) 1, Domitian 1, Trajan 1, Hadrian 4, Faustina I 2, Marcus Aurelius 1;
- At Preesall in 1990, 2 further coins were found at Preesall Hill, in the same place as the 1934 find: an illegible radiate copy and a silver-washed antoninianus of Cornelia Salonina. The number of coins recovered from this hoard is now 13 radiates and copies;
- At Cockersands in 1992, a sestertius of Trajan was found on the beach. The coin was corroded but little worn;
- Two Roman domestic pots were unearthed at Skippool in 1996;
- A Roman brooch was discovered at Pilling in 1996;
- Excavations at Poulton Street in Kirkham found Roman pottery shards.
- In May 1998, Phillip Coupe found a *Radiate* (coin) of Emperor Carausius at Weeton;
- Eight Roman coins were found on Lytham Green by Seafield Street in 2000. They were aes-coins of the 4th century, and were: 1 of Delmatius, 2 of Constans/Constantius II, 1 of Magnentius, 1 of Decentius ('Two Victories' type), and 1 of Constantius II;
- Remains of a Roman Road were excavated by Wyre Archaeology, running alongside High Gate Lane in Stalmine in 2008;
- Remains of two 2nd century Romano-British roundhouses were found off Garstang Road East in Poulton in 2008.
- *"Around 16 numis Roman coins dating from the reign of Magnentius 350-353AD have been found in the sand off Lytham Green"* in 2015 *"One of them displays a "chi-ro" symbol as found in the catacombs of Rome and which is the earliest symbol of Christianity. It is capital X over a capital P which are the first two letters in Greek of "Christ". As such, it is possibly the earliest symbol of*

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Christianity ever to appear on the Fylde coast, as the Roman Empire only converted under Constantine around 323AD".

- Two Roman *radiates* were found at Lytham Hall in November 2015, by Julia Lipman and Peter Smith. The coins are more than 1,750 years old, being issued for Emperor Gallienus who reigned between 253 and 268. *"One of the coins is from the Mint of Rome and clearly shows the name of the emperor Gallienus. The second shows a head of the fertility goddess Uberitas holding a purse and cornucopia"*. *"From our record, several Roman coins have been found in Lytham but all are of a later date than the Hall coins by around 100 years"*.

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Appendix GG
War Memorials in Blackpool

This is an up to date list of all War Memorials within Blackpool. It was compiled by Mike Coyle and members of the Civic Trust in mid-2016.
I would like to expand the list to include those in Fylde and South Wyre in due course, and any contributions would be very welcome.

- 137th Field Regiment Royal Artillery, St John's.
- 2nd Lieutenant J Schofield VC, Arnold School.
- Africa Star Association, St John's.
- Alexandra Congregational Church WW2 plaque.
- Alexandra Congregational Church WW2, board.
- Alexandra Road Congregational Church Roll of Honour.
- All Hallow's Church Bells dedicatory plaque.
- Arnold School Combined Cadet Forces panel.
- Baines School tablet.
- Bispham United Reform Church stone slab.
- Blackpool Central police station memorial of police officers WW1.
- Blackpool Co-operative Society tablet, Fylde Memorial Arboretum.
- Blackpool County Borough Police Force memorial.
- Blackpool Grammar School Book of Remembrance.
- Blackpool Grammar School WW1 window.
- Blackpool Grammar School WW2 memorial.
- Blackpool Grammar School, WW1 plaque.
- Blackpool Masonic Club roll of honour.
- Blackpool Old Contemptibles plaque.
- Blackpool Railwaymen and women plaques, North Station.
- Blackpool Regiment memorial, St John's.
- Blackpool Tabernacle Memorial Window.
- Blackpool Tabernacle Remembrance Album.
- Blackpool Tabernacle WW1 stone
- Blackpool War Memorial, Princess Parade. Grade 2 listed.
- Burma Star Hohima Memorial, was in Winter Gardens.
- Burma Star Memorial, St John's
- Central Methodist Church Roll of Honour.
- Christchurch Stained Glass Memorial.
- County Borough of Blackpool Roll of Honour, Town Hall.
- Crossland Road Mission Roll of Honour.
- Far East Campaign, St John's.
- Fish Brothers, Bolton Street, tablet.
- Fleetwood rugby Club.
- Flight Lieutenant Thomas James Pye plaque, St Paul's Church.
- Fylde Memorial Arboretum, Woodland.
- Garden of Remembrance, Stanley Park.
- Gunner JJ Clitheroe plaque, St John's.

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- HMS Penelope, St John's.
- Holy Trinity Parish Church Roll of Honour.
- James Halstead, plaque, St Christopher's Church.
- Layton WW1 Cross of Sacrifice, Layton Cemetery.
- Lieutenant AV Smith VC, St John's.
- Lieutenant Stanley Boughey VC, plaque.
- Loyal North Lancashire Regimental Flag, St John's.
- Marton Methodist Church Memorial.
- Members of St Andrew's Church who fell WW2.
- Nathan Neville Levene stone, United Hebrew Synagogue.
- Palatine School WW2 (not found)
- Pilot Officer Roy Whalley, RAF, decorative panel, Holy Cross Church.
- Polish Airmen Memorial, Layton Cemetery.
- Polish Airmen, St John's.
- Private WR Noble, photograph, Waterloo Road Methodist Mission.
- Rawcliffe Street Wesleyan Methodist Church Memorial now in Highfield Methodist Church.
- Roll of Honour, St John's.
- Royal Air Force Comrades plaque, St John's.
- Royal Naval Association, St John's.
- Sergeant N Coupe, Witch Wood, bench seat.
- Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes Memorial Chapel.
- St Andrew's Mission Church panel.
- St Andrew's School stone panel.
- St John Vianney Parish plaque.
- St John's Church WW1 altar screen.
- St John's Sunday school Memorial tablet.
- St Joseph's College Memorial now in English Martyrs Poulton Le Fylde.
- St Mary's Church and Sunday school wooden plaque.
- St Paul's Church Cross, in memory of Marton Men.
- St Peter's Church, photo framed Roll of Honour.
- St Peter's Church, wooden Roll of Honour.
- St Stephen's on the Cliffs, Stained Glass Window
- St Stephen's on the Cliffs, Standard.
- St Stephen's on the Cliffs, WW2 Memorial
- The Hartley Thanks Offering Window, St John's.
- The Navy League Sea Cadets flag and plaque, St John's.
- Triptych Memorial Christ Church, wooden panel.
- Waterloo Road Methodist Mission Roll of Honour.
- Waterloo Road School, Stained Glass Windows WW1.

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Appendix HH
Blackpool Clubs:

This is a list of clubs in Blackpool in the 1920s and 1930s - with thanks to “Fylde Coaster” for the initial listing:

- BAF Club - George Street
- Blackpool Central Working Men’s Club and Institute - Church Street, Dixon Street, then Kent Road
- Blackpool Corporation Electricity and Tramways Employees’ Institute - (Pelham Mount) Park Road
- Blackpool Philharmonic Social and Working Men’s Club and Institute - Foxhall Road
- Blackpool Trades and Labour Council Club (Trades Club) - Erdington Road
- Bloomfield Club and Institute - Bloomfield Road
- Brunswick Club - Chapel Street
- Claremont Unionist Club - Warley Road
- Devonshire Club - George Street
- Duple Social Club - Bond Street
- George Street Working Men’s Club - George Street (aka George Street Social Club)
- Hawes Side Working Men’s Club - Brun Grove
- Hand-in-Hand Club - George Street
- Hotel and Apartments Club (H and A) - Coronation Street
- Layton Social and Sports Club – 32-34 St Walburga’s Road
- Layton Working Men’s Club and Institute - Westcliffe Drive
- LMS Locomotive Club - Back Ribble Road
- Lyric Social Working Men’s Club - Dale Street
- Marton Mens’ Social Club - Daggers Hall Lane
- Marton Working Men’s Club - Waterloo Road
- North Shore Working Men’s Club - Cross Street
- Premier Club - Church Street
- Progress Working Men’s Club - Exchange Street
- RAOB Club and Institute - Stanley Road
- St Annes Road Working Men’s Club - St Annes Road
- The Criterion Club - Church Street, now Bond Street
- The Polish Club - Hornby Road
- Victoria Club - Station Road
- Victory Working Men’s Club and Institute - Victory Road
- Water Street Working Men’s Club - Water Street
- Whitegate Working Men’s Club - Lever Street
- Working Men’s Club - St Annes Road
- Working Men’s Club - Harcourt Street

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Appendix II
Halstead Best buildings in the area

- 31 Church Street Blackpool – rebuilding for UCP occupation
- Alexandra Road Congregational Church Blackpool
- Anchorsholme Lane Bispham – layout plans
- Auction Mart and Shops South Shore Blackpool – The New Market
- Bank Street and Promenade Blackpool Residential Hotel
- Blackpool Evening Gazette Offices Victoria Street and Temple Street
- Blackpool Transport Department Rigby Road – new offices
- Chiswick Grove Preston New Road Blackpool - new Factory
- Church of the Holy Cross and Sunday School South Shore Blackpool
- Cinema/Theatre, Abingdon Street, Blackpool
- Cliffs Residential Hotel., North Shore Promenade, Blackpool – new wing
- Clifton Street Blackpool – rebuilding premises
- Coleridge Road and Devonshire Road Blackpool - factory
- Collingwood Avenue and Caunce Street Blackpool - works
- Co-operative Branch Store Oxford Square Blackpool
- Dominion Cinema Red Bank Road Blackpool
- Dorset Street, Blackpool – 20 garages
- Duke of Cambridge Hotel Dickson Road Blackpool
- Elementary Schools Marton Blackpool
- Embassy Hotel Promenade-Bank Street Blackpool - extension
- Empire Cinema Hawes Side Lane Marton Blackpool
- First Church of Christ Scientist Whitegate Drive Blackpool
- Fleece Hotel Market Street Blackpool - rebuilding
- Gas Works Marton Blackpool
- High Compley Caravan Park, Garstang Road West, Poulton-le-Fylde
- Highfield Hotel Highfield Road Marton Blackpool
- Hippodrome Blackpool - extensive alterations
- Hotel Central Drive Blackpool
- Hotel Dickson Road and Banks Street – Duke of York
- Hotel Dickson Road and Warbreck Road junction – Gynn Inn
- Hotel South Shore Blackpool
- Hotel South Shore Blackpool
- Hotel Squires Gate Blackpool
- Imperial Hotel Promenade and Dickson Road North Shore Blackpool
- JA Fielding Blackpool - printing works
- Lifeboat Station, Central Promenade, Blackpool
- Lion Hotel Café and Roof Garden Britannia Place Promenade Blackpool
- Lyndhurst Avenue Blackpool – 16 new houses
- Marine Hotel Laidley's Walk and Manor Road Fleetwood
- Marton Estate Blackpool – layout plans
- Methodist Church Waterloo Road South Shore Blackpool

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- Metropole Hotel Blackpool – alterations and additions
- Mineral Water Factory, Abattoir Road, Blackpool
- Motor Coach Station Marshall Street Blackpool
- Nateby - Proposed Hotel - Hotel Excel
- Ford Motor Depot showrooms and repair shop Marton Blackpool
- New Road Inn 244 Talbot Road
- Norbreck Garden City Estate Norbreck Blackpool
- Omnibus Garage and Station Bloomfield Road Blackpool
- Oxford Cinema Marton
- Picture Theatre, Assembly Hall and 10 Shops, South Shore Blackpool
- Pleasure Beach Blackpool
- Preston New Road Blackpool - 4 houses and shops plus 2 garages
- Preston New Road/Newhouse Road Blackpool – proposed buildings
- Primitive Methodist Church Chapel Street Blackpool
- Princess Theatre Blackpool
- Promenade and Station Road, Blackpool - shops and café
- Promenade/Withnell Road, Blackpool - shopping arcade with flats over,
- Queens Drive Bispham – Terrace of boarding houses
- Queens Drive North Shore Blackpool - Proposed New Cinema
- Regent Arcade and Shops, Promenade Blackpool
- Roy House Banklands Bispham Road and Low Moor Road Blackpool
- Royal Hotel Marton Drive Blackpool for C. Westwell
- Royal Oak Buildings Lytham Road Blackpool - rebuilding
- Royal Pavilion Theatre, Rigby Road, Blackpool - alterations
- Selbourne Road and Coleridge Road, Blackpool – new works
- South Promenade Blackpool – 10 houses and garages
- South Shore Blackpool – 48 Boarding houses
- Squirrel Hotel Bispham Road Bispham - reconstruction
- St John's Church Schools Blackpool - alterations
- Stanley Road Blackpool – additions to premises
- Starr Gate South Shore Blackpool - residential development
- Talbot Road and Gorton Street Blackpool - warehouse
- Trocadero Hotel Blackpool - improvements
- Waterloo Road South Shore Blackpool - proposed cinema and theatre
- West View Estate Bispham Blackpool
- Whitegate Working Men’s Club Waterloo Road/Lytham Road Blackpool

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The History of the Parish of Lytham in the County of Lancaster	Henry Fishwick	Chetham Society	1907	*
The History of the Parish of Poulton-le-Fylde in the County of Lancaster	Henry Fishwick	Chetham Society	1885	*
The History of the Parish of Preston in the County of Lancaster	Henry Fishwick	Chetham Society	1900	*
The History of the Parish of St Michael's in the County of Lancaster	Henry Fishwick	Chetham Society	1891	*
The History of the Parochial Chapelry of Goosnargh in the County of Lancaster	Henry Fishwick	Chetham Society	1871	*
The History of the Wyre – from Harold the Elk to Cardinal Allen	Michelle Harris and Brian Hughes		2007	
The Jubilee History of Blackpool	Allen Clarke	Palatine Books	1926	
The Ladies – A century of service	Frank Kilroy		1992	
The Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway	Michael Blakemore	Ian Allen	1984	
The Lancashire Coast	Catherine Rothwell	Allan Sutton	1995	
The Lancashire Village Book		Lancashire Federation of Women's Institutes	1990	
The Lancashire Wakes Holidays	Robert Poole	Lancashire County Books	1994	*
The Last King of the Golden Mile	Ken Chard	Self	2016	
The Listed Buildings of Lytham St Annes	LSA Civic Society	Self	2003	*
The Lytham Charities – The Lytham Schools Foundation	Alan Ashton	Self	2001	*
The Lythamers	John Kennedy	Countryside	1986	*
The Main Stage – A History of the Blackpool Opera House	Barry Band		2005	
The Millers' Tale	Jerry Park		2010	
The Mount and the Pavilion Fleetwood	Bill Curtis	Panther Press		*
The Nineteenth-Century Landowner as Urban Developer: The Clifton Estate and the Development of Lytham-St Annes	Graham Rogers	Self		*
The North Euston Hotel	Bill Curtis	Self	1992	
The North Pier Blackpool	Juliette Gregson	Lulu	2014	*

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The Parish Church of Bispham All Hallow's	John Marshall		1997	
The Parish Church of Saint Anne's on Sea	Evelyne Holliday	Spectrum Books	1973	
The Pictorial History of the County of Lancaster	George Routledge		1854	
The Port of Fleetwood	Catherine Rothwell	Wyre District Libraries	?	
The Postal History of Preston, Garstang and the Fylde of Lancashire	Malcolm T Mynott	Preston and District Philatelic Society	1987	
The Preston and Wyre Railway	Martin Ramsbottom	Hedgehog Historical Publications	1991	
The Preston and Wyre Railway	Catherine Rothwell	Winckley Publishing	1991	
The Railways of Blackpool and the Fylde – Volume 1	Barry McLoughlin	Carnegie Publishing	1992	*
The Railways of Blackpool and the Fylde – Volume 2	Barry McLoughlin	Silver Link	2009	*
The Really Lancashire Book	Bob Dobson	Landy Publishing	1997	
The Resorts of the Lancashire Coast	Keith Parry	David and Charles	1983	
The Ribble Estuary over two centuries	Frank Bamford		2009	*
The River Wyre – People and Places	Eddie and Catherine Rothwell		1991?	
The Rossall Register 1844-1905	Edward J Deane		1945	*
The School and Church on Marton Moss (St Nicholas)	Harold Monks		1996	
The Scouts of West Lancashire	Michael Loomes		1993	
The Shire of Amounderness	RC Watson	Lancashire Local Historian Articles	1997	
The Slave Trade from Lancashire and Cheshire Ports outside Liverpool	MM Schofield			*
The Social Development of Blackpool 1788-1914	John Walton	PhD Thesis	1974	
The Story of Blackpool	Allen Clarke	Palatine Books	1923	*
The Story of Blackpool from 1804 to 1904	Architectus	Blackpool Civic Trust	1999	*
The Story of Blackpool Rock	Margaret Race		1990	*
The Story of Blackpool Tower	Catherine Rothwell		1986	
The Story of Lytham Institute and its Library	Brian Turner	self	2017	*
The Story of Marsh Mill and other windmills in Wyre	Ken Emery	Carnegie Press	1990	
The Story of Marton Parish Church Operatic and Dramatic Society 1930-1980	PJ Walsh		1981	

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The Story of the Church of St Mark, Layton, 1909-1951	Denis R Holmes			
The Story of the Church of St Mark, Layton, 1951-1959	Denis R Holmes	Percival and Lockwood Ltd		
The Story of the Fylde	Evening Gazette	Breedon Books	2000	*
The Story of the Parish Church of St Paul, Marton	George England	AP Printers	1984	
The Story of Wrea Green Church	Ann Berry	J Brewer and Son	1979	
The Story of Wrea Green Schools	Ann Berry	J Brewer and Son	1977	*
The Stripes, the Seasiders, the Early Years	Bevan Ridehalgh	Fastprint	2009	
The Tower – A Century of Fun	Geoffrey Tate and Chris Knapmann	G Tate	1994	*
The Townfields of Lancashire	R Cunliffe Shaw			*
The Tramways of Lytham	Abel, Garnham and McLoughlin	Oakwood Press	1995	*
The Wakes Resorts	Ron and Marlene Freethy	Aurora Publishing	1997	*
The Walsh Family of Marton and South Shore	Harold Monks		1979	
The Waters of Blackpool	WD Howells		1911	*
The Way It Was	Stanley Matthews	Headline	2000	*
The World's Greatest Air Depot	Harry Holmes	Airlife	1998	*
The Wreck of the Mexico	Frank Kilroy	RNLI Lytham	2006	*
Thornton Cleveleys in Old Picture Postcards	Ralph Smedley and Fred Anyon	European Library	1984	
Thornton Cleveleys Relief Road		Lancashire County Council	1979	*
Thornton-Cleveleys Remembered	Ralph Smedley	Tempus Publishing	2001	*
Tower Above All	Jimmy Campbell		1991	*
Towering Success – the 8th Australians in Blackpool, August 1893	Gerry Wolstenholme	Red Rose Books	2007	
Traditional Fylde Houses	RC Watson		1957	*
Traditional Houses of the Fylde	Watson and McLintock	Lancaster University	1979	*
Traditions of the Foreland of the Fylde - Elizabethan Era	William Thornber			
Trams and Buses around Blackpool	Steve Palmer and Brian Turner		1982	
Trams in Blackpool	Peter Johnson	AB Publishing	1986	*
Trams to the Tower	Steve Palmer and Philip Higgs	Lancastrian Transport Pub's	1990	
Travelling around the Fylde	Judith and Peter Deegan	Communications	1989	*
Treales, Wharles and Roseacre – "Recollections"	Jennifer Robinson and Joe Lee	Landy Publishing	2000	*

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TVR Ever the extrovert	Russell Hayes	Haynes	2009	
Uncle Tom's Cabin	Norman Cunliffe	Fylde Hist Society	1982	*
Unrivalled Excellence – Hot Ice	Peter Bennett	Stageworks	1997	*
Victoria Hospital Blackpool – Golden Jubilee brochure	Postgraduate Medical Library BVH	BVH	1986	*
Victoria Street Congregational Church centenary celebrations, 1849-1949	Maxwell		1949	
Victorian Blackpool	Steve Palmer and Brian Turner		1991	*
Victorian Lytham	Brian Turner		2008	
Volunteer! The Lancashire Rifle Volunteers, 1859-85	Stephen Bull	Lancashire County Books	1993	
Wakes Seaside Resorts	Ron Freethy	Faust Publishing	1986	*
Wakey! Wakey!	Catherine Rothwell	Enigma	2003	
Walking in Wyre	Ken Emery	Carnegie	1991	
Walking Over the Waves	Chris Foote Wood	Whittles Publishing	2008	
Walking Roman Roads in the Fylde and Ribble Valley	Philip Graystone	University of Lancaster	1996	*
Walsh's Guide to Blackpool, Fleetwood and c	John Walsh	Self	1855	*
Warton and Freckleton Recalled	Peter Benson	Landy Publishing	1971	
Warton in Wartime	Harry Holmes	Tempus Books	2001	
White horses, red cats, and buried treasure	Stan Jones		1991	
Windmill Land	Allen Clarke	JM Dent and Sons Ltd	1916	
Windmill Trails of the Fylde	Ken Davis	Scott Willen Publications	1985	*
Winter Gardens Blackpool	Vanessa Toulmin	Boco Books	2009	
Winter Gardens Blackpool: 125 Years			2004	*
Wonderland by the Waves	John Walton	Lancashire County	1992	*
Woodplumpton: Its History, Religion, Houses, and Families	George Jackson	J Brewer and Son	1971	*
X60 Blackpool – Profile of a Service	Michael Eyre	Greater Manchester Transport Society	1995	*
Years of Piers	Paul Cantrell	Handbook Publishing	1984	*
Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow – Foxhall – its part in the birth of Blackpool	York Street Residents and Community Group		2003	
Yesteryear in Westby and Great Plumpton	Margaret Yates	Grosvenor Ltd	1992	*

I have also consulted many yearbooks, gazetteers, almanacs, town guides, theses, and untitled publications - these are too numerous to mention. As well as many and various editions of the following:

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- Blackburn Standard
- Blackpool Gazette
- British Chronicle
- Chester Chronicle
- Lancashire Evening Post
- Lancaster Gazette and general Advertiser for Lancashire, Westmorland, Yorkshire, andc
- Lancaster Gazetter
- Life in Fleetwood Magazine
- Liverpool Mercury
- Manchester Courier and Lancashire General Advertiser
- Manchester Mercury and Harrop's General Advertiser
- Manchester Times
- Preston Chronicle
- The Leeds Intelligencer
- The Standard
- The Times
- Transactions of the Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society
- Transactions of the Historic Society of Lancashire and Cheshire
- Western Gazette
- Western Times

And many more, too numerous to mention. Thank you to all their writers, whoever you may be.

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