

# Your **LifeTimes** Link

No 7 Summer 2001 sharing Salford's fantastic story

Give my regards to Broad Street



Broad Street in 1970 - Kenyon's Pawnbroker's centre, Percival's clothes shop right, and Cureton's cafe left.  
(Courtesy of Salford Local History Library)

**LifeTimes** staff are collecting material - recording reminiscences and copying photographs - relating to Broad Street, Chapel Street and The Crescent for an exhibition at Salford Museum and Art Gallery later this year.

So if you danced at Madam Jones's, drank at the Rose and Crown, ate at Cureton's Café, swam at Pendleton Baths, bought clothes at Percivals or the London Fashion House, we would like to record your memories.

How about contributing to the project? If you have photographs we can copy or memories we can record, come along to a 'Broad Street Workshop'. Two workshops have been arranged.

Tuesday 19th June 10.00am Community Room, Broadwalk Library

Wednesday 4th July 7.00pm Salford Museum and Art Gallery

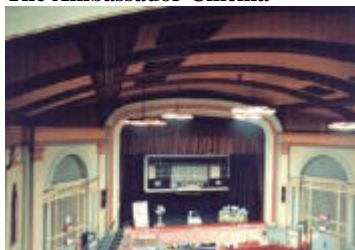
Both workshops are free, to book a place contact **LifeTimes** Office on 0161 736 1594

## **Goodbye and Good Luck**

Diane Lee, Assistant tourism Officer, leaves in June and would like to thank everyone she has met for their support and friendship during her twelve years working at Salford Quays. "I will leave at the end of June with fond memories of my time at the Heritage Centre and the Tourism Unit."

We at **LifeTimes** wish her well for the future and thank her for the support she has given our project over the last two years.

**The Ambassador Cinema**



Interior of The Ambassador (Courtesy of The Ambassador Project)

This 1920s period building has been saved from demolition thanks to Cath Connett and her Ambassador Project group.

John Knight, the building's architect, was described in the 1928 Souvenir Programme as, "...in the front rank of his profession, and responsible for the design of very many cinemas of note in the North of England but the Ambassador Super Cinema crowns his previous examples of cinema architecture."

In describing the interior, the programme reveals, "Amongst the features of the modern cinema are the stage made for the presentation of Prologues and Variety Turns and six dressing rooms." It is a well known fact that Violet Carson (Ena Sharples) performed at the venue tinkling the ivories in her younger days!

The Ambassador is the only remaining example of Knight's cinema designs to survive in the United Kingdom and as such was granted Grade 2 Listed Building status by the Secretary of State in October 2000.

The Ambassador Project aims to restore and refurbish this landmark building and return it as a focal point for the local community. Not only will it once again become a cinema, it will also become home to all of the creative talent in the city of Salford. They also aim to run media

training programmes for our young people, giving them new skills and opportunities.

You can contact the project at: 14 New Barton Street, Irlams o' th' Height, Salford M6 7WW.

Meanwhile **LifeTimes** would love to hear from people who worked at The Ambassador, or even met the love of their life there.

**New heritage group for Swinton and Pendlebury**



Members of the Swinton group

Contributors to the recent **LifeTimes** reminiscence project have decided to form their own Heritage Group for the Swinton area.

The **Swinton and Pendlebury Local History Group** will meet fortnightly, on Monday mornings, 10.15 am at Pendlebury Methodist Church, Bolton Road, Pendlebury. Meetings will alternate reminiscence and research sessions.

On Monday 14th May Mr James Allan is the speaker with a talk "Railways Come to Swinton; a history of railways in and around Swinton from 1790".

For more information contact Ann Monaghan at the LifeTimes office on 0161 736 1594.

We've already had some railway reminiscences...

"During the war the Home Guard's duty was to guard the Balck Harry tunnel which was said to be an ammunition dump -but it wasn't,there were thousands of tons of chlorine stored under there that was used at Magnesium Elektron. Had the

Temple Drive disaster happened when the chlorinewas stored there heaven knows what would have happened. It was only a few months before that the chlorine was evacuated."

The disaster that was mentioned was when three houses collapsed in Temple Drive Swinton in the early hours of April 28th 1953 as a result of a sudden collapse of earth underneath them in the Black Harry Tunnel. The tunnel was cut in 1847 for the Patricroft - Clifton mineral railway. One of the ventilation shafts was directly below the three houses which were built in 1909.

John Cook will present an illustrated talk on "The Pits of Clifton, Swinton and Pendlebury" on monday 4 June. Call Ann monaghan on 0161 736 1594 for more information.

**From Paper to Pots, Plates and Plaques**

Following on from last summer's hugely successful Pilkington Royal Lancastrian Roadshow at Swinton Library, this new display looks at the designs and pottery of William Salter Mycock. The exhibition, which is on at Salford Museum and Art Gallery from 2nd June to 31st July, is a joint exhibition by the Gallery and the Pilkington's Lancastrian Pottery Society.

Visit their website at [www.pilkpotsoc.freemove.co.uk/index.htm](http://www.pilkpotsoc.freemove.co.uk/index.htm)

The exhibition should be of interest not only to people who enjoy looking at pottery and its design, but also to those who helped make it. If you were part of the workforce at Clifton when it was producing Lancastrian pottery and perhaps knew, or worked with, Mycock, the **LifeTimes** team would love to hear form you.

**Dancing Divas and Hilarious Hairdos!**

Are what people remembered when they came to 'Now That's What I Call the 80s' exhibition and week of events at Salford Museum and Art Gallery in February. People arrived with their modern artefacts to display and Diane oxberry, covering the event for BBC North West tonight, even donned an outfit for the broadcast.

It was a chance for parents to be embarrassed for a change while their children asked: "Who's Shakin' Stevens, anyway?" The events, bodypopping and graffiti art were popular and the exhibition was featured in GMR and the Manchester Evening News.

It was a great opportunity to introduce children (and their not so old parents) to **LifeTimes** and catch a few memories of the decade in Salford too. Here's what some people remembered:

"Obviously being in the hairdressing industry, we all had coloured hair, reds, blacks, coppers, bright colours - we did quite a bit of competition work in the 80s. Everything was very vibrant. There was also a phase when they brought out Krazy Kolours, when you had pinks and oranges and you'd use a henna and put blackcurrant in it or food colouring, which was fine until you went out in the rain and ended up with a pink face!"

"We were all extroverts back then, competing with each other but not in a bitchy way. We used to go out on a Thursday night after work to The Ritz, or Tiffanys in Manchester I had more expensive taste then -

I remember in the late 70s and 80s drinking brandy and Babycham. That was the trendy drink the, unlike today..."

"We used to play 'Spot the Grot'. Everyone used to chuck 50p in the kitty, and whoever got chatted up by the grottiest lad got the kitty. And on one particular night, one friend said 'Do you think I've won?' It was Mr Bean she brought back. She said 'Do you want a drink - 'cos I've won the kitty'. We stopped after that - weren't we cruel!"

**Dance Yourself Dizzy!**

Now we're on the lookout for more information for the museum's forthcoming exhibition all about dance halls, discos and dressing up! *'Dance Yourself Dizzy'* will be showing from July this year and we're appealing for memories of going out and nightlife in Salford during the 40s, 50s, 60s, 70s as well as the 80s. Did you go to Swinton Palais? Or wear beetle crushers or winklepickers? Did you style yourself on Gene Pitney or Elvis Presley?

Not surprisingly, the museum collection is not overstocked with relevant material so we are calling on you to lend your stories, memories, photographs, or any items (fashion, music, ephemera). We want to know about the places to be seen, (or not to be seen!), and what to be seen in. About the people, the dances and of course the music. If you have items you would like to loan to the museum, or you would like to be interviewed, please contact Sheena Macfarlane or Jo Clarke on 0161 736 2649.

**MAILING LIST**

Your details will be held on computer by the City of Salford and will not be passed on to a third party.

**All our Working Lives**

Join us for the next **LifeTimes** workshop at Salford Museum and Art Gallery. The theme this time is 'working life' -which gives us an opportunity to look at the major industries of Salford's past as well as all aspects of work.

We'll be covering the whole spectrum, including working from home as well as going out to work, unemployment, working conditions, health at work, works outings and even retiring from the workplace.

Bring along your memories from any decade and take part in one of these lively and enjoyable mornings. If you have any photographs or memorabilia associated with working in Salford bring those along too.

The workshop takes place on Saturday 23rd June, 10.00am - 12.30p.m. at Salford Museum and Art Gallery. Refreshments will be served and there will be an opportunity to visit the exhibition 'For the Health and Happiness of the People' which maps the history of Peel Park, created for the working people of Salford.

Please let us know by 19th June if you will be attending by phoning the Museum on 0161 736 2649.

**LifeTimes Link Mailing List**

Title.... First Name.....  
Surname.....  
Street.....  
Town.....  
City.....  
Postcode.....

Send to: **LifeTimes**, FREEPOST MR10203, 51 The Crescent, Salford M5 4WX

**Talks for June at Salford Tourist Information Centre Viva Victoriana**

The final programme of afternoon talks at Salford Quays has something for everyone. They are on Tuesdays beginning at 2.30pm and admission costs £2 each (including refreshments). Places are limited so advance booking is essential. Contact the TIC on 0161 872 7463 or 0161 848 8601

5th June

**'A Salford Lad's Global Travels'**  
Broadcaster, Fred Fielder, a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society, talks about some adventurous journeys to faraway places with famous people.

12th June

**'The Pendle Witches'**  
History and legends surround the story of the Pendle Witches. Richard Catlow, Editor in Chief of Greater Manchester Weekly Newspapers, reveals the truth.

19th June

**'Rocking Horses'**  
The history of this traditional craft is described by Roger Platt who has been making rocking horses for twenty years. He explains the skills involved in producing a toy, which is usually destined to become a family heirloom.

26th June

**'The Challenges of Protecting Listed Buildings'**

Do you know which buildings are listed in Salford? Joe Martin, Building Conservation Officer, gives us the which, where, why and how of the City's historic buildings and three scheduled ancient monuments.

Following our successful **LifeTimes** workshop exploring the Victorian Era we are in the process of putting together a programme of events, most of which will be held at the Museum and Art Gallery. These will include a Murder Mystery Weekend, a Brass Band in the Park, and a Magic Lantern Show. There will also be talks on various related subjects such as Crime in Victorian Salford, Victorian Portrait Photography, The Queen's Visits to Salford, and Costume. Lots of other talks/events are in the planning stages and a leaflet will be produced shortly giving full details. This will also be available on our website at [www.lifetimes.org.uk](http://www.lifetimes.org.uk)

**The Vic Tomlinson Photographic Collection**



A sample from the collection - Boys washing at Halton Bank (Courtesy of Vic Tomlinson / Norman Grainger)

The name Victor Innes Tomlinson JP MA FAS will be known to many of our readers. Born in Salford in 1907 he attended Salford Secondary School for Boys then trained as a teacher at Chester College. Returning to Salford in 1930 he taught at Langworthy Road then Tootal Road schools.

He spent most of the war years serving in the Tank Corps but returned in 1948 to become Head Teacher at Halton Bank Junior School. From 1958 until retiring in 1972 he was head of Hope Hall Secondary School.

Vic was a founder member of the Salford Local History Society and was at one time chairman of the Friends of Salford museum. He served as President of the Lancashire and Cheshire Antiquarian Society for which he wrote several papers, with his 1966 Manchester Bolton Bury Canal contribution being published in book form in 1991.

When he died in June 1996 his collection of over 400 education related photographs were passed to his executor, friend, and former teaching colleague, Norman Grainger. Norman thought these should now return to the City and very generously donated them to the **LifeTimes** archive.

The photographs mainly cover the 1950s and 1960s showing activities at Halton Bank and Hope Hall schools and include pet shows, rambles, field trips, classroom activities, and sporting events. We would love to hear from pupils from this period who could help with identifying some of the images.

Until the collection has been fully catalogued access can only be provided by appointment at the **LifeTimes** office.