

Your LifeTimes Link

No 6 Spring 2001 sharing Salford's fantastic story

The General Strike

During the 1920s, the price of coal began to fall. This meant that colliery owners, in order to make the same money, increased the working hours of the miners whilst at the same time reducing their wages.

A government subsidy eased the problem for a time but when this subsidy was withdrawn on 1st May 1926 the Trades Union Congress had already agreed to support the miners. An overwhelming vote meant a General Strike began on 4th May, a day that was later described as "the quietest Tuesday morning in living memory". Not all workers were called out - just those in key industries and with the docks, engineering, and transport included Salford was affected considerably.

Edmund and Ruth Frow, in their book "Radical Salford" (published by Neil Richardson 1984) explain: "The strike call in Salford had been answered with loyalty and solidarity. The authorities were determined to make the workers pay for their audacity. The North West Strike Committee was chaired by a Salford man, J A Webb. The transport system was sewn up from the start, both Manchester and Salford tramway men were 'firm as a rock' and work at the docks was reported to be at a standstill and the Ship Canal was idle."

The strike lasted nine days but as the miners' demands had not been met they were left to battle on alone until near starvation forced them back to work six months later. Councillor Derek Antrobus wrote an article in the Eccles Journal to commemorate the



Strikers in Piccadilly Manchester.
(Courtesy of Working Class Movement Library)

50th anniversary of the strike. A reworking of "The General Strike in Eccles" can be found on his website at www.zyworld.com/dantrobus

Here at **LifeTimes** we have a few recordings of people who have childhood memories of 1926. Cyril Booth, from Birley Street, Pendleton lost his source of pocket money. He used to sell papers on the streets, having collected them from Fred Carr at Seedley Station, and this could earn him two or three shillings a week. With the strike, of course, there were no newspapers being printed. His father was an engineer at Churchill's and also supported the miners.

[43seconds/43KB] [Cyril Booth](#) Cyril told us: "This I can remember very plainly (I was only eight), going round with my old man with a square card marked in 24 sections and you knocked on the door and asked them to sign one of the sections - it was a penny to sign a section - and the money was going to help the miners."

[Kathleen Tyldesley](#) [137seconds/127KB] from Grosvenor Road, whose father was a collier, recalled: "They had these soup kitchens in the Clegg Lane area because the miners families were starving. I had a brother and sister and they had to go over and fetch it but they felt a bit humiliated having to keep going and one day they decided they weren't going. My father came home and he went over and when he got there all there was left was jam-butties and they'd been standing all day. They were dried up till they were curling up at the edges and the jam had gone dark brown. They got some paper and wrapped what was left for him to bring home for us. "I remember all this going on between them all, 'We're not having them'. And I remember gripping the edge of the table to see what was going on and pulled myself high enough to see what seemed to me like a big mound of these jam-butties - they looked horrible. But we had to eat them - or starve."

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Reader's Requests and Callers' Queries - can you help?

LifeTimes Online

(www.lifetimes.org.uk) is constantly being updated. The most recent innovation is a new Bulletin Board where you can leave questions about Salford's past, try to locate old friends or ask for help finding old photographs.

Because not everybody has access to the internet we thought we should include some of the Bulletin Board comments here too, along with others sent in by our readers. If you can help please contact the person making the enquiry directly, or leave full details with the **LifeTimes** staff and we will pass on your information.

A Glass Act

John Hughes wants to know if anyone out there has any glassware produced by John Derbyshire at his Flint Glass Works in Regent Road, Salford, between 1842 and 1883. Distinguishing marks are an anchor trademark with the initials JD used between 1873-6. A diamond lozenge mark which was used throughout the production period helps date and classify the objects.

Were your ancestors connected in anyway with the company. You can contact John on 0161 794 5115.



glass lion paperweight c1870s,
and Derbyshire marks
(Courtesy of John Hughes)

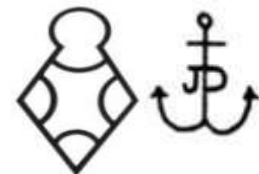
Old Friends

Wilf Veevers (email: wilf@veevers.freeserve.co.uk) would like to make contact with anyone who remembers him from his days as a youngster. Wilf attended St Ambrose School, then Salford Grammar between 1965 and 1976 and would especially like to contact people who lived around Newall Street, Didsbury Street, Clifford Street, Radnor Street, Ivy Terrace, or Mayer View. He was born in Newall Street off Eccles New Road and would love to find a photograph of his street.

Ken Phoenix (email: kenphoenix@bigpond.com) has lived in Australia for the last 30 years. He went to Regent Road School from 1951 and then Ordsall Secondary Modern, growing up in Everard House (Regent Road flats). Ken would love to hear from any old friends and acquaintances especially those at St Bart's and Mount Carmel.

More Old Friends

Anthony Hardman (Tel: 01202 768954) was born in Hope Hospital in 1939 and lived at 128 Lancaster Road then Hayfield Road. He went to Lancaster Road and Tootal Road schools, then Salford Tech. He would be interested to hear from anyone who knew him. Anthony now lives in Dorset where he is the Publicity Officer at the Bournemouth International Centre.

**Shoe Shine?**

Hilda Matthews has a simple request: "Does anyone remember the man who used to shine shoes outside the florists on Chapel Street just after the war?" Her message is on our website so if you can help, either leave a note for her there, or contact us and we'll do it for you.

Photos Wanted

Tony Turner, now in Scotland, used to live in the prefabs in Ordsall at 50 Goodiers Lane. The buildings were erected soon after the war and he thinks they were demolished circa 1960. He's tried everywhere for a photo without any luck. If you can help him contact the LifeTimes office and we'll put you in touch.

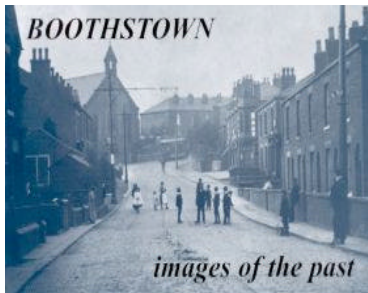
Please note that we are unable to carry out detailed research on readers' queries. But, if you require photos, maps, or want to research your family history your first port of call should be our Local History Library at Salford Museum and Art Gallery, Peel Park, The Crescent, Salford M5 4WU (Tel: 0161 736 2649). See www.salfordmuseum.org/localhistory for opening times and more information.

Swinton and Pendlebury Heritage

Our programme of reminiscence mornings at Swinton Library is well underway. Why not come and share your memories? The sessions are held each Monday 10.00 am - 12.00 pm each Monday until 19 March. If you haven't already attended then please drop in, look at old photos, and tell us your stories.

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Take a look at a book!



Boothstown - images of the past A modest lottery grant from the Awards for All scheme has enabled Boothstown and District Local History Group to publish this new collection of photographs of Boothstown, Ellenbrook, Mosley Common and the city. In 32 glossy pages it combines images of street scenes, shops, Whit Walks, mills, mines, halls, farms, pubs etc with aerial photographs, maps and a brief, introductory history of Boothstown.

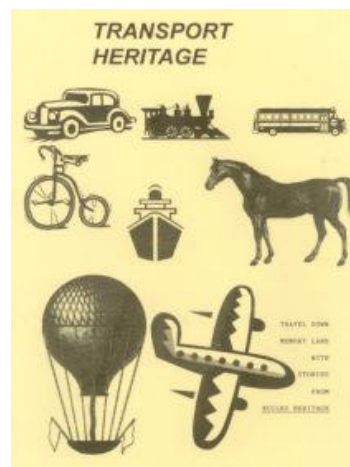
Available from Boothstown, Walkden and Worsley Village Libraries and Salford Museum and Art Gallery, priced £3.00.



Olden Days - Golden Days (Memories of Seedley and Langworthy) Recollections and photographs of Seedley and Langworthy from 1900 to the 1960s capture a community that is currently undergoing change. Talking of home-life, one contributor says, "It was a little two-up two-down with a slopstone - a shallow sink with cold water. In latter years we had a bath, it was tin bath hung

outside the back door next to the toilet and that was a luxury! Bath night was Friday and we used to boil kettles of water on the fire."

Happy days! Streets, shopping, parks and Whit Walks are also covered in this 32-page A4 booklet produced by the Seedley & Langworthy History Group and City of Salford's LifeTimes. Price £2.00, it is available from the S.A.L.I shop (0161 737 9918) and Salford Museum and Art Gallery (0161 736 2649).



Transport Heritage

Travel down memory lane with stories from Eccles Heritage.

Tales of trams, trains, planes and topless buses all feature in this 38-page booklet. Sue Sutcliffe recalls, "We had lots of trips out as a family in the grey A35 van which Dad had for his work. Mum and Dad were in the front and we children sat in the back on little stools, or with rugs and pillows. Dad did think at one time of having windows put in the side so we could have a better view, but the cost of this and the subsequent increase in road tax was too prohibitive."

Published by Eccles Heritage and available from Eccles Library (0161 789 1430) price £2.75, or contact Ann Humpage 0161 789 2820

The History of Worsley Methodist Church by Paul Hassall

Worsley Methodist Church was erected in 1801, and so this year it celebrates its 200th Anniversary. To mark this momentous occasion Paul Hassall has produced a new detailed history of the church. It also includes a chapter on Worsley in the 18th century, describing the community into which Methodism was born. Lavishly illustrated with over a hundred photographs, including many previously unpublished images, the book is priced £9.00 plus £1.00 postage and packing, from Paul Hassall, 183 Greenleach Lane, Worsley M28 2RR - cheques should be made payable to Worsley Methodist Church.

2001 Anniversaries

This year sees several anniversaries from the centenary of the opening of Jubilee House - Salford Royal District Nurses' Home in January (which is now home to the Working Class Movement Library and the **LifeTimes** project team) to the 150th anniversary of Queen Victoria's visit to Worsley and Peel Park in October.

2001 also sees the centenary of the first steam powered fire engine in the country, built by Proctors for Eccles Corporation and the bi-centenary of the founding of Worsley Methodist Church which is featured on the book reviews above. It has also been 75 years since the General Strike... See page 1

Fascinating Photographs

As part of our project we have been copying photographs relating to Salford's past.

Although Salford Local History Library has a collection of over 50,000 images we are aware that there are even more interesting photographs in private collections.

In an effort to track some of these photos down, last November we spent a day at The Lowry with our scanner. Whilst there we found our most fascinating item to date.



Photo loaned by Mre C E Mullineux

This picture shows Matthew Whatoff, deceased, in his coffin. Alongside him are his widow Ann and son George outside their cottage in Hilton Lane, Little Hulton on the north side of Prescott Street - circa 1917. Matthew was Ann's second husband, her first being Richard Prescott whose family built the houses in that row.

If this has been languishing in an album what other undiscovered gems are out there? If you think you have some photographs that capture a taste of life in the Salford area please get in touch. If it's your prize possession and you'd rather not let it out of your sight then we can even arrange to scan it in to our digital archive while you wait!

Talks at Salford TIC on the Quays

Keep some of your diary free in March. After the past successes, a third series of illustrated talks has been organised at the Salford Tourist Information Centre on Salford Quays. Each Thursday afternoon at 2.30pm you can partake in some of the history of our area - and admission is only £2.00 including refreshments.

The series includes:

8 March
The Manchester Ship Canal
 Join former Company Secretary of the MSC CO, Alan Dickinson, for a knowledgeable account of why and how the Canal was built.

15 March
Salford's Best Kept Industrial Secret
 Glen Atkinson tells the intriguing story of the underground canals at Worsley.

22 March
A Pilot's Life
 Derek Clewlow gives a humorous account of a pilot's life on the Manchester Ship Canal.

29 March
Canals in Camera
 A chance to explore the once flourishing network of North West waterways in urban and rural areas through the lens of Roy Murphy's camera.

Tickets and further information are available from Salford TIC 0161 872 7463 or 0161 848 8601

Workshops

The first workshop of the New Year will be held in the spring but the date, venue, and topic have not been finalised at the time of going to press. If you have attended a workshop in the past you will automatically receive an invitation with full details nearer the time. If you have not participated before but would be interested in attending our workshops please let us know your details and you will be added to our workshop mailing list.

FOR DETAILS OF MARCH 2001 WORKSHOP SEE NEWS PAGE

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