

# Your LifeTimes Link

No 9 Winter 2001 sharing Salford's fantastic story



The former Lowry Gallery - October 2001. How will it look in 2002?

## LifeTimes Goes on Show

After years of background work on LifeTimes, collecting peoples memories, copying photographs, receiving donations of documents and objects, we will soon be able to let you see in greater detail what LifeTimes is all about

In August 2001 we received the good news that we can begin work on creating a LifeTimes Showcase ready to open in the former Lowry Gallery in the spring of 2002.

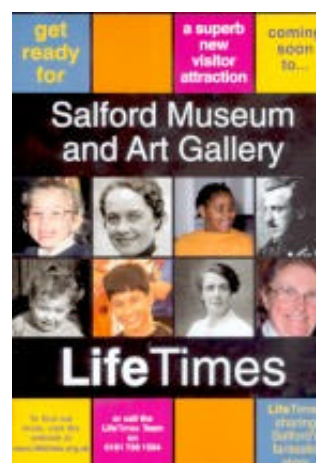
Because of this development the Broad Street/Chapel Street exhibition due to run from December 2001 to May 2002 has been postponed and will now be a temporary display within the Showcase.

Exactly what else will feature in the gallery has yet to be finalised but we have lots of ideas from the many workshops held over the past two years. We are thinking about interactive displays interpreting life and work in the area over the last two hundred years, photos for you to search through, oral histories to listen to and videos to watch.

There should be space for staff and volunteers to scan your photographs and record your memories and somewhere where groups can meet and reminisce, listen to guest speakers, and watch or take part in workshops and demonstrations. The list could be endless, however we will be restricted by space and finance. The gallery is quite large, the City's purse isn't.

What would you like to see in the LifeTimes showcase? What events would you come to?

We would welcome your ideas, as soon as possible please, by post, phone, fax or email.



## Pilkington Tiled Fireplace



This black and white photo doesn't do the tiles full justice - they are mainly shades of blue on a white background

One of the latest acquisitions at the Museum and Art Gallery is this fireplace with tiles by John Chambers of Pilkington Lancastrian Pottery, Clifton.

The fireplace was installed in a new house on Wilbraham Road, Fallowfield, Manchester in 1908.

Thanks to a very large donation from the Friends of Salford Museums it was purchased, then removed by HeritageTile Conservation Ltd, and now awaits restoration.

The tiled lower portion will be the first part to be renovated and this important piece of local work should be included in our Showcase.

## Your Own Stories

Since we began working on the **LifeTimes** project we have interviewed 90 people, resulting in over 120 recordings. However, we still have many people on our waiting list (to whom we apologise for the delay) with interesting stories to tell us.

Two volunteers have kindly carried out some recordings for us and we would welcome any extra help. We can provide full training and recording equipment so if you want to know more get in touch with the **LifeTimes** staff for a friendly chat.

Some people prefer to write their recollections, in the form of a family history, a biography, or just a brief note. Mrs Alice M Hindley (nee Grundy) sent us in the following account.

"My parents, Edna and Charles Grundy, were married at St Paul's Walkden in April 1930 and their first child was expected in June 1932. Attended by a local midwife, the labour was very difficult and eventually my mother was taken to St Mary's Hospital in Manchester. She was delivered of a baby boy on 3 July 1932 but regrettably he was stillborn.

My father had to take two buses to get to St Mary's and was taken to the mortuary to find his dead son, among the many others who were there. The child was wrapped in a brown paper parcel and my father had to make the return journey carrying his dead baby, who was later buried at St Paul's, Walkden."

Alice concludes by asking, "I wonder if any of your readers remember a similar occurrence?"



A postcard captioned Racecourse Entrance - Manchester - from the Ted Gray Slide collection

## Volunteers Get It Sorted

Back in Issue 5 (Winter 2000) of our newsletter we reported that local historian Ted Gray had donated a collection of slides to our archive prior to his move to the Isle of Man.

The first section of 135 slides of the Swinton and Pendlebury area were sorted and catalogued by LifeTimes volunteers Brian Lee and John Cook. The remainder of the slides covering the rest of the City of Salford area, over 1700 slides, have now been catalogued by Roy Bullock. Hopefully all this information will be added to our computer database next year to enable a quick and easy search facility.

## High Rise Christmas



When Salford people moved into the new high rise flats for most families it was the first time they had an inside toilet and hot running water. Modern living had arrived, but there was one small problem - children discovered the living room had no proper fireplace, and thus, no chimney - so how could Santa deliver their presents?

Salford Fire Service came to the rescue as this photograph, loaned by Derrick Corfield shows.

Back in the 1960s Santa was able to deliver presents to children in Thorn Court with the aid of a hydraulic platform and fireman Wilf Brown. We are trying to track down the little girl who looks very pleased with her Bakery and Pastry set. Can any readers help identify her, and did she become a cook? A brief history of Salford Fire Service can be found at [www.salfordfire.co.uk/fireh.html](http://www.salfordfire.co.uk/fireh.html)

## Swinton Remembered - in words and pictures

As we reported in a previous edition, the series of reminiscence sessions at Swinton Library earlier this year resulted in the formation of Swinton and Pendlebury Local History Group.

The group is now working on a book that will combine their reminiscences and photographs, revisiting the Swinton fondly remembered by many people.

It will cover topics ranging from childhood and schooldays to pubs, shops, industry, cinemas, dining and dancing, whit walks wartime Swinton and working life.

Hopefully, it will be available by Christmas, for more information contact Ann Monaghan on 0161 736 1594.

page 3

## Festivities at Ordsall Hall Museum

**Tudor Fun for All the Family!**

**Sunday 2 December,  
1.00pm - 4.00pm**

**Admission: Free**

Our regular Sunday afternoon step back in time with Tudor crafts and customs, this time with a Christmas theme! Try your hand at calligraphy, pomander making or Tudor pastimes; and meet our feathered friend Harry the Hawk.

**A Crafty Christmas at Ordsall Hall**

**Sunday 16 December,  
1.00pm to 4.00pm**

**Admission: Free**

Looking for ideas for Christmas presents or want to try your hand at traditional arts and crafts? With stalls and activities ranging from pottery to making your own Christmas garlands you won't leave empty-handed

**Festive Music and Fayre**

**Sunday 23 December,  
1.00pm to 4.00pm**

**Admission: Free**

Join us for a traditional Tudor Christmas celebration with music, mulled wine and mince pies! Not to be missed

For more details phone

0161 872 0251

or visit [www.ordsallhall.org](http://www.ordsallhall.org)

## Readers' Queries

In July we received a letter from Brian Hopwood, one of our regular readers, asking, 'Has anyone got a photo of the amateur football team known as Northern Nomads? The ground was at the bottom of Chorlton Avenue as far as I can remember - I was only a child but I remember my father taking me to watch the games.'

Tom Carroll writes: 'In you last issue you published a picture of the former Angel Hotel, beyond which stood the legendary Butcher and Simmonds chemists shop - 329 Chapel Street. The site of this once popular pharmacy is now occupied by an advertising board and I have trawled every possible collection of photographs in the hope of obtaining a picture of this nostalgic building.'

Tom worked at the chemists and recalls that, 'Jim Collins would draw a tooth for a tanner.'

Space prevents us from printing all the requests for information we receive but we would advise, where possible, to make Salford Local History Library your first point of call or use our website Bulletin Board. If you can help with either of the above queries let us know.



## LifeTimes in Manchester



On Sunday 30 September staff manned a stall promoting Salford's Museum and Heritage service at GMR's History Alive Fair. Crowds flocked into Manchester whilst we flew the flag for Salford and so popular was the event it may be repeated next year!

## So Long Sheena

Our Principal Museums and Heritage Officer, Sheena Macfarlane, left us at the end of August to take up a similar post with Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council. We all wish her well in her new job and as she still resides in Salford we hope she'll be paying us a visit from time to time.

Nicola Power, Principal Heritage Development Officer, is covering the post until Sheena's replacement is appointed

## Salford in Verse

Last issue we published an extract from a poem by Albert Armstrong.

Albert spoke to us from his home in Hillswick, Shetland, to tell us he is publishing a book of poems all about his beloved Salford.

At the time of going to press we understand the book will contain photographs to accompany the poems and hopefully it should be on sale before the end of 2001.

## LifeTimes Link

Mailing List

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