

Your LifeTimes *Link*

Bringing Salford's History into the Twentyfirst Century No. 1 Autumn 1999

Welcome to the first issue of what will be a quarterly newsletter. Your comments and views would be appreciated and should be sent to the address at the bottom of the back page.

What is LifeTimes?

When the Lowry collection moves out, Salford Museum and Art Gallery will eventually host a new visitor attraction dedicated to the story of Salford, seen through the eyes of people like you. LifeTimes will bring the history of Salford to life by revisiting both major events and everyday experiences.

The Story So Far...

Many people have responded to our initial publicity material, wishing to attend workshops, lend us photographs, record their memories, or simply asking us to keep them in touch with progress.

LifeTimes Staff

On the 1st July the first two members of staff were appointed. The LifeTimes Research Officer is Ken Craven, from the Quays Heritage Centre and the LifeTimes Outreach Officer is Ann Monaghan, formerly Community Librarian at Walkden Library. Until their office at the Working Class Movement Library is ready they can be contacted via Salford Museum and Art Gallery, Tel 0161 736 2649.

LifeTimes Workshops

What do you think should be in LifeTimes? We want your ideas.

The first of what is hoped will be a series of consultation meetings/workshops will be held at Salford Art Gallery on Saturday November 27th 10am till 12 noon. Everyone who expressed an interest in attending a workshop will be contacted early in November. If you are not already on our Workshop list please phone 0161 736 2649 for an invitation.



Salford Museum and Art Gallery c.1900.
(Courtesy of Salford Local History Library)

A LifeTime of Cycling

Research for the forthcoming “Travelling Tales” exhibition led Ann to interview veteran cyclist Harry Bridge, of Peel Green, who provided insights into club cycling in the 1930s. Mr Bridge is now 86 and still cycles regularly with the Nova Cycling Club, although he gave up racing about ten years ago. He bought his first bike at the age of 15, from Riding Reliant on Broad Street, a Hercules model with one gear and 1¾ inch tyres and immediately joined the Pendleton Clarion Cycling Club. Over the years he has also been involved with the Peel Green Cycling Club and Eccles Road Club. He has fond memories of the many tea shops and cafes that welcomed cyclists on their “runs” to popular destinations such as Southport, Hollingworth Lake and Chester.

“You are short of what I call catering places now, once you couldn’t go wrong, not necessarily to have a meal – take your sandwiches with you – pot of tea 4d. We used to have one at Whitegate near Kelsall, 10 miles from Chester, it was like a farmhouse, they had two big huts in the garden. You could get a full meal at Whitegate for 1/6d (7p), ham salad then fruit and cream two or three kinds of cake and a pot of tea – 1/6d! The trouble was about nine out of ten of us couldn’t afford it. We only had one lad who used to have a full tea, fellow called Jackson – his dad was a window cleaner. He was the only one who could afford a meal and he couldn’t eat it all so we used to help him out with the cake and scones. The rest of us used to take butties – pot of tea 4d

– some charged 6d but never above 6d for a pot of tea and you could sit there half a day.”

On the same theme, photographs and documents relating to Walkden Cycling Club have been kindly loaned by Mrs Mildred Whitefoot of Preston. Her father James Ellis was a keen cyclist in the thirties. The photograph below shows Mr Ellis (second from the left) wearing the then latest fashion in black racing tights.



Members of Walkden Cycling Club 1930s.

Travelling Tales

The exhibition will offer a quick trip through the changing nature of travel in the region and will be at Ordsall Hall Museum from 19th December 1999 to 19th March 2000. Opening times Mon-Fri 10am-12.30pm, 1.30pm-5.00pm and Sun 2.00pm-5.00pm. (Closed Bank Holidays)
Tel: 0161 872 0251

May Day Memories

Ken went to speak to Mary Tweedle (nee Appleby) who was born in Weaste in 1914. She recalled vividly the May Day celebrations of her childhood days:

"We used to make loads of paper flowers then get a broom pole, cover it with paper and get a hoop and cover it with paper flowers and it was fastened onto the top of the pole with tape somehow or other. From there, all around the hoop, were streamers for every child to hold. Underneath all this was a nice quiet little boy who had to carry the pole. Right in the middle was the little May Queen, usually the prettiest girl in the street if possible. She'd have her best frock on and a white lace curtain for a veil and flowers in her hair and she'd carry a little basket with a box in for the money. She was the May Queen. So then we'd set off, knocking on doors and singing our little song, shaking our shakers."

She then sang the following song -

*We come to greet you here today.
And we hope you will not turn us
away.*

*For we can dance and we can sing
with our May Day Queen.*

*For we all, for we all, bright as the
flowers that bloom in the sun.*

*Happy as birds that fly through the
air.*

*Gay as the fishes that swim in the sea.
We are all as happy as happy as can
be.*

*Hail, Hail, Hail, Hail, Hail to our
beautiful Queen*

*Hail, Hail, Hail, Hail to our beautiful
Queen.*

*She is our May Queen our May Day
Queen.*

She is the fairest you've ever seen.

*You can bet your money, money, she's
a honey, honey, honey she's our May
Queen our May Day Queen.*

*"I can't remember - there's a bit more
to that you see. Something about
'around our precious island' and 'God
bless our little queen' or something."*

If you know any more verses to this song, or different versions please get in touch.



Mrs Tweedle's Godmother, Miss Mary Addy (right) with her mother Frances Addy, believed to be the daughter-in-law of Mark Addy, the Salford hero. (Photo taken at Le Tourneur Studio, 249 Regent Road, Salford.)

The LifeTimes project will tell the story of the whole of the City of Salford....

Barton
Blackfriars
Boothstown
Cadishead
Charlestown
Claremont
Clifton
Eccles
Ellenbrook
Higher Broughton
Irlam
Irlams o' th' Height
Kersal
Langworthy
Little Hulton
Lower Broughton
Monton
Ordsall
Peel Green
Pendlebury
Pendleton
Seedley
Swinton
Trinity
Walkden
Wardley
Weaste
Winton
Worsley

We hope we have included everybody - if we have missed your community out please let us know!

Help Wanted

A Millennium exhibition about Buile Hill Park and Mansion is being planned. Have you any photographs, of any date, taken in the Park? They could show children at play, tennis, special events, the conservatory, garden parties, bandstand, duck pond etc, anything that we can copy for possible inclusion in the exhibition and add to the LifeTimes photo archive. They needn't be professional quality photos - snapshots that evoke memories of happy times can be of great value. If anyone would like to loan or donate photographs to us and perhaps record their memories of Buile Hill, write to us at the address below or leave a message at the Art Gallery and Museum Tel: 0161 736 2649.

Thank You

We would like to express our thanks to the following who have loaned or donated material to LifeTimes or been interviewed:

Mrs Mary Tweedle, Miss Vera Burns, Mr Robert Delve, Mrs Lynn Duckworth, Mr Harry Bridge, Mr Albert Shaw, Mrs Mildred Whitefoot, Mrs Campbell, Mr Arthur Isherwood, Mr Vincent Chapman.

City of
Salford
Education & Leisure

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Phone number, fax, and e-mail numbers not available at the time of printing.