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History Alive Tameside

No. 1 – 2006

Editorial

Welcome to this first edition of *History Alive Tameside* – successor to the *Tameside Local History Forum Newsletter*, which has been published since 2000. *History Alive Tameside (HAT)* aims to publish articles on all aspects of the borough's history. Tameside Local History Forum oversees this co-operative venture in collaboration with our thirty member groups. Collaborative production is just one distinctive feature of the magazine. *HAT* is probably unique amongst history magazines in that it is both professionally published and *free of charge* to the public. *HAT* is also circulated to secondary schools and colleges within Tameside and to reference, local studies and academic libraries throughout Greater Manchester. With over sixty pages, this launch edition features historical essays, research and archive news and reports - both from groups and individual members - which we hope you find interesting and informative. Additionally there is a directory of our member groups that run varied programmes throughout the year and always welcome new members. We are grateful to the Community Foundation for Greater Manchester for its generous financial support for this edition. Finally thanks are also due to the groups and individuals who contributed articles and put in much work behind the scenes.

The Editors

HISTORY ALIVE – TAMESIDE

THIS IS AN ANNUAL PUBLICATION

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BY 31st JANUARY 2007

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PUBLICATION

A Diary of Events in 2005

Several members of the Heritage Consultation group were invited to the unveiling of the "Lowry" Sculpture in Mottram on the 14th January. This was to be the first of a series of sculptures to be placed in each town in Tameside.

The Forum members were amongst the first visitors to see the renovated 'Dukinfield Town Hall' on 1st February, the most exciting feature being the stained glass window that was taken from the Lakes Rd. building. The members were most impressed by the work that has been undertaken to preserve the original features.

A meeting was held with the Tourist Information Officer on 15th February re production of a leaflet for Heritage Open Days in September 2005: 'Events in Tameside'.

The Forum was once again fortunate, on the 4th and 5th March, to open in the Ladysmith shopping centre in Ashton a 'History Shop', which the Mayor Councillor B. Harrison opened.

The long awaited opening of the new Archive Centre was held on the 11th March; this will be a valuable asset to the Borough and the Forum members.

A book about St Lawrence's Church Denton, published by the University of Manchester Archaeological Unit, was launched on the 14th April; this is part of a series of books by Dr. M. Nevell.

A very informative and enjoyable visit to Liverpool on 19th April was made by Forum members led by member Roy Parkes, a Blue Badge Guide.

The Forum joined in the VE and VJ celebrations by placing exhibitions at Ashton, Dukinfield, Stalybridge, Denton and Hyde Town Halls.

Newton Hall was the venue for a book launch '**The Extent of Longdendale**' hosted by The Lancashire and Cheshire Record Society and the Tameside Local History Forum on the 16th June.

Blue Plaques to Lord Wright at Ashton and John Frederick Cheetham at Stalybridge have been unveiled. The Forum now has an input with the events team to decide on nominations for new plaques and the wording for them.

Heritage Open Days 8-11th September. A total of 22 buildings/events were opened and hosted by volunteers from the Forum. A leaflet was produced by Tameside Tourist Information; it is hoped that there will be one for 2006.

A most enjoyable visit to the Palace Hotel Manchester took place on 9th October led by a Blue Badge Guide who told some fascinating stories about its past.

The Forum now has an excellent website: www.tamesidehistoryforum.org.uk. All group members have a page to promote their work. To date we have had enquiries from as far as America and Australia.

A visit to Chester on the 17th August: it was a lovely summer's day, and we toured the Amphitheatre, Record Office, and History Centre, meeting up with the former Curator at Portland Basin Museum, now working in Chester.



A small group of members visited the Mellor 'Dig' on the 3rd September; John Roberts from UMAU met the group and gave us a very informative talk about the site.

Tameside has been the scene for several television programmes this year, spotlighting John Wroe, Albion Church and other local features, in the **'Battle for Britain's Soul'** and the **'Gorse Hall Murder'**.

A social evening for the Forum members was held in September at Dukinfield Town Hall, where we heard from Alan Hayhurst about the stories and objects of the **Black Museum** in London, and music was provided by **'Four in Accord'** a harmony revival group. It was a most enjoyable evening.

Several sculptures of local interest have been unveiled: Ashton was the **'Pie Man'**, Denton a **'Hatter'**, and Stalybridge **'Jack Judge'** celebrating the song **'It's a Long Way to Tipperary'** along with the reopening of the renovated Stalybridge Market Hall, which will be used for events/fairs.

The two St. Michaels, Mottram and Ashton, featured in a double book launch in December at Stalybridge Civic Hall.

A walk, in Stamford Park, to look at the monuments of historical interest and the condition of them, has resulted in a portfolio being put together of photos and information.

This year has seen a rise in planning issues regarding buildings and sites of historical interest. Forum members have taken a great interest in what is going on.

We look forward to an equally successful year in 2006 for the Tameside Local History Forum.

Christine Clough
Secretary – Tameside Local History Forum

Rev. Henry Parnaby M.A. and the Munitions Factory

Albion U.R.C. Stamford Street East, Ashton-under-Lyne has had many remarkable ministers. One such was the Rev. Henry Parnaby M.A. who joined Albion on the 7th January 1912. He was born at Stockton on Tees in 1873 and received his education at the British School in that town. After leaving school he was apprenticed to the engineering trade. At an early age Mr. Parnaby became interested in Christian work, and his eloquence won him fame in the college debating society and other localities as well as in the pulpits. His powers of speech also found employment in the cause of trade unionism and when he was 21 years of age his fellow unionists of Stockton elected him chairman of their important branch.



Mr. Parnaby's thoughts began to turn towards the Congregational Ministry, and in 1896 he won the Hawley Scholarship at the United College, Bradford. He became chairman of the Union Committee and succeeded in obtaining for the students democratic management. He was a keen athlete and played in the inter-collegiate matches at association football. He acted as secretary of the Literary and Historical Society during the first two years of its existence.

After a four year distinguished course at the Yorkshire College, during which he graduated with an M.A., he entered on the study of theology at the United College.

Whilst in service as minister at Albion Congregational Church (as it was then), the First World War began, and the local employment exchange advertised for workers in the fitting and assembling shop at Messrs. Adamsons. He said, "I left home at 5.30am and caught a Hyde car at Thompson Cross, and arrived at the works in good time. I had equipped myself with a proper working garb and took my meals with me. I started work in the fitting and assembling shop on work that was for war purposes. I found the men very courteous and very helpful to me. Considering I had been out of the trade for twenty years and had never done a stroke of fitting since I left it, I quickly fell into the details of fitting again. The men were all very ready to help me in everything necessary to enable me to work. I must say I enjoyed the work and felt healthily tired when night came. I still shall continue to do a deal of the pulpit work at Albion church; the firm agreed that I should not be called upon to do more than the normal week's work".

"During conversation, an interesting point arose in the course of the day. The question of my connection with the union naturally arose. I intimated that I was perfectly ready to become a member of the union providing the union was willing to have me and I think any difficulty

which may arise can easily be put straight. I have arranged that I should be paid according to my capacity which I consider perfectly reasonable and just. The shop steward was perfectly reasonable and fair in the attitude he took up in the discussion of my peculiar situation”

Mr. Parnaby continued working as long as the firm needed his services in connection with the manufacture of war materials. He proposed to divide the wages he earned between the charitable work connected with his own church, and in the town.

On the 1st May 1915, The Ashton Reporter published an article on the Rev. Harry Parnaby M.A. Minister of Albion Church.

Someone wrote a poem, showing respect for what Rev. Parnaby was doing:

THE “FITTER” PARSON

“Work at these Benches is as Good as The Trenches”

Kaiser Wilhelm is feeling perplexed,
In fact I might say he’s pretty well vexed;
To add to his woes the size of his foes
Increases each day, and his countenance shows
His dismay at the rise of the contemptible army
Until he’s becoming what low people call “barmy.
Not only the soldiers are rolling up fast –
Till Kitchener’s Army becoming so vast,
That the terrible Hun, quakes now just like fun
And soon will return to Berlin “on the run,” –
But the workers have sworn they will work till they drop
Before the supply of munitions shall stop.
To lessen the danger of becoming shorthanded
Recruits for the workshop now are demanded
It’s quite a new style – used to cog wheels and ‘ile’-
Of recruit that is wanted to handle the ‘file’
And all the rest of the works’ paraphernalia
To help to combat the Hun’s saturnalia.
By the parson of Albion, whom we have all met
A worthy example to all has been set
Back to the benches – quite as good as the trenches,
He’s handling his old friends, such as screw-keys and wrenches;
Although he’s a parson his workmates don’t titter
They realise the man in the parson-cum-“fitter”

Mary Whitehead
Albion United Reformed Church Heritage Group

Hugh Mason M.P.

Hugh Mason was brought up a Methodist, but in middle life he changed course and became a valuable member of Albion Chapel and great supporter of the Albion schools, giving generous scholarships to its pupils. Upon his death in 1886 the following epitaph was printed in the 'Ashton Reporter':

AT HUGH MASON'S GRAVE SIDE

Friends! It's meet we should mingle eawr sorrows
An' put on these trappings o' woe;
For i' losin' our naybur, Hugh Mason
Eawr hearts have received a sad blow.
Yen does reet to come here i' yere theawsands
'Tho th' wintry wind's blowin' keen
For our dear friend's memories are too precious
To be laid on one side of dry eeyes.

Friends! Its lafh's while th' actors are with us
As their actions appear the most breet,
It's when death comes an hurries 'em from us
All their virtues are brout ow't to th'leet
We may all see who gets into th' papers
But this is but little, we dea'wt
For a deal on it's privately given
An this th' public can know nowt about.

This world's a great stage, an' we're actors
When we've each done our part we retire
Leavin' God and the people to judge us
Either blame – or what's better – admire
There's a lesson i'th life of Hugh Mason
At employers would do well to learn
If they'll study the workin' man's interests
They'll get grateful hearts in return.

Religion were Mason's great stronghold
His guide through a long honoured life
Yea' he fought under th' Nazarene's standard
As he battled for peace, not for strife



With head and his heart ever open
He cheered many a sorrowful whoam
An' his acts will be known and remembered
For hundreds of years yet to come.

Let's follow this noble example
As today, while we're blinded w' tears
Let's enlist 'th same ranks as he fowt in
As perhaps in the oncomin' years
If life's battles are fought in good earnest
An we come wi' clean hands owt' o'th fray
E'aur remains may be laid by in sorrow
As Hugh Mason's are laid by today.

Mary Whitehead
Albion United Reform Church Heritage Group

AUDENSHAW LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Formed in 2000, we meet nine times a year at the Boundary Hotel, Guide Bridge. Meetings usually feature a guest speaker.

Join us for:

- *Social evenings*
- *Day trips to historic places*
- *Project Work*
- *Writing Booklets*
- *A voice in current issues of local importance*

Projects include documenting First World War casualties, a history of St Hilda's Church, and photographing buildings due for demolition.

Publications include histories of St Stephen's Church and Bridge Street Church.

'Audenshaw School 1932 to 1996'

A new book by Brian Bason
now available at £4

'Lyndhurst' 70 Broadoak Road, Ashton-under-Lyne.



'Lyndhurst' was built in 1883 and was designed by a local architect Col. John Eaton. This house is set well back from Broadoak Road and is elevated well above the drive that leads up to it. 'Lyndhurst' is a genuine Victorian building of immense character and is full of mouldings both in the stone work and brickwork on the outside and stained glass windows and screens with Victorian Gothic tracery inside. The Billiard Room has pitch pine hammer beam roof trusses and panelling around the walls. A covenant was put on 'Lyndhurst' in 1935 which states that 'Lyndhurst' should for ever remain as a one family house'.

Col John Eaton CB VD JP FRIBA was born in Brechin Forfarshire in 1838 and his family moved to Ashton when he was one years old. He was educated in Ashton and Manchester. His father was called John as well and he started a building firm and an architects' business in Ashton. During his student days he would walk to Manchester and back to attend architecture classes at Manchester Art School and he was awarded the gold medal in Architecture for his efforts. He gained experience by being articled to Moffatt Smith's Architects in Manchester before joining his father's practice in Ashton. He designed the Ashton Town Hall extension, the Ashton Market Hall with the large clock tower (which was almost burnt down two years ago), and the Central Library on Old Street in Ashton, all grade 2 listed buildings. Also he designed the nearby Dukinfield Town Hall which is not listed but when it was opened on 22nd June 1901 it was reported as being better than most other municipal buildings for miles around. St. Stephen's Church in Flowery Field near Hyde is another example of his architectural skills and the Hospital for Ashton Union Workhouse containing 400 beds was demolished only a few years ago. Not only was he a good architect but he joined the Volunteer Battalion Manchester Regiment as a private and eventually became the Commanding Officer. He was also a free-mason and a magistrate and was a member of the Parish Council at Christ Church on Taunton Road. He was 67 when he died in 1905 and was buried with full military honours and there are 3 stained glass windows at Christ Church attributed to him.

The future of the house is uncertain and in 2004 the Civic Society applied to the Council for the Broadoak Area to be considered as a Conservation Area and we are hoping that progress can be made soon.

(Some of these findings were taken from Parry's '**History of Hurst**', the '**Ashton Herald**' 12th July 1890, the '**Ashton Reporter**' Saturday 2nd December 1905.)

**Eric Wright JP DA (Manc) RIBA, Hon. Sec.
Ashton-under-Lyne Civic Society**

MOSSLEY CIVIC SOCIETY

Some features of 2005

- We attended the History Days in March
- Heritage Open Days – when we welcomed visitors to the
- Heritage Centre and participated in the unveiling of the Mossley Time Line.
- Frank Brown's talk on Denton Hall

In 2006

- We are supporting an anti-drugs schools campaign
- We will be supporting Heritage Open Days in September
- We have a new leaflet for the Heritage Centre

For copies of the leaflet contact Marie Clues on 01457 832813
Or by e-mail at: [**marie@mclues.wanadoo.co.uk**](mailto:marie@mclues.wanadoo.co.uk)

American Connections

At the moment in the Astley Cheetham Art Collection in Stalybridge (just above the library), there is a portrait of a man, **Edward Hyde**, who, though not an important figure in history as such, nevertheless marks a milestone in the history of one of the American states. He was the first official governor of the state of North Carolina. He was a member of the important 'Hyde' family who owned much of the land in Hyde, Denton and elsewhere.



He seems to have grown up in Hyde Hall, Denton, even though his family actually came from the Hyde Hall at the bottom of Mill Lane between Hyde and Haughton Green. One of his relatives was the important Earl of Clarendon, who has several places in Hyde named after him. He was also related to several queens of England on account of the Earl of Clarendon's daughter who married King James II and both of James' daughters became queens in their own right.

They say that civil war can divide families and the Hydes were certainly not an exception. During the period 1642 and 1649, the country was racked with conflict. Many including the Hyde family of Hyde supported the King. Others like the Hydes of Denton supported Oliver Cromwell and Parliament. Although Parliament won the war, they lost the peace and the returning King, Charles II, levied a heavy fine on those who supported Parliament. Edward may or may not have inherited this large debt, but we find him having to borrow money and selling his land around Norbury (Hazel Grove). One way of raising money was to get a lucrative government post and having Queen Anne as a relative did him no harm. He seems to have visited his estates in the West Indies and possibly served as a judge in West Africa. In 1709, he was sent to take up the post of governor of North Carolina. When he arrived in North Carolina, he met an old friend William Duckinfield (yes folks, from Dukinfield!)

The Dukinfields lived at Dukinfield Hall, where the Roland Bardsley Construction site now has its headquarters, and as always with the local gentry in those days were related to the Hydes. William Duckenfield's father, Robert, had been an important Parliamentary leader during the English Civil War and was nearly executed when King Charles II returned. As it turned out he died peacefully and was buried in Denton Chapel. William became one of the important landowners in 'Queen Anne's Creek', North Carolina (today called Edenton, 'the prettiest town in the south') and his name is still on a plaque in St. Paul's church there.

After some years of confusion about his official status, Edward Hyde was instated as governor in 1711. Religion had been one of the issues of the English Civil War and it had not died away by Governor Hyde's time. He was a firm supporter of the Church of England, but in America

there were staunch Protestants who did not toe the line. In those days Government and Church were closely linked and unfortunately he served only to escalate an ongoing dispute. He had to call in help from Virginia to restore order. The Tuscarora Indians, a tribe related to the war-like Iroquois (remember 'Last of the Mohicans'?), took advantage of the situation and attacked the white settlers. They caused havoc until more help could arrive, this time from South Carolina. The Tuscarora were eventually beaten off and they emigrated back to their ancestral homeland in New York State to become the 'Sixth Nation of the Iroquois'. This was also the time when the infamous pirate Blackbeard was about to begin his activities off the Carolina coast. Perhaps it was merciful that poor Edward died of Yellow Fever (" ... and too many peaches and apples") the following year. Today there is a 'Hyde County' named in his honour.

Some years ago, local historians recovered a portrait of Edward Hyde. Some authorities in North Carolina asked if they could borrow it to make a copy. It now hangs in the Court House at Swan Quarter, Hyde County, NC. The original is the one now at the Astley Cheetham Art Gallery, Trinity St., Stalybridge.



Hyde Hall, Denton is still there as a working farm at the end of Town Lane, near the black and white church of St. Lawrence, a church Edward would have known and attended. Dukinfield Hall is no longer standing. It was standing as late as 1950 and was offered to the National Trust who turned it down. Perhaps, after the Second World War, there were other priorities and the country wanted to look forward and not back. The ruins of the 'Old Chapel' however can be seen peeping over the tops of the Roland Bardsley buildings and contains the tombs of several of the Dukinfield family. Apparently it was the oldest non-conformist (i.e. non-Church of England) chapel in England.

ings and contains the tombs of several of the Dukinfield family. Apparently it was the oldest non-conformist (i.e. non-Church of England) chapel in England.

Around the same time, **another Edward Hyde** became governor of New York. He does not seem to have made much of an impression, except reputedly going around the town in women's clothes. He was eventually thrown into debtor's prison. In spite of this, some land bought up the Hudson valley was named after him and 'Hyde Park' eventually became the family home of Franklin Roosevelt, the World War II President. It is still a museum containing the Roosevelt library.

Both of these Hydes were very well connected, being relatives of Queen Anne. Her grandfather was the Earl of Clarendon from whom we have in Hyde: Clarendon Road, Place, College, Square,

and pub (last time I ordered there!) The Earl had been a friend and advisor to King Charles I and had followed his son into exile when Oliver Cromwell took over the country. Eventually Charles II returned in 1660 and Clarendon became what we would today call a 'Prime Minister'. As another reward, he was made one of the 'Lord Proprietors of the Carolinas' which meant that settlers in America would have to buy the land off them (never mind the Indians who still lived there). Sometimes towns and cities were named in their honour. For this reason, there is a 'Clarendon County' in South Carolina and a 'Clarendon Village' in Virginia, near where I was born. Not only that, but Clarendon's daughter married the future James II. As apart of her dowry, he gave land to the king in the west part of London, which became known as 'Hyde Park'.

There are in fact three 'Hyde Parks' in New York State. In 1713, George Clarke married Anne Hyde of Hyde Hall, Hyde. The 'Hyde Clarks' as they came to be called settled in Hyde. George Clarke was made Lt. Governor of New York and for the sake of his wife, he built a summer residence on Long Island, which is still called North Hyde Park today. One of the Hyde Clarks was a captain of a British warship during the Napoleonic wars. He returned to Hyde to become the local magistrate. It was a difficult time during the early Industrial Revolution and he had to deal with the Luddite machine wreckers and Irish riots (they had ethnic tensions in those days as well!) When the Peak Forest Canal was built, he insisted on a bridge being built to keep the riff raff off his land. Many old Greenfield School boys will remember doing cross country runs to Woodend Bridge also known as 'Capt. Clark's bridge'. **Another Hyde-Clarke** settled in upper New York State where he built a huge mansion, partly based on the family home in Hyde. He had a son by the sister in law of James Fenimore Cooper, the author of '**Last of the Mohicans**' — so that part of the story in some ways comes full circle. For decades in the early 19th century, his house was the largest private building in North America and it is today owned by the state of New York. Nothing now remains of the original Hyde Hall in Hyde, which lay at the bottom of Mill Lane along the 204 bus route connecting Hyde with Haughton Green, nor of the mill which lay slightly upstream. There is a well-kept plaque where the hall once stood. At the top of Manchester Road, there is a pub called the 'White Gates Inn', which marked the entrance to 'Dark Lane' (the original name of Mill Lane). It was so called because of the lime trees that lined it and made it dark.

As I was preparing to visit my brother in North Carolina, I noticed that certain names like 'Hyde' and '**Fairfield**' cropped up quite often. Occasionally, names can be misleading. 'Denton', North Carolina, has nothing to do with Denton in Tameside, but is rather named after a famous Texas pioneer who could have come straight out of a John Ford western. There are many 'Fairfields', but it seems that it was a kind of 'buzz' word used in the 18th century to describe pleasant tracts of land (like 'Flowery Field'). It does not necessarily imply a connection with the Fairfield Moravian site in Droylsden. However there is a very real connection between the Fairfield in Tameside and a similar one in North Carolina.

The Moravian Church is often described as the oldest Protestant church in Europe. It was formed in the 15th century by Jan Hus in what is now the Czech Republic. Hus was burnt at the stake and their followers were persecuted off and on during the following centuries. By the 18th century some of them had found home in Germany, but even here they felt unsafe and

many travelled first to England and then America (they were the asylum seekers of their day). In England they settled in Fulneck, Yorkshire and Dukinfield near Manchester. Later they moved to the present Fairfield site. In America they settled first in Pennsylvania and later in North Carolina where they settled in a place called Salem (it means 'peace' and has nothing to do with witches!) Soon there was another town near them, called Winston. Eventually the two towns merged into Winston-Salem (now the cigarette capital of America).

Wherever they went, people were impressed by their gentle Christian spirit and hard work. The future leader of the Methodist Church, John Wesley, met some on his way to Georgia as a missionary and they had such an impact on him that there would probably never have been a Methodist revival without them. In America, they were often the only white people the Indians would trust. They have been influential in other ways. Many English churches including the Church of England have adopted the Moravian 'Kristingle' service at Christmas.

Because of persecution, they laid great emphasis on education as the only way of ensuring the survival of their religion. One of their early leaders, Amos Comenius, is called the 'Father of Modern Education'. In North Carolina, they provided a school for local children and it is significant that Fairfield, Droylsden, and Salem in North Carolina both have girls' schools attached to their sites. Another similarity with Fairfield is 'God's Acre', the churchyard, which contains small rectangular tombstones set in the ground, with the men and women lying separately. The communities do in fact keep in contact and some years ago, Fairfield welcomed visitors from their sister church in Winston-Salem. There was also an inn at Salem, which once entertained George Washington. Old Salem' in North Carolina is a very tourist friendly place with people in 18th century costume and where traditional skills like baking in an open oven can still be seen. While Americans visiting Britain often enjoy a kind of travel back in time, visitors from these shores can in some ways do exactly the same. North Carolina is a wonderful state and I hope to visit again.



My thanks go to many people, particularly the staff of the N.C. Collection University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, and local historian Harry Lever for his advice and encouragement. Mistakes remain my own. Anyone wishing to make comments or corrections can contact me on hostp@audenshaw.tameside.sch.uk.

Peter Host for Denton Local History Society

Our thanks go to Peter Host, a teacher at Audenshaw School for this article first published in the '**Dentonian**' in Summer and Autumn 2005

Alphabet Soup

Whilst transcribing the Birth, Death and Marriage Registers at the High Peak Register Office, local police historian, Ernie Drabble, asked that a note be made of any 'Bobbies' mentioned in the Registers. Well that simple request was to lead into other lines of interest within the columns.

The paternity of allegedly fatherless children born to female mill hands, cotton weavers, house keepers and domestic servants must have been a very sore point, no 'social cushion' to fall back on in 1898. I suggest those with some savvy found a way of naming the alleged father, including his surname in the Christian name: Emily Jones Nield, William Bamforth Mallett, Jane Paton Peters.

Probably of more interest to the family historian who has experienced great difficulty tracing his or her ancestor, are the numbers of original register entries that are corrected at a later date. Ellis Hardwick, boy, was corrected 12 years later to Alice Hardwick, girl. Twelve years further on Alice Hardwick married Fred Cheetham, a soldier, on the 23rd November 1918. Jesse Lamb, boy, was corrected 13 years later to Jess Lamb, girl. One of a more mysterious nature is Charlotte Lloyd, girl, corrected to John Lloyd, boy.

For those who have never seen an original Birth Register, apart from the first and last pages, there are 5 births on each facing page, 500 births in a full book. My means of checking, which may not be the way of others, was to check the entry number, the date, the Christian name and lastly the surname. Due to Ernie's request, a quick glance was made down the column stating the occupations. This operation drew attention to interesting facets that otherwise would have been missed.

Choosing the two registers that spanned the years 1898~1899 brought to light some weird and esoteric job descriptions, leaving much to the imagination and interpretation as to what was involved; slasher in cotton mill, stripper and greaser, blowing room overlooker, back tender in printworks, india rubber operative, but read on!

My curiosity having been aroused, I started to compile a list of occupations, between auctioneer to yeast dealer, not exhaustive and comprehensive by any means, but one containing a cross section of some of the trades that were current in Glossop during the years 1898-1899.

In 1842 there was a grand total of 40 mills of all kinds working in Glossopdale and Charlesworth, employing 5,193 people out of a population of 12,569. Edmund Potter, the Sidebottoms, the Hill Woods, John and William Shepley, James Stafford, John Walton and Edward Partington's rise in the paper making industry continued this prosperity until the changing economic conditions of the 1890's brought doubts and anxieties to the cotton industry of Cheshire, Lancashire and Derbyshire.

In 1898 Samuel Hill Wood, through financial assurances, persuaded the Football League to include Glossop North End Football Club in an enlarged Second Division. Glossop gained promotion to the First Division after only one season, sliding back as quickly as it rose for the next 15 seasons, when the advent of the First World War caused the suspension of the game (**See letter P**).

The Hill Woods later moved away, became involved and continue to be so with Arsenal. Three footballing fathers appear among the births: Willie Gallacher who was transferred from Luton in 1898, James McVey and Archibald Campbell MacFarlane. Their surnames suggest links with Scotland. Henry Bagshaw was the professional cricketer.

B bobbin carrier in mill, back tenter at printworks, bill poster, beltmaker, band maker, bath attendant, brass moulder, brass finisher, blacksmith's striker, brickmaker, boot and shoe maker, buyer in hosiery warehouse.

C the following trades were all preceded with the word cotton; card room hand, self actor minder, tape weaver, yarn piecer, yarn twister, carder, rope warper, ring spinner, yarn bleacher, mixer in mill, winder overlooker, waste bleacher, warp sizer.

The rest of the C's are a mixed bag; colour mixer at bleachworks, calico printer finisher, calico machine engraver, crumpet baker, cork cutter, calenderman at printworks, cop tenter in mill, cop carrier at mill, crofter in bleachworks, clogger, clogger sole cutter, corn dealer, coal agent, coal miner, chapelkeeper, colour sergeant instructor.

F and **H** were light on the ground; foot soldier recruiting officer, finisher in paper mill, fish dealer, huntsman, herbalist, with a solitary journeyman hatter.

I included; iron riveter, iron turner, iron dresser, iron ore miner, iron moulder.

L was confined to; limewasher, lamplighter, lurrier at printworks.

M was mainly preceded by master as in; master butcher, grocer and insurance agent, chemist, draper, greengrocer, joiner, newsagent, stationer, tailor, watchmaker. Together with the odd, makerup in bleachworks, machinists, patternmaker.

N was confined to nightsoilman and nightwatchman.

O was thin on the ground; operatic vocalist, oiler and greaser at paper mill, oatcake maker.

P emerged with a touch of class; professor of music, pianoforte tuner, pentigrapher in printworks, paper stainer, paper glazer, polisher in printworks, powerloom overlooker, professional footballer and cricketer.

R was thin on the ground; rope splicer, rope and twine maker, riveter's labourer.

proved more of a quandary, with Glossop a fair way from navigable waters, yet a shipwright, a ship's carpenter and a John Mullin boatman were recorded occupations. Others included sizemaker at mill, tenderer at printworks, steam horse traction driver, sawyer, small-ware merchant, but sacristan needed the dictionary. This proved to be the person who cared and looked after the church plate and vestments. Sgt. William Thomas Earl, 4th Derbyshire Regiment continued the military presence.

traction engine driver, tea dealer, teacher of music, travelling showman, tin plate worker, tripe dresser.

The latter occupation roused both my memory and taste buds. On the borders of N.W. Derbyshire, South Lancashire and North East Cheshire, a well known group of café outlets traded under the name 'UCP': the initials stood for United Cattle Products. McDonalds was then, not even a twinkle in the sky. A range of tripe (a poor man's sushi) thick and thin seamed, honeycombed, plain, plus chitterlings, cow heels, pigs' trotters were offered for sale to the public. Tripe, like the tripe dresser, now seems to have gone to that Valhalla in the sky.

The one sure conclusion that can be drawn from the Birth Registers is that they are just as distracting as old newspapers when straying away from the original point of research.

Notes 1 & 2. '**Glossop Dale, Manor and Borough**'. Glossop and District Historical Society 1973.

Keith Holford.
Derbyshire Family History Society

Taken from an Ecclesiastical Survey of 1754 of Stockport St Mary's Church Townships

	C of E		Dissenters		Houses	Population 1881
	Houses	Souls	Houses	Souls		
Dukinfield	82	409	69	269	168	29,675
Hyde	38	169	55	298	62	17,876
Werneth	16	81	53	277	65	3,129

Copied from Watson MSS Vol 1, 129, from Stockport Ancient and Modern by Harry Heginbotham 1882.

Gay Oliver
April 2006

The Tameside BMD Project

Indexes to Tameside Births, Marriages and Deaths

To family historians the civil registrations of births, marriages and deaths are an invaluable tool from their commencement in 1837 up to the present day. However, obtaining the reference numbers has always been a difficult task, necessitating a trip to the local records office or, if you were lucky, your local library and then searching through year after year of microfiche. The aim of the **TamesideBMD** project is to transcribe the indexes of the Tameside Register Office and place these in a searchable database which is readily accessible on the internet. The work is being carried out by a group from the Dukinfield Family History Group augmented by volunteers from around the world. The original indexes are first photocopied and then transcribed into a computer file. These files are then checked for accuracy against the original registers before being added to the **CheshireBMD** web site at:

www.cheshirebmd.org.uk.

This means that anyone with access to the internet from anywhere in the world can quickly locate their missing family records. To date we have listed **573,316 Tameside births** from 1837 up to 1974 and **112,038 marriages** from 1837 to 1937. We have yet to start the deaths. The Group is grateful to Tameside Register Office for its cooperation with this project. This is an ongoing project expected to last another few years. We are always on the look out for volunteers to help in the transcribing of the indexes. If you feel you could help please contact the project coordinator Bob Kirk by email at: **Bob@kirksoft.co.uk** or call the Register Office (0161 342 5032) and leave a message for him.

Old Chapel, Dukinfield CD

This was the first project undertaken by the newly formed Dukinfield Group of the Family History Society of Cheshire. Originally it was only to be a survey of the grave yard and a record of the Monumental Inscriptions therein. However the Chapel Council granted us unrestricted access to the Chapel Records and so it was decided to include as much reference material as we could possibly squeeze onto a single CD. As well as the Monumental Inscriptions the CD includes searchable copies of the various books covering the history of the chapel and its Sunday school. One of these books '**Old Chapel and the Unitarian Story**' will be of particular interest to anyone who wishes to learn more about Unitarianism.

Also included are indexed photographic records of the Interment Books 1780–1998 and the



Grave Records for the same period together with photographs of both inside and outside the Chapel. In total the CD contains over 3000 pages in a self loading PDF format. The Group is grateful to the Chapel Council for their help and cooperation with this project. The cost of the **CD is £5 plus P&P**, and it can be ordered by contacting any member of the group, or by completing the order form available on the web at:

www.fhsc.org.uk/fhsc/dukinfield.htm

Bob Kirk

Family History Society of Cheshire – Dukinfield Group

The following is a copy of the review of the Old Chapel CD

All you ever wanted to know about Old Chapel Dukinfield Burials

Cheshire FHS (Dukinfield branch) has produced a comprehensive and easy to use CD which contains everything anybody would want to know about burials at Old Chapel – and more!

The disk contains facsimile copies of various records held at the chapel, including the original indexes which allow easy use of the records. It includes an index to grave spaces, list of graves, range number index, grave owners' index, interments 1780 to 1998 (with indexes) and monumental inscriptions (with indexes). Burial records and the location of graves are easy to find and the quality of the images is first class.

But like the best DVDs this CD has **"extras"**: It includes facsimile copies of the standard histories of Old Chapel and its Sunday School from the comprehensive, but out of print, volumes by J E Hickey to David Doel's 1994 history. And these volumes have name indexes accessed by search mechanisms on the disk. Also included is **'Inside Old Chapel'** which is a name index leading to good quality photographs of objects, gravestones and plaques in the chapel. It makes a really nice record of the contribution of chapel-goers over the generations, from a bookshelf made by Harold Critchlow to a tablet to Norman Stephens, Treasurer for 34 years. It allows users who cannot visit the chapel to get a good sense of the importance of the building to its congregation.

Reviewed by Alice Lock

Tameside Local Studies & Archive Centre

Also published in the March 2006 edition of the **'Cheshire Ancestor'**

CD Extract from Burial Book

18 December 1812 – Samuel Goodier in the Isle [sic] under his stone aged 80. He was buried December 31 and taken up January 2, 1813 and a coroner's inquest taken of the body. He was heard 24 weeks before the jury brought in a verdict of willful murder. His body was opened by Mr Booth and Mr Cook, surgeons – this grave is full.

Friends of Ashton Parish Church

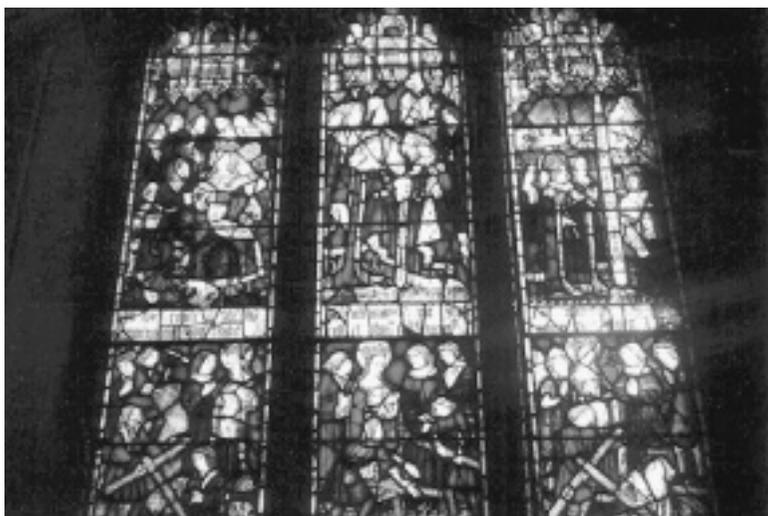
The Friends have been involved in several projects during the last twelve months. The restoration of the pew hinges and doors has now been completed. As this is a Grade 1 listed building it was essential that the new hinges were as identical as possible to those that have been in use for over 150 years and had to be made by a specialist foundry in Burnley. They were then fitted by a professional cabinet maker in his spare time over several months. The restoration has made access to the pews easier and was made possible by a grant from Tameside Heritage Fund.

A sound system has now been installed which has enabled those conducting services and giving lectures to be heard clearly throughout the building, enhanced by a closed loop facility for the hard of hearing.

The lighting in the church has been causing concern for several years. This has now been rectified by the installation of new lighting in the nave and chancel. The ceiling bosses can now be seen more clearly now that they can be illuminated independent of the nave lighting and free from glare. Whilst the lighting was being installed an opportunity was taken to inspect the bosses more closely, which were found to be made of plaster and screwed to the main beams of the ceiling, some of which we believe date from the 15th century. Graffiti was also discovered over the east window, believed to have been done at some time in the 1960s and two shields of arms found on the organ fretwork which were not visible before due to the poor lighting.



Another concern has been the state of the mosaic floor. This is to be restored commencing in March by specialist contractors of which there are only three in the country. The work is to be carried out in two stages. Stage one will concentrate on the west end of the nave where there are several areas of missing small mosaic tiles; the whole area will then be cleaned to bring it back to its original colouring. This costly project is supported by a generous grant from Tameside Council. It is hoped to have the work completed in time for Heritage Weekend in September.



We invite you to become a Friend of Ashton Parish Church and join us in helping to maintain and beautify this wonderful Grade 1 place of worship which is part of our heritage. To join, pick up a form from church, or download one from the Forum website or from the Secretary:

Mrs Joyce Currie, 27 Rushmere, Ashton-under-Lyne, OL6 9EB Tel: 0161 330 5795.

For guided tours of the church contact:

Mr Alan F. Bacon, 17, St. Christopher's Avenue, Ashton-under-Lyne OL6 9DT Tel: 0161 330 5829.

Alan F Bacon – Friends of Ashton Parish Church

More Burials in Old Chapel Graveyard

January 1805 – John Brent, a poor man, buried in the old wall opposite Angier's tomb south side of Joseph Burgess stone.

16 May 1807 – Joseph Clarke, a Shropshire man, laid on John Brent in the wall south side John Burgess stone.

1 October 1816 – James Dean of Dukinfield – he was killed in a coalpit with a wagon wheel falling upon his head in Mr. W Wild's pit at Yew Tree. His son was killed in three weeks.

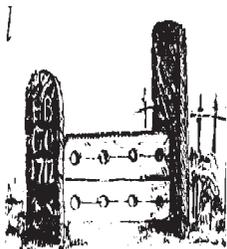
27 October 1816 – James Dean son of Jas. Dean killed in Mr. W Wild's pit aged twelve.

29 September 1845 – William Wilde, Coalmaster of Dukinfield aged 83.

Gee Cross and District W.I.

In the year 2000 the Gee Cross & District W.I., as part of their Millennium Celebrations, undertook to restore, preserve and revive certain old customs and features of Gee Cross Village.

- Booth's well was "dressed" for the first time in over 100 years.
- The old stocks in the grounds of Hyde Chapel were carefully excavated and restored to the original design.
- A time capsule, containing an assortment of modern day and antique items donated by the local community, was buried beneath the stocks.
- A Heritage Map of Gee Cross was produced by a local artist, with illustrations of various historical buildings and locations.
- Wild flowers and bulbs were planted in Gower Hey woods and other areas in Gee Cross.
- An embroidered tablecloth was produced by members of the W.I. showing various buildings and views of the area around the village.



The Old Stocks. The restoration of the old stocks, erected during the reign of Queen Anne, proved to be of particular interest to the local community. A local historian and the University of Manchester Archaeological Unit worked closely together during the excavation of the stocks in order that nothing of archaeological interest would be disturbed. The stocks are unique because one of the two stone pillars is in fact a 'whipping post'; the small pillar is inscribed 'HB GC 1712'. Several small items, mainly bits of pottery, were found beneath the old stocks and these were carefully examined and logged. On completion of the restoration a wooden 'mock up' of the stocks was made for exhibition purposes.

Well Dressing A decision was made by the W.I. members, right at the start, that our well dressing pictures would not be of a biblical nature (as in Derbyshire) but that we would try to make the pictures as interesting as possible for all ages. So far we have been able to achieve wonderful, colourful pictures that have also included elements of local history, such as the 'Gee Cross Mill', the 'Green Linnet' double decker tramcar, 'Captain Clarke's Bridge', and scenes of Werneth Low.



The well dressing celebration takes place during July. Once again, Booth's Well is decorated by members of the Gee Cross & District W.I. and a further 5 wells (or sites of wells) are decorated by various schools and youth groups. A well known local band leads the procession to each well, after which a community celebration service is held in Hyde Chapel.

Marjorie Minister
Gee Cross and District W.I.

A Survey of the Historical Development of the Designed Landscape at Gorse Hall

In August 2001 Helen M. Thomas a chartered architect specializing in conservation, visited Gorse Hall to conduct a survey of the gardens for the 'Friends'. The preliminary assessment was to be used as an aid to future care, further investigation and interpretation to the public.

In 1852 Gorse Hall was clearly a property of some status, situated on the outskirts of Stalybridge, which was largely surrounded by open fields and approached by a long curving drive.

The early 19th century hall as depicted in the late 19th and early 20th century photographs was a two storey neo-classical villa with a single storey entrance porch and bow windows on the garden sides.

The hall was an example of a new type of property: the country mansion or villa of the prosperous urban businessman. They developed in the 19th century in Lancashire and Cheshire and were typical of those built on the fringes of the cotton towns of Stockport and Stalybridge.

The 1852 OS map indicates a similar property, Eastwood, lying to the east of Gorse Hall, with landscaped grounds and a productive garden.

The grounds of Gorse Hall were typical of the informal style of layout increasingly advocated at this time in such books as **'How to Layout a Small Garden'** by Edward Kemp published in 1850 and Shirley Hibberd's **'Adornments for Homes of Taste'** 1856.

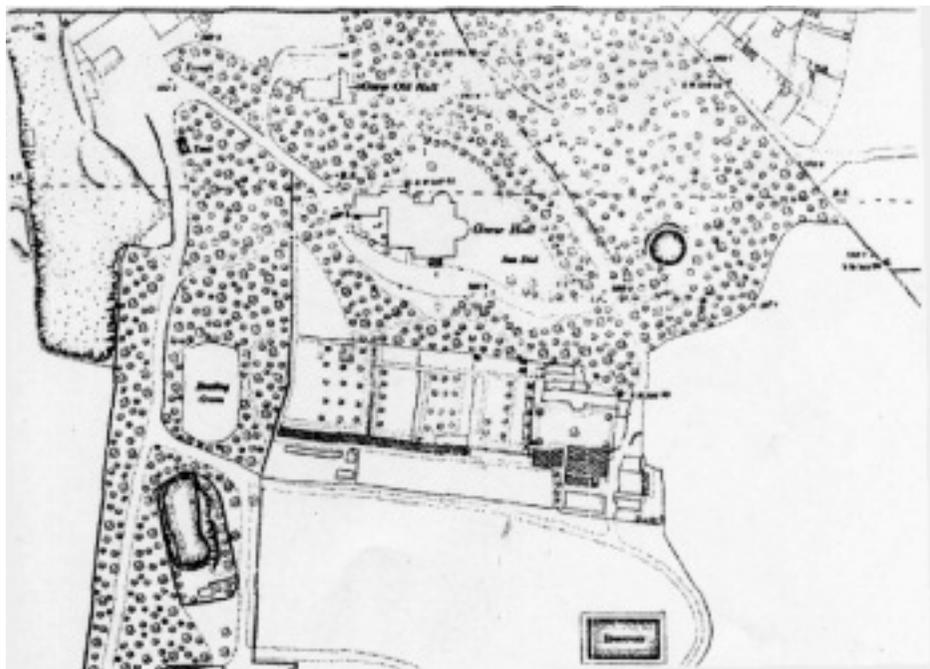
The design of the grounds would seem to intend that Leech's mills and workers' housing to the north, together with Gorse Old Hall, outbuildings and productive garden, were well hidden from view. This would explain the tunnel which ran under the coach road and into the mill yard.

Rockworks at Gorse Hall were undoubtedly formed as features of the pleasure grounds and probably served as receptacles for plants. One formed a semi-circle around an open space and another adjacent to both a walk and a pond.

With the exception of a Vinery, the buildings of the productive gardens are not identified on the 1852 OS. With the removal of window tax in 1845 and developments in glass house manufacture, and methods of heating in the first half of the 19th century, it may suggest that some of the buildings indicated were also glass houses.



Rockworks illustrated in Jane Loudon's *The Ladies Companion to the Flower Garden* in 1844



The 1852 layout does not appear to have any formal elements in the design, with irregular planting beds on the open area of the pleasure grounds adjoining the hall and winding paths leading through the grounds, except in the organization of the productive kitchen garden. The bowling green is rectangular in plan and the summerhouse is circular; neither is placed in a formal setting.

The productive gardens were extended by 1872–3 with additional glasshouses in keeping with other alterations made to the property and grounds. In **'Rustic Adornments'** Hibberd advocates the creation of a continuous walk through the lawns and separate compartments for flowers, shrubs and trees set at intervals suggesting a layout rather than a precise plan.

In a survey of Historic Parks and Gardens in Greater Manchester carried out in 1994 it was noted that in Tameside there was often a close association between a mill or factory and a house within a designed setting. The same study identified similar sites in Bury and Oldham, but as far as





A Glasshouse illustrated in a Handbook for builders in 1874 of a type which could have been built at the south wall of the Productive Garden. (From the **Victorian Garden** p 83)

is known no detailed study has been made of this type of site. At Gorse Hall the aim appears to have been to mitigate the close proximity of the Grosvenor Street mills and workers' housing by screening them from view. Further investigation of the number and survival of this type of property in the region, employing the same design approach, would assist in establishing the particular significance of Gorse Hall.

The present and future Gorse Hall is chiefly known as the home of Beatrix Potter's mother and for the unsolved murder of 1909. It should also be appreciated for its very typical Victorian villa grounds, which appear to have reached their hey-day in about 1872 and for which time largely stopped with the demolition of the hall in 1910.

From information supplied by **Helen Thomas** with thanks from the **'Friends of Gorse Hall'**.

Christine Clough
Friends of Gorse Hall

Candidate for the "Black Sheep Society"

This was posted to the Shropshire Rootsweb mailing list, and taken from the Condover Parish Register and transcribed by the Shropshire PR Society:

"1758 August 10 – Thos. Hincks, a bastard s. of Jane Mousel, a most egregious Whore & Adultrous, & begotten by Thos. Hincks, an un'parale'd Rogue and Adulterer, bap."

Rebirth of a Canal

Daisy Nook is a familiar location to many people living in Tameside and is a popular area for gentle walking. Visitors will have noticed the canal structures that can be found within the country park, although some may not be aware of exactly what they are. In fact, this area on the boundary of Oldham and Tameside is a real honey pot of historical canal features. These include the 80 feet high Waterhouses Aqueduct across the River Medlock; the remains of locks, including a lock staircase; Crime Lake, once a magnet for Sunday afternoon trippers; and the cutting which was once 'Dark Tunnel'.

These features were part of the Hollinwood Branch Canal, which ran from the Ashton Canal at Fairfield, in Droylsden, through Littlemoss towards Hollinwood and Werneth, in Oldham, with a further branch to Fairbottom, near Park Bridge. Parts of the canal are still in water at Littlemoss and Daisy Nook.



Two hundred years ago, this canal would have been very busy with horse-drawn narrowboats carrying coal from the collieries on the western and southern fringes of Oldham down into Manchester. Trade continued into the twentieth century but was diminishing rapidly, due to the convenience of motor vehicles and the exhaustion of the local coal mines, and by the 1960s the canal had been abandoned.



In 2004, the Hollinwood Canal Society was formed with the wish to see the preservation of what is left of the canal, seeking to prevent further deterioration of the structures of the canal and further encroachment onto the line of the canal. The society aims in the longer term to see the

restoration of the Hollinwood and Fairbottom Branch Canals within Daisy Nook Country Park, the re-connection of Daisy Nook with the Ashton Canal and eventually the creation of a new canal link through to the Rochdale Canal.

The society does not underestimate the difficulties involved, as development on parts of the canal and the cutting across the canal route by the M60 could involve costly diversions or need innovative solutions. The half-mile link with the Rochdale Canal was initially proposed in 1797 but not built then because of competitiveness between the two canal companies. To build the link now would create a useful through route for boats and it could form a centrepiece for the regeneration of Hollinwood.

A short section of the canal in Droylsden is expected to be back in water within a few years, as part of the redevelopment of the area between Manchester Road and Fairfield Lock, which would include a marina behind the library building.

The society has now begun holding regular Working Party weekends in which members are joined by volunteers from Waterway Recovery Group. Working at Daisy Nook Country Park, under the guidance of the park ranger, vegetation affecting the stonework along the side of the canal is being removed, helping to preserve the remaining structures. It could be very many years before any serious major restoration projects take place along the canal's route, but without the dedicated work of volunteers at this stage, there could be nothing left to restore! Why not join us and play a part?

The society has a website at www.hollinwoodcanal.co.uk which includes photographs of the route and a selection of old photographs including some showing the canal when it was in use.

Martin Clark
Hollinwood Canal Society

Extract from 'Utopia' by Thomas More, published 1516

On Outlaws & Highwaymen

"Nowe to amend the matter, to this wretched beggerye and miserable povertie is joyned greate wantonnes, importunate superfluitie and excessive riote. For not only gentle mennes servauntes, but also handicrafte men: yea and almooste the ploughmen of the countrey, with al other sortes of people, use muche straunge and proude newefanglenes in their apparell, and to muche prodigall riotte and sumptuous fare at their table. Nowe bawdes, queines, whoores, harlottes, strumpettes, brothelhouses, stewes, and yet another stewes, wynetavernes, ale houses and tiplinge houses, with so manye noughtielewde and unlawfull games, as dyce, cardes, tables, tennis, boules, coytes, do not all these sende the haunters of them streyghte a stealyng when theyr money is gone?"

Stained Glass at Old Chapel (Unitarian) Dukinfield

The chapel has many fine stained glass windows. The three oldest are the three inner panels of the impressive West Windows. These panels, which were presented in 1865, formed part of the front of the chapel before the extension of the West Front in 1893. The centre panel depicting the Crucifixion was donated by David Harrison, the one on the left, showing Jesus blessing the children was given by Henry Bayley and James Ogden gave the one on the right, showing the healing of blind Bartimaeus

When the extension was first mooted, the Minutes of the Chapel Committee report, *"The stained glass windows at the front of the Chapel should not be removed."* And later, *"the architect designed a beautiful window in which all three panels are to be retained in their present form as the centre lights"*

The additional panels on either side of the first three, making five in all were given by other benefactors. Sydney Hyde, in memory of Edward and Mary Hyde, donated the one on the extreme left, depicting Ananias reciting the Nunc Dimittis. On the extreme right the boy Jesus in the temple is shown. John Hall Brooks presented this window in memory of his father John Brooks. The tracery, above these panels

dated 1899, completing the window, was the gift of Miss Mary Whitehead.

The makers of all these windows were F Comere and J Capronnier of Brussels.

The window is floodlit from the inside at night during the Christmas period each year giving all those passing an opportunity to admire its beautiful colours.

The three small lancet windows in the south east end of the gallery date from 1872 and were presented by John Woolley. John Brooks donated the three at the north east end. These six



lights, in the antique style, are rich in deep colour. Each light is of a separate figure; the south east ones show three women representing the virtues of Faith, Hope and Charity. The north east ones represent the Old Testament prophets, Isaiah, Ezekiel and Jeremiah. The windows are signed J B Capronnier of Brussels.



William Marshall presented the large bright and translucent window on the south gallery wall consisting of three lights, in 1881 in memory of his wife Sarah. The window depicts scenes from Jesus' life; on the left Jesus talking to the woman of Samaria, in the centre, the Sermon on the Mount and on the right Jesus appearing to his disciples on Easter morning. There is no maker's mark on this window.

On the north gallery wall is *"the gorgeous War Memorial Window"* (Hickey). William Morris and Co. of Kennington made this window with its central panel of St George and the dragon and side panels of David and Jonathon. The window cost £459 and was unveiled at a special service on Saturday 12th March 1921. The small brass plate nearby reads *"1914-1919. Erected to the Glory of God and in sacred memory of the men from Old Chapel and Sunday School who fell in the Great War"*. The figure of St George from this window was used for the design of one of the Sunday School banners carried during the Whitsuntide Processions. The banner is on display on the west wall of the chapel.

H Henry Potter gave the window on the north side of the ground floor of the chapel in 1875 in memory of Henry and Betty Johnson. It depicts six of the best known parables of Jesus, the Ungrateful Steward; the Sower; the Good Samaritan; the Prodigal Son; the Wise Maidens and the Good and Faithful Servant. There is no maker's mark on this window.

Dawn Buckle
Friend of Old Chapel, Dukinfield

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Doel DC (1994) **'Old Chapel and the Unitarian Story'**, London: Lindsey Press, Hickey J (1940) **'A Short History of the Dukinfield Old Chapel'**, self-published, Old Chapel Minute Books (various)

On Being a Wartime Teenager

As I see the changing face of Ashton – new buildings, well dressed parents and well-shod children with clean faces, I am reminded of my teenage years and the Ashton of 1942 in the middle of the Second World War.

Aged 15 and ready for leaving school, I was sent to see our Director of Education, Colonel Handforth, who offered me a good position doing the clerical work of the school clinic, which was on Water Street, at the back of the gasworks, just off Oldham Road.

There were only a few streets still standing in the slum clearance area between Wellington Road, Warrington Street and Katherine Street, with a large empty space where the houses had been razed, and with a few old Victorian back to back buildings, of which the clinic was one. It catered for schoolchildren between the ages of four and fifteen, and had an office, consulting room, and a treatment room on the ground floor with a nurse always in attendance for minor ailments. The school dentist was upstairs.

Consultants attended once a month to see children who had been referred for ear, nose and throat ailments, orthopaedic conditions, dental work and other general ailments.

As it was war-time, we had a temporary Medical Officer of Health: Dr. Mary Evans who was standing in for the permanent M.O.H., Dr. Simpson, who was serving with the army in the Far East. Her office was in the Town Hall building.

Dr Evans used to examine all the children in Ashton at their schools about once a year. At the clinic we would prepare her medical bag to be sent to the school the day before the inspection, usually carried there by myself or one of the older children. Then Doctor and a nurse visited the school, on foot, no cars in war-time, on the following day. Any child whom it was felt needed further examination was referred to the appropriate consultant.

Nurse would then carry out a hair inspection and any child with lice or nits would be given a note for the mother to do something about it.

There was a happy feeling in that old tumble-down building, from the consultant and nurses, one of them my much-loved sister-in-law, now aged 90, down to myself as the junior member.

We were all fond of the children who visited us – the poor, rather neglected ones who came alone, and the bit better off ones whose mothers came with them. War-time or not, they had the best medical treatment and love we could give. Throughout the war all children received orange juice and cod liver oil and over the years we have seen the poor rickety legs and pale, dirty faces disappear, hopefully never to return. The old Victorian building, long since gone, did a great job, and, as a bonus it housed the Air Raid Wardens at night when we had gone home. They were there from 5.00pm to 9.00 am next morning. Luckily, for us all, their fire-watching nights were never needed, as Ashton was never bombed.

Mavis Deffley
History on Your Doorstep

Tameside Local History Forum Directory of Members 2006

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Friends of Newton St (GMPolice Museum)

0161 856 3287
Newton St, Manchester, M1 1ES

Gee Cross & District W.I.

Eileen Bowden
 14 Arnold Road
 Hyde SK14 5CH
 Marjorie Minister
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History On Your Doorstep

Jill Cronin

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Hollinwood Canal Society

www.hollinwoodcanal.co.uk

Martin Clark
 2 Rock Bank
 Stamford Road
 Mossley, OL5 0BD

Tel: 01457 836 273
 martin@ashton-under-lyne.co.uk

Living Memories of Hyde Society

Chair: Alan Ehrenfried,
 28 Lakes Road, Dukinfield,
 Cheshire, SK16 4TR
 Secretary: Sylvia Walker
 58 Kenyon Avenue, Dukinfield,
 Cheshire, SK16 5AR

Tel: 0161 330 1992

Tel: 0161 338 4662

Longdendale Heritage Trust

Chairman: William Johnson
 25 Ashworth Lane,
 Mottram-in-Longdendale. SK14 6NT.

Tel: 01457 763555

Emmaus Mossley Centre

Longlands Mill,
 Queen Street,
 Mossley, OL5 9AH

Tel: 01457 838608
 e-mail: mossley.community@emmaus.org.uk

Mossley Civic Society

Mrs Marie Clues.
 31 Cemetery Road, Mossley
 Mr D Shufflebottom.
 76 Ladbrooke Road, Ashton-under-Lyne OL6 8PW

Tel: 01457 832813

Tel 0161 330 6409

Northwest Battlefield Trust

Keith Murphy
 29 Moorgate Drive, Carrbrook,
 Stalybridge, Cheshire, SK15 3LX

Tel: 01457 833631

Parkbridge Heritage Centre

Visitors' Centre:

The Stables,

Park Bridge,

Ashton-under-Lyne, OL6 8AQ

Tel: 0161 330 9613

Stalybridge Historical Society

Peter Schofield

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Ashton-under-Lyne, OL

Tel: 0161 344 5180

Tameside Archaeological Society

www.tas-archaeology.org.uk

Archivist: Steven Milne

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Ashton-under-Lyne OL6 9JY

Tel: 0161 330 2918

Tameside Local Studies & Archives Centre

Librarian: Alice Lock

Archivist: Michael Keane

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Ashton-under-Lyne OL6 7SG

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Tameside Museums & Galleries Service

www.tameside.gov.uk/museumsandgalleries

Emma Varnam

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Wooden Canal Boat Society

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Ashton-under-Lyne OL7 9NY

Tel: 0161 330 2315

e-mail: antonb@clara.net

Never Mind the Research what about the Source Materials?!

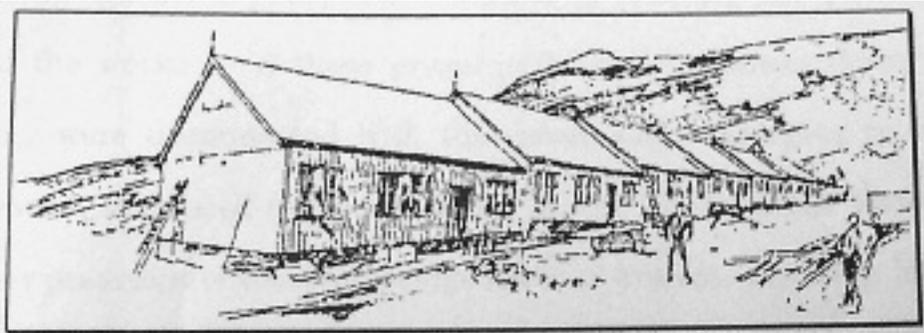
Often when researching articles etc., a piece of source material can prove to be so interesting that the reading and enjoyment of it becomes almost an end in itself. This happened last year when part of the 'History on Your Doorstep Group' was preparing their book **'Carrbrook – Peep into the Past'**.

Delving into the Local Studies Library revealed a fairly recent M.M.U. thesis by a Mr. R. Spencer on the Carrbrook Print Works Strike of 1895 which was not only fascinating and informative in itself but it also led member, Dorothy Topping, to Manchester Central Library and a gem of a primary source. This was a fiche of a contemporary (1840) handwritten book by a Mr. J. Graham which was packed with information about the chemistry of calico printing and the state of that industry in the Manchester Area between 1790 and 1840.

Graham was a fascinating person and it seems that he only had to turn up at a printing company to be told What they did, How they did it, How well they did it and Whether they were making any money or not. Clearly he either had a lot of friends or was an early practitioner of Industrial Espionage. Calico Printing was first established on the Carr Brook in 1825 on a site close to where the original high level valley road (the 'Roman Road') descended and crossed the brook – the actual location having been formerly occupied by one of the seven small, water powered textile mills which for some time, and with limited success, had been established on the brook. Graham's book makes it pretty clear that by the mid 19th C printing on the Carrbrook site was and always had been pretty well a 'basket case' with owner after owner failing, probably in part due to the site's isolation following construction of the Huddersfield Road Turnpike in the mid 1790s

In the 1860s, the Print Works was taken over by a partnership which included local businessman John Gartside. This proved to be a turning point, that by 1895, thanks to considerable investment, Buckton Vale, as the works was also known, was one of the principal sites in the industry. According to Spencer this, rather than any particular local grievance, was the reason for the strike taking place at Carrbrook – in other words if Gartside could be beaten the rest of the industry would fall into line. This approach was part of a system of 'New Unionism' practised by a Trade Union, represented a significant proportion of workers on the site. It was much more radical and inclusive in its approach compared with traditional craft unions.

In preparation for and during the strike the two sides showed little in the way of compromise and it had all the formality of the 'Battle of Fountenoy' – although fought in a less gentlemanly manner. Rather than fight the battle himself Gartside enlisted the help of a 'Mr Fix it' with American connections one Graeme Hunter whose organisation 'Free Labour' specialised in strike breaking. In the end, Gartside won because his preparedness was better than that of the Union although Spencer makes it clear that all parties, including the local authority, lost something in this dispute.



Temporary Metal Housing

A lasting legacy of the strike, and part of Carrbrook Folklore, were the Metal Houses which were built to house the strikebreaking workers and were only replaced in the 1920s, the start of the general expansion of the village and interestingly, and, as a direct result of the strike, the election of the first Labour Councillor to Stalybridge Council.

Alan Edge

History on Your Doorstep

Be part of our history!

CHRIST CHURCH, ASHTON

is collecting material for inclusion in a history of the church and parish.

Can you help by donating or loaning items?

We will scan and return items to you.

We are looking for photos, programmes, school reports, letters, certificates, press cuttings and similar items.

In particular, we would like any church magazines from earlier than 1970.

We are writing about the church, the schools (Waterloo Christ Church/Canon Burrows, Elgin Street/Canon Johnson, Central, Gatefield, and Littlemoss), the Church Brigade, Guides, Scouts, Choir, Mothers' Union, Pantomime Society, Mums and Tots.

Let us have your memories.....schools, social events, sports, weddings, christenings, people, all aspects of parish life.

Contact Sheila Blanchard (01457 87 4513) or at:

blanchard.delph@good.co.uk

or Rev John Holland (0161 330 1601) or at:

john@holland245.freeserve.co.uk

Mining in Mottram!

Looking around our immediate countryside; it seems as though man has not intruded too much in its reshaping. We have all the usual indicators of a rural landscape, green fields, trees, hedges. Cattle, sheep and horses grazing, all underline that assumption.

Let us have a closer look. The holes, lumps and scrapings on the surface tell us a great deal. Would you consider for instance that the area once had an active mining industry?

Looking at Mottram in particular and walking around looking for clues, it becomes obvious that a great deal of activity has taken place over the centuries and has marked the surface of the land. The various types of mining undertaken were open cast, bell pits, drift mines and some deep mining. The shallowness of the seams resulted mainly in soft, poor quality coal; nevertheless it was a valuable material to extract and exploit, attracting increased rentals for the Lordship.

During the 17th and 18th centuries, industrialisation was taking place; mills with no water power at hand needed coal for the boilers to create steam. Lawrence Earnshaw, our local inventor, built a pumping steam engine for use in a number of mines in Longdendale. There is evidence of deep mining in The Hague during the 1700s both in rental information and on old maps.

The largest mine in the area was Mottram Colliery, its seam extending across Mottram Moor, Warhill, to Hurst Clough, where we can still see the orange coloured seepage of iron ore. Imagine the consequential disturbance and industrial squalor all this activity created.



Evidence for this is still to be found if we look closely. The ponds on Littlemoor Road are probably the result of bell pits; in the fields above the Wagon we can see evidence of drift workings and a capped shaft. Other clues are in the fields dropping down to Mottram Moor where drift mining scrapes can be clearly seen, together with elevated track areas for loading transport. A good example of a raised area is in Ben Timperley's field, going down to what is now a pond.

On the 1846 tithe map is field number 395, Coal Meadow, on the left hand side just before the Wagon. Another field number 501, Pit Field at Mud Farm, also has what is now a pond. Look around, there are many more scrapings and bumps etc to discover.

William Johnson
Longdendale Amenities Trust

A Peek at Cotton Street in the Mid-Nineteenth Century

Part of the training of new Tameside library staff is a visit to the Local Studies and Archives to learn about the sources held here for local and family history. One of the misconceptions that people have is that we are purely a family history centre. The fact is we are a record centre that collects material in all formats (books, archive collections, microform, ephemera, journals, maps, sound recordings, oral history and CD-ROM) concerning the people, places and events of Tameside and this means that we have a lot of sources that are extremely useful for both local and family history research.

I decided to “theme” the training on the area of our new building. I started by researching a public house, the Good Samaritan, 182, Cotton Street. According to Rob Magee’s **‘A directory of Ashton Pubs and their Licensees’** a certain Betty Band was licensee of the Good Samaritan from 1854 to 1869 when she was refused her licence for “keeping a disorderly house”.

I looked at the 1861 Census for Cotton Street and found that there were two households at 182 Cotton Street. The head of one household was Abel Band, a 34 year old widower with three children. Betty Band was head of the other household. She was a 66 year old widow with three children living with her. Her occupation was Grocer/Beer Retailer and her son who lived with her was a brewer and so this gives an idea of the size of the concern at this point. I was curious for more information as to how she lost her licence in 1869 and so I decided to look at the local newspapers. The newspapers are on microfilm and some are faded and I could not get any more information. However, it was a real insight into what life was like in the area at that time. I looked at the Borough Police reports in the **‘Ashton Reporter’** and nearly every incident was drink related. Hostelries frequently lost their licences and some individuals were charged with being drunk and disorderly on a weekly basis.

“A woman named Bridget Gannon, who has previously appeared twenty- two times on the same charge pleaded guilty for being drunk on Friday in Kay’s Yard” (Ashton Reporter July 14th 1869).

The copy writer must have got fed up with recording the same incidents and got quite lyrical with the paragraph headings which include The Topsy Tribe, The Drinkers List, The Bibulous Catalogue, Friends of John Barleycorn, Records of Inebriation, Beer Whiskey and Co, The Disciples of Bacchus and The Inebriates Paragraph.

William Chadwick was Inspector of Ashton-under-Lyne Police force and was made Chief Constable of Stalybridge in 1862. Strangely enough when I was looking on the 1861 Census for Betty Band I found William Chadwick, Police Inspector, living on Moss Street which ran parallel to Cotton Street and so I am sure he must have known Betty Band. In his **‘Reminiscences of a Chief Constable’** (published in 1900) he describes the drink problem in a chapter with the heading *“Libertines and their victims”*. He says, “I have known many young women who have been ruined through being induced to go to public houses to enjoy the music and other amusements to be found there ...”

Public houses were used for all sorts of events, meetings of lodges, Inquests etc as well as amusements. There is an 1856 news cutting in our collection which is an advertisement stating,

“MUSIC! – Mrs Band has great pleasure in informing the public of Ashton and vicinity that she intends to open her LARGE ROOM on Friday Evening November 21st for GLEES, TRIOS, DUETS, SONGS etc – a first class pianist is engaged!”

Despite all this gaiety times must have been really hard. The early 60's had been the time of the Cotton Famine, so called because it was thought that the mills closed because of the shortage of cotton due to the American Civil War, although it is now believed that overproduction had also been a major factor. The impact was that many had to survive on food handed out by soup kitchens. It was reported frequently in the Borough Police reports that people were charged for “sleeping in the coke ovens on Mossley Road”. If you look at the parish registers for St. Michael's, Ashton for the 1860's it is quite shocking to note that very many of the burials of people of all ages including children were from the Workhouse. Parish registers are generally thought of in terms of family history but information like this can underpin statistical, social and economic research. The Medical Officer of Health Reports can also provide valuable information on the health and environment of the area. These report on birth and death rates, infant mortality, pollution, sewage and ash-cans, food inspection and the condition of dwellings. In 1878 there were 18 deaths from all diseases in Cotton Street. 5 of these were from infectious diseases: 2 Measles, 1 Enteric or Typhoid Fever and 2 Diarrhoea and Dysentery.

In Christ Church Girls' School Log Book there is an entry August 30th 1878, ***“A very poor attendance all week. Much sickness among the children – one girl died on Wednesday”***. School Log Books not only record day to day life in the school but also the wider picture. Very often children had to leave because their parents could not afford to pay. Individuals are also mentioned. For example 25th May 1863, ***“Maria Siddall offensively annoying all day – threatened to expel her”***.

The next thing I wanted to do was find out where on Cotton Street the Good Samaritan Inn was situated. The 1:2500 Ordnance Survey maps for the area do not have house numbers on until the 1960's. By comparing the 1960's maps with the earlier ones it is often possible to identify a building. The 1852 and 1874 1:1056 Ordnance Survey Maps are very detailed. They show such things as the pews in the churches, the blowing rooms in the mills and the Court Room and Police Cell in Ashton Town Hall.

The next port of call was The Tameside Photographic Archive. There are two photographs of numbers 34 to 38 Cotton Street (see Figure 2) which give you a sense of what the houses looked like. There is another photograph of the public house in 1907 (see Figure 1). The information that came with the photograph is that the man in the hat is William McNeill and on his right is his wife Catherine (nee Lovatt). On the 1901 census the head of household is *Caroline* Lovatt, Innkeeper. This is a good example of how it is important to evaluate your findings and not take any information at face value. To try and clarify this I checked the 1901 and 1905 Kelly's Directories of Lancashire but the entry in both was Lovatt, C. and M. (Misses) Good Samaritan Inn, 182 Cotton Street. Trade directories can vary in arrangement and coverage.

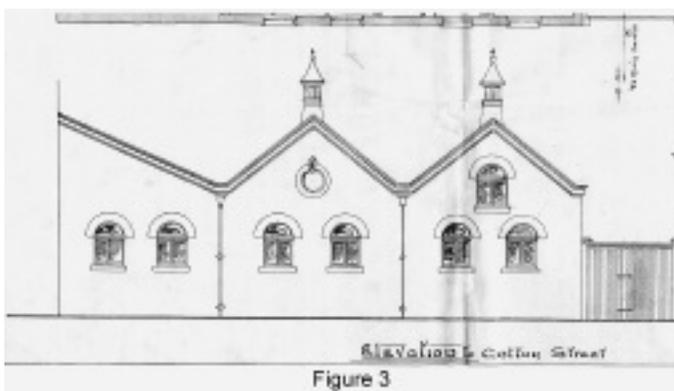


Some have private residents' lists, some have alphabetical lists and some are arranged by classification of trade. They contain useful information on schools and places of worship in existence at the time and also Public Officers, Magistrates etc. It is also useful to browse them for the coverage as the publishers often had their own ideas of area. For example **'Oldham, Rochdale and district'** 1935 covers Ashton and Stalybridge.

It is interesting to note that the pub had female proprietors. I have checked the Rate Books for 1865 and Betty Bland was not only the occupier but also the owner of 182, Cotton Street and she paid £2 7s 6d annual rates! I also checked the Registers of Electors. They are a useful source for local and family history research. In the 1899–1900 register 182, Cotton Street is omitted even though Catherine Lovatt was proprietor of the Good Samaritan. It must be remembered that they list only persons eligible to vote. For example in 1867 only one man in three had the vote and in 1869 some women received the vote in local elections. It was not until 1928 that all residents or owners had the vote.

An under-used source in our archives are the building regulation drawings that were submitted for planning permission. If you can find plans for the house of your ancestors you can build a picture of their life as you can see the arrangement of the rooms, yards, stables, sanitation etc. I once knew somebody who lived in a two-up, two-down dwelling in Mossley and at the time of the 1901 census it was occupied by 11 people! (there was a cellar). Very often the elevation is the only surviving image of a building. Whilst looking for plans for Cotton Street I came across plans for alterations to a property for Ashton-under-Lyne Co-operative Society. (See Figure 3).

At first I thought that this may have been one of their shops but this was not the case. I looked at **'History of the Ashton-under-Lyne Working Men's Co-operative Society Limited 1857–1907'** by James Thompson and found the following,



“The stable and house in Cotton Street were purchased from Mr. Moses Lee on January 6th, 1893, and part of the house was afterwards taken to enlarge them, and the yard at the same time covered with glass to keep the various vehicles dry. With a view to further enlargement seven cottages in Moss Street were purchased on May 10th 1900, and two of these have since been taken down and additional stalls added to the stables.”

The features on the elevation looked very much like features on the Armoury, Old Street. However, a walkabout, to have a look at the back of the Armoury, discounted this. The earliest General Rate book for Ashton is 1929 and the only property on Cotton Street owned by The Co-operative Society at this time was number 80. A look at the 1960's Ordnance Survey map revealed that number 80 was further west along Cotton Street from the back of the Armoury. I hope that this has given a little insight into what can be done. The Armoury building has caught my interest and we do have the records of the Manchester Regiment...however that's another story. Local history and family history research is never finished. In this case the research has been limited by time.

A workshop on Cotton Street was attended by people who used to live there and information that came from this was very interesting. Number 80 Cotton Street was identified as the Cooperative Dairy and several people confirmed that the Good Samaritan was known locally as “The Blue Lamp” including one lady who used to work there as a barmaid. This emphasises how important oral history can be. It is often necessary, especially with family history, to revisit sources in the light of new information. If you are a descendant of Betty Bland, Catherine Lovatt, Maria Sidall or Bridget Gannon I apologise for using your ancestor. I also want to stress that although I have concentrated on Cotton Street because of our location, we do have these sources for the whole of the Tameside area. Happy searching!

**Maureen Burns – Assistant Local Studies Librarian
Tameside Local Studies and Archives Library**

Yorkshire Ducks

Here is a little poem about one of our shops in Stalybridge. It is only one verse but it is humorous and does rather reflect the character of Stalybridge people. The poem is about a shop called Cartwright's, which is probably one of the last, if not the last, of the town's traditional family shops. The shop, now run by Trevor Cartwright and previously by his parents, is a little quaint, not stylish at all and in its own way something of a specialist shop really. He cooks joints of meats like beef, ham, pork and heart and hand carves said meats, only when requested by the customer, as well as making and selling Yorkshire Ducks which is what the poem is about. Trevor Cartwright's shop is probably the only shop in Stalybridge town centre that has not been affected by Tesco's.

**When Yorkshire Ducks migrate
They fly from east to west
And always stop near Cartwright's shop
On Melbourne Street to rest
But while they're resting in the street
Their numbers soon decrease
Cos Cartwright says
They're better on trays
At thirty pence apiece.**

Reg Illidge 2004

**Dorothy Topping
Stalybridge Historical Society**

LIVING MEMORIES OF HYDE

Our latest book

'Schoolday Memories of Hyde'

available at £10 (plus £1.50 p&p) from Tameside libraries, local bookshops, or from chairman Alan Ehrenfried (0161 330 1992) or secretary Sylvia Walker (0161 338 4662).

A few copies also remain of:

'Wartime Memories of Hyde'

'Mill Memories of Hyde'

'Showtime Memories of Hyde'

Recent Archaeological Survey Work at Ashton Market Hall

The University of Manchester Archaeological Unit (UMAU) carried out the building survey during August 2005 of Ashton Market Hall, Ashton-under-Lyne, (SJ 9395 9918). Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council commissioned UMAU to conduct the survey to record the remains of the structure following a major fire that gutted and destroyed the majority of the internal shopping units and offices within the market hall on May 25th 2005. The cast iron roof structure was destroyed and the only remaining standing major features were the external structural walls and two of the older division walls within the shopping/stall area.



The building survey found that the market hall, designed by the local architects of John Eaton and Sons, was brick-built and had been extended through five main phases dated as 1830, 1851–2, 1867, 1881–2 and 1930. The phases of build and rebuild indicated that the market grew in all directions except west and the adaptations gave it its distinctive present day irregular five-sided shape. The latter extensions had also meant that the building was extended upwards with new red brickwork raising the structure by several metres. An element of the importance granted to the structure was the addition of the two-stage clock tower on the western elevation. This building's roof structure was an ornate and elaborate cast iron feature that had formerly indicated elements of the civic pride and opulence of the town's governors, the market hall traders and the people of Ashton.

The building had elaborately decorated public entrances illustrated by the ornate stone surrounds to the exterior gateways of the 1830s, plus the finials, lion statuary and stone pediment features that had been added in the 1930s. The market hall provided evidence of the many changes in its life with the addition of fireplaces to several of the interior elevations, the building of arches that had been subsequently altered to include windows that were also later blocked with brickwork and the alteration of the ground surface and coverings from York stone flags to asphalt and linoleum.

Mike Nevell

University of Manchester Archaeological Unit

With thanks to Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council for access.

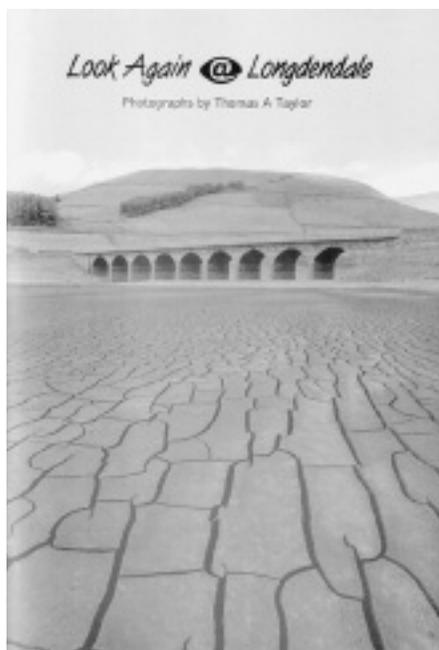
Book Reviews

'Mossley Market Place: A Journey through Time' by William Westhead. 2004. A4 36pp. £4.50 from Tameside Local Studies Library.

Books on Mossley are few and far between, and so this latest publication (No. 8 in the 'History in Your Own Words' series) is to be welcomed. The author sketches the history of the town from the earliest references in printed sources, and then concentrating on the buildings around the market place. There is an interesting account of the Mossley Wakes – re-introduced in 1884, the middle class disapproval that the festival generated, and, of course, a piece about the 'oldest chip shop in the world'. For 150 years, the market place was dominated by the impressive bulk of the Methodist chapel, now replaced by a humbler building, but Mr Westhead tells us little about it, or its stable mate, Wyre Street School. There is an excellent bibliography and a fascinating appendix of maps and photographs.

'Look Again at Longdendale': Photographs by Thomas A Taylor, edited W Johnson. 2006. A4 44pp. £5.00.

The title says it all: here is a splendid selection of atmospheric photographs on the Longdendale valley with a surprise on every page. Bomber remains dating from World War Two, an inscribed dog grave at Hollingworth Hall, the Tintwistle well dressing 2005, and most surprising of all, the remains of the Manchester Assize courts dumped at Bottoms Reservoir after the war. Every page can be lingered over. All that is lacking is a map showing the locations. Not to be missed!



'Prophet John Wroe. Virgins, Scandals and Visions' by Edward Green. 2005 ix, 246pp. Sutton Publishing £18.99.

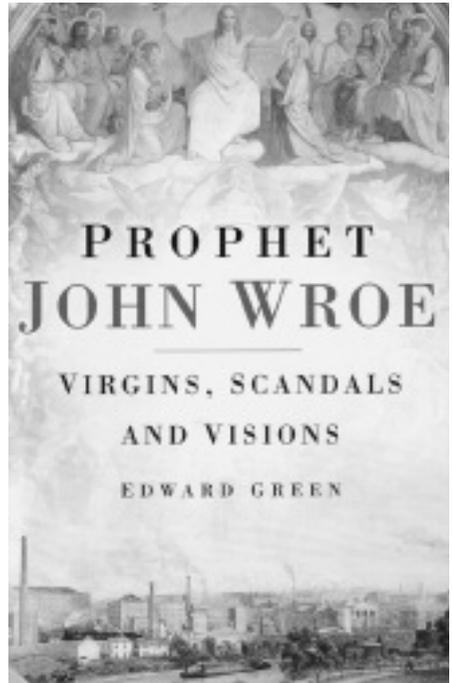
This is the first biography of that extraordinary figure, John Wroe, the Bradford woolcomber who founded the Christian Israelite sect in the 1820s and made Ashton his headquarters for six years before scandal drove him back to Yorkshire.

Mr Green is to be congratulated on the extent and thoroughness of his research which covers all details of Wroe's life and the church which he founded. He has tried to put the cult into a wider religious context, although here his touch is not quite so assured. He has been able to correct and amplify the accounts of Wroe and his followers, given by Mrs Bowman and other local historians. Whether at the end of the book we are any nearer an understanding of the prophet is doubtful: perhaps it is an impossible task.

There is a good index, an excellent range of illustrations and a full bibliography. Here and there some details need correcting: Ashton Town Hall dates from 1840 not 1850 (pvii), the Primitive Methodist preachers were prosecuted by the churchwardens, not by the rector, and their names are incorrect (p74), and Ashton became a borough in 1847 not 1849 (p180).

This will remain the standard account of Prophet Wroe for many years to come.

Alan Rose



Snippet – The Harleian Society

The Harleian Society publishes amongst other things, details of the visitations of heralds in the early 17th century. The Harleian collection was named after some chap called Harley who created the initial collection: he was also the Earl of Oxford.

And his wife was a friendly lady who had four bastards by different fathers. They were known as the **Harleian Miscellany**.

Robert Reschid Stanley 1828–1911

The starting point for researching our **STANLEY** Family History was with Robert, since we already knew that he had once been the **Mayor of Salybridge 1874–1876**. We were soon rewarded with a copy of his photograph in mayoral robes and an obituary. Two sections in this obituary aroused curiosity. Here is the first:

“Robert Stanley was born in Cardiff in 1828 and at the age of ten he came to work for his uncle John Stanley at his Old Johanna Shop on Stamford Street in Ashton-under-Lyne.”

From this sentence, details soon began to emerge of his uncle John's involvement as one of the chief elders and main funder of **Prophet John Wroe** and his preposterous scheme to build his 'New Jerusalem' in Ashton-under-Lyne. John Wroe was born in Bowling, Bradford in 1782, the son of a worsted manufacturer: he was reputedly ill-treated as a child. As he grew up he suffered a series of illnesses and it was during one of these periods of illness that he was prompted by a vision to join the followers of Johanna Southcott at Bradford. It was here, after Johanna's death in 1814, that Wroe, from amongst several other contenders, emerged as 'The Shiloh' of the faithful.



He first came to in Ashton-under-Lyne in 1822, and found several very wealthy **Southcottians** already meeting in rooms in the Charlestown area of Ashton. After visiting other societies throughout the country, he returned to Ashton and announced that he found Ashton so well favoured (with Sponsors?), that it was here that he would build his '**New Jerusalem**'. To this end, his followers built him a 'Sanctuary' on Church Street, a magnificent, sumptuous mini 'Solomon's Temple'. The cost £9,500, was met entirely by Robert Stanley's uncle John Stanley.

Gatehouses were built at the four corners of Wroe's planned town and it was intended to join these with city walls; that this never happened was due to Wroe's subsequent disgrace. Before his 'New Jerusalem' was complete, his sponsors had built him a magnificent Doric 'pillar fronted' mansion. Wroe then declared that he had had a communication from God: his followers were to give him seven virgins from amongst their number, to cherish and comfort him and to accompany him on his missionary tours.

It was after one of these tours in 1830 that rumours arose of alleged impropriety with at least three of these virgins. A sham trial took place judged by twelve of his most faithful followers at one of the gatehouses (later to become the Odd Whim public house on Mossley Road, Ashton-under-Lyne). After six days' deliberation, he was eventually acquitted and merely

admonished for 'lax principles'. These events aroused much publicity in the town and riots ensued. Wroe's popularity declined and was never to recover in Ashton, although he continued to be the leader of his '**Christian Israelites**' and societies continued to thrive, and still do in Australia, where he eventually died. Some of his most faithful adherents still continued to meet in the Sanctuary for many years.

Wroe had declared that his followers were to adhere to strict '**Mosaic Law**'; the men had to be circumcised and could not cut their hair or shave. There were very strict rules regarding clothing, graven images were forbidden and his followers could partake only of 'kosher' produce. It was to serve the needs of the society that a series of shops were opened trading on co-operative principles. These shops were known locally as 'The Johanna's' shops: the local people of Ashton not yet having made the distinction between the followers of Johanna Southcott and John Wroe's new Christian Israelites.

Pigot's Trade Directory showed us that in 1838 John Stanley's 'Old Johanna Shop' was at 207 Stamford Street, Ashton-under-Lyne. My husband stared incredulously at the page, because this was the very same shop where he had started his first job, aged 15, some 120 years later. In the 1950's Stamford Street was the main shopping street in Ashton and at 205–207 stood 'Weaver to Wearer Gents' Outfitters and Bespoke Tailors'. This was where he had started as a junior sales assistant in 1958.

Robert Stanley was married in the Sanctuary in 1847, and settled in Stalybridge, opening his own grocers' and tea dealers' on Melbourne Street. Years later, this shop was taken over by Burgon's chain of Grocers and Specialist Tea Dealers. It was here, in the 1930s that my husband's father Charles Oliver was manager with a young Joan Stanley working as his cashier (Robert's great granddaughter). They eventually married on the 26th December 1938. This shop is now a furniture shop, but on the gable end, in a small bricked-up window, you can still just about make out the words 'Established 1847' and in bigger letters BURGON'S SPECIALIST TEA DEALERS.

Things began to feel a little unnerving; it seemed that not only had our genes been passed down, but also links with places were being perpetuated through the generations, links that had, at the time, been unknown.

Foreign Affairs (Turkish Delight)

A second item in the 1907 '**Stalybridge Yearbook**' intrigued, in that it showed that Robert possessed a seemingly more than usual interest in Foreign Affairs. During the Russo-Turkish War of 1876 he refused to call a public meeting, which had been requisitioned by 170 influential worthies of Stalybridge, to condemn the Turkish atrocities in Bulgaria. These meetings were being called all over the country, but Robert Stanley refused and sent this letter to the **Manchester Guardian** stating his reasons.

Dear Sir,

I have carefully considered the request contained in the document handed to me yesterday, and find that it is my duty to refuse to call a meeting. I cannot see that any good purpose would be served by it, as the occurrences to which the document refers took place in May last, and the Turkish Government have taken the proper means to prevent their repetition. The meetings now being held in other towns similar to the one proposed by you, can only have the effect of weakening the influence of the Government in the councils of Europe, by conveying the impression that the conduct of our Government is not in accordance with the opinions of the country, and encouraging the Servians [sic] to continue their unjust war, and also tempting the Russians to interfere in the affairs of Turkey in such manner as to bring about a general war, in which we would be obliged to take part. I consider the whole agitation on this matter to be the work of Russian agents and am sorry to see so many of my countrymen allowing themselves, through their feelings and prejudices, to be catspaws of and to serve another State, and against the interests of their own country.

Yours Truly, Robert Stanley, Mayor

This opposed the national stance taken by Disraeli who maintained that he had had personal assurances from the Czar of Russia to the contrary. At the time there had been much condemnation of Robert Stanley, but the conclusion of the war proved that his views had not been far wide of the mark, due to the cruel way in which Russia had concluded the war, and her extortionate demands on the Ottoman Empire.

The answer came in a yellowing magazine found in a box of old documents by a family member. It was an edition of **'The Crescent'** dated 3 April 1907. This was the **Weekly Record of Islam in England** written by H.E. Sheikh Abdullah Quilliam Bey.

On opening the magazine, there was a picture of our great, great grandfather staring back at us in Victorian jacket and tie, wearing a Turkish fez and Kurdish trousers. The article was entitled **'A Distinguished British Musselman'** and the caption underneath read 'Brother Robert Reschid Stanley Esq. J.P. late Mayor of Stalybridge!' The article continued over five double-column pages to extol his virtues in rather flowery Islamic terms.



Hon. Robert Reschid Stanley, Esq., J.P.,
Late Mayor of Stalybridge.

David Urquhart 1805–1877

Apparently Robert had met the traveller David Urquhart some fifty years before this article was written. David Urquhart, a Scot, was a well-known Turcophile, who had been going round the country agitating against the current British policy in favour of the advance of the Russians into Asia and Europe, and their attempts to destroy the Ottoman Empire. Robert Stanley became convinced by these arguments and threw in his lot with Urquhart, volunteering to help in any way he could.

In 1836, Urquhart had been Secretary to the British Embassy in Turkey, but was recalled by Palmerston because of his rather radical views against the Russians. He was very busy throughout the years 1857–1863 touring the country setting up his Foreign Affairs Committees and Turkish Baths; the ideal being 'Clean of Body' and 'Clean of Mind'. In 1857 he was in Manchester helping William Potter to build the first Turkish Baths in England.

Potter's wife Elizabeth supervised the ladies in the baths and became secretary to one of the **Foreign Affairs Committees** Urquhart had set up to promulgate his political views. There were Foreign Affairs Committees in many towns in the North including Salybridge, which also set up their own Turkish baths. This was on Cross Leech Street, close to the Baptist Chapel. The establishment was run by Mary Andrews and Joseph Rayner Stephens (famous local orator and Chartist) was a regular client.

Robert Stanley continued for many years to offer practical help to the Caliph of the Faithful H.I.M. Ghazi Hamid Khan, the Sultan of Turkey. A few years later, George Ville, a French chemist, had been commissioned by Napoleon III to investigate the use of chemical fertilisers to improve the production of barren soil. Robert Stanley sent a copy of the work to the Sultan to suggest that if they adopted these methods they may be able to free up agricultural workers. Had this been adopted some years earlier, perhaps as many as fifty thousand more troops would have been available to defend Turkey against the Russians, and the treaty might have been signed at St Stefano instead of on the other side of the Danube.

He also read and re-read SALE's translation of the Koran and suggested that a modern English translation be commissioned as early as possible. 'The present translation had been written by Christians and was calculated to create prejudice in the mind of the reader'.

It is not known when Robert himself became a Muslim. I suspect that it was some time during the 1890s, possibly after he moved to Manchester. Perhaps the move had been prompted by a desire to be nearer to the small emerging Islamic Community there. It is known that, at that time, the Moslem community in Manchester numbered about 40, only three or four of them British converts. It may also have taken place due to events stirring 30 miles away in **Liverpool**. I find it very hard to believe that his Islamic conversion, during his political career in Salybridge, could have escaped local press attention.

H.E. Sheikh Abdullah Quilliam Bey

He had been born William Quilliam in 1856 and was a Liverpool Solicitor who had established the largest advocacy practice in the North. In 1882, he visited Southern France to recover from the stress of overwork. Whilst there, he crossed over to Algeria and Morocco, where he learned about Islam and, at the age of 31, declared himself to be a Muslim. He returned to Liverpool in 1889 and spread the word as Sheikh Abdullah Quilliam where he acquired many converts including prominent people, professionals and scientists. His mother, a life-long Methodist, converted in 1893. After accepting Islam, Quilliam is said to have attended court dressed in full Turkish Regalia and travelling on a white Arab Horse.

The Sultan of Turkey gave Quilliam the title of Sheikh-ul-Islam of Britain, and the Sultan of Afghanistan a gift of £2,500 which he used to found the **Islamic Institute and Mosque** at Brougham Terrace in Liverpool (later to become the Register Office).

Reading some of the history of Quilliam you might as well be opening the pages of any newspaper today. He had the courage and audacity to openly criticise the imperialist policies of the Government and denounced the colonisation of foreign territories:-

"An American explodes a bomb in the crowded streets of Constantinople and slays women and children, and because he calls himself a Christian he is extolled in England as a hero and as a patriot! An Afghan fights for his fatherland in the Khyber Pass, and because he is a Muslim he is denounced as a traitor and a rebel, and his land is to be raided and his wives and children slain. Such is the British Christian logic at the end of the 19th Century in the diamond jubilee year of the reign of the Queen Empress."

As well as being able to write authoritatively on Christianity and Judaism, he was also regarded as a remarkable visionary:-

"At the present time union is more than ever necessary among Muslims, the Christian powers are proposing a new crusade to shatter the Muslim powers, under the pretext that they are to civilise the world. This is nothing but hypocrisy, but armed as they are with the resources of Western Civilisation it will be impossible to resist them unless Muslims stand united as one solid phalanx."

Quilliam had devoted the entire 3rd April 1907 edition of **The Crescent** to Robert Stanley who, as the oldest of the surviving early Mayors of the Borough, had just been one of the guests of honour at a Stalybridge Jubilee celebration dinner. Later editions of **The Crescent** show that he regularly came over to Manchester to lecture and was always entertained at Robert Stanley's house on Upper Brook Street in Manchester.

I find it rather astonishing that someone who, during his formative years, grew up under the influence of John Wroe, and who had married in the Christian Israelite Sanctuary, following Mosaic Law, would take up the Islamic Faith later in life. Perhaps this can be explained by Robert Stanley's coming into contact with several powerful, prophetic men during his lifetime.

The **last amazing co-incidence** is that one of Robert Stanley's three times great grandsons, previously a committed Christian, had converted to Islam after studying comparative religions at university, and spending some time in Cairo. He later worked for a company providing medical aid to Palestine. This was several years before the above facts were uncovered. In the light of these recent discoveries his first son, a millennium babe, was named 'Eesaa Robert Rasheed' in honour of his four times great grandfather.



Piotr Mlodozeniec: Polish Graphic Designer 2001

For the "Museum of the Seam" exhibition, Jerusalem 2002

Gay Oliver: The Family History Society of Cheshire – Dukinfield Group

Previously published in the September 2005 edition of 'The Cheshire Ancestor'

Funny Epitaphs

Ribbesford Cemetery

Anna Wallace

The Children of Israel wanted bread
And the Lord sent them Manna
Old Clark Wallace wanted a wife
And the Devil sent him Anna.

Somewhere in England

Remember me as you walk by
As you are now so once was I
As I am now so shall you be
Remember this and follow me

To which someone had added

To follow you I'll not consent
Until I know which way you went.

In a Vermont Cemetery

Sacred to the memory of
my Husband John Barnes
who died January 3, 1803
His comely young widow, aged 23,
has many qualifications of a good
wife and, yearns to be comforted.

Boot Hill Cemetery, Tombstone,

Arizona in the 1880s

Here lies Lester Moore
Four slugs from a ,44
No les, no more.

The Bad Good Old Days?

How often has criminality been condemned as the result of a lack of adult responsibility? The fault of one-parent families, the breakdown of religion, working parents, the lack of fear of police, the arrogance of 'forgetting their place', lack of respect, and the loss of both corporal and capital punishments to frighten them into goodness?

An examination of newspapers from both World Wars One and Two reveals some interesting 'petty' crimes which should make us pause in such presumptions. Where possible, I have included both crime and punishment.

WORLD WAR ONE

Two men from Miles Platting were fined at Stalybridge Police Court for throwing glass bottles in Mossley Rd. They were in charge of empty cases of beer bottles. They were seen throwing them at lamp posts 'for fun'.

1915

September – An elderly woman appeared in the Police Court charged with being disorderly. Constable Buckley cautioned her several times about using bad language, and asked her to go inside. She was fined 6/-.

1916

April – A mother was summoned for not sending her daughter to school. The 12 yr old girl spoke Welsh, and had attended only 10 times in 14 weeks. Her mother wanted her to attend a Protestant school, but she was a Catholic. The mother was fined 6/- or 14 days.

July – **a)** Boys from Stalybridge and Dukinfield were in court accused of a jewellery theft. They had earlier been warned off and birched. **b)** Following a car accident on Mottram Rd., Stalybridge between a car driven by a lady chauffeur and a steam wagon, no action was taken. The left side of the car grazed the wagon, damaged a wheel and the splashboard breaking a window in the car door as it did so. No-one was injured. The car was repaired and sent on its way by the police. **c)** Two boys appeared in Stalybridge Childrens' Court charged with stealing a fountain pen, a brass lock and 1/-. The case was dropped against the 11 year old as he gave witness for the prosecution. The 13 year old had broken in to Harrison's Rag Warehouse and stolen the items. He claimed he had put the pen on the fire. He was birched.

November – A Millbrook housewife was in court to account for a chimney fire. Her husband had forgotten to remove the 'blow' before he went to work. She was fined 5/- to cover the costs of the trial as the magistrate assumed that she had saved that much by not having the chimney swept.

December – **a)** A disabled ex-soldier from Heyheads was fined 5/- for not closing his blinds: he was waiting for help from his daughter as he couldn't close the blind with one hand. **b)** A Carrbrook man stole 2 bags of coal worth 3/- from the Printworks. As he was enlisting, he was only fined 27/-.

1917

February – a) The increase in Juvenile crime was put down to the absence of fathers, mothers who had to work and care for their families and a 'severe lack of parental control'. The number of offenders had risen from 25 to 35. One answer was to stop Sunday music. It was claimed that rowdiness practically ceased. **b)** A Manchester woman who had no home, was fined 25/- for hawking in Stalybridge without a licence. Alternatively, she could serve 1 month in prison.

March – An Australian appeared before the magistrates for stealing 13 electric lamps from The Grand Theatre, Stalybridge – value 35/-. He sold them in Ashton for 11/-. He was fined £1/1/-. Questions were asked as to his liability for service. He was taken to Hyde and enlisted there.

September – a) Two Dukinfield boys aged 15 and 11 were charged with theft at Stalybridge Police Court. The elder had run away from home and been absent 4 months. His parents never troubled to find him; his father claimed 'his own rod would beat him'. The boys had broken into a stable on Bayley St and stolen two overcoats and a bunch of keys worth 5/-. **b)** A Stalybridge woman swooned in the Blackpool Police Court when she was charged with larceny. Her husband rushed to help her and also collapsed. She was charged with 7 cases of shop lifting to the value of £28/8/4½ with other articles to the value of £10/10/- not identified. The first charge related to the theft of goods to the value of £7/1/2½ from Bannister's Bazaar. She was caught by a store detective and pleaded guilty. Her husband was a munitions worker and they were on holiday with £40. She suffered from nerves. Treasury notes and coins worth £34/10/- were found in their apartment. She was fined £25 and bound over. She was ordered to pay costs and the other cases were not pursued. **c)** A driver who was expecting to join the army was fined 6/- for driving a brewer's dray without a rear light. He had 2 front lights which shewed red at the back.

December – A Stalybridge boy stole pills worth 11d from Boots' Chemist. He had been birched on 6 separate occasions previous to this for stealing chocolate. He was bound over.

1918

January – A Stalybridge woman [well over 60] and a young woman from Stanley Square were charged with being 'disorderly' at 12:40pm. Both were swearing. Constable Smethurst 'put them into the house and they commenced fighting.' The older woman still owed a fine for an earlier offence and was therefore sent to prison for a month, the younger one was fined 10/6. This was half a weekly wage.

February – A young woman from Carrbrook was attacked on her way to work at Spring Bank Mill: a rope was put round her throat and a bag over her head. She was rescued by 2 men who heard her screams. Later, her brother-in-law would be found guilty. He was fined £3 or 1 month in prison.

April – 15 year old stole £3 from a house on Huddersfield Rd Stalybridge. He had been in the infirmary for several months, and had not had a regular occupation. A pack of cards had been taken from him as he was suspected of gambling. He was bound over for 6 months and put on probation.

June – Two 9 year olds stole £40/10/- in notes from a Stalybridge shop.

August – Three farmers were accused of 'selling milk to the prejudice of their customers'. The Carrbrook man and one of the Millbrook farmers were fined £3 each. The third man was fined £ 6 as it was his second 'reprehensible' offence.

1919

January – The same group of children broke into the Silkstone Company for the 4th time.

April – A local solicitor said the crime wave amongst the young was caused by them having nothing to do. This was picked up by the local paper and various local groups who worked hard to provide recreation for them. The 'silly' crime wave did not stop. In the same month, nine boys were fined for playing street football and an old aged pensioner was fined for falsely interpreting his benefit.

June – A group of children vandalised Stamford Park destroying trees and bushes.

WORLD WAR TWO

A boy appeared in a Stalybridge Police Court. The authorities were worried that he 'was going the right way to becoming a criminal'. He had stolen a pistol from a house on Huddersfield Rd, and a large amount of money. He had previously been placed on probation, in 1939, for stealing. In his defence, he told the Court that he thought that he had stolen an air gun. His representative told the court that the boy had not had the advantage of help. Alderman Flint told him it was his last chance. He was told to help his mother, and placed on probation for 2 years. The statutory punishment for having a firearm in 2006 is a 5 year prison sentence.

a) At Stalybridge Magistrates' Court, a man from Brierley St was charged with having £14/ 1/- maintenance arrears. He had previously offered to pay 1/- a week to pay it off but had missed twice in 30 weeks. His wage from J.E. Arnfield Ltd was £4/10/- a week before income tax. He was ordered to pay £1 a week: 15/- maintenance with the rest to cover arrears. **b)** A worker from Grieg St who earned £5/11/- a week had deserted his wife, a confectioner, and his son. He was ordered to pay 30/- a week. **c)** A Mossley soldier from Arundel St appeared in court on 4 charges:

- 1] failing to immobilise his motor car;
- 2] using an unlicensed vehicle;
- 3] using an uninsured motor car;
- 4] failing to stop when requested by the police.

He pleaded guilty. He was fined 10/- in each case with £1/ 6/- costs. A 32 year old man from Kenworthy St stole 14 pieces of copper from his employer Bratby and Hincliffe, Ancoats. 'I have been making cigarette lighters, but I've never made a complete lighter yet'. As it was his first offence, he was fined 40/- [two pounds].

1944 – A man from Dukinfield was charged with the theft of coal to the value of £2/ 2/ 7- from Stalybridge Corporation Gasworks and a Stalybridge man with receiving. The thief was fined £2 as it was his first offence, and the other fined £10: 'folk keep pestering us for coal'.

1945 – March A man from Hague Place who allowed his chimney to fire was fined 10/-. The flames were 1 foot high. 'You have caused a lot of danger and trouble.'

This is only a small selection, and contains some interesting comparisons. I have used sterling as it was the money of the times. 1/- [1 shilling] equals 5d, there were 12 pennies in each shilling and 20 shillings to £1 [one pound]. A penny could be broken down into 4 [farthings] or 2 [halfpence – ha'pence].

Kathryn Booth

Facts from 1916

As 1916 opened, the national mortality figures were published. Stalybridge infant mortality was the highest in the country with 200 babies dying out of every 1000 live births.

March – there was a snowstorm with lying snow up to 7” in places – ploughs were used to clear the roads.

April – a blizzard caused structural damage and flooding through Stalybridge and Dukinfield. Twelve men and women who worked at H. Simon & Co. were overcome by chemical fumes – several were unconscious. Seven returned to work after two days, but the others were more seriously ill.

May – on the 20th, Stalybridge Field Naturalists met to discuss the sighting of blackheaded gulls and kittiwakes new to the area.

June – milk was to rise to 5d a quart. Staley Mill had lost 60 men to the services leaving only 4 men of military age left to work there. There was a great storm on the 24th. In Millbrook, members attending a meeting at Mount Tabor had to use planking to reach the chapel, and a household who lived at the bottom of Ditchcroft woke to find their beds floating.

July – 4” of rain fell in 3 hours on Stamford Park. 300 Girl Guides from Ashton, Dukinfield, Stalybridge and Mossley attended the dedication of flags belonging to the Buckton Vale Pack. They marched in uniform from St James, Millbrook, to Carrbrook for tea.

August – there was a smallpox outbreak in Mossley, with Egmont St being quarantined. The oldest man in Stalybridge died aged 92.

October – a Mossley minister died of anthrax.

November – the council proposed that schools should house the homeless should Zeppelins bomb Stalybridge.

December – the Education Committee decided that all 5 year olds should attend School, but that those under should not. Electric light would be put up in various places in Stalybridge to help pedestrians. Workhouse inmates would be given beer in the Christmas Season. On the 19th / 20th the Great Storm left 6” of snow which affected many, including soldiers whose midnight train was 2½ hours late.

N.B. 5d was a little over 2p, but represented considerably more as a percentage of the weekly wage. £1 a week was a usual income.

Kathryn Booth

The Newtons of Newton

Like the rest of the townships that make up the borough of Hyde, Newton with its hall has been around since the time of the Normans, **'1066 and all That'**.

The first person that can be found bearing the name Newton is one Thomas de Newton and he is mentioned sometime between 1189 and 1199 in the reign of Richard the First.

Thomas de Newton had a daughter who married one Richard de Stockport and it was their eldest son Robert de Newton, who started the traceable pedigree of the Newton family.

This Robert who we know was living in 1276 held 19 acres along with '2 messuages of land' in Newton.

He had a son Robert and it was proved at Macclesfield on his death in 1362, that he held the manor of Newton-in-Longendale of John-de-Hyde. His son, William, held land in Godleigh and his grandson held land in Hatterlegh.

Edward Newton who lived in the reign of Richard III added land in Dokynfield and 209 acres in Stockport to the Newton estate.

Then there was a John Newton who lived in the reign of Henry VIII, who always wrote his name as 'Neuton' and seems to be the only one of the family to use this spelling.

There is a will dated 1557 by one Alexander de Newton and his widow married Edward Dukinfield of Dukinfield.

Alexander's eldest son, George, who was a captain in the army, was at the siege of Boulogne in 1545: he is buried at Mottram.

Another Alexander Newton had a George as his eldest son (born 1601) who married the daughter of Colonel Henry Bradshaw of Marple Hall.

When John Newton – the last of Alexander's sons – died in 1692 – his 5 sisters became co-heiresses and so the Newton estates became divided between them.

The township of Newton was sold to Sir Charles Dukinfield Bart in 1712 and became part of the Dukinfield estate and later the Astley's.

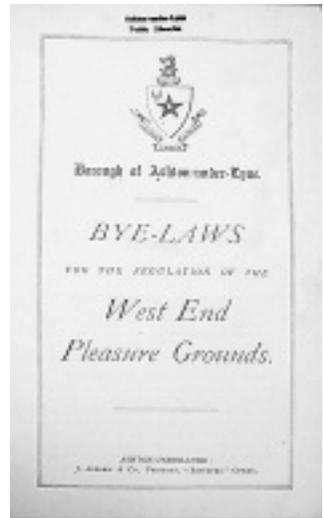
Newton Hall now became a farm, and the hall itself became no more than just another of the farm buildings until the farm was demolished when once more it saw the light of day.

Harry Lever

‘To Keep Better Order’ – Regulating the West End Pleasure Grounds

As with much so-called ‘amateur history’ this research developed from a chance discovery in the local archives. Whilst searching for sources on nineteenth-century asylum committals from Ashton-under-Lyne, I chanced upon an intriguingly titled document – **‘Bye-laws for the regulation of the West End Pleasure Grounds’**. Living in the West End, I was particularly curious to discover more. I requested the document and so began the research process. This article reflects the first fruits of that research by examining the bye-laws in relation to late-Victorian anxieties about working-class leisure and public order.

Situated immediately to the west of St Peter’s Church, Ashton, and bounded by the churchyard and gyratory traffic system, is a small plot of land about one hectare in area. On it are a bowling green, football pitch and hard-surface court. A grassed area, paths, some shrubbery and a few trees complete today’s scene. In the late nineteenth century, this was the grandly-named West End Pleasure Grounds. The 1909 Ordnance Survey 1:2500 scale map shows the pleasure grounds with neatly laid out paths and lines of trees. The bye-laws indicate the grounds also contained swings and ‘gymnastic apparatus’.



Ashton Corporation’s decision to adopt the bye-laws needs to be examined in the context of contemporary concerns about working-class leisure activities. In the first half of the nineteenth century these were often characterised as boisterous, unmanageable, drunken and brutal. Bare-knuckle fighting, blood-sports, the public house and the beer house were said to feature prominently. As the century progressed, local and national elites were anxious to ‘civilise’ working-class leisure activities and, partly in pursuit of this aim, bear-baiting was outlawed in 1835 and cock-fighting in 1849. Annual ‘wakes fairs’ were also identified with rowdy behaviour and an Act of 1871 permitted their suppression, although this was by no means universal. With the gradual reduction in average weekly working hours during the second half of the nineteenth century, sections of the working class benefited from more leisure time. The period saw a growth in music halls and theatres and the beginnings of working-class travel to seaside resorts such as Blackpool and New Brighton. Public parks, which had developed from the 1840s, offered new and ‘respectable’ leisure opportunities to the working class. John Walton has noted that parks ‘were used as an additional resource by working-class families in search of free if restricted outdoor enjoyment’. Public parks and pleasure grounds offered an outdoor leisure facility open to young and old, male and female.

As new leisure opportunities developed, national and local elites sought to ensure the working class pursued ‘rational recreation’ during leisure time. Rather than outright suppression of the more boisterous working-class leisure activities, a combination of incentives and sanctions

were used to encourage the pursuit of rational recreations. Mechanics' institutes, public libraries, reading rooms and public parks – at low or no cost to users – were the incentives. The police, magistracy and local bye-laws were the sanctions.

During the second half of the nineteenth century, 'permissive' local government legislation was passed by Parliament. Clauses in the legislation permitted – but did not compel – local authorities to raise funds and undertake functions beyond the core services they were obliged to provide. The Ashton-under-Lyne Improvement Act 1886 enabled the corporation to exercise permissive powers. Section 32 allowed it to expend up to £4,000 on acquiring and developing land for public gardens or pleasure grounds and it was under this legislation that the corporation developed the West End Pleasure Grounds. Though the grounds were modest in size the corporation decided to exercise powers, granted under the Public Health Act 1875, to establish bye-laws governing the conduct of those using the grounds.

The '**Ashton Reporter**' noted that at the full council meeting on 13 June, 1894, Alderman Siddall proposed the introduction of bye-laws 'to better keep order' at the West End Pleasure Grounds. The motion was carried, other local authorities' bye-laws were consulted and the corporation drafted its proposals. On 3 October, 1894, the Ashton bye-laws – signed by Ely Andrew, Mayor and Charles Gartside, Town Clerk – were approved by the secretary of the Local Government Board (today the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs).

The bye-laws are set out as a series of regulations contained in a small card covered booklet. The first two regulations establish the status of the West End Pleasure Grounds. Regulation 1 defined them as occupying the area 'bounded by Manchester Road, Stockport Road, William Street and St Peter's Churchyard'. Regulation 2 set out the opening hours: from March to October the grounds opened at 7am and during the winter months from 8am. Throughout the year, closure was at sunset. Subsequent regulations offer an interesting insight into the concerns of local social and political elites at this time.

The majority of regulations are prohibitions, several of which are to be expected. The following activities were prohibited: begging (Regulation 5), drying of washing or beating of rugs (Regulation 7), wilful damage (Regulation 9), picking flowers (Regulation 12), stone-throwing (Regulation 15), and bill-posting (Regulation 16). Some regulations imposed restrictions rather than prohibitions, for example dogs must be on a lead (Regulation 14). The playing of games (Regulation 6) and singing or playing of music (Regulation 10) were permitted only with the agreement of the corporation. Other regulations – or at least their detailed exposition – are perhaps more surprising. Regulation 17 is worth quoting in full:

No person shall monopolize or unduly use for an unreasonable time, or in an unreasonable manner, any swing or other gymnastic apparatus; and no person shall demand or attempt to obtain payment of any sum or other consideration for the use of any such swing or gymnastic apparatus.

Evidently the corporation considered regulations necessary to enforce 'fair play'. Was bullying and extortion a significant problem at the time or was the corporation simply attempting to address all possibilities rather than just probabilities? The framing of the regulations

potentially tells us much about the anxieties of local elites and the nature – or perception – of antisocial behaviour during the 1890s. Particularly wide-ranging was Regulation 8, which prohibited ‘any meeting or religious service or demonstration’ and also ‘*any public discussion on any subject*’. (My emphasis.) This is probably indicative of elite anxieties about political and religious ‘non-compliance’ that were growing rapidly at this time. Ashton’s non-conformist dissenters, such as Hugh Mason, had long ago become significant ‘establishment’ figures, but a new form of dissent was now emerging – disbelief. Politically the Independent Labour Party had been founded (just across the Pennines at Bradford) the year before the bye-laws were made and the Marxist Social Democratic Federation was growing in strength. Concern at these developments was probably influential in the framing of this regulation.

It is evident the scope of the regulations was wide and those breaking them faced clearly defined sanctions. The immediate penalty (Regulation 18) was that the offender be ‘expelled by any officer of the Corporation or Police Constable’. Under Regulation 19 those unfortunate enough to be reported and brought before the justices faced a maximum fine of £5 – a very substantial sum at the time. Thus far, research has focused upon the regulations. In a subsequent article, I intend to examine contemporary press reports of what today would be termed ‘antisocial behaviour’ and the extent to which the bye-laws were used to manage public order.

Today the area adjacent to St Peter’s Church is still used for recreational purposes, but the intermediate history of the West End Pleasure Grounds is largely untold. The ‘**Ashton-under-Lyne Centenary Yearbook 1847–1947**’ devotes five pages to the borough’s parks and gardens, but the pleasure grounds are not mentioned. While researching this article, I have been unable to locate any period photographs or find references in secondary sources. If any reader is able to shed light on aspects of the development of the West End Pleasure Grounds, has any illustrations or has personal recollections I would be pleased to hear from them. Please contact me via ‘**History Alive Tameside**’.

Acknowledgements

I am grateful to the staff of Tameside Local Studies and Archives for their kind assistance when researching this article and, in particular, for permission to make a digital image of the bye-laws.

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Bob Hayes

Looking at Some Local Surnames

Some people blame the Normans for surnames – they certainly arrived after 1066, along with castles and a very efficient taxation system.

Like many other fashions, they spread from the south of England, arriving around these parts several generations later. In 12th-century Sussex, Robert Legate passed on his surname to his two sons, William and Richard, although they also spelled it as Leggatt and Legard. In Ashton, as late as 1422, the rent roll of John de Assheton's tenants includes a mix of names that we would recognise as inherited surnames, William Somaster and John Spakeman and others which seem to describe the person's occupation or place of residence: Roger the Cropper, Jak le Mercer, and Adam of Bardsley.

The surnames that we recognise most easily as being local are the ones taken from place names, such as Bardsley. A number come readily to mind – Ashton, Dukinfield, Denton, Hyde, Mottram, Hollingworth, Hurst, Newton, Godley, and Stayley are perhaps the most obvious.



A look at an atlas of surname distribution shows that 'Ashton' is indeed very common in the areas surrounding Tameside. The 1881 census listed 14,685 people called Ashton in Britain. Almost half of them – 6,662 – were in Lancashire. Current statistics, according to the Office for National Statistics, indicate 22,318 people are now called Ashton, and so it is certainly thriving as a surname, and is the 316th most frequent surname in the country.

But does this mean that they all descend from ancestors living in Ashton-under-Lyne? Sadly, no. There are places called Ashton all over the country and the name is found everywhere to some extent.

A similar pattern shows up if we look at 'Denton'. Of the 5,502 bearers in 1881, only 570 were from Lancashire but 1,773 were in the West Riding of Yorkshire. There are now thought to be 10,193 Dentons countrywide.

But the distribution of names like Ashton, Denton, Hyde, Hurst and Hollingworth shows that many of the people who carry those surnames must descend from families from this part of the world. Unfortunately, it is not usually possible to say whether a particular Denton family started in our Denton or in one of the many other Dentons situated between Carlisle and the south coast.

But in a few cases it is possible to say with more certainty that a family must have local roots. Maps and reference books say that the Bardsley on Oldham Road is the one which gave rise to the surname. The 2,269 people who were called Bardsley in 1881 should all be of local stock: this is emphasised by the fact that 1,563 were in Lancashire and 496 in Cheshire. That doesn't leave many Bardsleys to spread around the rest of the country.

Another name which can be called local with some certainty is Mottram. Both the places of this name are in Cheshire – Mottram St Andrew and our own Mottram in Longdendale. The 1,626 people called Mottram in 1881 have now increased to 3,680. In 1881 487 of them were Cestrians, as opposed to 422 who were Lancastrians, and 182 who had made it into West Yorkshire.

Perhaps the most distinctive local surname is the one derived from Dukinfield. Its most famous bearer was the Parliamentary colonel, Robert Duckenfield, a member of the family who were lords of the manor for generations. It doesn't give rise to as many bearers as some of the other local place names. One reason might be that, even in the days when spelling was much more a matter of personal choice than it is now, people were puzzled by it.

In 1881 there were at least four different spellings in use: there were three people called Dukenfield, and 56 called Duckinfield (36 of these in Yorkshire), but both these spellings have now disappeared. The spellings currently in use are Dukinfield (36 people) and Duckenfield, used by 190 people. Duckenfield was always the most popular spelling, with 164 using it in 1881. It is only 22,032nd on the list of frequency of surnames currently in use. The few people who use the name are spread around in different parts of the country.

By 1881 there were 133 Duckenfields in Yorkshire. This doesn't necessarily mean that the name had travelled very far by then. They seem to have been in the parts of Yorkshire closest to home, such as Saddleworth. There was also at least one family on the Wirral in the 19th century who used the spelling Dukinfield.

As there is no other place called Dukinfield, all the people who use the surname, however they spell it, must have an ancestral connection with our town. It looks as though the same can be said for Bardsley. But the two names have had very different success rates out there in the big wide world. Bardsley is number 2,963 on the list of surname frequency, and there are currently around 2,596 people who have it as their surname. Does that mean that Dukinfield may become extinct as a surname? Certainly surnames do disappear, but 190 people should be able to keep it going for some time to come.

Are you a Mottram, an Ashton, a Bardsley, or Duckenfield? If you are, please take good care of your surname, because you are our local history alive.

Sources not specifically identified in the text:-

McKinley – **'Surnames of Sussex'**

'The British 19th Century Surname Atlas'

Cheshire BMD website (www.cheshirebmd.org.uk)

Kathleen Morris

Voices from the Past

Extracts from the 'Ashton Guardian' 1877–1878

J HADFIELD was charged with using filthy language....fined 10s 6d and costs or 7 days' imprisonment with hard labour. John HIBBERT was charged with using obscene language.....fined 10s 6d and costs or 7 days' imprisonment with hard labour.

John TIMPSON, Jessie MASSEY, Edward WADE and John WHITBREAD were charged with playing peggy at Dukinfield....Constable Bolton saw the four defendants. They ran away and witnesses went to WHITEHEAD'S house and got their names. The evidence not being conclusive against MASSEY, he was discharged. The other defendants were each fined 2s 6d and costs or seven days.

Ashton News

- James COX was charged with stealing 3 billiard balls from the Boar's Head Inn...committed to 14 days' hard labour.
- Thomas DUFFY sued Thomas GREAVE in connection with the sale of a horse.
- Thomas CHAMBERS, a navvy, was charged with stealing a stucco ornament from a board on Charlestown Railway station, property of Joseph DAVIES.
- Harriet JOHNSON was charged with stealing a woollen shirt.
- A ticket of leave man named Andrew HILTON was in custody on suspicion of stealing a portion of a fitch of bacon.
- Ashton skating rink returns for the past week. Number admitted 192.
- James GIBSON and Esther GIBSON, husband and wife, were charged with stealing a quantity of drapery goods from the lodging house of Mr David PARKINSON, Crickets Lane, the property of David MALADY.
- At Manchester county police court William James PILLING, comic singer was charged...
- At Manchester County Police Court John HOOD a returned convict living in Robert St, Ardwick was charged with stealing 3 books from the Hulme branch of the Manchester Free Libraries.
- John WOODHEAD of Ashton was charged with keeping a dog without a licence...fined 25s and costs.
- Peter DODD, William DODD, James NEWTON and William SMITH of Ashton were charged with gambling on a Sunday. Fined 5s and costs.
- William SWINDON and Sam NEWTON charged with poaching at Alt Hill.

Available to buy on CD, price £5. Contact:

Glenn Piper

199 Lumb Lane

Audenshaw

Manchester M34 5RX

See further details and the online surname index at www.geocities.com/doubleday1901

William Kenyon & Sons Limited, Dukinfield 140 Year Anniversary

The company was founded in 1866 by William Kenyon, with his three sons; George Henry, Edwin and William Jnr. joining him in partnership in 1882. The business has occupied the same site in Dukinfield since 1875.

During the first forty years or so of its existence, the business was engaged in the manufacture of cotton driving ropes and textile bandings. From its earliest days, the firm exhibited two strong tendencies which were to characterise its later expansion: firstly, the Kenyons succeeded in developing an industrial product of outstanding quality complemented by equally impressive technical expertise; secondly, they had the initiative to go out and sell their products throughout the world.

With each generation the business grew from strength to strength. From a traditional textile background (involving driving ropes, bandings, twines, cordage, spindle tapes and webbings), the business branched out into other areas, such as thermal insulation and sheet metalwork, mechanical power transmission and pipeline products.

As the company became more diverse, so it also spread geographically. As early as 1895 the business of Cablerie du Nord, based in Lille, France, was established. In the early 1930's, our American and Canadian companies were formed to handle sales from Dukinfield, and manufacturing was begun in New Jersey in 1944 and in Granby, Quebec in 1952. Today, operations have been streamlined and energies are now concentrated on our paper industry business – including ropes, with three factories in North America in addition to the facilities in Dukinfield, and world-wide sales. Almost 90% of Dukinfield production is exported.

William Kenyon & Sons Limited remains a family firm in every sense and has proved itself to be adaptable and resilient over six generations.

In 1969/70 the company salvaged and restored Newton Hall in Hyde. This early-fourteenth century cruck-framed building is of considerable historical interest.

The company earned lasting fame when it supplied the climbing ropes which were used on the famous expedition in 1953 when Edmund Hillary and Sherpa Tensing achieved the first successful ascent of the summit of Mount Everest. Later that year, Sir Edmund Hilary paid a visit to Chapel Field Works in Dukinfield to see the manufacturing process and to thank all those who had been involved in producing a vital component for the expedition.

Courtesy of William Kenyon & Sons Ltd.



North West Labour History Journal

During the last three decades the **'North West Labour History Journal'** has developed from a typed and copied bulletin to its present professionally produced and printed A4 format. Published annually each autumn, its subscribers include individuals throughout the British Isles, Europe and North America, plus a range of libraries, educational institutions and trade unions. Each edition features articles on a wide variety of topics. The 2006 edition has the early twentieth century as its theme and will include articles on the Liverpool Dockers' Battalion in the Great War, the founding (in Lancashire) of the National Asylum Workers' Union and proposals to develop 'radical heritage' projects. Additionally the **'Journal'** includes features on archives and museums, book reviews and a round-up of events and news.

The geographical scope of the **'Journal'** is from the Scottish borders to Cheshire and from the Wirral to the Pennine uplands, and also includes articles relating to, or written by, émigrés from the region. We welcome contributions on the broad topic of labour history including all aspects of the life of the 'common people'. Contributors include 'academic' and 'local' historians, library and museum professionals and activists. We are particularly keen to receive contributions from so-called 'amateur historians' and those whose research or recollections might otherwise be not published. Perhaps you are a family historian unearthing the life of an ancestor who was a women's suffrage campaigner or early trade unionist. Maybe you have personal recollections of work in an industry or of life in a community that no longer exists. If you would like to write for the **'Journal'**, in the first instance please contact the editor at: journal@tesco.net

Or write to:

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The **'Journal'** retails at £7.95, but if you join the North West Labour History Group for an annual subscription of just £7.00 per year (£10 for organisations) you receive the **'Journal'** with your membership. Send a cheque payable to 'North West Labour History Group' to:

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