

Formby Civic News



The Formby Civic Society Newsletter

Registered charity No 516789



May 2020

JUST KEEPING IN TOUCH

Still locked in? There are signs of increasing traffic - motorised and human - as we produce this second little effort to keep in touch with FCS members at this difficult and unusual time. However, no one can yet say how and when this will be resolved so we are looking at a summer without our talks and walks and cannot say just yet when we can get back to meeting up.

Again, many thanks to Tony Bonney and Noel Blundell for proof-reading and tweaking this copy and to Phil Smith for his article and photographs.

Keep safe!

Inside we have Phil Smith's Wildlife Notes for April in which he says, "Since they began in 2007, these notes have repeatedly described spring droughts but this year's was a real hum-dinger! "

***An Orange Tip seen at Hawksworth Drive
in early May 2020***



ANN LONSDALE FORMBY and FORMBY CUTTINGS

FROM THE 1880's

Tony Bonney has done a huge amount of work in protecting and preserving the FCS archives since they were moved from Briardale. Where possible, he adds interesting and valuable old documents to our website - and he has recently added old newspaper cuttings that were kept by Miss Ann Lonsdale. She was the eldest daughter of Richard Formby MD FRCP of Shorrocks Hill, Formby Point. She was born 10 March 1823 and died 12 February 1903; she is buried in St Luke's Church. Her collection of newspaper cuttings from 1880 onwards, and also her watercolours that have been donated to the Society, can be viewed at

***[https://www.flickr.com/photos/
formbycivicsociety/
albums/72157672726173737](https://www.flickr.com/photos/formbycivicsociety/albums/72157672726173737)***

Inside this mini-Newsletter are some of her fascinating cuttings from a time long gone. We hope you enjoy them.

ANN LONSDALE FORMBY
and
FORMBY NEWSPAPER
CUTTINGS
FROM THE 1880's

This first newspaper cutting dates from 1883 and was taken from the Ormskirk Advertiser on the 9th of August.

Formby has a long history of involvements with flower shows and horticultural societies and event. This article paints a picture of an exciting day in the Village over 130 years ago.

It is interesting to see that the Show was held at the Cricket Ground in Freshfield that is described as being "lent to the Cricket Club".

Among the contributors is mentioned a Mrs. Wrigley of 'Brock Holm', the huge and lovely house that was later lived in by Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Storey and which, after WWI, became the site of Bishop's Courts School. Indeed, a question often asked is 'from where does Wrigley's Lane get its name?' - and this may be the answer.

Mrs. Bushby of 'Trap-Hill' presumably represents that family that gave its name to Bushby's Lane.

Below is a watercolour of James Wright's cottage in Brow's Lane in 1869, attributed to Ann Lonsdale Formby.



FLOWER SHOW AT FORMBY.

On Thursday, the annual exhibition in connection with the Formby Cottage Flower Association was opened by Miss Ann L. Formby, to whose lot, assisted by Miss A. Formby, the management of these successful little shows has always fallen. The show was held on the ground lent to the Cricket Club. Amongst others it was attended by the Rev. Lonsdale Formby, the Rev. J. and Mrs. Thomas, Mrs. Weld Blundell, the Rev. W. A. and Mrs. Stevenson, the Rev. Harry and Mrs. Stevenson, Mrs. Wrigley (Brock Holm); Mrs. Bushby (Trap-hill), Mrs. A. Heyward and Mrs. Rheam, the two last with Mrs. Rimmer (Hall Farm) acting as judges of the plants and flowers, while Messrs. Wilson (Scarisbrick) judged the fruit and vegetables. The entries were not so numerous as last year—indeed, this is to be regretted, though excellent in quality they were so few in number. But the show proved a great success, as the visitors were both numerous and appreciative. There were more than one hundred exhibits for competition. Prizes worth between £5 and £6 were provided, most of them finding recipients. The following prizes were awarded to cottagers:—

Collection of fruit: Mrs. Edwards, Abbey Cottage. Collection of vegetables: Mrs. Ann Rimmer, Green-lane. Garden flowers: 1, Ellen Swift, Moss-side; 2, Mrs. Wilson, Hall-lodge. Plants: 1, Ellen Swift; 2, Mrs. Brooks, Cave's-cottage.

Prizes to farmers and market gardeners:—Fruit: Mrs. W. Tyrer, Little Altcar. Vegetables: Mr. Clarke, School-house. Garden Flowers: 1, Mrs. Dickinson; 2, Mrs. Gilbert Tyrer. Plants: Mr. J. B. Sumner.

Prizes open to both classes:—Black currants: Mr. T. Cammack. White currants: Mrs. Sutton, Chapel Farm. Peas: Mrs. Sutton. Gooseberries: W. Andrew; also beans and rhubarb of enormous size. Potatoes (an excellent class in which selection was difficult): R. Rimmer. Early carrots: R. Rimmer. Cucumbers: Mr. Clarke. Kidney beans: Alice Rimmer. Apples: Mrs. Potter. Butter: Mrs. Sutton, Chapel-house; Mrs. Rimmer, Freshfield, commended. Onions (the exhibits remarkably fine): Mrs. Bushby, Trap-hill, who also took the prize for the finest arrangement of cut flowers and ferns.

Among the most interesting features of the show were the wild flowers contributed by children and young people. A collection of 96 named varieties, very nicely arranged, won two prizes for Lily Aindow, Green Loons Farm. Annie Aindow took the first prize for a large and carefully-named collection of grasses, the second prize being awarded to Alice Nicholson, who also took the second prize for flowers. E. Heywood and F. Faulkner took first and second prizes for the arrangement of wild flowers. There were also numerous exhibits "not for competition." Beautiful plants and flowers were sent by E. Hollins, Esq., D. Ratcliffe, Esq., Mrs. Young, Mrs. Wrigley, and Mrs. Edwards which proved very ornamental to the show, also by Mrs. Formby (Westmorland). The prizes were distributed about six o'clock by Miss E. Willis, Halsnead. A stall from the cocoa rooms furnished refreshment to the large gathering.

*From the Ormskirk
 Advertiser of
 August 9, 1883.*

1883

List of Wild Flowers collected by Lily Aindow

1 Daisy	27 Scarlet Pimpernel
2 Buttercup	28 Common Flabane
3 Pansy	29 Little foot
4 Harebell	30 Yellow Toadflax
5 Wild carrot flower	31 Red Campion
6 Wild honeysuckle	32 1/2 Little Flower
7 Field Ananacia	33 Com. Hawkweed
8 Spotted periwinkle	34 Com. Eye Bright
9 Common cow wheat	35 Silver Wood
10 Grass of Parnassus	36 Narrow leaved Sweet Pea
11 Blue forget-me-not	37 Meadow Betchling
12 White forget-me-not	38 The Knot Grass
13 Yarrow	39 Ribwort's Plantain
14 Restharrow	40 Com. Centaury
15 Dandelion	41 Com. Agrimony
16 Yellow Iris	42 Com. Fleumitory
17 Corn blue bottle	43 Wild Thyme
18 Long prickly pit Popp	44 Lesser Green Rape
19 Corn Fluency	45 Com. Pellitory
20 Biting Stonecrop	46 Pyrola
21 Cuckoo flower	47 Greater Knopweed
22 Evening Primrose	48 1/2 Heavy yellow herb
23 Field Cynobolus	49 Ploughman's Spikenard
24 Blue bells	50 Common Bird's-foot
25 Birds-foot trefoil	51 Com. Ragwort
26 Yellow saxifrage	52 Musk Thistle

The Ormskirk Advertiser reported that "Among the most interesting features of the Show were the wild flowers contributed by children and young people. A collection of 90 named varieties, very nicely arranged, won two prizes for Lily Aindow, Green Loons Farm. Annie Aindow took the first prize for a large and carefully-named collection of grasses, the second prize being awarded to Alice Nicholson ..."

Lily Aindow was born in 1870 and was 13 at the time of this Show. She lived with her parents John and Ellen Aindow at Greenloons Farm on Andrews Lane.

Annie was probably her cousin, born in 1869 and lived with her family at Foggarty's Farm on Kirklake Road, next dwelling to the home of Richard Formby at Shorrocks Hill.

Wild Grasses collected by Annie Aindow

1 The Com. flat grass	25 Matka grass
2 Cuckoo grass	26 Bell-shaped grass
3 Com. Rook's grass	27 Turnshooked Cord fr
4 Star grass	28 Cultivated Canary grass
5 Rib grass	29 Wood grass
6 Long Rush grass	30 Slender Foxtail
7 Wood Reed grass	31 Wild oat grass
8 Silver hair grass	32 Cultivated Canary fr
9 Butter grass	33 Crested softtail fr
10 Fox Tail grass	34 Flat Matka
11 Tufted Hair fr	35 Loose Ramie fr
12 Single Glued fern	36 Smooth Meadow grass
13 Early Anaphala	37 Rough Cat tail fr
14 Meadow grass	38 Common Quaking fr
15 Common Reed	39 Hay grass
16 Reed Canary	
17 Horned Meadow grass	
18 Rib grass	
19 Long Bent grass	
20 Knot Tail fr	
21 Reed grass	
22 Wavy Hair	
23 Wall Barley grass	
Reed eye grass	

27 1883 Herb

Continuation of Wild Flowers

53 Com. Parsnip	77 Blue Lotia
54 Com. Yellow Rattle	78 Tuberosus betch.
55 Self heal	79 Com. Sw. Thistle
56 Wild betch	80 Water Plantain
57 Carlone Thistle	81 Red dead nettle
58 Meadow sweet	82 Early purple orchis
59 Com. Cockle	83 Fat seed mace
60 Ragged Robin	84 Sea Lobly
61 Com. Stone Thistle	85 Com. Mouse ear Hawkweed
62 Sea Cabbage	86 Wild Mauve
63 Toad Mint	87 White of Eye
64 Com. Redney betch	88 Com. Garden
65 Shepherds Purse	89 Single Cori.
66 French Daisy	90 Germander speedwell
67 Wild Hyacinth	91 The Wild Pansy
68 Water Cress Flower	92 Wild Violet
69 Wild Clover	93 Wild groundsel
70 Grey Clover	94 Tery leaved Toadflax
71 Wild Rose	95 Furze
72 Fat Hen	96 Coloured grasses
73 Com. Centaury	
74 Milkwort flower	
75 Mustard Flower	
76 Chickweed flower	

Dr. Phil Smith's **WILDLIFE NOTES**

April 2020

Since they began in 2007, these notes have repeatedly described spring droughts but this year's was a real humdinger! For 40 days, from 18th March to 27th April inclusive, no measurable rain fell in Formby. It was also the sunniest and fifth warmest April on record. Climatologists have shown that these droughts are associated with a warming trend in the Arctic that leads to persistent high-pressure systems over Greenland. These disrupt the North Atlantic Jet Stream, which brings most of our rain. Apart from having serious implications for agriculture and water-supply, largely ignored by politicians and the media, these changes in our climate are having major impacts on wildlife.

With Corona Virus lockdown in full swing during the month, my observations were somewhat curtailed, though the Chief Constable's guidelines permitted a "short drive" for necessary exercise. On this basis, I was able to get out to some dune areas close to home in Formby and Ainsdale.

Thanks to the wet winter and despite the drought, the sand-dune water-table held up pretty well, with extensive flooding in slacks along the coast. However, cold dry nights meant there were few reports of **Natterjack Toad** activity. Yellowing grasslands and wilting spring flowers characterised the drier dune habitats. However, protected by its shady habitat, the **Wood Anemone**, found last year at Freshfield Dune Heath Nature Reserve, increased to eight patches supporting 86 flowers. Eight horses were grazing the heath; but will they keep the invading **Gorse** and **Birch** at bay?

Red Mason Bee
in Formby



I confirmed the identity of two re-stemmed willow bushes pinpointed during the winter at Ainsdale Sandhills Local Nature Reserve. I thought they were the extremely rare **Don's Willow** and so it proved, the catkins showing that one was male and the other female. This brought the total number of bushes of this hybrid on the



Spring Heath Robberfly pair at Wicks Lake

Sefton dunes to 38; only about four or five others are known in the rest of Britain. Nearby was an attractive flowering bush of **Juneberry** *Amelanchier lamarckii*. Although common in gardens, this plant rarely becomes established in the wild. During the month, I visited several of our **Don's Willows** to check their condition, many being decades old and beginning to show their age. A big one near Lifeboat Road had more dead branches than live ones but still produced its glorious red-tinted male catkins. I didn't have as far to go for another of our iconic flowers, counting eight clumps of the Red-listed **Heath Dog-violet** on the small lawn outside my lounge window. I was also able to watch a succession of garden birds coming to bathe and drink at a water-bowl that I kept topped up during the drought. **Starlings, House Sparrows, Robins, Dunnocks, Blackbirds, Song Thrushes** and a pair of **Wood Pigeons** were the main beneficiaries.

From early in the month, the songs of resident birds in the dunes were augmented by spring migrants, including **Willow Warblers, Blackcaps** and, a little later, **Whitethroats**. At Range Lane, Formby, I listened to the glorious sound of a **Blackcap** and a **Mistle Thrush** singing against each other in more-or-less the same key. Pete Kinsella emailed to say that he recorded his earliest ever **Whitethroat** and **Grasshopper Warblers** at Hightown, presumably a consequence of the persistent south-easterly winds. The scarcer migrants largely eluded me but I did spot a **Whinchat** perched on a Gorse bush at Freshfield Dune Heath. **Mallards** on the re-flooded Wicks Lake at Formby Point produced two broods of 9 or 10 ducklings each. A few pairs of feral **Greylag** and **Canada Geese** took up residence on some of the deeper slacks, including the big one at Cabin Hill where I even heard the distinctive call of a **Little Grebe**.

Insects certainly benefited from the summery conditions. **Peacocks**, **Speckled Woods** and **Orange Tip** butterflies were everywhere, though, as usual, the latter hardly ever stopped flying to allow a photograph. Solitary bees were busy pollinating a wide range of flowers; they included the distinctive **Ashy Mining Bee** which I found nectaring on **Creeping Willow**. Hyperactive **Red Mason Bees** were also numerous. Trevor Davenport sent me superb photos of them nesting in old rawl-plug holes in his garden. He also photographed a tiny beetle next to a nest-hole. It was a **Six-spotted Spider Beetle**, a mainly southern species that is moving north. Known to feed on detritus in bee nests, it has even been listed as a possible natural enemy of the **Red Mason Bee**. Amongst my insect highlights was a spectacular **Red-headed Cardinal Beetle** next to the path round Wicks Lake. Near St. Luke's Church, I spotted a small black insect on a fence. A quick check through binoculars revealed a **Spring Heath Robber-fly**, a nationally scarce species I had seen only once before. A few days later, I found four more, including a mating pair, on the fence around Wicks Lake and then one or possibly two at Ravenmeols Woods. These sites also produced a profusion of hoverflies. Perhaps the most spectacular was the **Buff-tailed Bear Hoverfly** a large species that mimics the **Common Carder Bee**, one of our most familiar bumblebees. This hoverfly is a widespread but localised species of old woodland, where the larvae develop on decaying wood in holes of mature broad-leaved trees. Other interesting finds included the **Coastal Silver-stiletto**; found mainly in coastal and-dunes, this fly has a striking silvery appearance.

Late in the month, my attention was drawn to an interesting piece of habitat on the outskirts of Formby that I hadn't visited before. It is a long thin area of open woodland, dominated by **Alder**, with a ground flora characterised by lots of garden-escapes but also a remarkable abundance of **Ramsons**, a plant that is otherwise rare in the district. The uncommon **Ramsons Hoverfly** is associated with this plant, so one of my objectives in May will be to search for it.

Buff Bear Hoverfly



PUTTING SOME COLOUR INTO OLD FORMBY MEMORIES

Have a good look at these three photographs of old Formby and ask yourself,
“What is different about them?”

Yes, we have all seen these extracts from our photographic archive before, but not quite like this. They are all three in colour.

The answer to how this is possible can be found in a website we have enjoyed using previously for research into family history, but which has added an extra option for visitors and members. It is ‘My Heritage’, and if you upload an old monochrome photograph it will be turned fairly quickly into a ‘colourised’ version which we can copy and keep. We are able to do this only a limited number of times, after which you have to start paying. The colour is not of the highest quality, but if you try it particularly on old family photos showing people, the results are very interesting.

The site is:

<https://www.myheritage.com/incolor>



ANN LONSDALE FORMBY AND FORMBY IN THE 1880's

THE JUBILEE DAY.

On Tuesday her Majesty Victoria, Queen of Great Britain and Ireland and Empress of India, completed the fiftieth year of her reign over the United Kingdom, having succeeded to the throne on June 20, 1837.

FORMBY.

The village of Formby presented quite a holiday and festive appearance on Tuesday. Every shop in the neighbourhood was closed. In the morning, at eleven o'clock, a prayer and thanksgiving service was held in ~~St. Luke's~~ Church, when a large congregation assembled. The service was conducted by Rev. Lonsdale Formby, and most of the children belonging to the school were present. In the afternoon a most enjoyable tea was given to the children. Afterwards the children were drawn up in a line, and Miss Formby presented each child with a medal. The youngsters then adjourned to a large field at the back of the old parsonage, where sports of all kinds were engaged in. About two o'clock, upwards of 200 children connected with the Roman Catholic schools assembled in the field behind the chapel, where all kinds of amusements were provided. During the afternoon a capital tea was served on the ground, and everything was done by Father Carr and his assistants to make the children thoroughly happy. Dinner was given to upwards of 100 of the oldest inhabitants of the locality on Tuesday evening. The time arranged for the affair to commence was half-past six, and close upon that time all those that had been successful in obtaining tickets were present. The gathering was held in the Jubilee Hall, Liverpool-road, where arrangements had been made with the occupier of the building, Mr. Morton, to cater for the invited guests. Justice having been done to the sumptuous repast provided, the National Anthem was sung, after which Miss Formby, of Shorrocks Hill, read a report of Tuesday's celebrations in various parts of the country. Later on the old folks, some of whom were over 90 years of age, were entertained to a rehearsal of the vocal and instrumental concert to be given on the Friday evening. Great praise is due to Miss Alexander and Miss Sumner, the promoters of the treat, for the painstaking way in which they exerted themselves to promote the enjoyment of the old people.

JUBILEE CONCERT AT FORMBY.

Last evening a large and enthusiastic audience assembled in the Queen's Jubilee Hall, Formby, when a grand choral and instrumental concert was given in commemoration of Her Majesty's Jubilee by a numerous company of ladies and gentlemen and the members of the Formby, Altcar, and Ainsdale choirs. The concert was organised by Miss A. L. Formby, of Shorrocks Hill, and Mr. D. Brown acted as musical conductor. By kind permission of Captain Radcliffe the band belonging to D Company of the 13th L.R.V. was present, under the conductorship of Bandmaster Rimmer, and contributed some splendid music throughout the evening. The programme provided was a well-selected one, and afforded a most enjoyable evening to those present. The hall had been tastefully adorned for the occasion with banners, and altogether presented a gay appearance. The chair was occupied by Mr. Jonathan Formby, who, in the course of a few remarks said all those present were no doubt aware that they had met together that evening to celebrate the Jubilee of the Queen. During Her Majesty's reign there had been a great improvement in the country, and she was loved by all. In the first part of the programme, which was commenced by the band playing an overture, Miss Woods, "little girl nine years old, received a tremendous ovation for her admirably played violin solo, with piano accompaniment, "Life let us Cherish." The piece was executed with taste and precision, and secured a well-deserved encore. The part song, "Softly Falls the Shades of Evening" was rendered in a most efficient style by the Ainsdale Choir, and received due recognition. The glee, "Victoria, England's Queen," by the Formby Choir, was given in a spirited manner whilst the song and chorus, "Hearts of Oak," rendered by Master Frank Parslow, elicited most marked appreciation. Two part songs, "Let the Hills Resound," by the Altcar Choir, and "The Belfry Tower," by the Jubilee Choir, having also been given with much taste, a short interval took place for refreshments, which were served by Mr. Morton. In the second part of the programme, the national song and chorus, "Awake, O Happy Nation," by the combined choirs was artistically rendered, the soloist being Master Parslow. The Ainsdale Choir again achieved a well-deserved success for the singing of the part-song, "O, hush thee my baby." Nelson's song, "Madeline," was sung in a most finished style by Mr. Thomas Jackson, whilst Miss Ormerod secured the plaudits of the audience for her brilliant rendering of Lowthian's song, the "Gates of the West." Molloy's song, "Anchored," was also pleasantly sung by Master L. W. Thomas, and received warm applause. The concert all through was what it professed to be—a popular one—and the singing of the National Anthem by the audience brought the proceedings to a close. It may be stated a certain number of tickets were distributed throughout the district free of charge by the collectors connected with the Women's Jubilee Offering Fund.

REMOVAL OF THE FORMBY LIFEBOAT STATION.

ACTION OF THE DOCK BOARD.

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All classes of the community, and more especially those residing along the banks of the Mersey estuary, between Crosby and Southport, will be astonished to learn that the Liverpool Mersey Docks and Harbour Board have decided to dispense with the services of the Formby Lifeboat Station. Although the matter has been talked about for some time past, no one residing in the district in which the boat is stationed ever thought that such a thing would come to pass, but the matter was brought to a crisis last evening by the men being made acquainted with the decision of the Board. According to instructions received the crew mustered at Mr. J. Billings' residence, Duke-street, Formby, shortly after seven o'clock, when Mr. Edward Jones, superintendent of the Formby lifeboat, informed the men that as an official connected with the Dock Board he had been called upon to exercise a duty which, though unpleasant, could not be helped. The task that he had been told to perform was to dismiss all hands belonging to the Formby Lifeboat Station. The matter, he believed, had been carefully considered by the Marine Surveyor, who was of opinion that a boat stationed at Formby was of no use, and they had therefore decided to give each member of the crew six months' notice. Mr. Jones then handed to each man a copy of the following notice:—"I am instructed by the Mersey Docks and Harbour Board to give you notice that your services will be dispensed with on the 30th day of June, 1889, and that your salary will cease on that day.—Your obedient servant, M. A. SWEENEY." The decision of the Dock Board was a great blow to the men, many of whom have been attached to the boat for upwards of 30 years. One man we are informed is 73 years of age, and was present at the meeting. In the course of a few remarks, he stated that he had been at a great many wrecks during his lifetime that had occurred off Formby, and was strongly of opinion that the action of the Board in doing away with the lifeboat station was a great mistake, as wrecks were frequently happening on the shore. All of the crew strongly agreed with the last speaker, and pointed out that the last time a vessel was in distress, the Formby boat was the only one that reached the ship, which afterwards got afloat and did not require assistance. In addition to the services of the crew being dispensed with, it is also the intention of the Board to do away with the residence attached to the boathouse on the shore, as the coxswain of the boat was also served with a notice last evening, requesting him to give up the premises. No doubt the Dock Board have given the matter their careful consideration, but surely it is not their intention to leave a coast like Formby, which is known to be of a most treacherous nature, without protection. We may add that most of the men belonging to the lifeboat earn their living by fishing, and the £250, which sum it is said the station costs annually, when divided between those poor fellows who many a night braved a stormy sea to rescue many a sailor from a watery grave, goes a long way in supplying various little necessities, and paying their quarter's rent. The boat has been known to have rescued 20 lives at one time, and attended other wrecks on the coast, before any of the other lifeboats have had time to make their appearance. This station has been in existence for over 80 years, and it is rather a strange thing that such a decision as that which the Dock Board have arrived at should come to pass when a lifeboat has been kept for such a long time in sight of such a dangerous locality as the Burbo Bank, Taylor's Bank, and the Gordan Flats. The late coxswain of the boat, Henry Aindow, who served 49 years as a lifeboat man, we may state is still alive. He is 76 years old, and keeps in very good health, but he was allowed to retire without any recognition of his services, much less a pension.

a Petition against the removal of the Formby Lifeboat Station was presented to the Board of Liverpool on June 29

The two cuttings we can see above relate to:

- Formby's contributions to the national 'Jubilee Day' in June 1887 to commemorate the 50 years since Queen Victoria had ascended the throne in 1837; And to the left
- The closure of the Formby Lifeboat Station in June 1884. As we know, the Station was finally closed in 1918 at the end of WWI and indeed it was refurbished and returned to service in 1892,.

RESTORATION OF THE FORMBY LIFEBOAT—
 During the past few weeks John Aindow, the coxswain of the Formby lifeboat, which was taken away a couple of years ago, and which the Dock Board resolved at a recent meeting to have reinstated, has been busily engaged in selecting a crew. This has not been done without a great deal of difficulty, owing to a number of the old hands refusing for certain reasons, to have anything to do with the station. This is greatly to be regretted, as most of the men who refused to become members of the new crew, and who were previously connected with the boat, are well known fishermen and thoroughly acquainted with the coast, while several of the members selected to comprise the new crew, it is reported, have never sailed in a boat before. On Tuesday a telegram was received that the boat would arrive back, and at high tide it was seen approaching in tow of a tug. The boat was ultimately beached and afterwards conveyed to the lifeboat house.

TWO NEW BOOKS

You may remember an article in a previous Newsletter about WWI war painter Gilbert Rogers, who had been born in Freshfield.

Author and family member Sally Enzer has now published her research privately in a beautifully presented colour book entitled "Gilbert Rogers - A Life". If you are interested in reading it you should contact Sally at

enzersally@gmail.com

or

gilbertrogers1881@gmail.com

Also available is "100 Years of the Hightown War Memorial" by Clive John Harris. It costs £4 and is available for £4 each in the Hightown Post Office, Chemist and Village Shop.

Looking at the Past with a Map and a Directory

Let us have a look at Halsall Lane in Formby with the aid of a map from 1909, a modern-day image and a page from the Seeds Directory of Formby dated 1914.

How has the area changed over the ensuing century?



FORMBY.—STREET CLASSIFICATION. 475

Rimmer Thomas and Son, dairymen, carters and contractors
 Barton H. B., Long Yort; tel. 110 [TIMMS LANE]
 Radcliffe Robert George, Limefield
 Plant Thomas, The Rosary [VICTORIA ROAD]
 Mawsley Henry, gardener (j) [CUMMINS AVENUE]
 Empty—Ballustrae [QUEEN'S AVENUE]
 Dixon F. E., stockbrkr., Inverallan; t. 134
 Longton Jas. T., bank mgr., North Cottage
 Travis John, Bungalow; tel. 34 [VICTORIA ROAD]
 Empty—[GRANGE LANE]
 Howarth J. R., schoolmstr., Leicester villa
 Voas Miss Mary, Leicester villa
 Burnett Thomas Blundell, The Grange
 Lever Darcy, cotton salesman, Eastwood
 Bolshaw S., timber mcht., Ivy Nook
 Bell William, contractor, Stirling
 Owles A. J., grocer & provision dealer
 Rigby M. and A., drapers [DEWBY ROAD]
 Burley Misses F. & E., Greengate
 McLaren Mrs. Frances Julia, Meadowcroft
 Rimmer John & Sons, and at Victoria road cab proprietors; tel. 79 [OLD TOWN LANE]
 Rimmer Rd., farmer, Lilac cott.
 Tracy Miss K. M., dressmaker [HALSALL LANE]

GRANCE LANE.
[FRESHFIELD ROAD]

Atkinson Chas. A., C.E., civil engineer
 surv. & architect, Tower Grange; t. 19x
 Ouggin—Tower h.
 Job Thomas B., Grange Cottage
 Rimmer Mrs. Elizabeth
 Dickinson John
 Ingham Herbert
 Last—The Elms
 Greenwood Herbert Wm., chemist
 Ryder Wm., fruit buyer, Shortlands
 Mace Miss Margaret Ellen, Brantwood
 Bowen Mrs. Emma Jane, Grange Cot.
 Jones Wm., Charles, forwarding agent
 Ganson Mrs. Sarah J.
 Dyke Alexander
 Taylor John James, tailor [GORE'S LANE]

GREEN LANE.
[FRESHFIELD ROAD]

Rimmer William, Ivy Cottage
 Bridge Mrs. Alice
 Rimmer Miss Margaret
 Norris Richard, vanman
 Rimmer Jos., gardener
 Casey Jas., caterer, Church Cottage
 Rollo Malcolm
 Birtles Miss Annie, grocer
 Rimmer Mrs. Margaret
 Rimmer Wm., gardener
 Bond William, farmer [TIMM'S LANE]
 [VICTORIA ROAD]

[MASSAMS LANE]
 Wright Rev. Chas., The Parsonage; tel. 46
 Storey Mrs. Florence L., Brock Holme
 St. Peter's Church, Rev. C. Wright, vicar
 Lasseter Rev. W. Geo. J., M.A., head
 master Grammar School
 Walsley Reginald, merchant, The Hey
 Clough Misses, Westdale
 Hall Mrs. Eliz., Grapes Hotel; tel. 181
 [BYE GROUND LANE]

HALSALL LANE.
[CHAPEL LANE]

Mathieson George, baker (j)
 Corkhill Thos., Anderson
 Formby Mrs. Isabella
 Kershaw John, platemaker
 Kershaw Miss J., dressmaker
 Hayes John
 Wharton Mrs. Margaret
 Dean William
 Spencer Robert [GORES LANE]
 [GORES LANE]
 Hacking Chris., flour salesman, Clifton h
 Richardson Mrs. M. A., Nutrea h
 Broadfoot S. Kenneth, A.M.I.E.E., Nephin
 house; tel. 303
 Carter Mrs. Emily, Clontarf h
 Bell Chas. d' Hauteville, agent and marine
 supt., Ollatrim; tel. 41
 Norburn Fred, baker and confr.; tel 123
 Rimmer Wm., Lze, farmer
 Bond Mrs. Isabella
 Wright John, Mulrea h
 Wright Robert, nurseryman, Clifden
 Spencer John, gardener

HOGGS HILL.
[RAVEN MEOLS LANE]

Goulbourne William
 2 Alker William, blacksmith
 3 Houghton Thos., carter
 4 Houghton John junr., grocer's asst.
 Bolton James, fisherman
 Mawsley Thomas, labourer

JUBILEE ROAD.
[QUEEN'S ROAD]

Aindow Joseph, Westwood house
 Liggins Wm., Crilston
 Lease Mrs. Margaret E., Wayside
 Aindow Mrs. Margaret [ELSON ROAD]
 Parslow Mrs. A. & Lowry Miss Maude,
 Bonanglaes, open-air preparatory school
 Bromley Austin, Seafield [FUNCHALL AVENUE]
 Higson Daniel, traveller, Belfayre
 Stead Rd. P., cotton broker, Rievalex
 Kemp Herbert Edwin, Westfield
 Dooley Thos. H., freight agent, Boyna
 Lodge; tel. 145
 Tomlinson Ambrose, Thetford
 Empty—The Bungalow [BAYTON HEYS ROAD]
 [CAMBRIDGE ROAD]
 St. Luke's Mixed School, Mrs. Dickinson,

