

'e-Owls'



Contact us :

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Oldham & District Newsletter Archives : Read or download back copies [HERE](#)

January 2023

MLFHS - Oldham & District Branch Newsletter

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Branch Officers for 2022 -2023 :

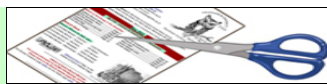
Committee Member : Chairman :	Linda Richardson
Committee Member : Treasurer :	Gill Melton
Committee Member : Secretary :	Joan Harrison
Committee Member : Newsletter :	Sheila Goodyear
Committee Member : Webmistress :	Sheila Goodyear

Links to the Website :

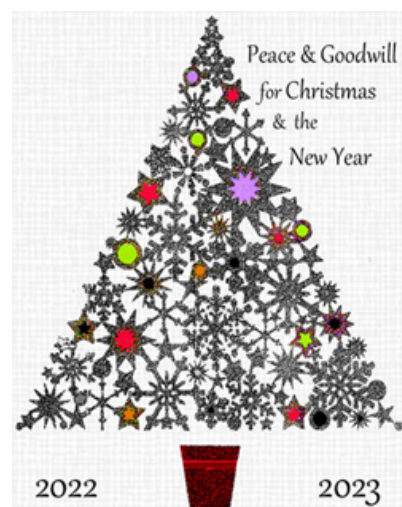


['Where to Find it'](#)

On the Oldham & District
Website Pages



Newsletter ['Snippets' Page](#)
Find Articles, Transcriptions and
Gallery Images you missed



Happy Christmas - from Oldham & District

Oldham & District Branch Meetings :

**For current information on all M&LFHS Meetings, and other public activities,
Please check on the Branch website pages for updated information.**

The Society Facebook page [HERE](#) and the Twitter page [HERE](#) will be updated frequently.

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### **Chairman's remarks :**

A very happy and peaceful New Year to all our readers.

I hope you all have (or had) a good Christmas.

We have a full programme booked for next year both on zoom and hybrid meetings. Details can be found on the Oldham pages of the MLFHS website. Unfortunately, our January and February meetings will be on Zoom only because the rooms we use at Oldham Library are not available to us due to them being needed for Library events. So, our first "in person" meeting will be in March and we hope to see old friends (and new) then.

Another matter that I need to mention is the election of the Committee for 2023/24 and some willing volunteers to help out. We need to hold our Annual Meeting by no later than 8<sup>th</sup> April 2023.

The Committee comprises:-

Chairman

Treasurer

Secretary

Newsletter Editor

Webmistress

General Committee members with no specific roles

Anybody interested in joining the Committee should make themselves known to me at [chairman-oldham@mlfhs.org.uk](mailto:chairman-oldham@mlfhs.org.uk) by the end of February when we can discuss what is involved in the workings of the Committee.

Linda Richardson

Chairman, Oldham Branch

email me at < [chairman-oldham@mlfhs.org.uk](mailto:chairman-oldham@mlfhs.org.uk) >

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Editor's remarks.

Hi Everyone,

Well, as I wrote in last month's newsletter, Christmas really was round the corner and now it's imminent! In the last few weeks we've thought more and more about it ... buying, sending and receiving the festive cards; thinking about presents and what our loved ones and friends would want to find under the tree; decorating the tree; then of course there's the ritual of traditional food; and finally, in this list, I have to mention the various parties and activities to celebrate another year. I'm not the biggest fan of Christmas but it's still fun to be involved. I've enjoyed the Anglo-Scots and Manchester parties, at the library, and Oldham had it's own Christmas Quiz on zoom (reflections on that in the Branch pages). I've sent and received my own cards and sorted out my list of presents to buy. I've booked a delivery for most of my shopping to arrive a couple of days before Christmas and all that's really left is the scramble for last minute shopping for perishable foodstuffs. Do I look forward to Christmas? Well, I draw the line at decorating a tree but, "Yes, I think so!!"

In the Mixed Bag I've continued our serialisation, of *Manchester Streets & Manchester Men* (3rd series) by T. Swindells, pub. 1907, with more about Market Place and the people who lived and worked in that place over the years. We've also got further chapters of Frank Pogson's, 'A Ginnel To Life'.

The final meeting, December, in our Branch programme for 2022 was held jointly with Oldham Historical Research Group. We had a fun quiz which, I hope, the attendees enjoyed as much as I had enjoyed putting it together. More about it in the Branch Meeting Pages.

Just one welcome item, in the postbag, which came in just after the last newsletter went out. I don't really 'do' facebook, myself, but, looking through this month's Society's facebook page for those links to share in the newsletter, I found lots of really interesting ones which you'll find further down ... many thanks to our facebook editor.

Finally, as ever, I get to the Gallery which is, this month, another very random collection! Firstly, we have a photo of the absolutely enormous Santa outside the Library in Manchester which I asked Linda to photograph for us for the website and newsletter. Then, back to history ... we have a photo which come from the transcribed text of '*Market Place*' and some images for the old Manchester Stocks and Pillory (with some informative transcribed text) plus one of the Market Cross in Manchester.

A couple of things that I had mentioned in the last newsletter and that I had hoped to have uploaded to the website by now haven't happened. Life and other commitments sometimes get in the way but I haven't forgotten and will, hopefully, get everything in place before the New Year!

I hope, as always, that you find the bits and pieces in the newsletters, that I enjoy 'winkling' out of old books, as interesting or even informative as do I.

With all my best wishes for a healthy, happy and peaceful Christmas and New Year.

Sheila

I am always very happy to receive articles, pictures etc., for the 'Mixed Bag' in the newsletter, copyright is always a tricky issue so do please make sure that you have the right to use any text or illustrations that you send! It is also helpful if you include mention of your source material.

You will retain copyright of any contributions that you send, whilst allowing MLFHS to re-use the material in an appropriate manner.

Editor reserves the right to edit any contributions before publication.

email me at : < Oldham_newsletter@mlfhs.org.uk >

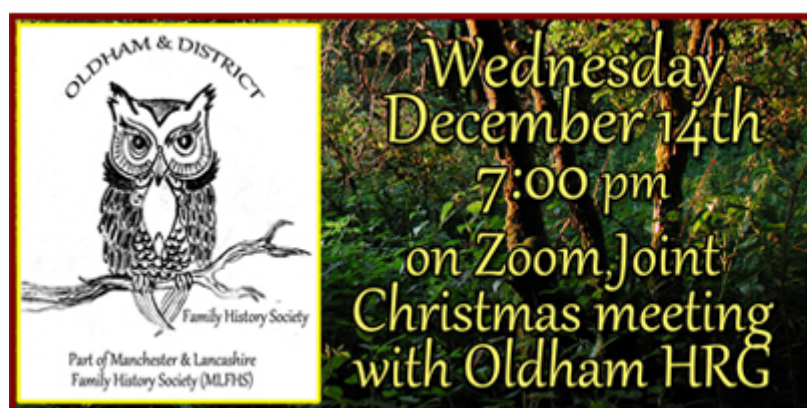
Please note, regarding using the links to website pages or .pdf documents : if clicking on a link when the newsletter is viewed on the internet, without first downloading it onto the computer, the new page opens in the same window so the 'back button' has to be used to return to the newsletter.

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## Oldham & District Branch

### *Monthly Meetings*

#### *Last Month's Meeting*



An informal evening  
with a fun Quiz -  
about our local history  
(multiple choice answers!!!)  
Enjoy a glass  
of your favourite tippie  
and a mince pie or cake  
by your side!

Jointly, with Oldham Historical Research Group

A Fun, Illustrated, Christmas Quiz

Wednesday 14th December at 7pm, on zoom







In the years before the pandemic and our discovery of 'zoom' the Branch didn't have a December meeting. However, this year, we decided to join forces with Oldham HRG and have a

quiz, on zoom. There was also the invitation to enjoy a favourite 'tipple' and a mince pie during the meeting; I'm not sure how many actually took advantage ... I know I was too busy talking! It's a busy time of year for everyone (unfortunately, we found it also clashed with one of the televised World Cup football matches!) so we weren't anticipating a large number of attendees. Twenty six had registered and, on the night, fifteen stalwart supporters signed in. Most people had their videos switched on and there was a chatty, friendly atmosphere as we welcomed old friends and new, including a lady in Canada. Anyone who wanted to join the conversations could find the opportunity to do so.

We wanted the quiz to be mostly fun so there were multiple choice answers. All the questions had an historical basis and a number were about local events and characters. For me, the most enjoyable part was creating the powerpoint and finding the pictures to make it both more informative and also more interesting. How to present the quiz, on the night, posed the questions : (a) a quiz question followed by the answer? or (b) a round of questions followed by all the answers? In the end, so that we could chat about the individual questions, it was decided on Question slide then Answer slide ... I think it worked as quite a few of those at the meeting came into any subsequent discussion or comment. I've included an example (below) of one of the pairs of slides used in the powerpoint.

Personally, I enjoyed both putting the quiz together and hosting the meeting ... I hope everyone who supported us enjoyed it as much as I did.

Sheila Goodyear

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>Q.</b> Which British monarch signed Magna Carta?</p> <div><p>Alfred the Great</p></div> <div><p>Edward the Confessor</p></div> <div><p>King John 1</p></div> <div><p>King William 1</p></div> | <p><b>A.</b> Which British monarch signed Magna Carta?</p> <div><p>King John 1</p></div> <div></div> |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

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The 2023 Branch Programme of Meetings will include 4 meetings as hybrids, 4 meetings only on zoom and 4 meetings only in the library. In that way, all our visitors and friends, either local or distant, will have access to at least 8 of the meetings. Zoom attendance will continue to be free to everyone.

Please continue to support the Branch, either in person at Oldham Library or on zoom if preferred.

Details, of the programme of talks for the first 3 months of 2023, are on the website 'Meetings' page of the Branch website [HERE](#) and the rest of the programme will be added as soon as possible.

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**January Meeting ... only on zoom**



Saturday,  
14th Jan.  
at  
2 pm



***'How We Used To Live'***

An illustrated talk given by Chris Helme

Saturday 14th January, at 2pm, only on zoom

"This is a PowerPoint presentation with my running commentary that will take the audience from the day they were born – just why did your parents call you the name you have? Were you born at home or in a hospital... what kind of house were you born into and how many people did you share the house with? I take the audience through the various stages of growing up. We go through street games, street traders including the ice cream man and then here come the church socials, the youth club and maybe a little bit of independence; and eventually, the word 'courting' ... "

\* Booking for attendance is on [Eventbrite](#) and free to all.

**MLFHS Branches delivering their monthly meetings and talks**

**Anglo - Scots ... No meetings arranged for January**

[Eventbrite](#)

**Anglo-Scottish Website Pages** [HERE](#) for more information and booking details

**Bolton ... Wednesday, 4th January at 7:30pm**

|                                                          |                                                         |                                                                                              |
|----------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>MLFHS<br/>Bolton Branch<br/>Meetings -<br/>Hybrid</b> | <b>Wednesday<br/>4th<br/>January<br/>at<br/>7:30 pm</b> | <b>'CATH COLE :<br/>authoress,<br/>educator, nurse -<br/>Her Story'<br/>given by herself</b> |
|----------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

**Hybrid Meeting ... on zoom and in person**

at Bolton Golf Club, Lostock Park, Chorley New Road, Bolton, BL6 4AJ

Booking for zoom on [Eventbrite](#)

**Bolton Website Pages** [HERE](#) for more information and booking details.

**Manchester ... January 2023 Meeting**



Location: Manchester Central Library, St Peter's Square, M2 5PD

All Bookings on [Eventbrite](#)

Keep an eye on the following pages, as some meetings may be added at short notice.

MLFHS Manchester,  
Website Events Page [HERE](#)

MLFHS Manchester,  
Eventbrite Bookings [HERE](#)

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MLFHS Online Bookshop: [HERE](#).

with CDs, Downloads, Maps, Registers, Local Interest Books, More General Publications, Miscellaneous Items with MLFHS Logo etc., and Offers.

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**MLFHS Manchester & Branch e-Newsletters**

MLFHS Manchester and each of the MLFHS branches publish a monthly e-newsletter which provides useful news items and articles etc. The e-newsletters are free and available to both members and non-members of MLFHS Society. Members receive the Manchester newsletter automatically and non-members can browse the archive and download any they wish. You can sign up to receive the Branches' newsletter links monthly, by following the links, below.

To sign-up, for a Branch newsletter, to be emailed each month, simply click the appropriate link below and complete the short form on the e-newsletter page, where you will also find copies of all past issues to browse.

[MLFHS](#) (Manchester)    [Bolton](#)    [Oldham](#)    [Anglo-Scottish](#)

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MLFHS Updates to the Great Database (located in the Members' area of the Website)

Emails to the Members' forum, from John Marsden (webmaster), listing the updates.

* New data has been added at www.lancashirebmd.org.uk as follows:

Added 842 Marriages for Bury RD comprising:

Bury, St.Thomas (1988-2012)

Hillock, St.Andrew (1977-2008)

Ainsworth, Christ Church (2012-2019)

Bury, St.John (1993-2019)

Bury, St.Mary (2000-2021)

Bury, St.Peter (1992-2021)

Thanks are due to Tony Foster and his team.

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\* Royal Manchester School for the Deaf & Dumb

I have just uploaded a further 181 records of admission documents for children entering the school 1872-7; 1895-6 and 1922.

As always, thanks are due to Jim Chadwick and his team (Marie Collier, Susan Hilton-Brooks, Karen Hugill, Janet Moores and Chris Norcross).

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* New data has been added at www.lancashirebmd.org.uk as follows:

Added 8,908 Deaths for Bury RD comprising:

Bury (1960-1968)

Thanks are due to Tony Foster and his team.

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\* I have uploaded 85 records for admissions to the Royal Manchester School for the Deaf & Dumb to the Great Database for 1921-22. This is the final batch to complete the project as originally planned. The project has added the records for 2,600 pupils admitted to the school up to 1922.

Thanks are due to Jim Chadwick and his team (Marie Collier, Susan Hilton-Brooks, Karen Hugill, Janet Moores and Chris Norcross) for their work on this very important project.

We have extended the project to include the admission registers which provide the names of some pupils for whom the admission papers have been lost and also add some details which are missing from the surviving records. These will be added to the Great Database when completed.

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* I have just added a small collection of records to The Great Database.

Details of persons admitted to the Dukinfield Moravian church 1720-1755 from Manchester Genealogist 9/2&3 (1973) (45 records)

Thanks to Mark Campbell for transcribing these for the online index.

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\* Another small addition to the Great Database:

Details of Salford children indentured as apprentices 1810-1821.

Previously published in Manchester Genealogist Vol. 8 Issue 4 (1972). (29 records)

Thanks to Mark Campbell for transcribing these records.

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* I have added a further 848 street and establishment references to the Godfrey Map Index at <https://www.mlfhs.uk/databases/godfrey-map-index>

This brings the total number of references to 25,834 relating to 89 maps.

These additions relate to the maps for:

Northenden 1916

Withington 1892

Withington (Ladybarn & Burnage) 1934

Didsbury (Palatine Road) 1904

Didsbury (Palatine Road) 1916

Fallowfield & South Rusholme 1933

Thanks to Martin Sullivan for this valuable work, which largely fills the previous gap to the south of Manchester.

There are still several unindexed maps, particularly for the area to the north of Manchester/Salford. If you have any of the unindexed maps and would be prepared to create indexes, please contact me direct.

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Please note ...

Please check society/group websites or organisers for updated information

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Oldham Historical Research Group: ... all Meetings on zoom



Wednesday
18th
January
at
7 pm



Monthly free zoom meeting on Wednesday 18th January at 7pm.

'Thoughts on the History of Oldham Town Centre'

'The illustrated talk will be given by Roger Ivens.

Everyone welcome ... More details and free booking on Eventbrite, to follow

Your support for our meetings is appreciated and, if you would like more information, please email me at < pixnet.sg@gmail.com >.

Website [HERE](#)

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**Moorside & District Historical Society, Moorside Cricket Club, Turfpit Lane, OL4 2ND**

## Moorside & District Historical Society

Monday 16th January 2023.

### "Miscellany and Oddities"

An evening of local historical Miscellaneous event etc.  
and Oddities, that are too small for a full talk.

illustrated presentation by Mike Smith.

Commemorative mug.  
St Thomas' Church  
White, bone China,  
with gold rim and  
blue transfer of the  
church.  
Text 'St Thomas  
Moorside 1872'.



Gallery Oldham  
collection and  
St Thomas Church.



**To be held in the Moorside Cricket Club, Turfpit Lane, Moorside. OL4 2ND**

**7-30 p.m. all are welcome. Please use the rear side door.**

*Note: Other meeting planned for the third Monday of the month, next year.*

Except for the summer break July & August + December. £2 including refreshment.

April ~ September meeting in St Thomas' Church Hall. OL1 4SJ

**Monday 16th January, at 7:30**



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Saddleworth Historical Society ... Wednesday 11th January at 7:30

"Written in Stone, exploring the History of Saddleworth through its Inscriptions etc."

an illustrated presentation by Michael Fox

7:30 at the Saddleworth Museum Gallery.

At this meeting Society members are free, but a charge to non-members is applicable on the door of £3. All are welcome. Refreshments are available.

Website [HERE](#)

Saddleworth Civic Trust has no meeting or event planned in January or February.

If & when this situation changes members of the Society will be notified directly and through the local Press.

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**Library Events & Gallery talks at Gallery Oldham;** [HERE](#)  
on [Eventbrite](#) and [Instagram](#)

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Family History Society of Cheshire : Tameside Group meeting.

See their website [HERE](#)

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**Tameside History Club :**

Meetings on zoom.

Website and programme

&

**Tameside Local Studies and Archives - Regular Sessions and Events**

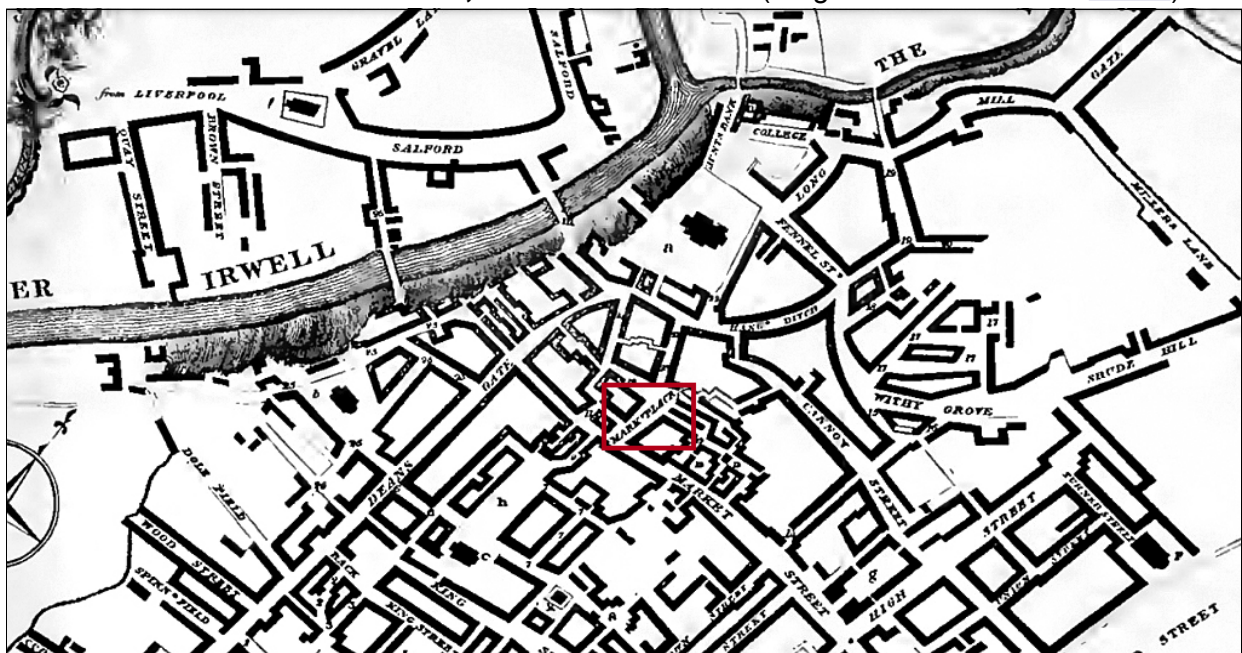
Website and programme [HERE](#)

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Regional Heritage Centre :

Website [HERE](#)

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**'A Mixed Bag'**

**Manchester - Salford 1772, with Market Place** (Larger scale on website [HERE](#))



Our latest serialisation from *Manchester Streets & Manchester Men* (2nd series) by T. Swindells, pub. 1907, started in the newsletter for 2022-12, continues with transcriptions from p.162 - p.190

\* Photo opposite p.168, of 'Bull's Head Yard', is in the Gallery

## **THE MARKET PLACE**

### **PART VI**

#### **JOHN SHAW AND JOHN SHAW'S CLUB**

John Shaw, one of the most notable of the many residents of the Market Place, can be best introduced to the reader by the reprinting of the short account of him as given by Dr. Aikin in his "*Description of the Country thirty to forty miles round Manchester*," published in 1795.

"As a proof that even at the present day strong features of ancient manners exist here, we shall copy the following anecdote lately communicated. There now resides in the Market Place of Manchester a man of the name of John Shaw, who keeps a common public-house in which a large number of respectable Manchester tradesmen meet every day after dinner, and the rule is to call for sixpenny-worth of punch. Here the news of the town is generally known. The high change at Shaw's is about six o'clock ; and at eight every person must quit the house, as no liquor is ever served out after that hour; and should any be presumptuous enough to stop, Mr. Shaw brings out a whip with a long lash, and proclaiming aloud 'Past eight o'clock, gentlemen!' soon clears his house. For this excellent regulation Mr. Shaw has frequently received the thanks of the ladies of Manchester, and is often toasted; nor is anyone a greater favourite with the townspeople than this respectable old man. He is now very far advanced in life, we suppose not much short of 80, and still a strong, stout,

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hearty man. He has kept strictly to this rule for upwards of fifty years, accompanied by an old woman servant for nearly the same length of time. It is not unworthy of remark, and to a stranger is very extraordinary, that merchants of the first fortunes quit the elegant drawing-room to sit in a small dark dungeon, for this house cannot, with propriety, be called by a better name; but such is the force of long-established custom."

In our first directory we find the entry, "Shaw, John, Shaw's Punch-house, Shambles," and we find similar lines in later editions; but in 1796 he died, being succeeded in business by Peter Fernhead. The punch house appears to have stood somewhere near to where the "Fox" stands to-day.

John Shaw, prior to presiding at the Punch-house was in the army, and when in business proceeded to carry out rules of discipline and order with the precision of a military officer. He soon became famous for the concoction of the liquor so popular a century and a half ago, and still associated with his name. We have read about his early-closing rule, but Dr. Aikin might have made a further addition to his account. If the cracking of the whip, and the calling of the hour was not sufficient to secure the departure of the guests, Shaw would call in his factotum, Molly, who, pail in hand, would proceed to flood the floor. Thus lingering guests ran the risk of having their boots filled with water. It is said that on the occasion of a county election, Colonel Stanley, the victorious candidate, along with some of his friends, were present. Owing to the special nature of the occasion, the Colonel asked for an extension of hours, but

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was met with the characteristic reply from Shaw, "Colonel Stanley, you are a law-maker, and

should not be a law-breaker; and if you and your friends do not leave the room in five minutes, you will find your shoes full of water. Within that time Molly came in with mop and pail, and the representative of the County of Lancaster, wisely retired. Shaw supplied his punch in china bowls of two sizes, a sixpenny size, and a shilling one. The latter came to be known as a P. of punch, and the former a Q. If a gentleman was alone he called for a Q of punch, but if he had company a P. was ordered. It has been suggested that herein we have the origin of the saying, "Mind your P.'s and Q.s." Shaw was very particular as to the quantity of liquor supplied to his guests, and only on very rare occasions would he allow any one person to have more than sixpenny-worth during an evening.

Another feature of the "Punch House" was the political views held by landlord and guests alike. None but genuine out-and-out, church-and-king men were sheltered under that roof; and woe betide any unfortunate Whig who unwittingly entered the building and ventured to express his views. The place soon became too hot to hold him. So matters went on. Around old John there grew a band of patrons and friends who met there night after night, to drink punch, to settle the affairs of the nation, and to wish confusion to the Reformers. Gradually out of this nucleus a club was formed, the first president of which was Mr. James Massey, who was the first president of the Infirmary. John Shaw died in 1796 at the age of eighty, and was buried in St. Ann's Church

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yard. It is said that a few years before his death a great scarcity of lemons prevented the making of punch, and that as a result other beverages were indulged in by the members of the club. John Shaw was succeeded in the proprietorship of the "Punch House" by Peter Fearnhead, who retained the services of Molly, and who carefully observed the rules of management inaugurated by his predecessor. Early in the new century the house was sold, the new owner pulling down the greater part of the building. This caused the club to migrate to the "Unicorn," an old-fashioned hostel that stood in Smithy Door, and was kept by Mrs. Ann Fisher. Then, for reasons not recorded, Mrs. Fisher gave the club notice to quit, and a move was made to the "Dog and Partridge," another old-fashioned tavern that stood in Market-street prior to the widening of that thoroughfare, on a site now represented by a portion of Cross-street. They were not there very long, for we find them at the "Thatched House Tavern" in 1829. In turn the club tried to settle at the "York Hotel," that stood next door to the Town Hall in King-street, the "King's Arms," Deansgate, and the "Unicorn," in Smithy Door. When Victoria-street was made, many of the buildings in old Smithy Door were pulled down. The "Unicorn" was one of these, and the club book, under date July, 1838, contains the entry: - "In consequence of the removal of Mr. Joseph Challender, to the "Blackfriars Inn," the club will in future be held in that house." At that time the club consisted of fifty-seven members, and the club's proceedings were regulated by a code of rules from which a few extracts may be quoted. "That the members are expected to

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meet every evening, or as often as convenient, and to stay not exceeding half-past eight." "That any member calling for liquor after half-past eight shall forfeit and pay 2s. 6d. to the fund of the club." "That all monies paid into the fund shall be spent in punch, at such times as the company present from time to time shall mutually agree upon; but that no more than one guinea shall be spent on any evening." In 1852 the rendezvous was again changed, the "Spread Eagle Hotel," Corporation-street being chosen as the new home. In 1860 a move was made to the "Star Hotel," and whilst there the members were joined by a remnant of the Rosicrucians, whose scriptorius became the recorder of the club. In 1867 the club-room was again changed, this time the "Mitre" being the favoured establishment; but in 1885 another removal took place, and

the goods and chattels of the club were removed to the "Queen's Hotel," where one evening in every month from October to May in each year, the members meet. The membership is limited to twelve, and when a vacancy occurs great care is exercised in filling-up the vacancy so caused. At the monthly meetings of the club no speechifying is allowed, the one toast put being given by the president without comment. That toast is strictly in accord with the traditions of the club, and the members of the club drink to "Church and King, and down with the Rump," with as much earnestness as did their predecessors of a century ago. The late Sir Thomas Sowler was president for five years, and on his death he was succeeded by Mr. J. H. Stafford, general manager of the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway, who still occupies the chair.

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Amongst the belongings of the club are a number of interesting items amongst which is a punch-bowl formerly belonging to John Shaw. On the walls of the club-room are a number of portraits, the most notable of which are those of John Shaw and Molly. The one of Shaw is a half-length in oils. He is represented as carrying an empty punch-bowl, evidently after closing time, for the clock-fingers point to eight o'clock. The artist was E. Chesshyre, who was clerk to the Commissioners of Taxes, and who was for many years a member of the club. The portrait of Molly Owen, also in oils, represents her standing near a table on which stand two bowls of different sizes. The members of to-day after drinking their single toast, play whist for the remainder of the evening. As one of our old institutions we may wish long life to "John Shaw's Club."

## **PART VII**

### **THE BULL'S HEAD INN**

Photo of 'Bull's Head Yard' in the Gallery

For more than two centuries the windows of the "Bull's Head Inn" have looked down into the Market-Place. If they could for a time become animate and tell us the story of their experiences what a thrilling tale it would be. We are endeavouring in these chapters to tell, in disconnected and imperfect fashion, somewhat of that story. In our present chapter we shall confine ourselves to the interior of the ancient inn showing how important a part it played in our town's history a century and more ago. We shall not endeavour to trace its history from remote times, nor even from 1688 when Edward Holland was host to the few strangers who visited the town. Let us rather begin with 1745 when Charles Deacon, who afterwards forfeited his head, which was exposed on the roof of the Exchange, for his temerity, issued invitations to the townsmen to meet him at the Bull's Head, there to have their names enrolled on the list of those who were prepared to follow the young Pretender on his march to London to seize the crown. Very exciting would be the appearance of our Market Place at that time, but although great promises were made to recruits and proclamations were issued against the Government, only about three hundred volunteers for service came forward, and of these it is said that not

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more than thirty were townspeople. Leaving that warlike scene, let us turn our attention to a more peaceful celebration that took place in 1768. Edward Byrom, son of John Byrom, resided at Byrom House, Quay-street, and early in 1768 he superintended the laying of the foundations of the church that he contemplated building, and which since then has been known as St. John's Church, Deansgate. The first stone was laid amidst great rejoicing on April 28th, colours flying, cannons being fired, and bells rung. In November the rearing was celebrated, the workmen, after twice walking round the building, headed by a band, were taken to the "Bull's Head Inn," where there was a very handsome dinner provided for them. On July 7th of the following year, the church was consecrated by Dr. Edmund Reene, Bishop of Chester, after which another visit was paid to the "Bull's Head." Miss Byrom, in her diary, says :- "After the



Bishop had rested himself, he was taken to the Bull's Head Inn, where was as handsome a dinner provided as could be, for all the clergy and gentlemen that attended Mr. Byrom, and other tables for the attendants, and one for the workmen."

In September, 1768, our town was honoured by the visit of Christian VII, the young king of Denmark. He was making a tour of England and put up at the Bull's Head because at no other inn in the town could he be supplied with wine. Whilst here he visited Worsley, to see the canal and the coal mines, and left Manchester for Buxton, the vehicles carrying him and his suite being drawn by fifty horses. The landlord at the time was Mr. Budworth. Neither visitor nor townspeople appear

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to have received the best possible impressions from the visit, for the former expressed his disapproval of the outlook from his bedroom window, which was on to the stocks and pillory, both of which appear to have been tenanted during his visit. The townsfolk's opinion was voiced by Aston, who wrote: -

"Three years after - it was the year sixty-eight,  
The gossips of Manchester had a great treat,  
To the custom of Princes not bowing implicit,  
The young King of Denmark paid Britain a visit;  
And wishing employment of each passing hour,  
Made Manchester one of his stops in his tour.  
When too high for all private - yet needing a bed,  
He slept - mark the honour - at an Inn, the Bull's Head,  
Where if ladies who watch'd him, through windows, don't lie,  
He romp'd with his Chamberlain like a great boy."

Before passing on to 1775 it may be noted that in the days in which political feeling ran high, after the suppression of the Stuart rising, the inn was the resort of Dr. Byrom and other leading members of the Jacobite party, and it was within its walls that many of their convivial gatherings were held. However, in 1775, for a time at least, political feeling was suspended and all parties combined in starting a movement which was fraught with great importance to our town. A number of meetings of leading townspeople were held and various suggestions discussed. At length a scheme of street improvement was drafted, and on March 2nd, 1775, a meeting was held at which a subscription was commenced for purchasing the buildings necessary for widening Old Millgate, St. Mary's Gate, and the passage leading from the Exchange to St. Ann's Square. Ten thousand pounds was the sum required and by July

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25th of the same year the secretary of the fund, Mr. John Chippendall, a member of an old Lancashire family, was able to announce that £10,771 3s. 6d. had been contributed. An Act of Parliament was obtained, and in 1777 the present Exchange-street replaced the dangerous passage which hitherto had formed the only direct means of communication between the most fashionable residential part of the town and the Market Place. On September 24th, 1781, the first annual dinner of the Manchester Grammar School was held at the "Bull's Head," when Sir Thomas Egerton, Bart., presided; but three years later a more important gathering took place. Its object was described in an advertisement that appeared in the columns of Harrop's "Manchester Mercury," for August 24th, 1784 :

"Manchester,  
August 10th, 1784.

The Boroughreeve and Constables of Manchester beg leave to recommend the following address to the notice of the public. The plan of establishing Sunday Schools meets with their hearty approbation ; and they should be happy, in concurrence with the principal inhabitants of the town, to lend their assistance and support to so laudable a charity. A meeting of the gentlemen who wish to promote this institution is desired on Friday, the 27th instant, at eleven o'clock in the forenoon, at Mr. Shaw's, in Bull's Head Inn. The attendance of the clergy is particularly requested.

THOMAS JOHNSON, Boroughreeve.

JOHN KEARSLEY & HENRY NORRIS, Constables

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The address referred to was a short account of the ignorance and vice prevalent in the town, and the advantages of the Sunday School system. The outcome was the first organised attempt to do what a few private individuals had already been doing on a small scale for several years. Another notable event in the history of the Inn was the appearance there on January 15th, 1788. Again an old advertisement must be our guide. The announcement is so characteristic of the period that it is well worthy of reproduction : -

“CHARLES DIBDIN.

The inhabitants of this place are respectfully informed that Mr. Dibdin, who, from a motive of gratitude, and by way of thanks to a generous public for a long and liberal patronage, previous to his embarkment for India, has fabricated an amusement, which has been allowed on all hands to be one of the most novel and entertaining ever yet offered to an audience, is now here, and means to-morrow evening, at the Bull's Head Great Room, to perform his readings, interspersed with music, in two parts, with an exordium. Further particulars will be given in the bills of to-morrow.

“It may, however, not be unnecessary to say that this entertainment, which has been eagerly courted and greatly applauded at a variety of places, and particularly at Liverpool, is exactly of that complete kind which may be said to be neither regularly dull nor ridiculously eccentric ; but a sort of medium between these extremes, tending sometimes to provoke an involuntary sigh, but much oftener a spontaneous smile, and it is added that

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the picked favourites from Mr. Dibdin's pieces make a part of it, that the remainder consists of novelty adapted to this purpose, and that the whole is written, composed, and will be sung, spoken, and accompanied by himself, there can be no doubt but this exhibition here, as it has been everywhere else, will be followed with curiosity and received with approbation.

“His performances will be given for positively three times and no more: Tomorrow (Tuesday), Thursday, and Friday next.”

We hope that our forefathers filled the Great Room on those three evenings, and that the author of “The Anchor Smiths,” “The Jolly Young Waterman,” “Lovely Nan,” “Then farewell! my trim-built wherry,” “The Token,” “Tom Bowling,” and many another fine ballad was accorded the reception that his merits deserved.

A very different type of entertainer was J Robecqui, who hailed from Bath, and who brought his “New Indian and English Fantoccini,” to perform harlequinade and burlettas, three nights per week in 1799.

Leaving the entertainers, let us glance very briefly at one of the political reminiscences of the house. In the days, when to be a Dissenter was regarded tantamount to being a disloyal person, and when the man who shouted loudest “Church and King,” “Down with the Rump,”

was often looked upon as the greatest loyalist, many innkeepers in the town stuck up the notice "No Jacobites admitted here." Soon after the proclamation of 1792 a number of broad-minded citizens suggested the opening of a fund for the relief of the sufferers by the war in

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France. As a result the following document, written by a Fellow of the Collegiate Church, and signed by many well-known residents, was circulated :

"Manchester, September 13th, 1792.

We, whose names are hereunto subscribed, being licensed innkeepers and ale-house keepers, within the towns of Manchester and Salford, justly alarmed at the treasonable and seditious conduct of a well-known set of daring miscreants, who have called a public meeting to be held on Tuesday next, at the Bull's Head Inn, in Manchester, for the avowed purpose of assisting the French savages, as well as with a sincere desire of introducing similar calamities to the inhabitants of this happy and prosperous country, as those that now exist in France, take this very necessary opportunity of publishing to the towns of Manchester and Salford in particular, and to the whole kingdom of Great Britain in general, our detestation of such wicked and abominable practices and we do hereby solemnly declare, that we will not suffer any meeting to be held in our houses of any club or societies, however specious or plausible their titles may be, that have a tendency to put in force what these infernals so ardently and devoutly wish for, namely, the destruction of this country; and we will be ready on all occasions to co-operate with our fellow-townsmen in bringing to justice all those who shall offend in any instance against our much admired and most excellent constitution."

Needless to say the meeting was not held.

Our closing reference will be to an experiment tried at

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the Bull's Head by Ryley, the Itinerant, who, after failing in many ventures, opened at the Bull's Head a debating society, under the imposing name of the "Manchester Forum." This was in 1808 when political feeling still ran high, and when such a thing as rational political discussion was out of the question. The venture, consequently, was a failure, although a few years afterwards a similar venture in Liverpool met with success.

With the increase in the number of places of amusement and meeting rooms in the town, the Bull's Head gradually lost one of its most interesting features, but sufficient has been written to show how important a part it played in the social life of the town a century and more ago.

## **PART VIII**

### **ELIZABETH RAFFALD**

Elizabeth Whitaker was born at Doncaster, but after receiving a good education she obtained the situation of housekeeper to the well-known Cheshire County family, the Warburtons, of Arley. In March, 1763, she married John Raffald, who was head-gardener at Arley. Removing to Manchester the newly-married couple at once embarked in business, the wife keeping a confectioner's shop at the corner of Exchange Alley, Whilst Raffald, along with his brothers had a stall in the Market Place for the sale of flowers and seeds. In 1766 Mrs. Raffald removed to a shop near the Bull's Head, and three years later she issued the first edition of her book "*The Experienced English Housekeeper, for the Use and Ease of Ladies, Housekeepers, Cooks, &c., wrote purely from Practice.*" The volume was dedicated to the Hon. Lady Elizabeth Warburton, her former mistress. Each copy was signed by the author, and in her introduction she states that above eight hundred persons had subscribed for copies. So popular was the book that a second edition was published in 1769, with further issues in 1773 1776, 1778, 1780, 1782,

1786, 1794, 1799 and 1806. These were all authentic, the earlier ones being published by the authoress and all after the second by R. Baldwin, of London, to whom she had sold the copyright for £1,400. In addition to the authentic editions,

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no fewer than twenty-three others were issued by other firms, the greater proportion of which were spurious. The fact that thirty-six editions of the books were published is ample proof of the merit of the work.

Mrs. Raffald's name will be long remembered as that of one of the most talented of the women of the North of England in the eighteenth century, for in addition to the work just mentioned she wrote a treatise on midwifery which was never published, and all trace of the manuscript of which has been lost; and also compiled and published Manchester's earliest directories. The first of these was a small volume of some sixty pages with a paper cover. It was published in 1772, and was issued before the system of numbering the houses had come into vogue - and some of the addresses are very vague. Thus we have such addresses as "Top of Salford," "By St. Paul's Chapel," "Top-long-sight," "By the Exchange," "Top of Shude-hill," "By Salford Chappel," "Back Salford," "Top of Long Milngate," "Bottom of Cannon-street," "Bottom Deansgate," "Top of Hunt's Bank," and "By Saracen's Head." The directory proper occupies forty-six pages, each containing an average of thirty-three names. Five pages are filled with "an alphabetical list of the country tradesmen, with their warehouses in Manchester," after which we have the list of the officers of the Infirmary and Lunatic Hospital. There is an alphabetical list of the "Crofters or Whitsters," and particulars concerning the stage coaches and waggons starting from the town. We have also lists of the "vessels to and from Liverpool on the Old Navigation," and the Duke of Bridgewater's vessels;

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a note as to the "Manchester Bank and Insurance Office" the names of the Justices of the Peace in and near Manchester, seven in number; and the names and addresses of the "Committee for the Detection and Prosecution of Felons, and Receivers of Stolen or Embezzled Goods." Taken altogether it is a very interesting little volume, and a perusal of it provides many notable glimpses of the little but thriving town. A second edition of the directory appeared in 1772, and a third in 1781. In 1788 Edward Holme compiled an edition which was followed in 1794 by Scholes' directory, a second issue of which was published in 1797. Banck's directory was issued in 1800, Dean's in 1804 and 1808; and in 1811 appeared the first of the long series which bear the names of Pigot and the Slaters. The directories of 1772, 1773 and 1788, have been re-issued in recent years. When Mrs. Raffald published her first directory, she and her husband were keeping the "King's Head" Inn, Salford, although the Market Place shop was continued. It is unknown how long the Raffalds lived in Salford, but it could not have been very long, for in Harrop's "*Mercury*" we find the announcement of her death. This took place on April 19th, 1781, at the Exchange Coffee House, in the Market Place. She was buried at Stockport Parish Church. Husband and wife appear to have had separate business concerns, for only a month after her death it was announced that John Raffald had assigned his property to his creditors, and that in accordance with the deed his household goods and furniture at the Coffee House, together with the remainder of the term of lease of tenancy would be sold. In this way he seems to have

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released himself from his debts, and succeeding to his wife's estate went to London, "lived a gay life" for some years, spent all that he had, and returned to Manchester with a second wife, a poor illiterate creature, who was usually called "Molly" in the family. Such is the summary of Raffald's middle period of life as given by John Harland. After his return he became a reformed



character and joined the Methodist body. He died at the advanced age of 89, and was interred in the graveyard of Trinity Chapel, Salford.

His brothers, James and George, were gardeners and seedsmen, and kept the only seed shop in Manchester, at the bottom of Smithy Door, nearly opposite to the shop of Mr. Brereton, the druggist. As a portion of the original premises of Mr. Brereton survived to within a few years ago in the tenancy of Mr. Griffiths Hughes, the situation of the brothers Raffald's shop can be approximated. James Raffald lived at the top end of Greengate, Salford, where he had extensive gardens. The site of the gardens is now covered with King-street, Queen-street, Bury-street, and adjacent thoroughfares. A curious story was told about James Raffald's son. One day in the nursery gardens he told his father that he would go to sea, which so annoyed the parent that snatching up a spade, he said, "I'll cut you down if you tell me that." However, he went to sea, and some time afterwards his apparition was said to have appeared to his mother at the stall in the Market Place. This took place about mid-day, and it was afterwards discovered that the son was drowned on that same day and about the same hour. Soon afterwards the father died, and

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the widow was taken in hand by the Parochial Authorities who took possession of her property. George Raffald, who was a partner at one time in the Market Place stall, lived at Stockport, built the Arden Arms, Millgate, and amassed considerable wealth.

One further item concerning Mrs. Raffald remains. On July 4th, 1780, the following public announcement was made.

"The ladies' stand on Kersal Moor will be opened on Wednesday next for the accommodation of ladies and gentlemen of the town and neighbourhood of Manchester, where coffee, tea, and chocolate, strawberries, cream, &c., will be provided every Wednesday and Friday during the strawberry season. By the public's most obliged and humble servant, Elizabeth Raffald."

In those days breezy Kersal was a popular resort for Manchester people, and for many years the races took place there. It was also the scene of many pleasant excursions during the summer months, and this fact would account for Mrs. Raffald making the venture referred to. We have no means of knowing how it prospered, but it could not have been continued beyond the one year, for the proprietress died in 1781.

### **PART IX**

#### **THE RESIDENTS OF 1772**

Nearly sixty years ago an old resident wrote a short account of the Market Place as he remembered it when a child. He gave a list of most of the then residents and added a few interesting details concerning some of them. In this chapter I reprint his reminiscences, together with additional notes that will tend to add to the interest attaching to them. The quotations are placed within inverted commas.

"Beginning with Old, or Short Millgate, the first shop, which stood where the street is now, was kept by a man named Cavendish, who removed to St. Ann's Place. The next was Messrs. Clarke, the booksellers, who originally came from Cumberland. The next was Battersby's, the yarn agent; it is now the Falstaff; he kept his carriage. The next was a little breeches maker, a Quaker, I forget his name. The next was a stationer and printer, named Falkner, afterwards Falkner and Birch; the latter a school-fellow of mine. For their politics they were obliged to emigrate to America. The knot and bridle used to hang at their door, as a terror to the scolding butter women in the Market Place."

Abraham Clarke was the best known bookseller of those days. He died in 1775, and was

succeeded in the business by his nephew Isaac, who died in 1816. Isaac lived in Ainsworth's Court, Long Millgate, a

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narrow street long since removed as a consequence of Grammar School extensions. The mention of the publishing offices of Falkner and Birch, reminds me that soon after the publication of 'the "Church and King" document referred to when dealing with the Bull's Head, a proclamation was issued by the Government which was followed by meetings in the town at which war with France was urged. The members of the Reform Party were opposed to such a policy, and on March 11th, 1793, a riotous mob assembled in front of the offices of Falkner and Birch, who were the printers of the "Manchester Herald," and amidst cries of "Church and King" attacked the house and shop with stones and brick-bats, until the windows were all broken, and other damage done. As showing the strength of political feeling in those days it may be said that when some of the other residents asked the deputy-constable to interfere, he said, "They are loyal subjects; let them alone; let them frighten him (Matthew Falkner) a bit; it is good to frighten this people"; and when some officers attempted to do their duty, he said, "Come away, damn the house, don't go near it." The results of the attack were that the newspaper was abandoned, and Mr. Falkner left the town and went to America, where he remained until 1806, when he returned to England. He settled down in Burnley as a stationer and bookseller, and died there in 1824 in his eighty-sixth year.

The bridle referred to as hanging at Falkner's door would be the scold's bridle, which was an iron frame which opened on hinges and fitted over the head. An iron plate, projecting from the front portion was placed

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in the mouth in order to prevent the prisoner from speaking. In some cases the plate was fitted with a spike which would lacerate the tongue if that organ was moved. The scold, with the bridle so fixed, was marched round the Market Place and through the streets with a rope, pretty much as a dancing bear is. The late John Wilson, town clerk of Congleton, used to describe how, as a boy, he saw a woman so fettered, led through the streets of that town. Continuing the reminiscences we read that :

"The next shop was the barber's shop kept by Philip Worrall, an eccentric character; he was check-taker at the box-door at the theatre in Spring Gardens; his benefit was always the 'Jealous Wife,' and 'Big Banks' played Major Oakley for him. A countryman coming in to be shaved one Saturday, Phil charged him a penny. 'I pay no more than a haupenny a whoam.' 'Well,' says Phil, 'I can shave for that.' Next week the man came again, Phil lathered his face, shaved one side, and then pulled off his cloth. 'Whoy, yone only shaved one side.' 'Ay,' says Phil, 'that's a hauorth.' Next door was the Bull's Head, kept by Alsop; his entertaining rooms were on both sides the gateway. Next was a tallow chandler's where my master dealt; I think the name was Wroe. I don't remember the next; but going past the Angel Yard was Wilson's, a linen draper; John Lowe was an apprentice with him, late of Cannon Court and Shepley Hall, near Hooley Hill. Then comes Mrs. Cooke, druggist, where George Vaughan was apprenticed. I don't recollect who kept the next shop, but it had been kept by Whitworth, a printer and auctioneer; I knew his widow who lived and died in Tib

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Lane. Harrop's '*Mercury*' Office was the next; and the Dog and Partridge, kept by one, Ainsworth; and the then Carrington and Crossley's, afterwards Fawcett's. These premises were, in old deeds, taken together, and called "Whitehall."

Philip Worrall prior to his tenancy of the Market Place shop, carried on business in Blue Boar

Court, where he made the acquaintance of Ryley, the Itinerant, who, in one of his interesting volumes, gives us his impression of the genial barber and ticket collector. Contrasting Worrall's kindly treatment of him, with the chilling reception he met with in richer quarters of the town he says: 'The eccentric Phil Worrall, too generous ever to be rich, frizzled away as usual, singing queer songs to the tune of 'Martha Shave Me.' " In 1790 misfortune overtook Worrall, and breaking down in health he lived for some years amidst the rural beauties and quietude of Ardwick Green, where he died on April 4th, 1811. Extended references to Whitworth and Harrop, will be made in a later chapter; but a few words may be said here about John Cook and his business. In the directory for 1772 we find John Cook described as a grocer and druggist, carrying on business at Front Salford; but in 1773 he had removed to 12, Market Place, where he is described as a druggist and seedsman. In 1788 the business was carried on by Ann Cook, presumably the widow of the druggist, and after her death the business was sold. After many changes the business then carried on at 51, London Road, was purchased by Thomas Kerfoot, nearly half a century ago, and to-day a

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preparation made originally in the Market Place in 1772 is still made by Mr. Kerfoot at his Works at Bardsley Vale. Carrington and Crossley were dealers in hardware and toys, their successors in the tenancy being Fawsitt and Sade, silver-smiths. When Market-street was widened, the whole of the site of the shop was added to the street. The shop door, which was at the corner of Market-street and Market Place is represented by the pavement in the middle of Market-street.

"Crossing over and avoiding Market-street Lane was Travis, the ironmonger ; then Rawlinson, a barber, whose house was in Marsden-street, adjoining a cellar bakehouse; next a watch-maker, from whom I bought a watch; then old Prescott's, printer and stationer. Omitting the passage to Rushton's punch-house, Mrs. Budworth kept the coffee and dining-rooms over several of these shops, and it was in the room over them that Captain Mounsey was killed in a duel, fought with swords by Captain Hamilton, after they had been baiting a badger at Falkner Phillips's, at Badger Hall. Next was Whip's, the saddler, close to Acres Gates, where only one cart at a time could come out of St. Ann's Square, and to make it worse, there was a wooden staircase on one side to a room above, under which was a cobbler's stall, to work in, that no room might be lost. Where Exchange-street is now was Newton's, the bookseller, where the gentlemen of the town used to go to know what the bells were ringing for. Newton's was under the old coffee-house, and then the coffee-house entry, which was better known as Fox entry, from the public-house with that sign, also from Mr. Fox, the tea-dealer, living

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in a little court in it. His shop came to the front of the market. The firm was afterwards Jones, Fox, and Co. Jones had a tea warehouse in Market-street Lane at this time, and the bank up the passage. Greaves was their clerk, and a brother-in-law of mine was an apprentice with them."

The shops dealt with in this section occupied the site of a portion of the Exchange and Exchange-street. They were a picturesque, if inconvenient, range of buildings, inasmuch as under them were the only means of direct communication between St. Ann's Square and the Market Place. John Prescott, the printer, carried on business for some years at Old Millgate, where he published "Prescott's Manchester journal," a twopenny weekly paper, the first issue of which appeared on March 20th, 1771; the latest known copy being dated December 8th, 1781. He afterwards removed to Bedford, near Leigh, where he died, aged seventy-eight, in 1811. The duel referred to was the subject of inquiry by a Coroner's jury, who acquitted Captain Hamilton; and Captain Mounsey, who was buried at St. John's Church, was given a public

funeral. Two brothers, Thomas and William Newton, were the best known booksellers in the North of England, a hundred and forty years ago. When William married in 1762 the event was duly chronicled in the local newspapers in the following terms : - "On Tuesday last was married at the Collegiate Church, Mr. William Newton, bookseller, to Miss Farren, an agreeable young lady with a handsome fortune." The coffee house was an interesting institution familiar with many generations of

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Manchester folk. When it was removed in 1777 it was known as the old coffee-house, but a century earlier it bore the name of the "Eagle and Child." As such it was visited by John Taylor, the water-poet, who in his "Pennyless Pilgrimage," published in 1618, and reprinted about forty years ago by the Spencer Society, refers to it in the following lines : -

" I lodged at the 'Eagle and Child,'  
Where my hostess (a good ancient woman)  
Did entertain me with respect not common."  
~ ~ ~ ~ ~  
So Mistress Saracole, hostess kind,  
And Manchester with thanks I left behind."

In the Collegiate Church register, under date April 29th, 1628, appears the entry, "Robert Saracould, of Manchester, innkeeper," probably the husband of Taylor's hostess. In those days the house was evidently an inn, but by 1708 it had become known as the "Eagle and Child" Coffee-house, and for many years the Commissioners in Bankruptcy met there, as is evident from many entries in the "Gazette" of the day. The Mr. Fox who was the tea dealer in the passage under one of the coffee-house rooms, had a son William, who became head of the old firm of solicitors known as Fox, Sharpe and Heelis, which in a later generation became Slater and Heelis. Mr. Fox, after middle life, left the legal profession and became a partner in the banking concern of Jones, Fox and Co., which afterwards became Jones, Lloyd and Co., whose banking premises in King-street still survive.

"Resuming our tour of the Market Place and crossing the end of St. Mary's Gate we leave 'old Chrysor,' the grocer, and at times a non-juring preacher, to Mr.

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Booth's, the hairdresser, afterwards Booth and Boardman. Booth became a gentleman commissioner under Pitt's Income Tax. Next was Saunders, the clockmaker, and Cockbain's the boot-maker; I went to school with his son; one of his descendants is now in Piccadilly, then the Queen Anne Gateway. Carrington was the landlord. He went into the cotton trade, and at Liverpool, to have an easy death, ordered a warm bath, opened some veins, and fell asleep. The next was an old woman who sold herrings, red and white; also black and white puddings for which I was a customer. Then came Heywood's, the great china shop. I will now cross over to the 'Three Boars' Heads', Peter Fernhead's. Good sound ale was sold there, and workmen sometimes got a drop too much. Check calender-men had then ten shillings and sixpence per week, and fustian calender-men only nine shillings. One of the former, having been at Peter's, fell down; and it having been a rainy day, and a hard frost chopping in at night, he lay with his feet in the channel, and being quite moonlight, he was found before morning with his feet fast. A passer-by seeing him, awoke him, and he, looking up, saw the moon shining, and taking it for his wife disturbing him, said, ' Put out that candle, and lay some more clothes on my feet.' After this was Kent's, the watch-maker. I have forgotten a shop or two further on, but they were under Crompton's coffee-house, from which to the Exchange was only a narrow cart-way; and it



was said, Deacon's and Tom Syddall's heads were taken off the spikes one night from the roof of Crompton's house. When the Exchange was bought by Upton, in

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Church-street, and pulled down, the stones and materials were carried to about Shepley-street, and I saw the spikes both let into one stone. I think the next shop was Barton's, a noted good watch-maker. Now we are at Peter Berry's auction room, and his grocer's shop, selling goods by day and books at night. I was sometimes a customer. Then Fowler's, the stocking shop. I think there was another before we came to the corner, a man-mercier's, called Byrom's shop. I once saw him at the corner standing, and as some gentlemen then wore narrow gold lace on their hats, as well as on their waistcoats, he had on one of that sort. When the King of Denmark came here, his carriage was the only one fit for him; there were then but three in the town, Bailey's, Bradshaw's, and Byrom's. I come to the old Market Cross with its stocks, pillory, nick-named the tea-table, upon which I have seen them dance when whipped by the beadle."

This brings us back to the corner of Old Millgate, after an interesting tour of the old Market Place.

Before closing the chapter a few additional notes may be made. I hope to give some account of Kent's, the old-established watch-making firm, in a future chapter; and no further note concerning the first Exchange is necessary, except that in the name of John Upton, who evidently had a yard in or near to Shepley-street, we have the probable origin of the street name Upton-street. The shop referred to being known as Byrom's, was the present black and white structure known now as the "Wellington." The building is one of the few interesting specimens of the black and white type of building remaining to us, and is still owned by the successor to

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the Byrom estates. As showing the long connection between the members of the family and our Market Place a quotation may be made from the Court Leet records for May 16th, 1692. 'We are told that Edward Byrom, of Manchester, milliner, was "stallinged and installed in one stall, stallinge, or standing roome, at or neare the Crosse, in the Market Place." We thus see that more than two centuries ago a member of the family was in business in the town, and was occupying the old building still remaining to us.

to be continued

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From Mike Hoddy (see August newsletter for first chapters and more details)

This manuscript was an account written by Frank Pogson of Oldham that describes his life in Oldham from the early 1920s to 1939. It was mostly around the Derker area and the 3rd Oldham Boys Brigade at Hope Congregational Church. Mike's own family members had been associated with the B.B. since 1904.

We're happy to serialise Frank's story, in the newsletter.

CHAPTER XIII

WINTER WONDERLAND

Oldham Wakes, the main holiday of the year, often marked the end of the summer, for while it began on the last Saturday in August, the weather was frequently cold and wet, or so it seemed. With similar weather at other times of the year, people often spoke of it as 'Oldham Wakes Weather' and everyone knew just what was meant. There often followed a milder spell of autumn days but, as the old folks put it, 'the nights were drawing in'. Soon, British Summer Time ended and for a short period while the mild evenings persisted, we children were allowed

to play out for a short time in the dark.

We met in Gordon's shed and huddled round a candle lantern which had cost sixpence at Woolworth's Store. We welcomed the seclusion and anonymity the darkness afforded. We wandered a distance away from home, making progress in the shadows so that an imaginary enemy might have difficulty in locating us. We shinned up walls of Sunday School buildings and were only disturbed when we caught a glint of a policeman's helmet badge or belt buckle in the gas lit street. We ran, fearful lest we were pursued by him.

This period of the year offered greatest opportunity for practical joking. For some reason which is unknown to me, Hallowe'en was never celebrated at all although my father had recalled that it had been known as 'Mischief Night' when he had been a lad. Many pranks were classic and had been handed down over the years. In some terraces, the front doors of the houses were side by side. To tie the two door knobs of each door with a piece of rope and then knock on each of the doors was more frequently considered than actually done. The imagined contest between the neighbours was often sufficient to stimulate our puerile minds into mirth. Another prank involved sticking a pin into the window frame of a house with a button on it set close to the pane. To the button was tied a lone piece of black thread. There would be sufficient spring-like tension in the pin to enable the thread to be gently pulled and released allowing the button to tic-tac on the glass. It was hoped that the occupant would come to the door and see nothing of the thread or those hiding at the other end of it. This prank also was often planned but rarely practised.

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Pranks were endless but much depended upon the layout of the streets and houses. End terraced houses came in for more than their fair share of unwanted missives or knocks on the door before the kids ran away. We fired black peas from our peashooters into the gas boiler steam vent of one such end house and could just about hear the peas rattling round the boiler before we ran. In other areas, other opportunities presented themselves such as placing 'dolly blue' in the holy water at the entrance of a Roman Catholic Church. There was none in our locality and so we were not guilty of that prank.

As the Fifth of November approached, boys made preparations for their Bonfires. The practice of 'Cob-coaling' varied from District to District of the North West but in the Derker area of Oldham, the opening lines which were sung by a group of lads assembled at someone's front doorstep, were as follows :

"We've cum a cob-coalin' for bonfeyre time,
Yer coal and yer money we hope you enjoy,
Fol-o-day, fol-o-day, fol-o-diddle-i-doh-day.
Down in yon cellar ther's an owd umbrella,
There's nowt on yon cornish but an owd pepper-box,
Pepper-box, pepper-box, mornin' tll neet,
If you'll give us nowt, we'll steal nowt
But bid you good neet."

This was followed by recited lines :

"Up a ladder, down a wall, a cob of coal will save us all,
If you haven't got a penny, a ha'penny will do,
If you haven't got a ha'penny, God bless you."

There then followed all kinds of nonsensical ditties about an Indian woman whose hair was sky-blue-pink. Of Bakers' shops and an unidentified person rejoicing in the name of N[xxxx] Sam.

The occupants of the house were then invited to make a contribution to the lads' bonfire, usually in cash. I was banned by my mother from joining such fund raising ventures. She said that it was 'cheeky' and resolutely refused to contribute to any cob - coalers who were foolish enough to waste their breath outside our front door. Sad to relate, I was once disobedient. I went off with George and his older brother around the streets of the locality calling at a number of houses. Much to my surprise, we actually raised almost a shilling in coppers. What happened to the money had nothing to do with bonfires or fireworks. It was usually spent on sweets at the nearest shop remaining open.

People organised their own bonfires in the back-alleys and on crofts of the town. They were supervised according to the various degrees of responsibility shown by parents. Once again, it was the anticipation of the event which

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gave greatest pleasure. Our fathers let-off our fireworks and our mothers made parkin, a cake made of treacle and oatmeal was traditional as was home made treacle toffee. Later, after all the fireworks were spent, the toffee and the parkin eaten, the adults withdrew leaving us sitting around the glowing embers of a once magnificent fire. We told ghost stories and, of course, gave away the usual useless information we had managed to pick up. The sky still glowed red and the air was filled with the smoke of innumerable bonfires held across the town to celebrate the memory of one man who at least went to Parliament with a positive idea. We were fortunate to be free from accident for so many indiscriminate fires and fireworks were undoubtedly dangerous. The present day growing practice of holding organised bonfires is much more sensible though much less personal than those which I enjoyed in our back alley as a lad.

Occasionally on a Saturday evening, I would be taken to hear the Market Traders or "Barkers" on the Tommyfield Market. They sold a variety of wares by the light of pressure lamps as the Market continued in business until 8 or 9 o'clock. Some people deliberately went at that late hour in order to pick up bargains of perishable foods at knock down prices.

As Christmas approached, the Salvation Army was in evidence around the streets of the town centre where its Band played the traditional carols. The most touching sight, however, was of the Boys Band from Buckley Hall Orphanage, Rochdale. These boys in their somewhat outlandish velvet garb had marched all the way from Rochdale so I was told, playing marches and carols in order, to raise funds for the Orphanage. I should imagine that no coach awaited them at the end of march to Oldham, only the daunting prospect of a march back to Rochdale. Buckley Hall is now a Detention Centre filled with youthful delinquents. The spirits of former residents must smile wryly as the 'tough' regime is enforced today.

Well before Christmas, however, we children had been encouraged to purchase and plant bulbs in pots in readiness for the Annual Spring Flower Show to be held the following year in Werneth Park. This was organised by the Beautiful Oldham Society. If the title of that Society now sounds incongruous for those grimy days, certainly no one thought of it as such at the time. Practically every child in Oldham must have joined at one time or another, Paying a penny for a certificate of membership and another penny for a celluloid covered badge. There was immense Civic pride and later, when Civic Weeks were held, adults as well as children sincerely believed that the Borough had the finest Police Force; the finest Fire and Ambulance Service; the finest tramway and bus fleet, baths, parks and water supply. With such pride about, we children did not dare drop any litter in the Street.

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Christmas preparations began early but were by no means as lavish as they were to become after the war. Visits would be paid to local shops which organised Christmas Clubs. Goods were laid on one side for customers until payment had been completed by instalments before

Christmas. There was no easy credit.

Going into the town centre became more exciting as, in addition to the regular toy shops, certain other stores, usually furnishers, went into the toy business for Christmas. The shop windows were decorated and Father Christmas might be visited in King Street Stores. Once I was taken to see him at Lewis's Store, Manchester where his Grotto seemed to be out of this world to me for never before had I witnessed such animated displays as I passed through the Grotto before meeting the great man himself. The streets of the town seemed to be busier than ever and often in the gutter would be a string of sandwich board men in line if not always in step. They advertised the programmes on offer at local cinemas and theatres. A donkey-cart also slowly progressed round the town with boards displaying similar advertising material.

As Christmas drew near, we sang advent hymns and carols in morning assembly at School. No School hymn-books or carol sheets were available and we were expected to find our own hymn-books from home. The assortment was great but we each had our own method of finding the right carol. The only book I could find at home was a Methodist Hymnal. I have no idea where it came from since we had no Methodist connection whatsoever. The Junior School parties were enjoyed as various groups and individuals including Amy, performed. The boys made considerable effort to avoid being forced to dance with the girls. Finally, School broke up and we had a few days of great anticipation before the great day arrived.

I recall a Christmas when I was quite small. There was magic in the air that Christmas Eve as I was put to bed. Soon I was comatose yet, I heard the Heavenly Host singing "Christians Awake". Church Choirs were on the streets after midnight singing in their four parts. They crept up silently and then faded away again. Later came the sweet strains of a brass ensemble playing a local traditional tune for Christmas known as "Silver Hill". The sweet and heavenly music floated on the air all night until I woke up in daylight and father was bringing up the pillow case in which were toys, books, games, sweets and always, an apple, an orange and a new penny on which was the date of the coming New Year.

We had an artificial Christmas Tree which was set up annually a week or so before Christmas. The candle holders on it were filled but only very occasionally were the candles lit. They were extremely dangerous but electric fairy lights were a long way off for most ordinary folk and electricity remained expensive.

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I was allowed to play with my new toys on Christmas morning unless it was Sunday, when I had to go to Church and Sunday School. After lunch, it became more difficult to play as mother hastened to complete her preparations before the arrival of Aunty Ruth and her family. The turkey was in the fire oven and it had to be regularly basted. My father and my male cousins were all Rugby League enthusiasts and so they had gone to support Oldham who always played Swinton at home on Christmas Day. Sometimes, I would be taken out of the way by an older female cousin as she went to lay a holly wreath on the grave of one of her paternal forbears. My parents did not follow this practice of laying holly wreaths on family graves at Christmas but many families did.

We sat down to the traditional fare but I consistently gave rise for concern as I then preferred jelly and trifle to turkey and stuffing. A modest bottle of sherry might be available in the home but mother always made a most palatable ginger wine. After tea, the men might consume one or two bottles of beer and the younger ladies might be enticed to try a bottle of this new fangled mousec. It was all very modest and restricted, probably by the economic situation as well as temperance conditioning. The adults played some simple party names and as I grew older, I gave a slide show in the kitchen using what had been my Uncle Stanley's Magic Lantern. By that time, it had been converted from oil lamp to flash light. My screen was the calico roller blind

above the slop-stone. The stone being just that. A slab of stone chiselled out into a shallow trough from which water drained away down a pipe without a U-bend. A washing-up bowl was our kitchen sink and our bathroom washbasin. I was put to bed tired but happy and able to look forward to at least another week of holidays from School.

New Year's Eve was always an anticlimax for I somehow expected the same sort of magic to be in the air as at Christmas. It never was although the strains of a brass ensemble could often be heard playing certain traditional hymns and wassailing melodies. Most bands at Christmas and New Year split up into small but balanced groups in order to cover a wider area. They collected money for band funds and also to assist some of the instrumentalists who were out of work. New Year's Day was a real let down for, unless it was Sunday, people went to work and the mills which had not closed for good were in full production.

As I approached my teens, New Year's Eve took on a new look as mother made a potato pie supper and Uncle John, the one who got on, Auntie Florrie and her sister and husband and sometimes their grown up children came to our humble home. Uncle John spoke entirely without accent but on these occasions he loved to revert to a broad Lancashire dialect as he recited Laycock's poems and had

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us singing such songs as, "A lift on the way.....so hap'ly gi some puir owld soul, a lift on the way."

Once the Festive Season was over, we could expect the worst of the weather and as the first few snow flakes drifted down my father might be heard to say, "They are plucking the geese in Yorkshire again." I do not remember ever experiencing a White Christmas as a child although I always hoped for one but heavy falls of snow could be expected, almost without fail, in January, February or March. High winds often caused the snow to drift. Labour was still cheap and very quickly the main roads of the town were cleared and the snow heaped at the roadside later to be carted away and dumped. In the side streets, everyone carefully shovelled the snow from the pavements outside their homes on to the roadside and the few who did not follow this custom were privately reviled. I felt very much for the horses as from time to time one would fall and break a leg. I was a sensitive child and seeing a poor horse lying on the cold sets upset me no end. I hurried away for I could not hang around like some kids to see the poor beast shot.

Some mornings we would awaken to an eerie silence for no longer could we hear the sound of clogs on the pavements. Under newly fallen snow, all looked clean and bright and even Oldham looked like a winter wonderland. We rushed out into it either to School or play but we never stayed out long before Gordon was complaining about his 'chubblins'. I could not at first understand what these things were, for I did not suffer from chilblains and fortunately, never have done. In the school yard, we had snowball fights and on frosty days made slides on the compressed snow or ice. These were always known as 'slippy-curries'. Lads who wore clogs took great delight in building up snow under their clogs as it stuck to the wooden soles. Higher and higher they grew until the lads fell or the snow broke away. These were always known as 'cloggy-boggies'.

At home, the only heating in the house was the coal fire in the living room. It was sometimes very chilly in the bedrooms as we went to bed but there was always plenty of bedding and a stone or aluminium hot water bottle in bed. In the mornings there was no instant heat and before any warmth was to be felt, the fire had to be cleaned and relaid. We thought nothing of it as central heating was only expected and found in public buildings. It is an understatement but perfectly true to say, it was cold. Despite all, we generally remained in good health and if we were ill at anytime during the winter and confined to bed, we had the luxury of a coal fire in the bedroom.

Winter nights emphasized the poor lighting of homes. Originally, the gas bracket with a large incandescent mantle hung from the ceiling to one side of the hearth over father's chair. Later, we went a bit 'posh' by having a gas fitting set centrally in the ceiling which had three smaller incandescent mantles. This could be lit or turned off by pulling on the appropriate chain

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dangling from a cross arm above the lampshade. In the three other rooms, gas was not used at all although a gas bracket could be seen in each. A candle in an enamel candlestick burned all evening in the kitchen and we went to bed by candle-light. Much later, progress came when a local electrical contractor offered to install electricity with a light in each room and one power point for £5.0s.0d. The power point meant the end of taking accumulators to be recharged for the home built wireless set. Electricity was still used sparingly as it was not cheap but it was by far the best form of lighting. In the living room, the highest wattage lamp used never exceeded 75 Watts. Electricity was a big step forward in the thirties but everyone remained very careful and economy conscious and unless light was essential, families would often sit in the firelight. By comparison with more recent times, they were winters of privation yet, even that contributed an experience of value. We sat before the glowing embers of a coal fire and made real toast. Toast which tasted totally different to any made in any other way. We exercised our imaginations as we observed the ever changing scenes and figures in the glowing coals. By candlelight in the kitchen, we created shadowgraph caricatures and shapes on the blind. We played all manner of table games together as a family and with friends from tiddly-winks to table tennis.

We were not even aware of the privations of life without all mod. cons. and, remember, the only toilet was outside. It was too cold for there to be any fairies at the bottom of our backyard.
to be continued

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### From the e-Postbag

From our new reader, Pete Grubb,  
Hi Sheila,

Thanks for the welcome. Whilst I was preparing my Masters dissertation on self-improvement in the Calder Valley I transcribed a collection of evening school registers from the area. They will not be very useful to most Oldhamers but they may interest some. The spreadsheet shows the name of the school, the year of registration, student name, occupation, age and subject studied and covers (partially) 1903 to 1913. The original registers are located in the archive at Halifax library. If anyone is interested I can happily supply a copy of the spreadsheet.

The spreadsheet also includes the students' addresses.

You can contact Pete through his email address, < Pete.grubb@live.com >

Many thanks to Pete for his generous offer.

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MLFHS FACEBOOK PAGE

A short selection of entries from the MLFHS FACEBOOK PAGE [HERE](#) ...

since the last newsletter :

* Echoes of the North: Four Chapters in Time - Yorkshire Silent Film Festival
[HERE](#)

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\* 20 Christmas Party Games From Years Gone By  
[HERE](#)

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* I Love Manchester - 40 years of Manchester Arndale – how the iconic shopping centre has changed from the 70s, 80s, 90s to now

[HERE](#)

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\* Vimto - Is this your favourite drink?

[HERE](#)

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* Manchester's lost shops: A department store with a farm in the basement and the record shop at the heart of Northern Soul

[HERE](#)

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\* What toys would your ancestors have played with, what did you get for Christmas?

[HERE](#)

and more ...

[HERE](#)

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* Archives+ ... Christmas Memories Manchester 1913

[HERE](#)

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\* Legend and Loss of Hulme Hall

[HERE](#)

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* What we know as Primark in Piccadilly was once home to Lewis's, and "if something happened it happened at Lewis's."

[HERE](#)

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\* The fascinating history of a lost city centre street and the flats that sat on top of the Arndale Centre

[HERE](#)

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* The tunnel under Deansgate and Santa's grotto - memories of Kendals' golden days

[HERE](#)

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\* House Numbering - A house number is essential to deliver mail but it wasn't easy for the posties of the past. Explore the history of house numbering.

[HERE](#)

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* A blog from Chetham's Library, in 1745 Prince Charles (The Bonnie Prince) arrived at what would become his temporary headquarters in Manchester during the Jacobite Rebellion. Find out more about this and the relevant items the Library collection contains in the new blog post:

[HERE](#)

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\* For many more, visit the MLFHS Facebook Page : [HERE](#)

And [HERE](#) is the link to the MLFHS Twitter page.

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PETERLOO : the Bi-Centenary



Visit the website for **The Peterloo Project** with particular reference to Oldham, people, accounts, life at the time and more ... at [Peterloo-Manchester](#)

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Although the long-anticipated Bi-Centenary has come and gone, there are some Peterloo websites still active with history, news, photos and reports.

You can make searches on websites such as :

**Manchester Histories - Peterloo 1819** ... Manchester Histories have created a website which publicises all that is happening, or has happened, around the region.

Visit their website [HERE](#)

## Need Help!

### Oldham Local Studies and Archives

#### Opening hours are as follows:

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday 10am-5pm; Tuesday 10am-2pm; Saturday 10am-4pm.

Although it will not be essential to book your place as has been the case previously, we encourage you to consider booking in advance as this enables us to get everything ready in time for your visit, particularly if you wish to view archives. To order archives please visit :

[https://www.oldham.gov.uk/forms/form/891/en/local\\_archives\\_document\\_order\\_form](https://www.oldham.gov.uk/forms/form/891/en/local_archives_document_order_form)

If you wish to use PCs to access family history websites or to use microfilm readers, we advise you to book a place by contacting us at:

[archives@oldham.gov.uk](mailto:archives@oldham.gov.uk) or telephone 0161 770 4654.

**Local Studies and Archives at 84 Union Street, Oldham, [OL1 1DN](#),**

Archives are unique, original documents created in the course of everyday activities. Oldham's date from 1597 and cover an enormous range of subjects and activities :

- Hospital records
- Poor Law Union records
- Coroners Court records
- Local Authority records including Chadderton, Crompton, Failsworth, Lees, Oldham, Royton and Saddleworth
- Schools and education records
- Records for statutory bodies like the police force
- Church and religious records
- Business records
- Solicitors and estate agents records

- Trade unions and associations records
- Co-operative Society records
- Sports, entertainment and leisure records
- Personal, family and property records
- Society and Association records
- Records of Oldham communities

There is no charge to look at archival records although you would need to bring proof of your name and address (e.g. your driving licence) to do so.

Most archives can be produced immediately, with no advance booking required. However, some archives are stored off-site, in which case at least 2 days' notice is required in order to see them.

**Other archives may be closed due to their fragile condition, or because they contain confidential information.**

[Oldham Council Heritage Collections](#)

There are regularly changing displays in the Local Studies Library.

[Opening hours](#) and contact details.

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Website Links

Other Society Websites

Catholic Family History Society – www.catholicfhs.co.uk

Cheshire Local History Association – www.cheshirehistory.org.uk

Chadderton Historical Society (archived website) – www.chadderton-historical-society.org.uk

Lancashire Family History and Heraldry Society - <https://www.lfhhs.org.uk/home.php>

Lancashire Local History Federation – www.lancashirehistory.org

Liverpool and South West Lancashire FHS – www.lswlfhs.org.uk

Manchester Region Industrial Archaeology Society – www.mrias.co.uk

Oldham Historical Research Group – www.pixnet.co.uk/Oldham-hrg

Peterloo - [Peterloo-Manchester](#)

Ranulf Higden Society (Latin transcription) - [Ranulf Higden Soc.](#)

Royton Local History Society – www.rlhs.co.uk

Saddleworth Historical Society – www.saddleworth-historical-society.org.uk

Tameside Local History Forum - www.tamesidehistoryforum.org.uk

Tameside Local & Family History - <http://tamesidefamilyhistory.co.uk/contents.htm>

The Victorian Society - [Manchester Regional Website](#)

Some Useful Sites

GENUKI - [Lancashire](#)

Free BMD - [Search](#)

[National Library of Scotland](#) - Free to view, historic, zoomable maps of UK :

1891 - Oldham and locality [HERE](#)

Online Parish Clerk Project : Lancashire - [HERE](#)

British Association for Local History - [HERE](#)
and for their back issue journal downloads - [HERE](#)

Historic Society of Lancashire and Cheshire, website, [HERE](#)
and for their back issue journal downloads, website, [HERE](#)

Internet Archive ... The Internet Archive offers over **24,000,000** freely downloadable books and texts.
[HERE](#) There is also a collection of 1.3 million modern eBooks that may be borrowed by anyone with a free archive.org account.

Made in Greater Manchester (MIGM) [HERE](#) and Research guide [HERE](#)

Historical Maps of parish boundaries [HERE](#)

Regiments & Corps of the British Army (Wayback machine) [HERE](#)

Special Collections on Find My Past [HERE](#)

FmyP - The Manchester Collection [HERE](#)

Goad fire insurance maps of Manchester [HERE](#)

Cheshire Parish Register Project [HERE](#)

Some Local Archives

Barnsley Museum & Discovery Centre – www.experience-barnsley.com

Birkenhead – [Local & Family History](#)

Bury – www.bury.gov.uk/archives

Chester - [Cheshire Archives & Local Studies](#) (linked from Discovery at the National Archives)

Derbyshire - [Local & Family History](#)

Leeds - [Leeds Local and Family History](#)

Liverpool Archives and Family History – <https://liverpool.gov.uk/archives>

Manchester - [Archives & Local History](#)

Oldham - [Local Studies & Archives](#)

Oldham - [Oldham Council Heritage Collections](#)

Preston – www.lancashire.gov.uk/libraries-and-archives

Stockport – www.stockport.gov.uk/heritage-library-archives

Tameside Local Studies and Archives - <https://www.tameside.gov.uk/archives>

York – www.york.ac.uk/borthwick



Santa outside Manchester Central Library December 2022
St. Peter's Square, outside Manchester City Library
Manchester Wishes Everyone, "Merry Christmas!"



photo : Linda Richardson

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BULL'S HEAD YARD.

**'Bull's Head Yard' ... opposite p. 168**  
**From: Manchester Streets and Manchester Men, Series 3,**  
**by Thomas Swindells pub. 1907**

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p. 128 Manchester Market Cross

Transactions of the Lancashire and Cheshire Antiquarian Society, 1908

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*Old Lancashire Punishments*



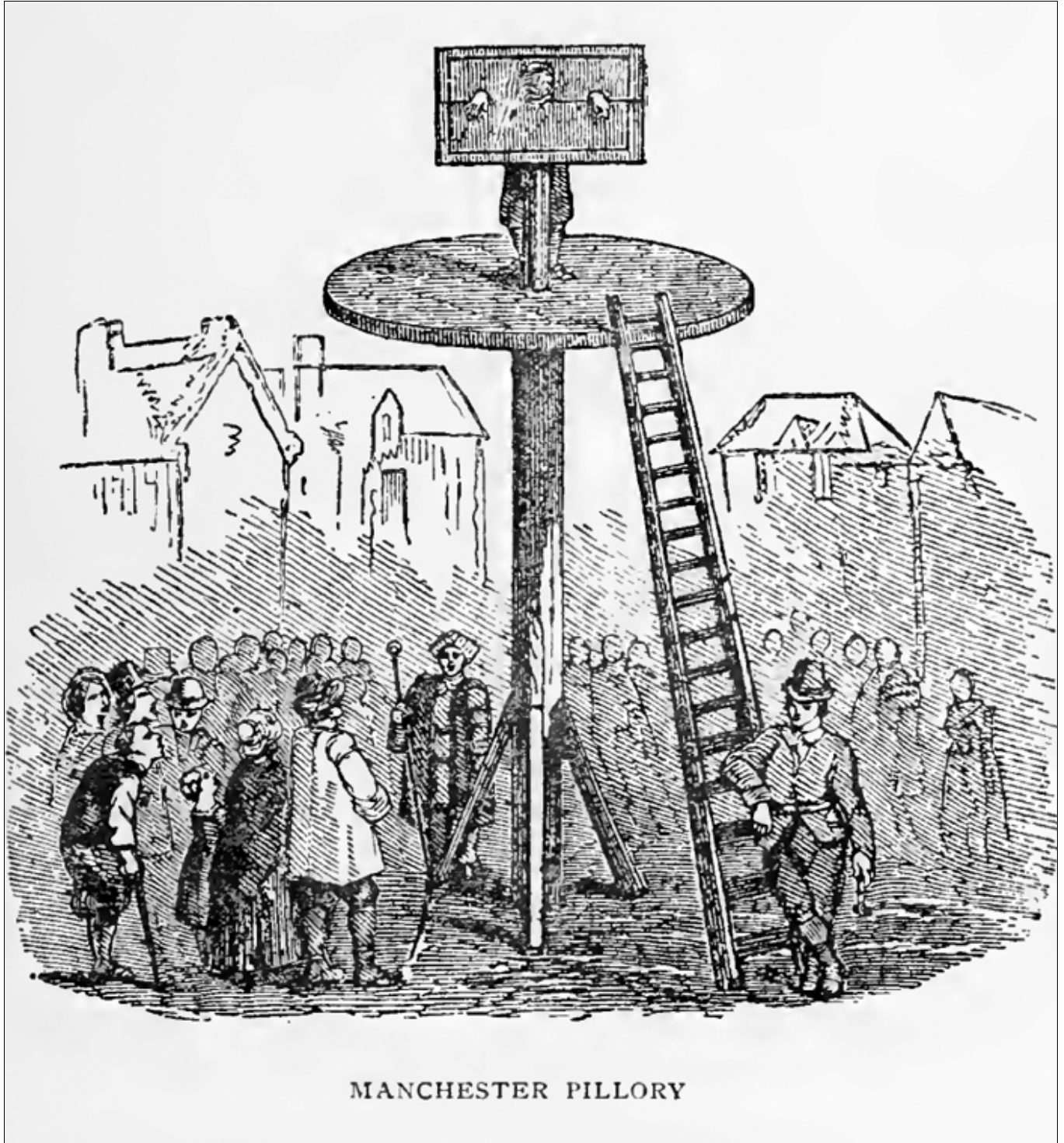
IN THE PARISH STOCKS, BY ALFRED CROWQUILL.

The stocks were considered to be essential to the preservation of law or order. Each township had to provide them for its inhabitants' use. The Manchester stocks were at the foot of the pillory, in the Market Place, and are frequently named in the Court Leet Records and in the Constables' Accounts. In 1613, a "doblee heng Locke for the Stockes" was bought, and in 1624 new stocks were provided. The Manchester Accounts of 1621 show that some criminals were enterprising and fortunate enough to escape from the stocks:

“ Item paid for hue and crye that came from horwich afr two men that made an escape forth of ye stocks for stealinge certen lynen cloth . . . ”

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Perhaps the most common punishment for venial offences was whipping. This was done by the sturdy arm of the parish constable or his deputy. A whipping [post] cost the parish from four to twelve pence.



The pillory was common in Lancashire as elsewhere in the country. Manchester, Liverpool, and Preston, as well as most of the other market towns, boasted one of these instruments. In Manchester it must have been of very early origin, for the earliest notice of it is in connection with its repair. On July 9th, 1619, the constables of Manchester “paid to Richard Martinscrofte man for mendinge the Cage & pillarie, iiijd.”

The next item in its history is that on 8th April, 1624, the jury of the Court Leet ordered "that the makinge and erectinge of a Gibbett " be referred "to the discrec'on of Mr. Steward and the Bororeve for the time nowe beinge to bee made att the charge of the inhabitants and the frameinge or fasteninge to of it or placeinge of it to them as principall officers for the lord of the Mannor." In the following year, April 6th, 1625, the jury again ordered that a "sufficient Gibbett or pillorye for the use of this towne " should be erected "in some convenient place about the market crosse." This was to be done before the 24th day of August, "sub pena xxs." The result of this order is to be read in successive entries in the constables' accounts for 1625 :

"September 16:

Paid Thomas Andrewes of Stopford for a Tree to bee a new Pillorye... 12s 06d.

Paid more to Willm. Brockhurst for bords joystes and Sparrs to the Pillorye ... 05s 08d.

Paid Symond Mather and his man for theire worke and for Smytes worke and men to helpe to reare the pillorye ... 11s 05d.

September 17:

Paid Willm. Butler for timber and Alexander Radcliffe for bastbord and for pin wood ... 04s 08d.

Paid Hennerye Pendleton and Willm. Smyth for pointinge the Crosse and for Layinge the new pillorye in Colors of oyle ... 05s 00d."

On June 9th, 1630, the Constables made a payment "for mending the pillery" of " 01s 06d."

The Manchester pillory, early in this century, was, according to a writer in the *Manchester Collectanea* (ii. 252), a movable structure. It was erected in the Market Place when necessary, and "consisted of a strong post about twenty feet high, with four stays at its insertion into the ground to support it. About ten feet from the ground was a circular stage or platform, large enough to allow several persons to stand on it. Four or five feet above this was fixed across the post, horizontally, a board about five feet long and eighteen inches deep, and in this cross piece were three holes or apertures, the largest and most central for the head, and the other two for the hands or wrists of the offender." In this prominent and uncomfortable position, the Manchester malefactor was condemned to stand for the prescribed time, whilst his neighbours pelted him with rotten eggs and other unpleasant missiles. The pillory remained in more or less frequent use until 1816, when it was finally removed.

The last time the Preston pillory was used was in 1814, when a man of about sixty years of age was pilloried for keeping a disreputable house.