

Downham Banner

Photo Story

To accompany the final report to HLF



downhambanner.com Saving a bit of Lancashire



Chatburn C of E School



Downham circa 1900



At St Leonard. Behind the organ there was a box .which had not been opened for about 20 years.



The last outing the banner was a Church exhibition in 2011.



The banner was seen to be not in the best condition.



Beginning to split at stress points due to being rolled too tightly.



It was clear something needed to be done to conserve the banner so a plan started to form.



The steering group is formed in December 2011 and met at the Assheton Arms - formerly the George and Dragon the official meeting place of the Benevolent Society for 130 years.



October 2015 Information panel introducing the project displayed in St Leonards.

Pupils from Chatburn primary School send off the banner to The People's History Museum in Manchester for conservation on 28th July 2016.



3



Pupils show off their own mini banners.



Pupils show off their own mini banners.



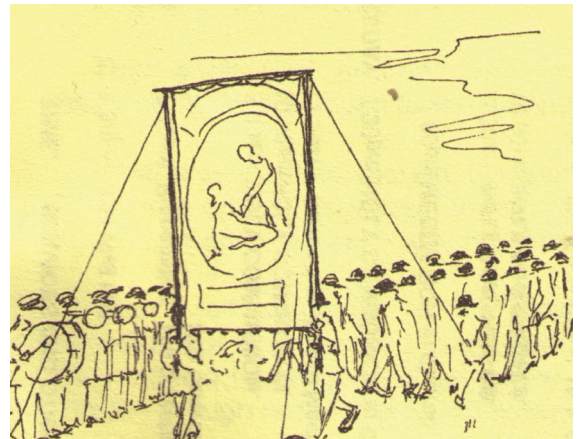
Parish of Downham St Leonard

**Please support our grant application
to conserve this banner.**

**Please, if you have a few minutes read about our efforts to
conserve and display the Downham Benevolent Society Banner
(1885)
And give us a signature in support.**



Left , a booklet was produced explaining the aims of the project and seeking support for a HLS grant application. Plus talks were given to local groups and a press campaign started.

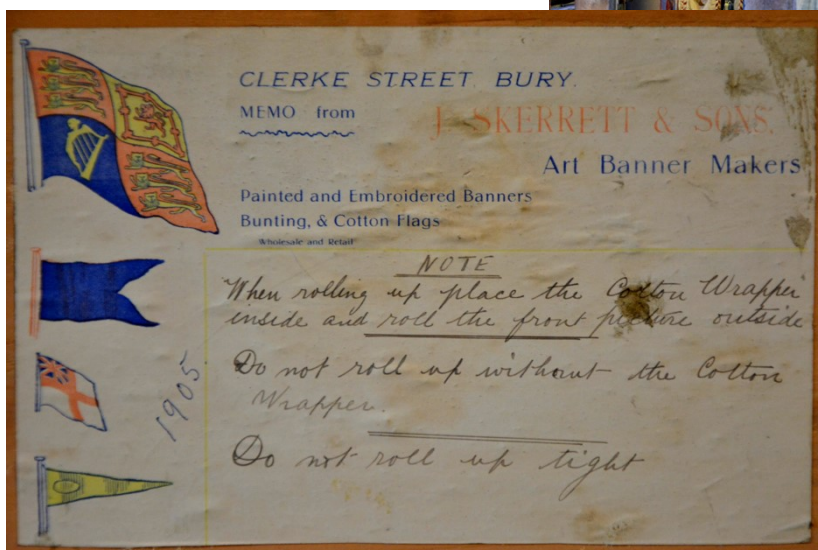
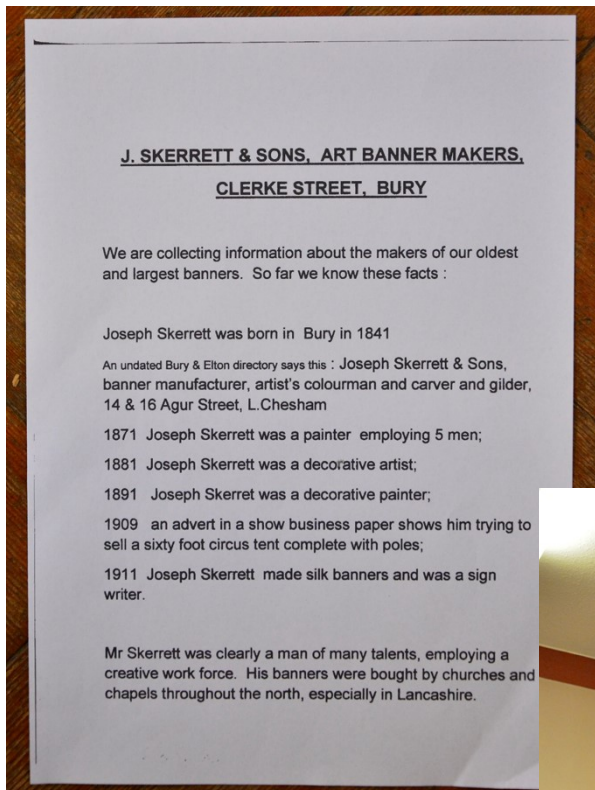


Above sketch of the banner on parade by Michael McFall C1999.



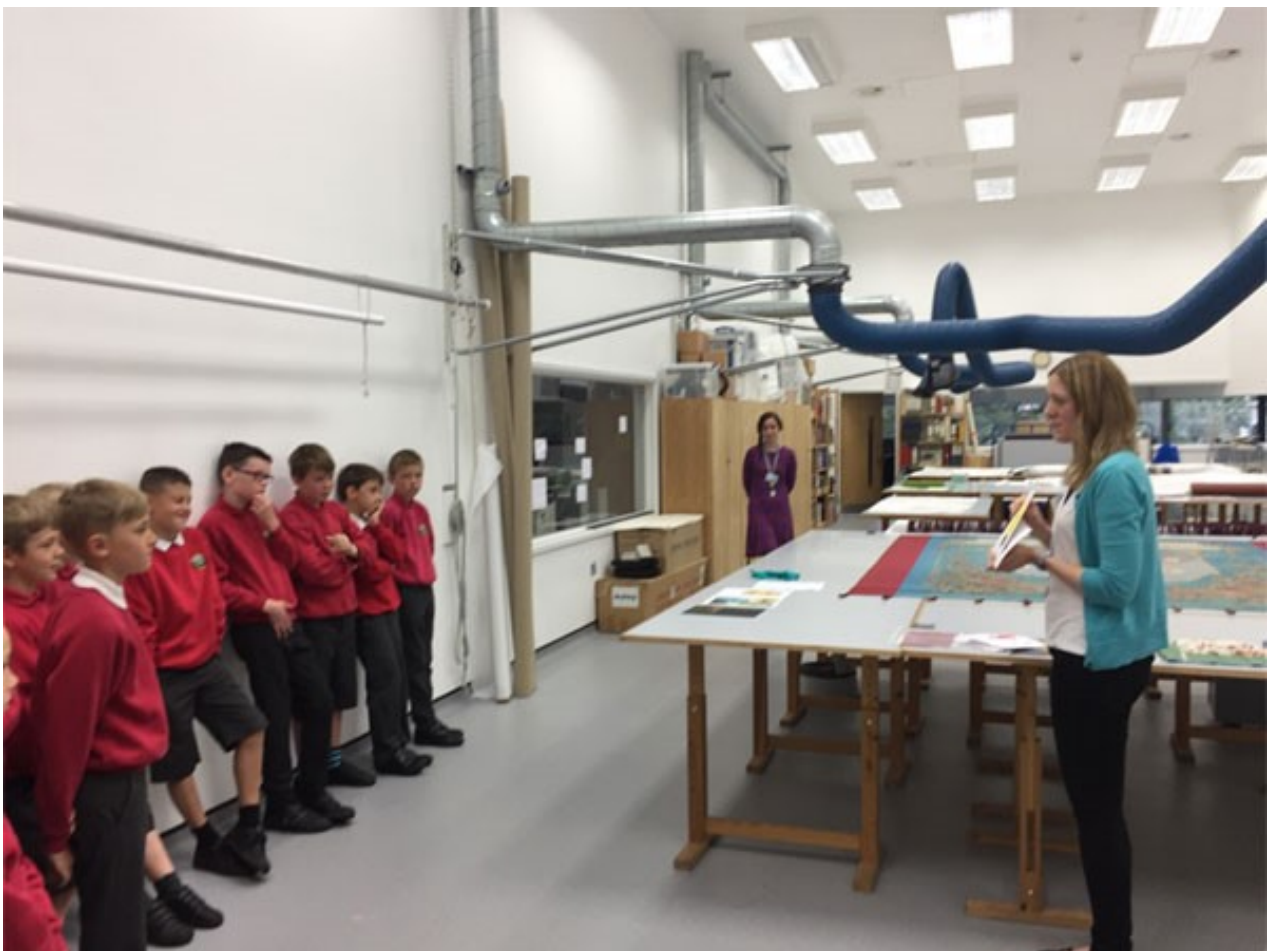
The Banner Steering Group and members of the Downham History Group on their visit to Wardle Museum and Chapel 27th April 2017. To see other banners by the Downham Banner maker Skerrett.

Visit to Wardle Museum where several Skerrett banners are exhibited.



They have a very well preserved box label with clear care instructions.

Chatburn C of E school and members of the Steering committee visit the Manchester People's History Museum conservation studio on the 26th April 2017 to view progress.



Conservation processes



Using a digital Microscope to examine the paintwork



Stage 1 Cleaning



Stage 1 cleaning

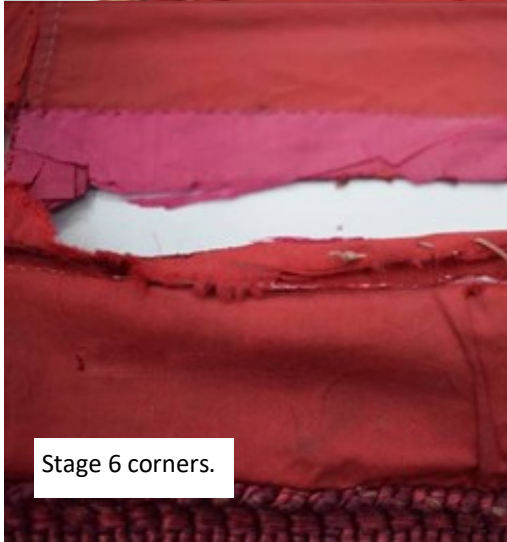


Stage 2 Humidification

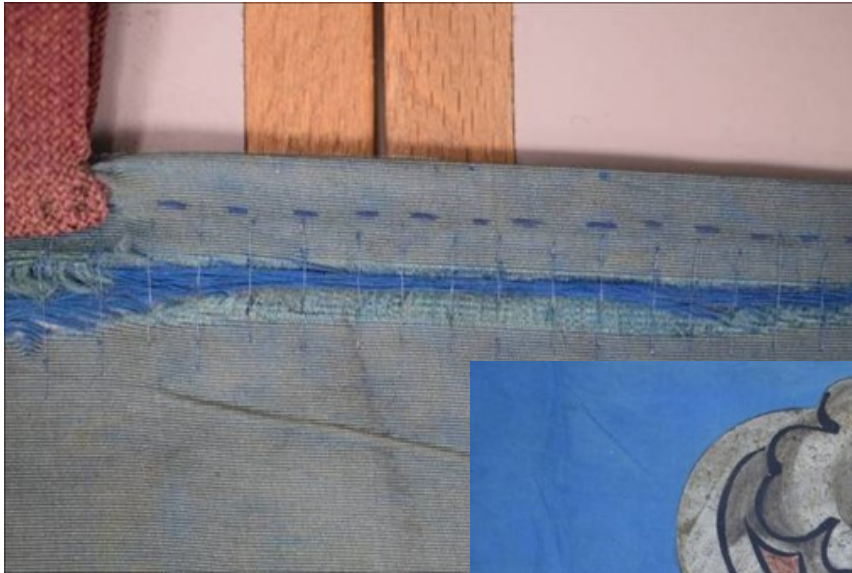




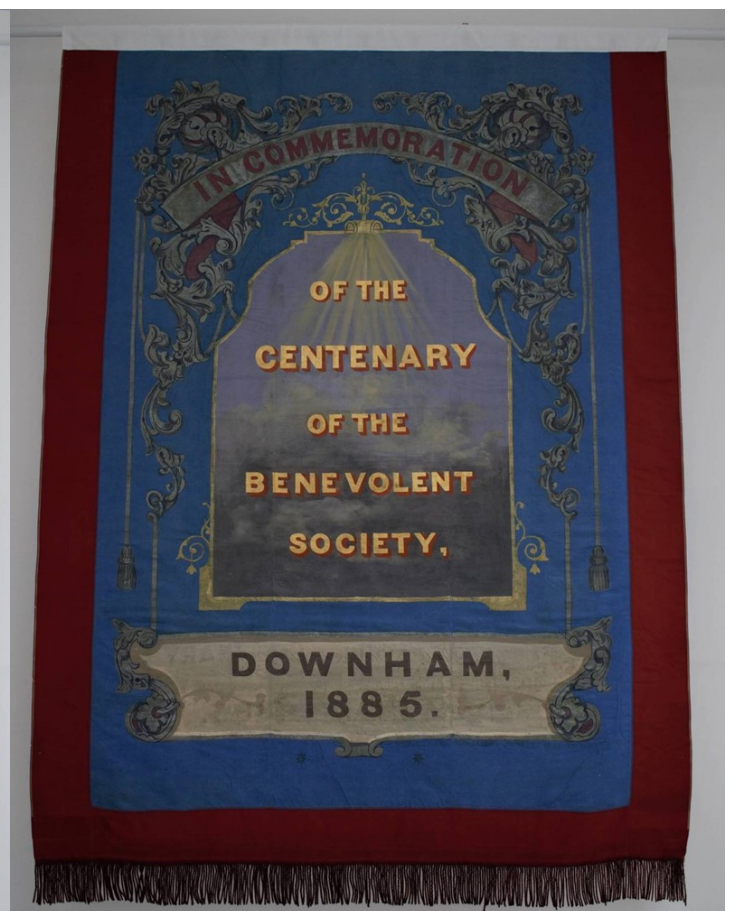
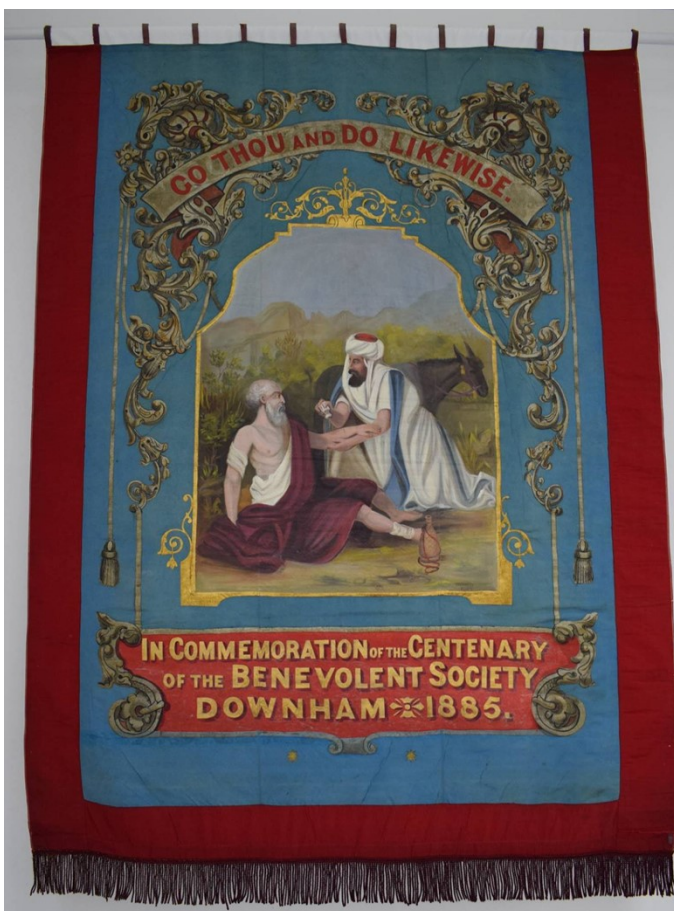
Treatment stage 5: Stitching the borders.



Stage 6 corners.



Stage7 Adhesive patch and support stitching.



Finished and ready for exhibition.



Hanging from January 2018 to January 2019 at the People's History Museum Manchester with conservator Jenny van Enckevort.



People's History Museum Manchester.

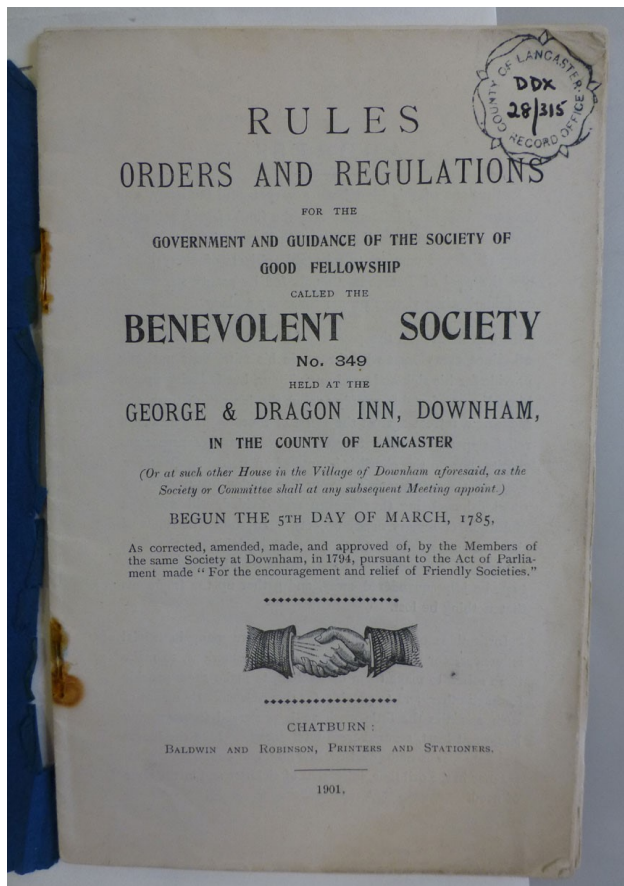
Historical Research into the Benevolent Society.

An early visit to the Lancashire Archive revealed limited documentary evidence. This photograph is produced with acknowledgement to the Lancashire Archive (DDX 28/341). We also collected a subs book, rule book and from the National Archive a paper copy of the first, hand written set of rules on vellum (calf skin).



Downham band at an old sick club event . A pole of the centenary banner can be seen on the left

Historical Research into the Benevolent Society.



1874		January February March				
No.	Name	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May
1	Wm. A. Foster	2	6			
2	Wm. Thompson	2	6			
3	Wm. Smith	2	6	8		
4	Wm. Rogers			3	2	8
5	Wm. Miller			2		4
6	Wm. Wilson	1	6			
7	Wm. Johnson	2	6			
8	Wm. Brown	2	6			
9	Wm. Moore	2	4			
10	Wm. White	8	2			
11	Wm. Taylor	2	6			
12	Wm. Green	2	6			
13	Wm. Adams	2	6			
14	Wm. Baker	2	6			
15	Wm. Clark	2	6	8		
16	Wm. Evans	2	6			
17	Wm. Harris	2	6			
18	Wm. King	2	6	8		
19	Wm. Lee	2	6			
20	Wm. Nelson	2	6			
21	Wm. Phillips	2	6			
22	Wm. Thompson	3	2	8		
23	Wm. White	2	6			

1901 Rule Book plus some pages from the 1824 Subs Book.

380. *When* *Removalist Society*
Begin the Fifth day of March One Thousand Seven
Hundred and Eighty five at the House of Henry Arncliffe
in Donham in the County of Lancaster or at such other
House in the Village of Donham aforesaid, or the Society or
Committee shall at any previous Meeting appoint, as corrected,
amended, made and approved of, by the Members of the same
Society in Donham 1784 Pursuant to the Act of
Parliament made for the Encouragement and Relief of the
Removalist Society

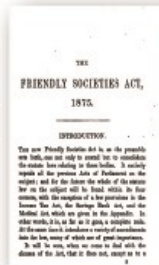
1794 rules handwritten on vellum.

The Downham Benevolent Society



All societies had to be registered in order to be regulated by the government. The 1793 Act was amended many times, and eventually consolidated in the 1875 Friendly Societies Act. This marked the beginning of a new era for Friendly Societies as they now had to publish annual accounts, reports and rulebooks.

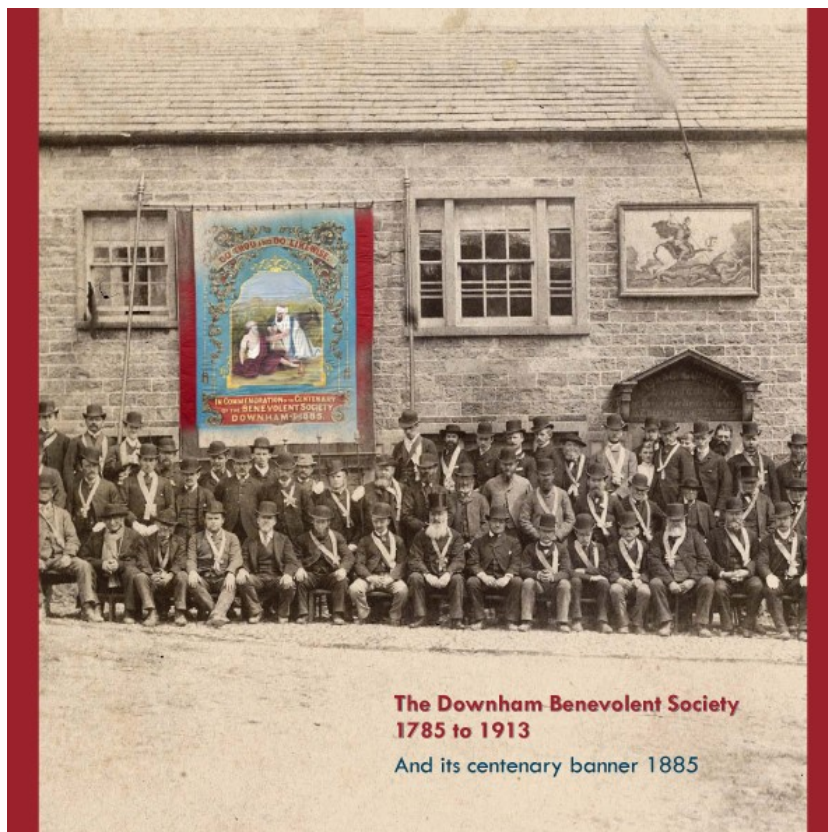
Although industrialisation provided workers with the means to join societies, not everyone was able to become a member. Only those who could afford subscriptions, or in some cases had a particular skillset were eligible. Many societies also provided members with a basic form of sick pay, some for up to 52 weeks. This meant that members were not forced to continue working and were still able to help provide for their families. Perhaps most importantly at the time, there was a form of life insurance. Members would receive money if their wife or child passed to cover funeral costs as well as helping them to survive in the months after the death. Some societies were also able to pay members over a certain age weekly pensions so that they could one day retire. The age and payment was dependent on the particular society and industry.



The Friendly Societies Act, 1875: With explanatory introduction and notes, By W. A Holdsworth

Many societies were influenced by religion. In smaller towns and villages they were often linked to the local church as part of the wider community. This greatly influenced their actions, and many societies were able to offer financial help as well as the more traditional methods of giving a family in need left over food or providing them with hand-me-down clothes.

Booklet produced by three UCLan History students.



**The Downham Benevolent Society
1785 to 1913**
And its centenary banner 1885

The Downham Banner Group

The Downham Banner Steering Group 2013 - 2019:

Clare Ashworth
Caroline Assheton
Ralph Assheton
Jill Cragg
Micahla Jackson-Smith
Brian Lewis
Hamish McFall
Philippa McFall
Tom McLean
Jenny Palmer
Diane Poole
Chris Topping



Clitheroe Castle Museum Manager, Clare Sutton and guests look on as Church Warden of St Leonard's Parish Church, The Hon Ralph Assheton High sheriff of Lancashire TD DL formally hands over the banner to the Lancashire County Museum Service Head of Collections Heather Davies.



The Downham Banner steering Group welcomes guests and supporters to the preview of the banner gallery opening at Clitheroe Castle on the 15th March 2019.



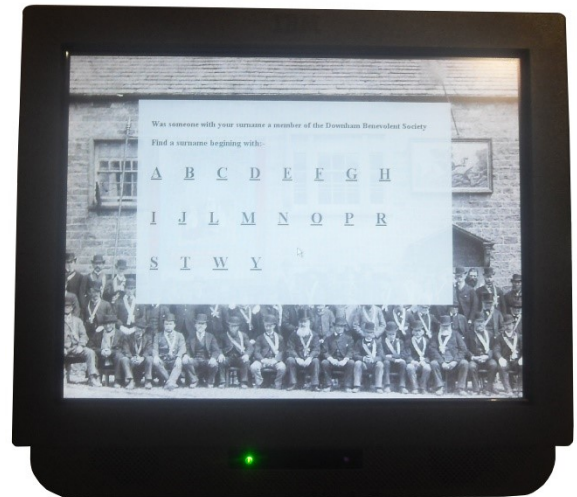
The Banner on display at Clitheroe Castle Museum showing the protective glass screen.



Interpretive panel to the side of the banner.

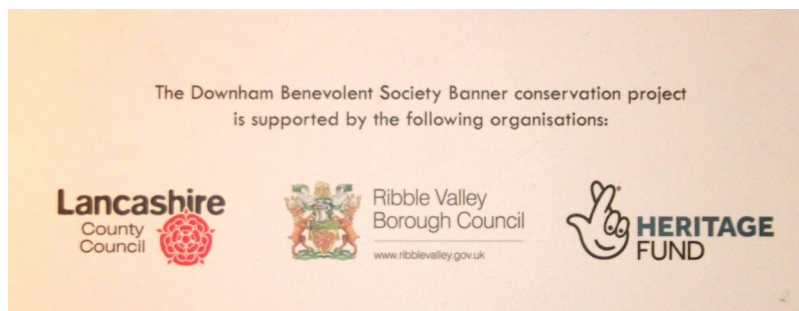


More Interpretive panels close to the banner.



Interactive display screen in the Banner Gallery at Clitheroe Castle Museum.

Banner pages on the Downham Village Website
www.downhamvillage.org.uk



Plaque in the gallery thanking our main supporters Heritage Fund, Lancashire County Council and Ribble Valley Borough Council.

Photo Credits.

Conservation images courtesy of The People's History Museum Manchester.

Visit to Wardle and Banner Preview – Bernard Gethings