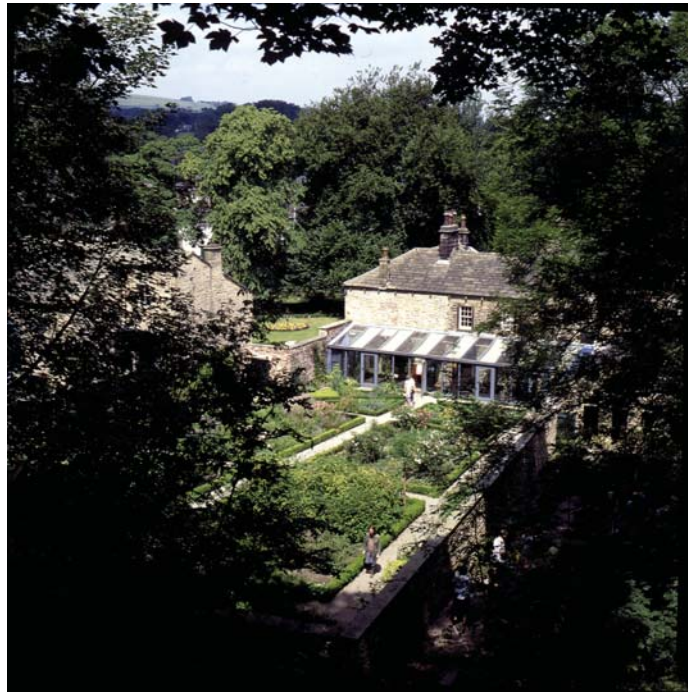




HRH The Prince of Wales with Sir Roger Bannister at Park Hill, on 24 Oct 2003. Sir Roger's family lived at Park Hill in the 17th Century.



The Walled Garden from Bluebell Wood, with a glimpse of the new Conservatory.

## 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

### *'A living heritage'*

*"Heritage Education is a major national necessity if we are to make the best use of our environment. A heritage education centre is not a museum. A heritage centre is a place of life and a place where I hope activities will go on, where children and adults will come into this building and learn something from it*

*and indeed contribute to it by getting to know more about their past, more about the possibilities of the present, and some kind of vision for the future. A heritage education centre is not a place where we preserve a dead heritage; it is a place where we transmit a living heritage".*

From a speech by Lord Asa Briggs at the Opening of Pendle Heritage Centre on 20 October 1977.

The Trust which manages the Centre formally came into being a year later in November 1978.

Park Hill, the home of Pendle Heritage Centre, had been vacated by Barrowford UDC in 1974 on the reorganization of local government and handed over to Pendle Borough Council as the successor authority. For some time there was uncertainty over what to do with Park Hill; some proposed demolition, others housing, or a youth club. This edition of the Pendle Heritage News looks back on the early years of Pendle Heritage Centre and how the building was saved for future generations, on a wing and a prayer, by a newly constituted body, which had no funds.

# Message from the Mayor

Pendle is a fascinating area for the many of us who really care about our local heritage. We have many ancient and interesting churches, the folklore of the Pendle Witches and George Fox who had his vision on top of Pendle Hill. We also have our impressive industrial heritage, ranging from massive weaving mills, to two-bedroom stone built terraced houses with their cobbled streets. The Leeds & Liverpool Canal which winds its way through Pendle is also, I think, the most scenic in the country and is soon to attract many more visitors with the opening of the new Reedley Marina.

Our countryside is of course wonderful with many charming award winning villages and with proud Pendle Hill impressively visible from most parts of our area. We also have lots of inviting tracks and footpaths just waiting to be discovered. Last year, as part of my wish to promote tourism and walking I led a group of residents on the attractive Pendle Way, which starts and finishes at the Heritage Centre. After we had completed the 45 mile walk I treated all of the walkers to tea and cakes in the café. When they asked me what we could do next, I said "let's walk it the other way"! Which we duly did.

The new Discover Pendle building next to the new Boundary Mill will show the many millions of visitors what a wonderful area for tourism we have to offer. I presently call our Borough of Pendle "the hidden gem" but as tourism develops I expect to have to change that.

One of our existing major tourism attractions is the Pendle Heritage Centre and I would wish to compliment the trustees on their far sighted attitude over the last 30 years, to bring these wonderful buildings into full use again. With the support of Pendle Council and other funders the facilities now are second to none and already give a big boost to tourism and our local community. The listed buildings have been sensitively renovated to give a lasting benefit to everyone who uses them.

As we attract more people to come to discover the hidden gem of Pendle for themselves, we can create improved tourism facilities, which will in turn, I am sure provide many more jobs for local people.

**Allan Buck (Coun.)**  
**Mayor of the Borough of Pendle**

# The First Thirty Years

The early years were difficult and the funding uncertain. However, the Government's 'Job Creation Schemes', proved a godsend, as they had been once before in the 1930's when the adjacent Park Hill was laid out.

The Centre was opened before much of the work was complete. Pendle's was only the fourth in the whole country – the others being in York, Chester and Faversham, in Kent, and were being developed with the support of the Heritage Education Forum, set up in 1976 to continue the impetus of European Architectural Heritage Year 1975, and to raise awareness of the built environment and conservation of historic buildings, and encourage their use for educational purposes.

## Some of the Highlights

**1974** Reorganization of local Government and formation of Pendle Borough Council. First Job Creation Grant of £1,000.

**9 Feb 1976** Inaugural Meeting of the Park Hill Steering Group at Nelson and Colne College, chaired by Arthur Pearson.

**20 Oct 1977** Opening of the Heritage Centre. Second Job Creation Grant of £60,000.

**1981** Designation of the Higherford Conservation Area.

**1983** Formation of the Friends of Pendle Heritage.

**1983-4** Architectural surveys of Park Hill by W J Smith, and Archaeological excavations supervised by Dr D J A Taylor.



A Pendle Councillor remarked: *"The Museum would be a waste of money if people did not come to it, and I do not think that enough people will be interested in it."*

**1983** Meeting Room built (now the Tea Room). Pendle Borough Council increase the annual grant from £500 p.a. to £12,000 p.a.

**1984-6** Restoration of the 18th Century Walled Garden.

**1985-9** Rebuilding of the Cruck Frame Barn on the Park Hill site.

**1989** The Trust signs a 99 year Lease with Pendle Borough Council, initially on Park Hill only.

**1989** Termination of MSC Employment Schemes – A loss to the Trust of £200,000 p.a. Pendle Borough Council increases the annual grant to £39,000.

**1992** Planning permission is granted for a new Conservatory / Tea Room within the Walled Garden.

**1992** Conservatory and Garden Tea Room opens. Park Hill Cottages handed over to the Trust. Park Hill Barn re-roofed.

**The decision is taken to open every day of the year (except Christmas Day).**



Park Hill was divided into two houses around 1780. A Georgian Wing was added which became known as Lower Park Hill Farm. When Barrowford UDC purchased the Farm in 1923, the farmland became The Park, and the house, the residence for the Clerk to the Council.



Known locally as the Clerk's Residence, the house became vacant in 1974, on the Reorganization of Local Government. It was leased to the Trust in 1977. The Trust restored the original glazing bars and took out the sham Victorian 'leaded' lights.



Mr and Mrs Peckover outside Lower Park Hill c1900. Note the two decorated urns on either side of the door. They were stolen in 1976.

**1995** Tourist Information Centre opened, having been transferred from Nelson Town Hall.

**1998-9** Park Hill Barn restored.

**1998-9** Restoration of the Park Hill Cottages.

**28 Sept 1999** Park Hill Barn opened by Dame Jennifer Jenkins D.B.E.

**1999** Pendle Art Gallery moves from the Town Hall into the Park Hill Barn.

**2001** Pendle Borough Council's annual grant of £60,000 cut to £10,000 p.a.

**24 Oct 2003** Visit of HRH The Prince of Wales to Pendle Heritage Centre.

**20 Aug 2004** Garden Museum opened by Cllr Davies, Mayor of Pendle.



The successful Tea Room at Pendle Heritage Centre which specialises in Lancashire Food.

**2004** Pendle Borough Council's annual grant restored to £70,000.

### Chairmen of Trustees

Arthur Pearson	1976 – 1981
David Moore	1981 – 1988
David Hawthorne	1988 – 1992
Ron Foster	1992 – 1995
Eric Robinson	1995 – 1998
Ted Stanworth	1998 – current



## A walk through Barrowford

The publication of 'A Walk Through Barrowford', in 1974, helped to develop local awareness of conservation issues and led to the formation of Pendle Heritage Centre.



David Moore (1933 – 1995) was a dynamic Principal of Nelson and Colne College and a man of remarkable vision. He ensured that Pendle Heritage Centre had an educational focus and strong links with the College. He was Chairman of the Trustees from 1981 until 1988.

**Pendle Heritage Centre and Its Educational Role**

*J Miller, the Secretary writes:*

Pendle Heritage Centre is a Museum and Local Studies Centre set up for the new Pendle Borough (population 85,000) in NE Lancashire. The two parts are complementary to each other and each occupy a floor area approximately the same size. They are situated in a twelve roomed, seventeenth Century farmhouse, in Barrowford, (near Nelson) which up to the creation of the Centre, was itself divided into two dwellings.

However, it is the Local Studies Centre, in the adjacent wing and its ongoing educational programme, which makes the Heritage Centre different from most others.

A small committee of teachers in Pendle was formed to consider ways in which schools could use the Centre. A teacher was then appointed, through the Manpower Services Commission's Job Creation Programme, to visit all the 50 junior and secondary schools in the Borough to find out what work was being done in environmental studies, and collect material for a school's exhibition at the Centre.

As a first step to introducing courses in the Centre, a Summer School was organised in July for children of all ages. Nelson & Colne College has already made use of the building during this summer for two adult education courses on archaeology and geology. So successful have they been that they are being repeated in the autumn, along with other short courses on such topics as ornithology, gardening and local architecture. The College will also be offering the new 'JMB 'D' level Local History Course next year at the Centre.

The Centre has cost £65,000 to create; the Job Creation Programme has provided a hefty share but other contributions have come from the Borough Council, the Countryside Commission, the North West Arts Association, the North West Museums Service, various charitable Trusts and local industry.

The Centre has a long way to go, but it is obviously fulfilling a need in the Borough and bringing together a diverse number of groups and individuals which might never otherwise have made contact with each other. In the first six months over 3,500 visitors have been to the Centre and if this continues it must ultimately help to bring about a more informed understanding of environmental problems.

Lord Briggs will be re-visiting the Centre to open the Exhibition of Schools' Environmental work and to see at first hand the progress made since the Centre's opening. This will enable the Heritage Education Group to encourage others to profit by Pendle's experience.

**Nelson and Colne College and The Pendle Heritage Centre:**  
a unique and productive example of collaboration between formal and informal education

Nelson and Colne College is responsible for all the post-16 education in its corner of NE Lancashire. This responsibility it exercises not only by providing a wide-ranging programme of courses and classes, but also by initiating and participating in more informal ventures that have a clear educative content. They

Civic Trust. From the start, the Civic Trust was a totally independent body, and still is. Inevitably, however, it has strong links with the College for its work makes it a partner with us in the broad field of adult education. The 1975 was European Architectural Year. The College's contribution might well have been to create a series of

West Arts Association, the North West Museums Service, various charitable Trusts and local industry.

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**Examining a loom at the opening of the Pendle Heritage Centre at Barrowford on 20th October, 1977. From Heritage Education News, January 1978, which featured an article about the Trust's educational work and its links with Nelson and Colne College.**

Examining a loom at the opening of the Pendle Heritage Centre at Barrowford on 20th October, 1977. From Heritage Education News, January 1978, which featured an article about the Trust's educational work and its links with Nelson and Colne College.

Sir Roger and Lady Banister and Lord Briggs at the Opening Ceremony, on 20 October, 1977. From Heritage Education News, January 1978, which featured an article about the Trust's educational work and its links with Nelson and Colne College.

# The Barns at Pendle Heritage Centre

The Park Hill farmstead originally had two 17th Century Barns, one in the rear yard of Park Hill which still remains, and the other, demolished in 1951 to make way for no. 6, Colne Road. Evidence of this barn can still be seen in the walls of the front garden.

In 1984 a rare 16th Century Cruck Frame Barn which stood in Cliviger, near Burnley, and was due for demolition, was dismantled by the Trust, and brought to Park Hill, where planning permission was granted to re-erect it on the bank behind Park Hill, to illustrate early building technology.



The cruck frames were drawn and numbered, then carefully dismantled and brought to Park Hill. The plan of the Barn was also recorded.



The huge frames being lifted into place with a crane.

***Plea to save historic barn***  
LOCAL organisations should be brought in to help save a bit of Old England, which many do

*Burnley Express & News, August 12th, 1983*

**EXPRESSMAN** NEW LIFE FOR OLD BARN  
**They built to last in the 14th century**



The Mayor of Pendle and Trustee Cllr John David, Mrs Judith David, and James Begley holding White Sussex rare breeds for the Farm project in the Cruck Barn in 1992.



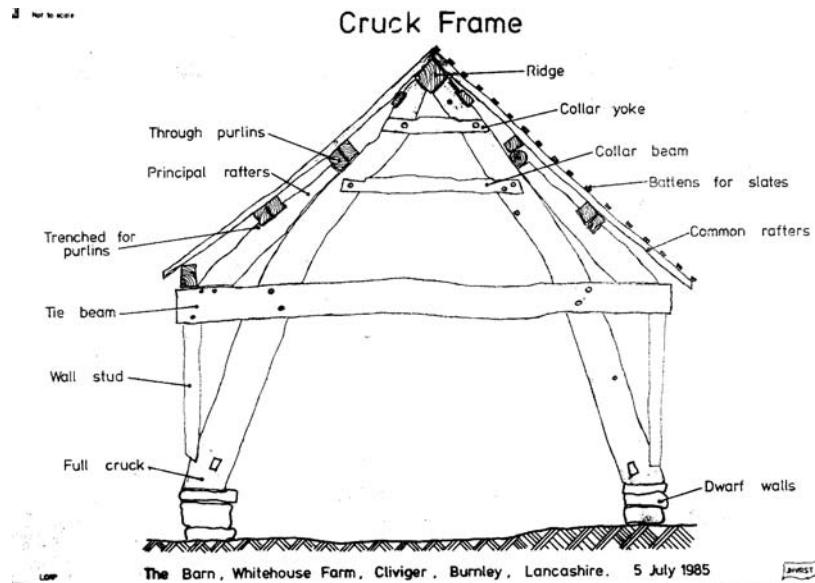
Originally the walls would have been constructed of timber with a roof of thatch but as it was considered a fire hazard to use these materials and also difficult to obtain ling thatch, it was agreed to build the walls in stone and roof it with stone slates.



The three local Barrowford Churches organize a Carol Concert each Christmas in the Cruck Barn.



The interior of the Cruck Barn when still standing in Cliviger. Once thought to be part of Towneley Hall, it had become a garage and the owner had obtained listed building permission to demolish it. The newly formed Pendle Archaeological Group and Pendle Building Preservation Trust (see page 8) led by Architect Dr David Taylor campaigned to save it and bring it to Barrowford.



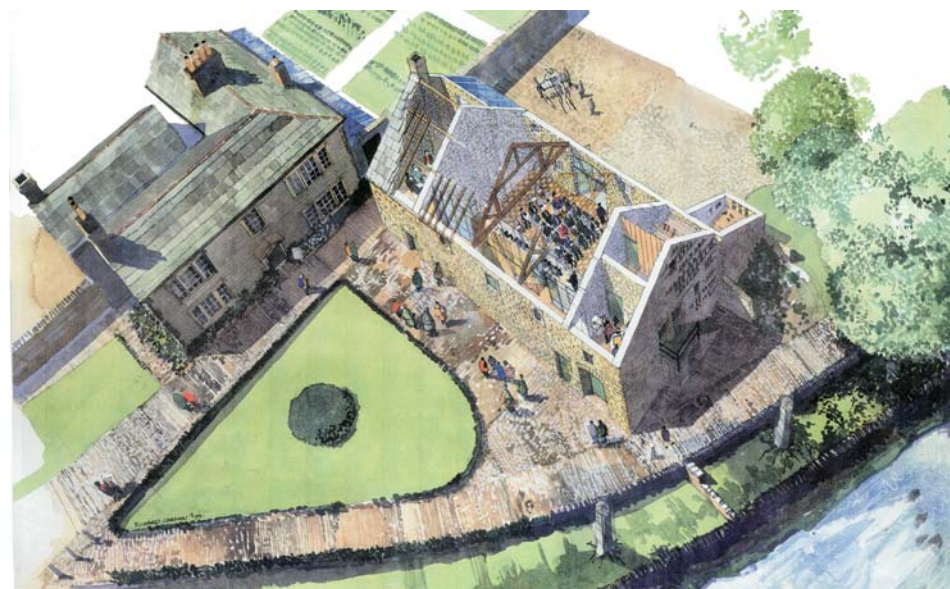
# The Park Hill Barn

For many years the Barn was a depot for machinery used for the maintenance of Barrowford Park. During the 1980s, the Council relocated its depots, and the Barn's future was the subject of long debate. Once again there was a campaign to use the Barn as a Youth Centre, but the Trust finally persuaded the Council that the best way would be for the Barn to become part of the Park Hill complex and provide the Centre with a large practical space for multi-use purposes. After 3 years, the Barn was finally included in the Lease in 1989 – 12 years after the Trust had occupied Park Hill!

The Barn, like Park Hill, is an interesting example of a building evolving in at least seven phases, over 300 years. Funds to restore the building were raised during the 1990s and the work was completed in 1999. Dame Jennifer Jenkins formally opened the Barn on 28 Sept 1999.

## Civic Trust Award 2001

In 2001 the Barn received a Civic Trust commendation 'for a valuable contribution to the quality and appearance of the environment.'



Artist's impression of Park Hill and the Barn proposals.

# The Park Hill Cottages

These properties were also used by staff in Barrowford Park, and one by one they became vacant, until finally, in 1992, they were handed over to the Trust. They have been converted and restored to form office and stores for the Trust, to enable more rooms within Park Hill to be open to the public.



Views of Cottages before restoration. The pitched roof at one end has been replaced with a flat roof after a fire in the 1960s.



View of Cottages with pitched roof replaced in 1999.

## Modern Extensions

The story of Park Hill is of a 15th Century building evolving over the centuries with each change



The farmyard at Park Hill before restoration, was covered in mud and potholes.

The old cobbled farmyard at Park Hill has been repaired by the Trust's building maintenance team. The work was grant-aided by the Heritage Lottery Fund. Stone paths have been laid to provide easier access, and a large retaining wall between the Park and the Centre has been rebuilt.



Restoring the cobbles in the farmyard at Park Hill.

following the latest fashion of the period. Seen in that context the new 60ft conservatory proposed for the Walled Garden was following a long tradition, but many considered it 'intrusive' and too 'modern'. It now is universally accepted and even copied.

There was only one adverse comment when a two storey glazed extension, with a lead roof and incorporating a modern spiral staircase, was proposed for the Park Hill Barn, and this received a Civic Trust Award.



The construction of the Conservatory within the Walled Garden.

# 30 years campaigning to save Pendle's Heritage

After the War and up to the early 1970s there was an unprecedented demolition of buildings in Pendle. The only three Grade I buildings – the Cloth Hall, Alkincoats Hall, and Emmott Hall, (all in Colne), were demolished. Whole swathes of properties in Nelson and Colne

Town Centres were cleared, and the character of these once robust centres was irretrievably lost. At long last a realization began to dawn that demolition was not the answer to regenerating the area, and in the last thirty years, the number of buildings lost has been

reduced. Nevertheless some important buildings have gone. The Trust has often been at the forefront of the campaign to save them. On this page are some of the highs and lows of these campaigns.



*Alkincoats Hall, Colne, demolished in 1953.*



*Reedyford Hospital was one of a number of buildings in the way of the M65 and had to be cleared.*



*In 1984 the Pendle Building Preservation Trust campaigned to save Higherford Mill chimney from demolition. A decade later it fought and won a battle to save the Mill, too, from a similar fate.*



*The United Reformed Chapel, Barrowford. One of many Chapels in Pendle demolished in the 1980's and 90's.*



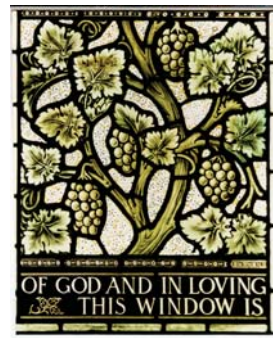
*Carry Bridge Mill – an ancient Grade II Mill in Colne was cleared in the 1980s.*



*Vivary Bridge House, Colne was demolished in the 1980's. This was one of the very few good examples of Georgian architecture in Pendle.*



*A fine row of terrace houses, built c1850, up Pasture Lane, Barrowford was lost in 1980.*



*When St Mary's Church (Grade II) was threatened with demolition, Cllr John David, a Trustee and Pendle Councillor, persuaded the Council to remove the stained glass windows for safe keeping – the Church has been given a reprieve, and is now owned by the Trust.*



*A row of 19th Century cottages at Higham. One of the Pendle Building Preservation Trust's first restoration projects (see page 8).*



*The Toll House (built 1804). The Trust's first restoration project funded by a loan from the Architectural Heritage Fund (since repaid).*



*Old Colne Grammar School (built 1812) – one of the best in the county, was restored by the Trust and the Friends of Colne Heritage Centre between 1982 and 1984.*



# Friends of Pendle Heritage

(Charity No. 513449)

I make no secret of the fact, and yes, I am biased, but I do believe that Pendle Heritage Centre has an important pivotal role here in the North West of England.

The vision, dedication and determination that was behind its original creation deserves acknowledgement. So much has been accomplished in the last 30 years and yet there are always plans for the future. The Heritage Trust for the North West has indeed been a driving force.

We must never underestimate the contribution that has been made by all who have worked here over the years and all the volunteers, whose continuing interest, enthusiasm and support is vital to ongoing success. We welcome visitors—there is so much to see and enjoy --- there is always a friendly atmosphere and a welcoming, helpful staff.

Joining the Friends is one way you can support the work that goes into preserving our local heritage. As Friends of Pendle Heritage, I believe we have something to contribute --- I look back at the words of Lord Briggs, speaking at the Opening of Pendle Heritage Centre in 1977 and reflect on the significance of his words.

I feel that people should know about their own histories; the possibilities of the present and have a vision for the future. With this very much in mind we have recently held several workshops on 'Preserving Family History'.

To fully appreciate what we have, we need to have an understanding of our social history and our ancestors. The aim of the workshops is to find ways of archiving and documenting artefacts, photographs and memorabilia to record our own family history for future generations. For more information please contact me: Anne Eves 01282 772104.

The Friends AGM is on May 21st 2008 at 7.30p.m. in Park Hill Barn.

Anne Eves; Chairman

# Two Pendle Trusts

Pendle Heritage Centre Trust was set up in 1978 as a charity and limited company to manage Park Hill which became Pendle Heritage Centre. About the same time a separate Trust, Pendle Building Preservation Trust, was formed. This carried out a number of restoration projects in Pendle, including the restoration of a row of cottages at Higham (see page 6).

## A Local to a Regional Trust

In 1991, the two Trusts merged to become Lancashire Heritage Trust. In 1996 the Trust merged with the former North West Buildings Preservation Trust, (a Trust with similar aims) and became a regional body to cover the North West of England from Cumbria, Lancashire, Manchester, Liverpool and Cheshire.

The Trust aims to conserve and restore buildings of historic interest and those which a commercial developer might ignore or not tackle. It encourages good design and craft skills and has now established a small building team to ensure high standards are maintained. The Trust is also involved in developing training schemes to ensure the skills continue into the next generation.

The Trust identifies a new and appropriate use for each building; some are open to the public forming a network of historic places to visit. Pendle Heritage Centre is one of the Trust's flagship projects, attracting over 100,000 visitors per year.

Many bodies have supported the Trust over the years but three in particular have been constant in providing grant-aid for capital and revenue costs. **Pendle Borough Council** and **Lancashire County Council** have been very supportive from the Trust's inception, and the **Architectural Heritage Fund** has provided loans to enable projects to be carried out, grants being payable in retrospect.

# Heritage Open Days 2008

## 11 to 14 September

The Trust will be participating again in Heritage Open Days. Organized by the Civic Trust since 1994, it has grown to become England's largest voluntary event with over 1 million visitors exploring an ever expanding range of places and spaces, open for tours and events.

This year the theme will be Pendle Conservation Areas. Arrangements are being made to visit some of the 28 designated areas in the Borough. At Pendle Heritage in the Barn, there will be a Food Fair promoting Lancashire Food.

## Bulldozing Bradley!?



*Whitefield saved! Is Bradley in Nelson now in danger? This is an attractively built community as the photographs show. Tucked behind this tiny sunlit square, is a very early doorhead, the earliest in Pendle, 1589, the year after the Armada. Surely this should be designated a Conservation Area.*

