

The Friends of the Salford Museums' Association

(Registered Charity No. 1057371)

Visit our Website at: www.friendsofsalfordmuseums.org

October 2015

Editor: Philip Heyes

Welcome to the Friends' October Newsletter: here are some forthcoming Events for your diary

Date	Event	Venue and Time
Saturday 28 th November	CULTURE, BARRICADES AND BADGES In-depth discussion on his first exhibition by former Museum Manager, John Sculley	Salford Museum & Art Gallery at 2 p.m.
Sunday 6th December	MUSEUM MUSICAL CHRISTMAS Featuring the Monton Voices	Salford Museum & Art Gallery 12 noon – 4 p.m.
Friday 11 th December	MEET THE FRIENDS CHRISTMAS LUNCH – Home-made Pies and Festive Fun! Followed by a presentation on “60 Years of the Friends”.	Salford Museum & Art Gallery at 12.30 p.m., £8.50 total. To reserve a place Contact Monica on 0161 790 5752 or trips@friendsofsalfordmuseums.org
Wednesday 20th January 2016	VISIT TO MUSEUM OF TRANSPORT Greater Manchester	Details to follow! – Museum is at Boyle St (off Queens Rd), Cheetham, Manchester M8 8UW
Wednesday 23rd March 2016	Annual General Meeting of the Friends of Salford Members' Association. All current Friends are welcome	6pm Salford Museum and Art Gallery.

Members of FSMA – this is YOUR Newsletter – would you like to contribute to – or comment – on it?

Please contact: Philip Heyes: tel 01539 725658 or e mail (preferred): Jphilipheyes@aol.com or Don Rainger on **0161 789 2071** Copy for the February 2016 Newsletter to P. Heyes (e mail as above) **by Friday 22nd January 2016**. Alternatively please write to the Secretary, F.S.M.A., Salford Museum & Art Gallery, Peel Park, Crescent, SALFORD M5 4WU We want your comments and suggestions.

SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2016 NOW PAYABLE

Please see form at the end of this Newsletter. Subscriptions remain £10 per member.

Help the Friends by renewing early

PRESIDENT'S PREAMBLE

Monday 28th September 2015 ---- There's a buzz around the place again today. The car park outside the Gallery is packed, students are meeting and greeting; registration day at the University is bringing Peel Park fully back to life. That's not to say, though, that there has been no activity over the holidays. The Gallery exterior has been enhanced by large lettering and banners informing everyone, that did not previously know, what we are. A

pathway has been cut into the lawn from University to the entrance of the Gallery and pedestrian access is thus much safer. Coaches now drop off by the Maxwell building and park down Adelphi until pick up.

What your Committee has been doing

Throughout the summer your committee has continued to meet on a weekly basis and members have attended other relevant meetings as well. Decisions have been taken to pay for mobile staging for events at the Museum and at Ordsall Hall. In conjunction with improvements in the Local History Library the Friends have bought a number of map-hangers to replace the heavy, cumbersome cabinets. This makes public access so much easier and also frees up space in the library. Librarian Duncan McCormick is writing in the next issue of LifeTimes Link about the changes and why these were necessary.

The committee has been pleased to give three bursaries to students working towards Royal Horticultural Society qualifications at Ordsall Hall. We are proud that the Hall is one of the few centres in the country registered to teach and examine these courses. This is due mainly to the knowledge, industry and enthusiasm of the Head Gardener and Trainer, Lindsay Berry.

FSMA has been happy to write a letter of support for the application for a Queen's Volunteer Award for Ordsall Hall's unpaid workers. This applies to volunteers who work both inside the Hall and outside in the grounds. Having assisted with this application, it was then suggested that the Friends themselves should be the subject of a QVA application. Not being able, of course, to sponsor ourselves, a number of eminent local people were generous enough to come forward and write letters of support on our behalf. Watch this space for news of both applications!

2016 being the Friends' Diamond Jubilee we will be celebrating in January with an exhibition in the Gallery that currently displays the World War I material. Our application for an exhibition which will put on show some of the collection which the Friends have contributed towards over sixty years was granted by the museum committee and planning is now underway.

LifeTimes Link

Philip and I are currently finalising the next edition of LifeTimes Link. Again there will be a varied collection of articles, photographs and lots of information about forthcoming events and exhibitions at the Museum and Ordsall Hall. It will be available for £2 per copy at the shops at the Museum and Ordsall Hall or you can have the two editions produced each 12 months posted to you for £6. For more details about subscriptions, please call 0161 778 0818.

LifeTimes Link was established 16 years ago (1st Issue, Autumn 1999), when the LifeTimes Project began, as a means of sharing and spreading aspects of Salford's heritage. It has depended to a large extent on letters, articles and photographs sent in by readers. Recently, that supply of material has started to tail off, so Philip and I now make an appeal to members to help replenish our files. Can you supply a short article (approx. 500 words), possibly with a photograph, about some aspect of Salford's history. It may be about schooldays, home life, work, hobbies; you may remember your first visit to Salford Museum, Ordsall Hall, Monk's Hall Museum, or the Natural History / Mining Museum that was in Buile Hill Park; perhaps you have a family history to tell. Do think about it and if you want more details please contact one of us – our details are elsewhere in this Newsletter.

One other request for information: I am hoping to produce a short booklet about the Friends which will be available during the exhibition next year. If you have any material – newsletters from decades ago, invitations to exhibitions, press cuttings, or event long weekend trips organised by Mary Robinson, let me know.

I am pleased to report that membership has now reached three figures. You will be aware that if you show your membership card in the café and the shop at the Museum and the Hall you are entitled to 10% discount. Until the end of the last academic year, that same discount was available to staff and students from the University of Salford. That scheme has been discontinued and University members are now invited to join the Friends for our regular £10 a year subscription. In this way we hope to grow our membership whilst at the same time continue to bring in much needed finance.

Our Treasurer, David Jenkins, has worked hard on our Website [www.friendsofsalfordmuseums.org] Do look at this, if you have opportunity, for details of our visits and activities.

Friends' Activities

Speaking of visits, our afternoon out in August to Elizabeth Gaskell House was a real treat. 18 Friends, the largest group at one of our gatherings for some time, assembled in Plymouth Grove. Our guide, a former teacher, had had a long association with the house, from the time when it ceased to belong to the University of Manchester and

started to fall into serious disrepair. Her obvious love for the building, coupled with copious knowledge of Mrs Gaskell's life there, her family, friends and the enormous variety of people who visited her minister husband, all quickly became apparent. The rooms toured have all been meticulously refurbished. Upstairs we found files containing details of the planning required to bring this sturdy house and grounds back to life. Downstairs, at the end of our tour, we found perhaps the best cup of tea and (large) slice of cake outside that sold at Salford Museum and Art Gallery.

A grand afternoon out, informative and designed to make one go back to the house and to read Mrs Gaskell's works.

Since the last Newsletter Friends have been involved with the Garden Party at Ordsall Hall in mid-July and in serving sweets in Mr Tomlinson's shop in Lark Hill Place. The Garden Party attracted around 2,500 visitors and our strawberries sold out well before closing time (your editor consumed the last serving).

During the school holidays Rosemary and Deborah donned costume to serve in the corner shop. Sweets were given and donations invited. This is a most useful money-earner for the Friends. We are currently working with Museum staff to look at ways of widening the scope of sweets available for Jewish, Muslim and vegetarian visitors.

Elsewhere you will find reports on our tour of Middleton – on the hottest day of the year – and of Weaste Cemetery when the weather provided a complete contrast.



The President's words are broad-cast at the Ordsall Garden Party (photo: Rosemary Boardman)

Such afternoons and the meeting some of us had with the Friends of Rossendale Museum help to bring us together as a group. The committee begins to get to know members and visits like that from Rossendale spread goodwill throughout the museum world. We hope to see more of you on future visits – and do let us know if there is a **venue** you think we ought to investigate.

Coming Events

Coming up – at Ordsall Hall on Friday 4th December at 7.30 a.m. – Ghost Stories for Christmas – “an evening of vengeful revenants , restless spirits and malevolent ghouls” Also it should be the first occasion when the staging the Friends have bought will be in use. Tickets: £10, £8 concessions. Tel 0161 872 0251.

Also, on Sunday 6th December, and the second day of the Museum's Musical Christmas Celebration, once again the Friends are sponsoring the Monton Voices Choir. They will be singing in the Victorian Gallery between 12 noon and 4 p.m.

As well as forging links with Friends from other organisations, the Salford Friends continue to get to know better members of: Salford Art Club, local history societies from around the City, the Friends of Peel Park, Irwell Valley Mining Project, Friends of Weaste Cemetery. the Peel Archive, MAPAS, University of Salford and the Archaeology Department therefrom. The Salford Local History Forum is where we all come together and it is currently ably chaired by Friends' secretary Rosemary Boardman.

Farewell to old Friends

Sadly we lost one member of the Forum at the end of June, when Tony Frankland, who worked for 25 years in the Local History Library, died. Known to thousands, including many Friends, as “The History Man”. Tony helped countless people with their school projects , university dissertations, genealogical research ad work on newspaper, radio and television articles. His walks around areas of Salford attracted thousands; his publications have been read by thousands. His love of the City and its rich history was evident whenever he spoke to you. He had been married to local girl Marjorie for just short of 50 years and we offer her, his friends and his colleagues, many of whom packed the farewell at Agecroft Cemetery, our sincere condolences.

We heard recently that the Friends had lost a long-standing member in Jean Hockenhill who died on the 20th September. For a number of years, Jean was a member of our committee and for a time acted as our outings organiser. This included Friends' visits to Compton Verney, Warwickshire and Gwydyr Castle, Llanrwst, and Plas Mawr, Conwy. Jean also arranged two joint talks with Salford Art Club on Benjamin Williams Leader and Adolphe Valette. {Jean and I were also joint editors of this Newsletter - Ed} Jean was also an artist and in the their forthcoming exhibition (starting 23rd January 2016), Salford Art Club intend to mount a display of some of her paintings.

Congratulations

Local Historian Roy Bullock has been awarded the prestigious Frank Mullineux Award for his book A History of Weaste and Seedley. Roy has for many years produced local history books under the Neil Richardson imprint and is a worthy recipient of this honour given by the Eccles and District History Society. Also recognized by this group is David George who has been made a Life Member for his services to the Society and to the study of local history. Both Roy and David are becoming good Friends of F.S.M.A.

World War I

Jenny Doherty, the World War I Events Co-ordinator funded from a Heritage Lottery Fund grant secured by the Friends reported recently on the continuing hard work being put in over the length and breadth of Salford. Three local groups have been awarded grants from HLF monies for their community activities. If you have not yet seen the WWI exhibition, it is on at the Museum in the LifeTimes Gallery until Sunday 15th November.

Incidentally, after well over a year's discussion, it has been decided that the memorial commemorating the staff who worked for Salford Corporation, and who died in the Great War, will be placed on display in the former Salford Town Hall in Bexley Square, where the memorial was previously located. This building, which housed Salford Magistrates' Court for many years, is now being transformed into housing. The developers have assured all concerned that the memorial will be placed in an area accessible to the public and they will guarantee that it will be cared for in a respectful manner.

The autumn sunshine continues to beam down on the greens, gold and red foliage before me in Peel Park . I hope to meet you at the Museum and the Hall in months to come. Don't forget to buy your LifeTimes Links and do what you can to encourage others to join the Friends and support the Salford Museums.

Nurse Edith Cavell, who was executed by a German firing squad 100 years ago, may not be associated in most people's minds with Salford. However, in September 1906 she took up a three month temporary position at the Manchester and Salford Sick Poor and Private Nursing Institution at one of the Queen's District Nursing Homes.

During her time in Salford, Edith attended Sacred Trinity church in Salford. It was therefore fitting that she should be honoured by a ceremony there on Monday 12th October, the anniversary of her execution. David Winston, who spoke at the Museum about Edith Cavell on the 5th October, was instrumental in arranging this. He has written the following article for us about the impact of Edith's execution.

REMEMBERING EDITH CAVELL BY DAVID WINSTON
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Reaction

Nurse Edith Cavell was executed on October 12th 1915 at 7am. She had learned that that was to be the date and time of her execution only on the previous afternoon.

It was nearly a week later that the news leaked out. There was world wide condemnation of what had happened. Recruitment to the forces doubled in Britain from 5,000 men a week to 10,000 for a period of eight consecutive weeks.

This was far more men than Edith had helped to get out of Belgium. The German military governor of Belgium, General Sauberzweig, had handed Britain and her allies a propaganda coup by his insistence on the speedy execution of the death sentence, not least because the execution brought America a step closer to joining the war.

Remembering

On May 13th 1919, Edith's coffin was taken on a gun carriage through the crowded streets of Brussels to the Gare du Nord and placed on a train to Ostend. Her sisters travelled with it. The coffin was then carried on the battleship 'Rowena' across the Channel to Dover where church bells rang for three hours. Early on May 14th a special train carried the coffin to Victoria.

Huge crowds lined the streets of London as the coffin was borne on a gun carriage to Westminster Abbey for the funeral service. Then another procession accompanied the coffin to Liverpool Street station and thence to Norwich where Edith was buried in the grounds of the cathedral of her home county Norfolk.

Asked how her family would like her commemorated, her sister Lilian Wainwright had said, 'no monuments', but public sentiment overruled that plea.

A statue was erected in St.Martin's Place on the edge of Trafalgar Square. Streets were named after her in Norwich, Brussels, Salford, London and Melbourne; there were Edith Cavell hospitals in Peterborough, Auckland and Brisbane. A mountain was named after her in Canada, a glacier in Colorado and a feature on the planet Venus was named the Cavell Corona. The French singer Edith Piaf born soon after Edith's death was named after her. Edith was commemorated in songs, plays, biographies and films. My own interest in her was first stirred by Anna Neagle's portrayal of her in the film 'Nurse Edith Cavell'.

However, in time, the memory of Edith Cavell faded. The passage of time, doubts about whether WW1 should have been fought, the replacement of heroines by celebrities in the consciousness of younger people have probably all played their part. Nurse Cavell became the 'forgotten' heroine.

But things are changing...

The commemoration of the centenary of WW1 is reviving the memory of Edith's life and death, the Royal Mint is issuing a commemorative £5 coin this year, the Church of England now remembers her on October 12th and she has been given a place in the National Curriculum. I have had the privilege of telling her story to younger people who have never heard it, e.g. a primary school staff and a group of student nurses. Some are visibly moved by what they hear.

On the night before her death the chaplain who was with her assured Edith that she would be remembered as a heroine and a martyr. She replied 'Don't think of me like that. Think of me as a nurse who tried to do her duty' Edith knew how demanding that duty was. She would, I am sure, be pleased to know that the Cavell Nurses' Trust still provides support for nurses in difficult times.

Edgar Wood in Middleton - by David Jenkins - Friends' visit on 1st July

Who was Edgar Wood? Why haven't I heard of him before? What did he do? These were the sort of questions voiced by some of the Friends as they took shelter in the oldest pub in Middleton (reputedly established in 1587) on the hottest July day 'since records began'. Our trip on July 1st 2015 had been arranged to answer these questions and learn about this local architect, artist, craftsman, conservationist and town planner. We were to be guided by Christine Grimes of the Middleton Heritage & Conservation Group.

Our first visit was to the Methodist Church and School (next door to the pub!) where we learnt that Edgar Wood was born in Middleton in 1860 and his early ambition was to be an artist. However he was persuaded to train as an architect (which he strongly regarded as an 'art'). He did not want to enter a large-scale commercial practice and, throughout his life, maintained an individual and innovative approach. He preferred to work on projects which he could control personally. Many commissions were from friends and family and could be described as 'indulgent' in that he was largely allowed to design the buildings as he wanted. His work was influenced by that of William Morris and the '*Arts and Crafts*' movement and built on the *Art Nouveau* style which was gaining popularity as an antidote to the classic Victorian Gothic designs.

Edgar Wood was decidedly a 'modernist' and one of the most important avant-garde architects of his time. One of the delights of trips such as these is the snippets of information gleaned.



We learnt that Nikolaus Pevsner (the German-born British scholar of architecture) praised Edgar Wood in his article 'Nine swallows - no summer', where he considered him the most progressive of Edwardian architects and bemoaned the fact that so much good 'modern' architecture in the early 1900's had not initiated a greater following.

We then looked round the Methodist Church, school and lecture room and examples of his unusual style were pointed out to us. Essentially a simple and uncluttered design, there were many instances of personal attention to detail - such as distinctive internal door pillars and pilasters which were thought to be based on an Hungarian design allowing a stand for candles. Other features were the unusual combination of seven windows over the six

arches. Nothing straightforward or 'mass-produced' about any of it! Attention to detail was in evidence throughout. For example the leaded windows in the religious part of the building were diamond-shaped; those in the secular parts were rectangles.

Having gained a 'feel' for this independent character, we ventured out into the sun-drenched streets of Middleton and played a fascinating game of 'Spot the Edgar Wood House!' Our guide took us to a number of local houses and pointed out unique and unusual features of the buildings. All were within walking distance which allowed us to spend time looking at the designs in some detail. His first building (and home) was a 'semi' - but, without any symmetry, it stands out as a slightly idiosyncratic building. When it was built in 1891, it must have been a totally radical and fresh design.



Another, later, 'semi' was a taller and bulkier building but still asymmetrical with individual designs for the bow-windows and dormers.

We then noticed the door designs and carved lintels which are a feature of many of Edgar Wood's houses.

Another striking flat-roofed house was an example of his later work and his pioneering use of reinforced concrete. Again, nothing was straightforward and the brick profiling added character without being fussy. We also passed a shop which struck us as being a bit unusual with a corner 'oriel' window and unequal gables. It was, of course, another Edgar Wood design! We then walked back through the old silk mill area with its terraced cottages and stone-flagged roofs. We ended the tour in Jubilee Park where we had an excellent view of St Leonard's Church and the formal staircase and exedra (a new word to the writer, but defined in architecture as a semicircular recess or plinth), designed by Edgar Wood.

Edgar Wood died in 1935, having retired to Italy to paint thirteen years earlier. He left no family or students to perpetuate his work and he was quietly forgotten until being rediscovered in the 1950's by architectural historians.

This was a fascinating tour of the works of a fascinating architect and designer. It encouraged us to look at buildings more critically and in a different light. 'Individual' and 'Distinctive', certainly; 'Odd' would be unkind; 'Interesting' without doubt! We are indebted to our guide, Christine for her knowledge and enthusiasm and thoroughly recommend a visit to Middleton to see more of the works of this pioneering and influential architect.

A Trip to Weaste Cemetery - by David Jenkins - Friends' visit on 21st July

Who would have thought that a visit to a cemetery on a grey, windswept day could be so interesting? And yet, the Friends who attended this trip on July 21st were fascinated by the wealth of history contained in this 39 acres of 330,000 interments. Our guide, Pete Kilvert from the Friends of Salford Cemeteries Trust showed us some of the more noteworthy 'inhabitants' and entertained us with his background knowledge and historical facts. He explained that the cemetery was opened in 1857 and includes several Grade II listed monuments.

Over twenty monuments and graves were visited, each one having a place in Salford's heritage.

There are too many details to reproduce here and each one of the Friends will have taken away different memories from the tour.

Notable internments are:

- Sir Charles Halle (1819 - 1895), founder of the Manchester Halle Orchestra. Born in Germany, he moved to Manchester in 1853 where he directed the 'Gentleman's Concerts' before forming his own orchestra in 1857



- Mark Addy (1838 - 1890), publican, champion sculler and rescuer of over 50 people from the Irwell. In 1878, he was awarded the 'Albert Medal' (an award later superseded by the 'Victoria Cross')
- William Norman (1832 - 1896), was awarded the Victoria Cross for gallantry during the siege of Sebastopol in 1854. There are also graves of four survivors from the infamous 'Charge of the Light Brigade' at Balaclava
- Joseph Bretherton (1783 - 1857), Cotton Mill owner, Minister of the Bible Christian Church, Salford's first MP and, probably, the first 'resident' of Weaste cemetery. Considered by many to be the founding father of Salford
- Edward Coleman (1936 - 1958), one of Manchester United's 'Busby Babes' killed at the Munich Air Disaster where 23 of the 44 on the plane perished.

Other memorable stories include those of the:

- establishment of the Yorkshire Terrier breed by the Landlord at the Butchers Arms Hotel, Cross Lane and, subsequently, a manufacturing chemist (Peter Eden 1825 - 1889)
- 'Salford Poisoner' who killed his wife, six children and himself in 1888 after learning that his patent for a device to prevent jolting of railway carriages at points had been already lodged. (Samuel Hill Darby 1852 - 1888)
- writer of the first vegetarian cook book (Martha Bretherton - wife of Joseph)
- development of the 'Galloway' boilers instrumental in powering many of the local cotton mills and, later, early locomotives on the Liverpool and Manchester Railway (William Galloway 1799 - 1873)
- founding of the engineering company, Sir James Farmer Norton, which started as a manufacturer of textile machinery and developed into producing machines for wire-drawing, brick making, newspaper printing and linoleum production. (Sir James Farmer 1823 - 1892)
- lion tamer, dancer, juggler, tight-rope walker and manager of a famous travelling circus for over 40 years, Elizabeth Kayes (1878 - 1957) took over the 'Buff Bill's Menagerie and Wild West Show' from her husband, William
- and many, many more!

During our visit, we could only touch the surface of this historical treasure. There is a wealth of other information provided by the Friends of Salford Cemeteries Trust and freely available on the internet. We thank our guide, Pete, for his enthusiasm and knowledge. Regardless of whether you have previously been to Weaste cemetery, do try and make a visit - there is always more to learn!



**FSMA VISIT TO MRS GASKELL'S HOUSE, PLYMOUTH GROVE, ON MONDAY 3RD AUGUST 2015
by MONICA WRIGHT**

'We've got a house...it certainly is a beauty...I must try and make the house give as much pleasure to others as I can.'

Elizabeth Gaskell wrote this to her friend, Eliza Fox, in 1850, shortly after her family moved into the house in the spring of that year. It certainly gave the 18 Friends of Salford Museums much pleasure on our August trip.

Waiting to greet us was Elizabeth Williams, a trustee of Manchester Historic Buildings Trust, who has worked tirelessly for many years to help bring the house back to life after it was left in a very poor state of repair with severe structural problems by Manchester University's International Society in 2000. The restoration began in 2004, and, with the help of several substantial grants, the Trust were able to open the home of Elizabeth Gaskell and her family to the public in October 2014. Her personal experiences and in depth knowledge of the lovingly and authentically restored house made our tour especially interesting and extremely enjoyable.



Elizabeth Gaskell was one of the nineteenth century's most important writers, and she lived there until her death in 1865. During this time she wrote nearly all of her famous novels, including **Cranford**, **Ruth**, **North and South** and **Wives and Daughters**.

She also wrote the biography of her friend Charlotte Brontë, and many lively letters to friends and literary colleagues. Visitors to the house included fellow writers Charlotte Brontë, Charles Dickens, John Ruskin, the American abolitionist and novelist Harriet Beecher Stowe and the musician Charles Hallé. Elizabeth, her husband William, a Unitarian minister, and their four daughters were involved in many aspects of Manchester life. They had first-hand knowledge of life among the poor through their charitable activities, and helped in the establishment of many of the city's cultural institutions

We first visited the spectacular rooms on the ground floor, the hall, the morning room, the drawing room and the dining room.

The recreation of the rooms is based on evidence found in the house, such as paint scrapes and scraps of wallpaper, as well as on Gaskell's letters and books, comments of visitors at the time, meticulous research and examination of similar properties.

Where possible, 19th-century materials have been used, decorative features have been cast from originals and surviving joinery has been repaired or replaced with faithful copies. In addition, local specialists have reproduced fabric designs and carpets inspired by Gaskell's letters and by photographs of the interiors from the 1890s, including the curtains that Charlotte Brontë hid behind because she was too shy to meet visitors.



Upon entering the book-lined study, we learned just how impressive Elizabeth's husband William was. Not only a gifted teacher and lecturer, he also had a lifelong determination to expand the educational opportunities available to the working classes in Manchester. Along with his work as a Unitarian minister, Gaskell co-founded the Lancashire Public Schools Association in 1847 and served on the committee of the Manchester Literary and Philosophical Society, which gave public lectures and campaigned for social change.

Next it was time to wander through the various exhibitions on the first floor, before heading downstairs into the cellar, where the former kitchen has rather appropriately been set up as a tea room and book shop. There we ended a thoroughly stimulating afternoon with a refreshing cup of tea and delicious home-made cake served, rather quirkily, on mismatched china which we were encouraged to choose for ourselves.

In her novel *North and South*, Elizabeth Gaskell wrote,

'Oh, I can't describe my home. It is home, and I can't put its charm into words.'

The Manchester Historic Building Trust has certainly put the charm back into this splendid house and will continue to do so for many years to come.

Our Trip to Historical Little Bolton The Friends' visit described by David Jenkins

Wikipedia states that Little Bolton was a 'township of the civil and ecclesiastical parish of Bolton le Moors in the Salford hundred of Lancashire, England. Despite its name, Little Bolton had a larger acreage than its southern neighbour, Great Bolton, from which it was separated by the River Croal'. But that rather terse description hides the fact that Little Bolton boasts a unique history and had its own Town Hall and several churches. In September, more than a dozen of the Friends were treated to a sight-seeing historical walk around Little Bolton under the expert guidance of Elizabeth and Margaret from the Halliwell Local History Society.

Even to those familiar with Bolton, the tour provided a fascinating insight into areas which most of us had passed by without taking notice of the history and architecture in evidence. We started with our customary coffee / tea at the Gallery in St George's House (just down from the Holiday Inn) and then crossed the road to admire the formal lines of the original Wesleyan Chapel, built in 1803. What would the first congregation think of its current usage as a thriving gambling casino?



St Georges House – formerly St Georges Church

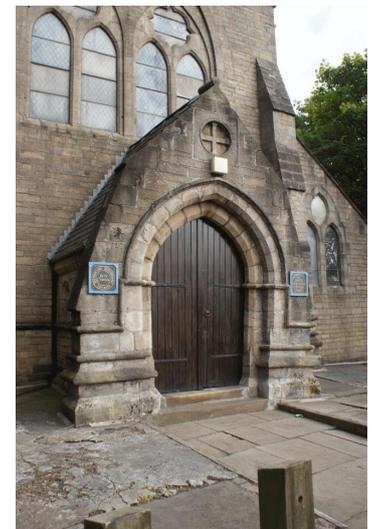
Round the corner was the original Town Hall, opened in 1828 and originally used as the Magistrates Court and Police Station. It became obsolete with the formation of Bolton as a borough and it was then used as a free lending library.



Until 1993, it was a Local History Museum but, unfortunately has been empty since that time. The plaque on the wall refers to the Chartist riots in 1839 when there was a major confrontation with Police Officers and soldiers from Manchester. The Town Hall was attacked with windows being broken and the front door battered with a lamp post. The riots eventually ended with the arrest and subsequent transportation of the ring leaders.

Our walk continued past the old iron foundry which had nearly become an Industrial Heritage Centre before becoming a night club and was now a block of apartments.

Down All Saint's Street, we passed the All Saints Ukrainian Catholic Church. Although this building was opened in 1871 (and designed by the celebrated Victorian architect, G E Street), the original church was erected in 1726 and known as the Chapel in the Fields.



Crossing the road, we passed the derelict 'Dog and Partridge' on the corner of Manor and Brown Street. It is now scheduled for demolition but had been a lively pub dating back to the mid nineteenth century. The old building was severely damaged in 2014 by a Land Rover Discovery driven deliberately into the side wall in an apparent suicide attempt. The Landlord only survived because he had stepped outside for a cigarette. Possibly the only argument against 'Smoking Kills'.

Further down Brown Street, we saw the old Jackson's Foundry, which was next to the canal basin where coal and pig iron was brought in by canal boat. This was the closest we came to seeing the River Croal, the boundary between Little and Great Bolton. .

Re-tracing our steps we visited the impressive architecture of St George's Schools and St George's Church and the contrasting modern Market Hall and multi-storey car park on the other side of St George's Road

This was a most interesting tour of a historic, but disappearing area of Bolton and we are indebted to our guides for their enthusiasm and depth of knowledge.

FRIENDS' FUTURE EVENTS

Saturday 28th November 2015. 2pm at Salford Museum and Art Gallery. Join the prize-winning painter and previous manager of the Museum, John Sculley, at the opening of his first retrospective exhibition. 'Culture, Barricades and Badges Paintings (1980 - 2015)' is in the Langworthy Gallery from 14th November to 21st February 2016.

Friday 11th December 2015. Salford Museum and Art Gallery. **Meet the Friends Christmas Lunch** with Homemade Pies and Festive Fun! Choice of Meat & Potato Pie with red cabbage or Cheese & Onion Pie with salad. After lunch we will move to a private room for an event linked to the 60th birthday of the Friends of Salford Museums' Association. Meet 12.30 in the Museum's reception. Cost £8.50 which includes a mince pie with coffee or tea in the afternoon. Finish 3.30pm. *This is a new initiative and we do hope you will join us. Booking is essential.* See below:



Please contact Monica on **0161 790 5752** or **trips@friendsofsalfordmuseums.org** before December 1st to reserve your place and choice of meal.

Wednesday 20th January 2016. Manchester Transport Museum. Meeting at the Transport Museum at 1.30 p.m. Details to follow!

Wednesday 23rd March 2016. 6pm Salford Museum and Art Gallery. **Annual General Meeting** of the Friends of Salford Members' Association. All current Friends are welcome.



Right: No. 9 bus in Parrin Lane, Winton, taken from M602 on the pre-opening open day, early 1972 (P Heyes)

Current and Forthcoming Exhibitions at Peel Park – Salford Museum & Art Gallery November 2015 to January 2016

Langworthy Gallery

Paintings (1980 - 2015) by John Sculley
14 November 2015 to 21 February 2016

This is the first retrospective exhibition by the prize-winning painter, John Sculley. The exhibition includes works illustrating the social and political unrest of the 1980s, the humour of family life, the passion of football, as well as the artist's on-going admiration for the performing arts - music, dance, drama and circus.

Accompanying the exhibition is a collection of emblems and badges which, as well as complementing the paintings, offer a unique insight into the social and political history of the last 40 years.



North Gallery

The Lightfoot Letters
Maria Walker and Angela Topping
12 September 2015 to 17 January 2016

Inspired by a chance meeting and an amazing coincidence surrounding a bundle of letters from the 1920s, visual artist Maria Walker and poet Angela Topping have formed an artistic collaboration that tells the story written in these letters through a combination of textile art, installations and poetry.



Salford Art Club Annual Exhibition 2016

23 January to 17 April

A popular event for visitors, the annual Salford Art Club exhibition will present the very best works produced by members. A mixture of landscape, portrait and still life are shown in a variety of media.

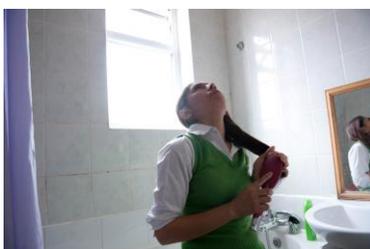
Blue Stairs Community Gallery

Digital Salford: Opening the City's Photo Album

3 October to 6 December



Join us to celebrate the culmination of this Heritage Lottery Funded project, in which volunteers have digitised thousands of images from Salford's local history photograph collection for a brand new searchable website. This exhibition will showcase a selection of photographs of buildings, streets and areas requested by the people of Salford, along with stories and memories that illustrate the important role they take in people's lives and the identity of the city.



Turn Sideways in the Wind: Ciara Leeming

12 December 2015 to 7 February 2016

Over the past decade, Britain has become home to sizeable communities of Romani people from central and Eastern Europe. Turn Sideways in the Wind tells the stories of young Roma adults who have made their lives in Salford and Manchester, in their own words. With documentary photography by Ciara Leeming.



Lifetimes Gallery:

100 Years Ago: Salford at war

Until 15 Nov 2015

'100 Years Ago: Salford At War', helps uncover some of Salford's unique stories from World War One. The Exhibition focuses on local characters, including the Broughton poet, Winifred Mabel Letts, Billy Unsworth, a soldier from Ordsall and Dr James Niven, who helped fight the Spanish Flu pandemic

For display 16th November onward please enquire at Museum

Look out for January.June 2016 Events Guide available Xmas 2015

Current and Forthcoming Exhibitions at Ordsall Hall November 2015 – January 2016



Coloured Interval: Liz West

27 September 2015 to 31 January 2016

Creative lighting installation artist Liz West responds to the unique spaces of Ordsall Hall's attic in this unforgettable exhibition. West uses her in-depth knowledge of colour theory to create immersive sensory encounters for visitors to experience. The installation will be shown with West's preparatory works on paper; these studies lead to the development of spatial and site-specific works.

TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THESE EXHIBITIONS: YOUR CONTACT NUMBERS

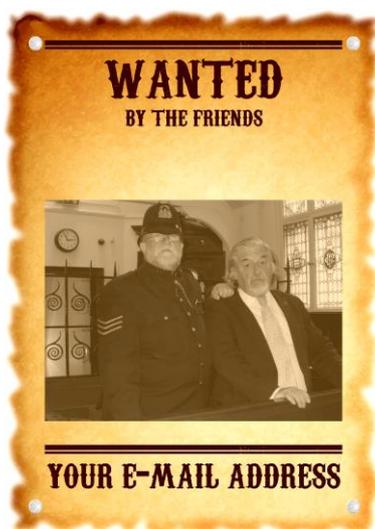
ORDSALL HALL
Tel 0161 872 0251

SALFORD MUSEUM - PEEL PARK
Tel 0161 778 0800

LOCAL HISTORY LIBRARY
Tel 0161 778 0814

SUBSCRIPTION RENEWAL ON PAGE 13

Improving Communication by E-mail



We can now e-mail you with details of forthcoming events and visits, including any late changes of date or time. We can also, if you wish, send you this newsletter by e-mail, thereby saving us printing and postage costs.

If you are not already registered, please e-mail:

subs@friendsofsalfordmuseums.org

indicating whether, or not, you want to receive future newsletters by e-mail.

Please note that all information held by the Friends will be used solely by the Friends of Salford Museums' Association and will not be distributed to any third party.

Here are some useful contacts for you:

Salford Friends' Website:

www.friendsofsalfordmuseums.org

LifeTimes Link Website – including back numbers

salfordcommunityleisure.co.uk/culture/salford-museum-and-art-gallery/lifetimes/lifetimes-link-magazine

Salford Cultural Services (Museums, etc) – Home Webpage

salfordcommunityleisure.co.uk/culture

Museum Events and Exhibitions

salfordcommunityleisure.co.uk/culture/salford-museum-and-art-gallery/exhibitions

Ordsall Hall Events and Exhibitions

salfordcommunityleisure.co.uk/culture/ordsall-hall/exhibitions

Follow the links to find the information you need!

F.S.M.A. SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2016 ARE DUE SHORTLY

The Annual Membership subscription for 2016 is £10. To renew your membership, please complete the form below; detach and return it with your subscription to the address given, and do please enclose a stamped self-addressed envelope,

FRIENDS OF SALFORD MUSEUMS' ASSOCIATION – MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FOR 2016

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION £10 PER PERSON

Completed form, together with signed cheque/ postal order (made payable to F.S.M.A.) for £10.00 (per member) and s.a.e. to: **The Treasurer, F.S.M.A., Salford Museum and Art Gallery, Peel Park, Crescent, SALFORD M5 4WU**

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ENTER YOUR DETAILS

Title (Mr., Mrs., Ms. Dr., etc) _____

First Name _____

Surname _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Telephone number _____

E-mail address _____

I am willing to receive the Friends' Newsletter and other communications by e-mail

Other members at same address:

Title _____

First Name _____

Surname _____

I enclose cheque/Postal Order in favour of F.S.M.A. for £_____ [£10 for each member]

Donation £_____

TOTAL £_____

VERY IMPORTANT! - PLEASE ENCLOSE STAMPED SELF-ADDRESSED ENVELOPE FOR YOUR 2015 MEMBERSHIP CARD!

Very Important Note to those who pay subscriptions **by standing order** – please check this is **up to date** to cover the **£10.00 per person** current subscription. If you're not sure about this, please give Don Rainger a ring on 0161 789 2071. If you'd like to pay this way, it helps us, and we can let you have a form. Do let us know.

Data Protection: All information held by the Friends will be used solely by the Friends and by Salford Museum and Art Gallery and Ordsall Hall and will not be passed on to third parties. The Friends of the Salford Museums' Association. Registered Charity No. 1057371

AND FINALLY – A reminder for your diaries – The Friends' 2015 Annual General Meeting will take place on Wednesday 23rd March 2016 at 6 p.m. at The Salford Museum & Art Gallery Peel Park. Further details, including our speaker, in the next issue of this Newsletter.

A reminder that vacancies for committee members remain. Do please consider whether you can give your time to assist the Friends