

## Focus on: The History of Adlington Hall



**Sadly, Adlington Hall was demolished during the 1960's, but how many local residents remember this large family residence in the village?**

Built during the reign Queen Elizabeth I (1558-1603) Adlington Hall was described as a black and white building in the style said to be peculiar to the northern counties.

In 1688, following the death of Peter Adlington the Adlington estate and manor house were purchased by Thomas Clayton as his family home. The Claytons endowed Christ Church and donated money to the National School.

They also endowed the Clayton Chapel in St Paul's Church, and their coat of arms, the black cross on a white background, is in one quarter of the Adlington Town Council crest.



The hall was rebuilt on the existing site in or about the year 1771 as a typical Georgian House built of red brick with a

pediment (a classical architectural element consisting of the triangular structure supported by pilasters) and is reported to have '*presented one of the loveliest effects of architecture and scenery in the country*'.

Adlington Hall could be approached from Park Road and from Chorley Lane where there were lodges.

After the Claytons, John Gerrard, the cotton manufacturer, lived there. When he moved from Adlington Hall to The Grove on Railway Road, the hall was occupied by the family of Benjamin Davies, proprietor



*The lodge on Chorley Lane (Worthington) still stands, the hall stood just behind the lodge - poultry units stand on the site.*



*The lodge on the Common has been demolished and a new home has been built on the site.*

of Huyton Bleachworks which was on the banks of the river Douglas, behind Pincroft.

During the 1930s the family of Monks-Gaskell lived there. It had high-ceilinged rooms and highly polished wooden floors and the family had a large picture collection.

Unfortunately, after demolition, nothing remained of this ancient seat apart from the two lodge houses, a number of outbuildings and the distinctive Egyptian Pillars at the Chorley Lane entrance. The site of the hall is now covered by a poultry house.



*The distinctive 'Egyptian' pillars are still in place at the Chorley Lane lodge, but now looking a little worse for wear*

*From the Chorley Guardian and Leyland Hundred Advertiser 12 February 1921*

#### **ADLINGTON HALL ESTATE**

*The Wigan Corporation have decided to purchase the Adlington Hall estate, Lancashire, which consists of 129 acres, and includes Adlington Hall, the ancient seat of the Clayton family, as well as Adlington Lodge and Worthington Lodge, situate on the land, for the sum of £4,000. The estate is on the Wigan Corporation watershed and adjoins the Corporation waterworks. The Wigan Corporation may consider the advisability of utilising the hall for the purpose of an open-air school. The acquisition of the estate will safeguard the conservation of the watershed, while the land may be used for various purposes, such as grazing the cattle from the Corporation dairy and providing playing fields in connection with the Juvenile Organisation Committee's work, as well as being set apart as a natural park for the inhabitants of Wigan. In the purchase of all mines and minerals, with full power to work the same, subject to the payment of all tithe-rent charges, land tax and other outgoings are excepted.*

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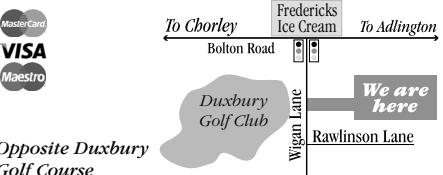
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## Focus on: Adlington Hall *continued*

### What happened to the Golden Jubilee Granite drinking fountain - can you help?



A member of the Claytons, Mrs Eleanor Clayton Daubeny, who lived on the south coast, presented a granite drinking fountain to Adlington to mark the Golden Jubilee of Queen Victoria. The unveiling was on 18th June 1887. It was situated at the junction of the 'bottom road' and Railway Road, but what happened to it?

If you know, please write to the Focus at: Adlington Focus, 16 Birch Road, Chorley or email us at: adlington.focus@btconnect.com.

*With Reference and grateful thanks to, for their help with this article:*

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