



MEMORY

STORYBOOK

2022

Heritage Stories Tameside

Telling a story to each other is vital to maintaining the wellbeing of a community. Whenever we feel lonely or disconnected, familiarity and warmth can be found in recalling the memories and legends of those who have come before. Many of these stories can be found in our local archive services who collect and store a wide range of resources.

**Manchester
City of Literature**

INTRODUCTION

The Heritage Stories project sought to identify and record the important stories of three different communities in Greater Manchester. The intention was to bring together the interests of local people with the skills of their local archives thereby consolidating the life experiences of community members and extending the knowledge of those housing these memories. We wanted to start a dialogue. This publication will show examples of the activities carried out and act as inspiration for people to feel confident in recording their own heritage stories and to ask their archive and local studies centre for help.

In Tameside, the archives were partnered with Marion Coleman who is involved with Tameside & Glossop Dementia Friendly Communities, which works to support communities become dementia friendly and to improve the lives of people affected by dementia. Marion was interested in working with her local archives to find ways to use reminiscence activity to support people living with dementia their carers and families.

The Shed, a local men's group were also interested in contributing in order to support their shedders. The Heritage Stories project facilitated the creation of a number of Storybooks aimed at recording the stories of people experiencing memory loss, and to inspire others to create their own.

This booklet shares 5 of those storybooks. The first hopes to inspire residents in Stalybridge to think about how to use their town's rich heritage to support the capturing of their relative's memories. The final four are examples of storybooks that record the unique stories of individuals from across Tameside and hope to encourage people to create a resource that documents their relative's stories and therefore their family's heritage.

Greater Manchester Ambition for Ageing has supported this work through their Ageing in Place project which seeks to make places more age-friendly and encourage older people to spend time with others and build social connections. They will share the resources and case studies through their website and networks.

Please use the storybook template in this booklet to start setting down your own stories.

HERITAGE STORYBOOKS

Remembering the Past and collecting memories about life in a particular place, where you were born, lived, worked, and played can be a powerful way to reflect and celebrate a person's life. From birth to school, childhood and working life, holidays, entertainment, politics, festivals, transport, shopping, and home. Whether your memories are from 6 or 60 years ago you can tell you own personal story of local life and what it was like to live there. This can be illustrated with photos or images taken from the local archives or newspapers. It's something that can be shared with family and children and can provide a rich resource to start conversations and recall of "what things were like back then". It can be used to help those whose short term memories are failing but can remember quite clearly things from their past even if that was many years ago to them it can seem like yesterday. Being able to connect with their past can give a sense of belonging and security when it can prove difficult to make sense of the present.

Below is a set of headings that can be used as a guide on how to start and organise your "story".

Photos from the local archives have been included in each section to demonstrate how they can be used to illustrate your own personal storybook.

CHILDHOOD

Where you were born, where you grew up, your childhood and the schools you went to. The games you played and where you played.



Corner of Forrester and Canal Street
Castle Hall



Trinity School, Stalybridge, 1986



Stamford Park, The Conservatory, 1977

EVERYDAY MEMORIES

Everyday memories, the shops and markets you went to the libraries and parks, the pubs, or clubs you went to as a teenager or young adult. Your hobbies, interests the sports you played or watched.



Palace Cinema, Market Street, Stalybridge.



The Old Hunter's Tavern, Stalybridge



Stalybridge Cricket Club, 1970

SPECIAL MEMORIES

Special memories, family outings, annual events, weddings, special birthdays, celebrations and milestone events.



Whit Walks



St John's Church, Stalybridge, 1959



Filming of Yanks, The Film, Trinity Street, Stalybridge. Summer, 1978

STICK
YOUR



PHOTO
HERE

Full Name:

Date of birth:

Place of birth:

#001

Mother's name and occupation:

Father's name and occupation:

Position in family: (i.e. oldest, youngest etc.)

Names of sisters and brothers: (eldest first)

Grandparents or other family members such as aunts or uncles:



WRITE YOUR OWN STORY

Creating a storybook with/for your loved one will be an opportunity for you to bring together important memories in one place that you can use to support reminiscence and positive time spent together.

We have split the storybook into 3 main themes: childhood, important life events and leisure. There are questions to help you and/or the person you care for to identify memories. Tameside Archives will support these memories by providing relevant resources to aid the process.

PART I:

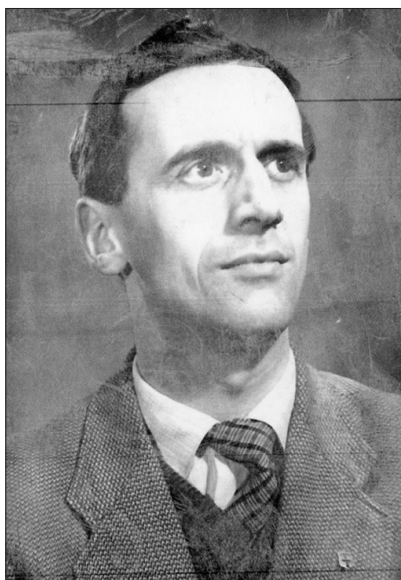
CHILDHOOD

Where did you grow up?

Where did you go to school? Favourite teachers, lessons, etc

What did you do during the holidays (trips to the seaside, etc)?

What were your favourite food/drink (sweets, mum's home cooking etc.) and where did buy things?



ROY BUCKLE

STORYBOOK

Date of birth: 06 October 1931

Place of birth: Tame Valley, Dukinfield

#002

MOTHER

Annie Arnett Buckle, eventually a picker at ICI's vinyl plant in Newton, Hyde. When she first came to Ashton-under-Lyne from Ruabon, North Wales she worked at the Park Mill on the edge of Oldham, (now Park Cake Bakeries) walking up and down Oldham Road each day from where she was lodging in Waterloo, Ashton. Later she was cleaner for Dr Selbourne's family in Hyde and also the Post Master at Stalybridge.

FATHER

Arthur Buckle, eventually a postman, out of work during 1930s, temporarily in the forces and stationed in Egypt. When Roy was in his childhood Arthur's parents lived in Bentley near Doncaster, West Yorkshire.

OTHER FAMILY

Roy's maternal Grandparents Henry Wheeler Whillock and Mary nee Jones lived in Ruabon, North Wales. Henry worked on the upkeep of the roads, hedging and ditching. Although he is known to be the son of a minister of religion who emigrated

to the USA with his wife leaving his son in the UK, Henry was unable to read and write. Roy's Mum used to say, her Mum was 'the scholar'.

GROWING UP

In Dukinfield. As far as Roy is concerned Dukinfield is the centre of the universe. He spent his life living there until he married Dawn in 1956 and they went to live in Ashton, then Oldham. Later they came back to Dukinfield, then Stalybridge and eventually back to Dukinfield again.

SCHOOL

Roy went to school at Old Chapel Infants and Junior Schools, Dukinfield. He did not sit the 11 plus examination because he thought his parents could not afford the costs of grammar school. They knew nothing about this decision he made at the age of 11. And Roy came to regret it later in life. He attended Crescent Road Secondary Modern School for Boys.

HOLIDAYS

Roy was very fortunate because not only did he go to visit his grandparents in Ruabon during the holidays, two of his Mum's sisters, Auntie Millie and Auntie Hettie settled in Fleetwood. So he had holidays in these places. Travelling to Ruabon by steam train, via Chester and to Fleetwood mostly by coach.

WORK

Roy left secondary school at 14 and started work for the Post Office as a telegraph boy on 5 November 1944 based at the Post Office in Ashton. He rode a very heavy, old, red, bicycle, often up and down the hilly Mossley Road to the barracks delivering demobilisation telegrams to the soldiers billeted there at the end of the war. He rose through the ranks and when he took retirement on ill health grounds he was Post Master at Stalybridge.

Roy was of the generation who were called up for 2 years of national service in the forces from the age of



Roy's Wedding

18-20. In Roy's case in the Royal Air Force. After initial training in Bridgenorth, Shropshire, where he was chosen to be part of the security party for the casket presented to the RAF garrison on receiving the Freedom of the Town he was not posted to some exotic place abroad but to Kirkham, near Blackpool. He was able to come home on leave to Dukinfield most weekends. He ran the camp Post Office and was promoted to corporal.

MARRIAGE

Roy and Dawn married in 1956 at Old Chapel Unitarians, Dukinfield having met through Unitarian youth events and groups. Roy's friend Eric was best man as Roy had been for him a couple of years earlier. The wedding was a bitter sweet event in that Dawn was pregnant at the time, to the horror of her parents. Becoming pregnant, unmarried in 1956 was entirely different from what it is today.



Roy in the Royal Air Force



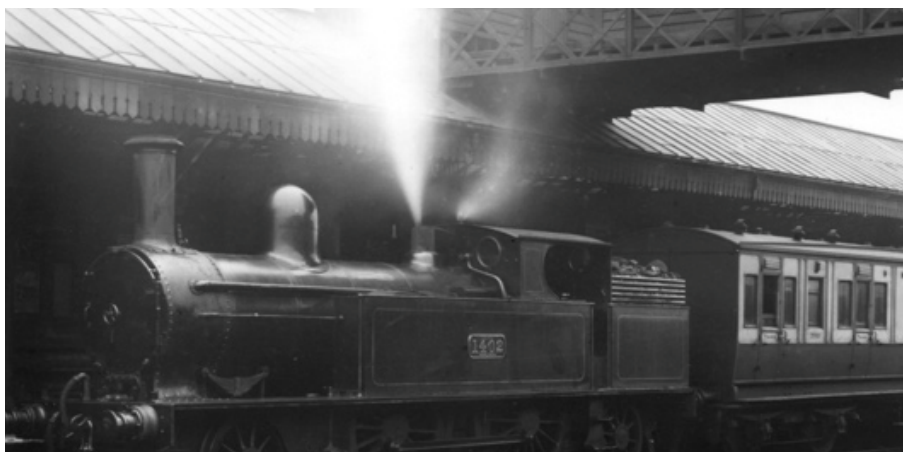
Old Chapel School, Dukinfield

CHILDREN

Dawn and Roy have one daughter Gail. Gail was born in Prestwich, Manchester near to where Dawn had lived prior to her marriage to Roy. This was so the family doctor could be on hand for the birth of the baby, Dawn was the first of the babies he had delivered.

OLD CHAPEL UNITARIANS

Roy has not always lived in Dukinfield but he has never been far away and his connection with Old Chapel Unitarians has



Stalybridge Train Station



Roy's Daughter Gail



Baby Roy



Guide Bridge Theatre

always been strong. So, he has spent his happiest times in connection with this chapel. Roy was drawn into the life of the chapel by his friend Bryan and became very active in the Unitarian Young People's League (UYPL) both locally and nationally. Whatever Roy has been involved in he has become one of the leaders. Usually, a treasurer and often president too

and this was true of the UYPL.

Roy took part in Old Chapel pantomimes, especially those organised occasionally by the Men's Group, but he was always found backstage usually as lighting electrician. He was something of an amateur expert in stage lighting and when the new chapel Community

Hall was built in 1986 he persuaded the committee to spend a considerable sum on 'proper' wiring for stage lighting. So that the Hall became known for having the best church stage lighting in Tameside. Christmas at Old Chapel was in the earlier days of their marriage a preparation for the Pantomime. The first night then was immediately after Christmas, so there was a rehearsal on Boxing Day! Roy was an important member of the stage staff being in charge of the stage lighting, of course

THEATRE

As well as the stage at Old Chapel Roy was also a member of Ashton Repertory Club in the 1950s. He renewed his interest in 1970/71 when the Club changed to Guide Bridge Theatre. He could be found helping to convert the old Fox's Glacier Mint Factory in Audenshaw into a small theatre. Roy was responsible for establishing a members' magazine 'Cue Sheet' which continues in electronic form today. He also organised talks about theatre with some very well-known names in the professional theatre and beyond as visitors including Beryl Reid, the comedian/actor.

Roy and Dawn also became members of Royal Exchange Theatre when it first opened in Manchester in 1976. Only stopping in 2018 when Roy's dementia made travelling to the theatre difficult. He soon lost concentration and fell asleep.

OTHER INTERESTS

Photography, Calligraphy



WRITE YOUR OWN STORY

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PART II:

IMPORTANT LIFE EVENTS

Are you married? Where did you get married? Memories of the day?

Do you have children? Names? Where were they born?

Memories of the place you lived the longest or spent your happiest times? i.e. the buildings, shops, local people and community?

What did you do for work? Where?



MICHAEL BARLOW

STORYBOOK

Date of birth: *16 January 1944*

Place of birth: *Hyde, Cheshire*

#002

PARENTS

Mother: Rose Barlow (nee Harper) cotton mill worker.
Father: Walter Barlow
general labourer

OTHER FAMILY

Sisters & Brothers: Walter, June & Irene.
Fraternal grandparents: John Barlow and Emma Barlow (nee Carter).
Uncle George, Aunt Dolly, Uncle Jack and Uncle Harry (Jack and Harry being half-brothers to my father).
John Barlow died in World War 1 and Emma remarried Jack Wrigley. Jack and Harry had a stepbrother called Jess.

Maternal grandparents: Richard Harper and (Mary?) Harper (Nee Woods). Aunt Sarah (Sally Harper married Jim Tooley), Uncle Wilfred

GROWING UP

Hyde Cheshire, mainly Frances St off Mill Lane, Kingston, Hyde. Our house was at the centre of the triangle making the "Kingston Stink" made of; Smith's Bone Yard, The Gasworks making town gas by coking coal and the sewerage works at the

bottom of Mill Lane.

SCHOOL

Greenfield Street primary and secondary Hyde. In Primary Miss Cruickshank In secondary Mr Birch

FRIENDS

Jack Worrell, Billy Heavies, Cousin Carl Tooley

HOLIDAYS

Morecombe Bay and Blackpool. Mainly daytrips and occasionally one week at Wakes Week
Twice each week I went to Hyde Lads' Club near The Ritz Cinema

FAVOURITE THINGS

Porridge, omelettes, cheese and cocoa

MARRIAGE

First: Married Margaret Elizabeth (nee Kelly) 1965 St Mary R C Church.
Second: married Marion Coleman 2007 Manchester Town Hall

CHILDREN

Catherine Elizabeth 8th August 1966 Ashton General Hospital. Susan Michell 20th December 1968 Ashton General

Hospital. Victoria Louise 23rd March 1970 Home (9, Kensington St, Gee X, Hyde)

PLACES

Queen's cinema Manchester Road, Hyde and Ritz Cinema Hyde – twice or 3 times each week. Mrs Maize's sweet shop before and after rationing of sweets (post-war sugar rationing). Hyde Lad's Club – reading club and chess club

WORK

Apprentice maintenance engineer at JH Radcliffe's and Wall's Ice Cream Godley Fitter at TG Martin's Gee Cross Hyde. Technician at Ashton Technical Collage. Lecturer at Tameside College of Technology. Self-employed educational consultant

WHIT WALKS

We walked with church to congregational singing on Hyde Market. A tradition was to give money to children for their new Whitsun clothes. Returning to Grandma Wrigley's house with uncles, aunts and cousins for "Sunday lunch" prepared by the

women while the men
went to the pub

BELLE VUE

We went regularly to Belle Vue for the day visiting monkey house and a ride on Jumbo the elephant

LEISURE

Season ticket holder at Manchester City, Maine Road with my brother Walter. It was necessary to tip boys in the street to “look after our car”. Ashton Palais de Danse on Old Street Ashton u Lyne with Jack Worrell, Mick Phillips and Derek Morrison most weekends. Member of a Skiffle group playing workingmen’s clubs.



Greenfield Street Primary and Secondary School, Hyde

OTHER MEMORIES

Buying my first car a
black Ford Popular 100e.
Maintaining it and keeping
it clean, a weekly ritual.



Ritz Cinema, Hyde



Manchester City Maine Road



Hyde Lads Club

D 846008

CERTIFIED COPY of an ENTRY OF MARRIAGE.
Pursuant to the Marriage Acts, 1811 to 1932.

(Printed by order of the Registrar-General.)

M. Cert.
Church.

Registration District

1935 Marriage Solemnized at St George's Church in the Parish
of St George Hyde in the County of Chester

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
When	Where	Age and Profession	Age	Condition	Rank or Profession	Parents of the Son of Marriage	Father's Name and Profession
August 2nd		Walter Barlow	25 yrs	Bachelor	Sabauer	11 Canal St Hyde	John Barlow Sabauer
1935		Rose Harper	21 yrs	Spinster		12 Canal St Hyde	Richard Harper Sabauer

Married in the Parish Church according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church by — we are Pammy me.

This Marriage was solemnized between us, { Walter Barlow } in the { James Dooly }
{ Rose Harper } of the { Local Dooly }
— — —

I, John Dooly, Minister of the Gospel, of St George's Church in the County of Chester do hereby certify that this is a true copy of the Entry No. 244th in the Register Book of Marriages of the said Church.

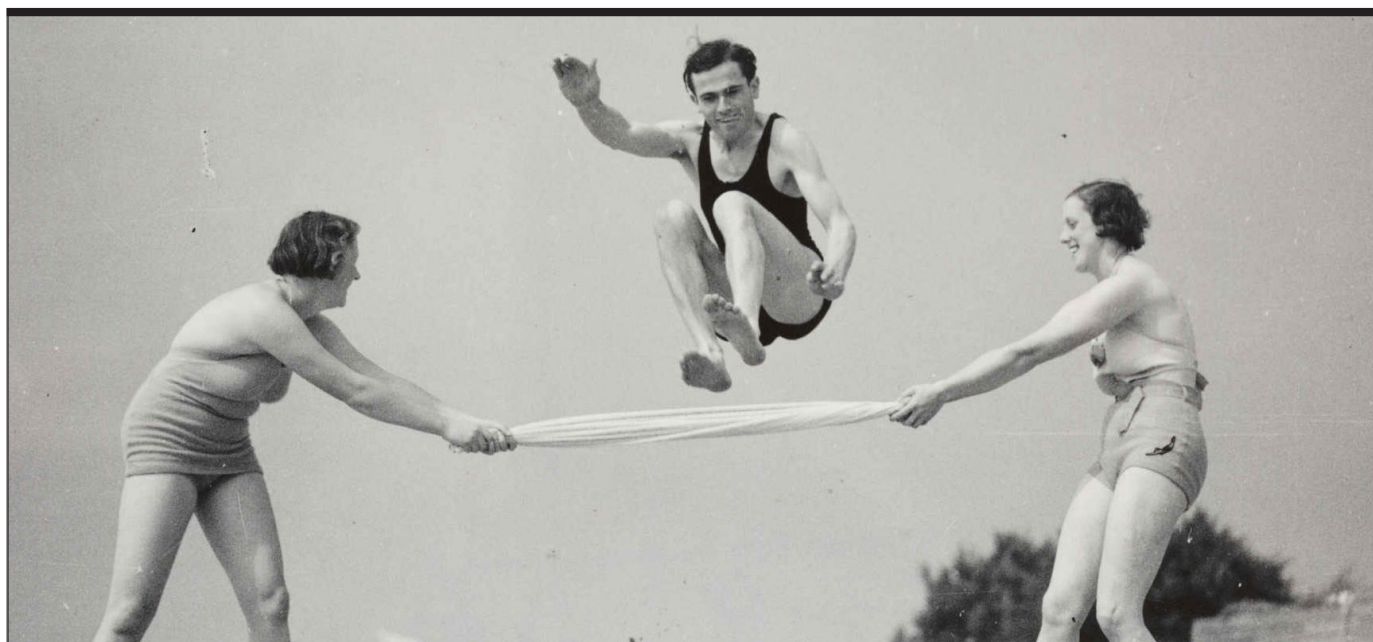
Witness my Hand this 2nd day of August.

CAUTION.—Any person who (1) surreptitiously obtains any true or false copy of this certificate, or (2) uses it as true, knowing it to be false, is liable to Prosecution.

State "Bachelr," "Mar," or "Cleric."

John Dooly

Michael Barlow's Parents' Marriage Certificate 1935



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PART III:

LEISURE

What did you do at Christmas?

Did you take part in the Whit Walks?

Did you visit Daisy Nook Fair/Belle Vue?

Did you go to the swimming pool/ play football/other sports? Where, with whom, etc

Did you go to the cinema, dance halls, pubs, working men's clubs, etc? Where, with whom?

Any other memories?



PAUL JAMES SYKES

STORYBOOK

Date of birth: 23 January 1965

Place of birth: Stalybridge

#003

FAMILY

Mother: Glenys Valerie Sykes (nee James), housewife
Father: Peter Sykes, paint shop owner
Siblings: Debora, self and Gareth
Grandparents: Kay Sykes and Jim Sykes

GROWING UP

Cockbrook, Stalybridge
School: St Mary's Catholic school Ashton u Lyne
Friends: Alan Smith, David Buckley, Paul McDermott and Derick Hall

HOLIDAYS

Football, watching Manchester City, Stock car racing nation wide
Part-time job: Paraffin boy at the Pain Pot Shop

FAVOURITE THINGS

Chippy tea, pudding and chips every time. Mum's home cooking, bacon hotpot and grandma's cowheel pie

MARRIAGE & CHILDREN

Married twice: Carole & Lynne. Children: Paul Simon Peter 1988 Tameside Hospital

PLACES

Sunnyside Grove Cockbrook. Playing football, riding bikes, conkering and building bogies and watching trains

WORK

Painter and decorator
Shop Manager and Trade manager for Blaster's wallpaper and paints on Old Street Ashton u Lyne.

In the online article Lost Shops of Ashton u Lyne "Blaster's: before B&Q most Tameside, Oldham and Rochdale DIY fanatics would consider Blaster's as their first port of call. It occupied a former removal van depot. Closure in 1994 saw the Old Street unit become a ladies' only gymnasium and fitness centre"

CHRISTMAS

Eat plenty. Stock cars
Boxing Day at Belle Vue . Spending time with my family. Serve as Alter Boy at St Mary's Church

WHIT WALKS

I carried the Crucifix at the front of the procession as altar boy behind the priest.

DAISY NOOK / BELL VUE

Winning gold fish and coconuts. Regular visits to Belle Vue with memories of riding Jumbo the elephant

LEISURE

Stalybridge baths weekly. Football as goalkeeper for St. Mary's – trial for Bolton Football Club by Will Moyer. Palace cinema in Stalybridge once a week. Stalybridge Scouts

OTHER MEMORIES

First motorbike at nine years old – BSA bantam 175 Super (not on public roads)
Racing my own stock car (No 64) at Belle Vue
Season Ticket holder at Manchester City
Annual holidays in Bridlington Yorkshire



Paul Sykes' Stock Car



NORMAN COLEMAN

STORYBOOK

Date of birth: 13 December 1922

Place of birth: Lees Court, Stalybridge

#004

My name is Norman Peter Coleman, and I was born on 13 December 1922 in Lees Court, Stalybridge a once prosperous cotton town. I was the fourth of six siblings. The head of the family was Peter my father seated in the photo (next page) and my mother Anne, not on the photo, followed by my elder sisters Ellen standing left then Annie standing right with older brother Peter next to Ellen, nicknamed Nellie and me the youngest at the time on my father's knee. Younger brothers John and Ronald not on photo came later and two other siblings Alfred aged 4 and Peter only 1 died in infancy. I was born at home at number 4 Lees court. It backed onto Bowton's Yard, made famous by the Lancashire Poet Samuel Laycock's and his poem Bowton's Yard. *"At number one, I' Bowton's Yard mi gronny keeps a skoo, she hasn't mony scholars yeat, hoo's only one or two"*

The poem talks about all the people who lived there and their daily lives. We knew them all by name

and the children all played together and were always in each other's houses, they were our friends and neighbours.

The interior of Mr and Mrs Thorpe's House who lived at number 9 Lees Court was a typical cotton workers house, like the one we first lived in. They were called one up and downers because there were just two rooms. One bedroom and one room downstairs that served both as living room and kitchen with a black leaded range. It was Annie's job to black-lead it every Friday night. It was used for cooking, heating, and drying washing. Our mother baked every day so there was always fresh bread, if you were lucky our father would toast muffins or crumpets for supper on a long toasting fork in front of the fire. No one had a bathroom, and the toilets were outside shared by several families. They were known as tipplers because you needed to tip water down them to flush them. One of my jobs was to cut newspaper into squares and thread them onto

string and hang them on a hook inside toilet for toilet paper. We didn't have toilet rolls back then.

CHILDHOOD DAYS

My early childhood memories are sitting on the curb stone during the long hot summer of 1926 during the general Strike making mudpies with my older sister and brother. I was 4 years old and had no idea what a General Strike was, but the cotton mills were silent, and nobody seemed to go to work.

I went to St Peter Roman Catholic School in Stalybridge. My mother took me to school on the first day. Face and hands scrubbed, clogs highly polished a new 'ganzy' a jersey and new short pants. The infant classes were taught by nuns as it was a Catholic school and very strict. Sister Josephine was my first teacher she took me to my classroom and found me a place to sit and there I started my education. Many of the boys had shaved heads called "pow slaps. My dad gave us a "right over top"



Mr and Mrs Thorpe's House

haircuts.

We had to entertain ourselves in those days. We went out to play at weekends and the holidays after breakfast and didn't come home 'till teatime or until we were hungry. We played outdoors in all weather, sheltering in the ginnels between the houses if it was raining. We played 'murps', that's marbles, and little cricket with a piece of wood shaped like a bat and a ball. We made catapults with "Y" shaped pieces of wood and piece of elastic and collected conkers and had conker competitions to see who had the strongest conker. We made boogies out of bits of wood and old pram wheels or an old skate and would come down steep hills like Mellor Road without brakes. We played and swam in the canal.

I would run errands on a Saturday to the Coop with my boggy for the "well to do" families on Mottram Road. This was a job passed down to me by my brother Peter when

he left school and started work. When I'd finished my errands and took the groceries back to the lady of the house I was sometimes invited into the kitchen for hot buttered toast and a cup of coffee which was a luxury so a real treat.

I spent a lot my childhood 'wagging' missing school. I would go to the school nurse with a graze (self-inflicted), on my knuckles get sent to the infirmary but instead went working on the market trying to earn a bit of extra money, carrying rolls of carpet or oilcloth for customers. Or meeting salesman at the railway station and carrying their suitcases.

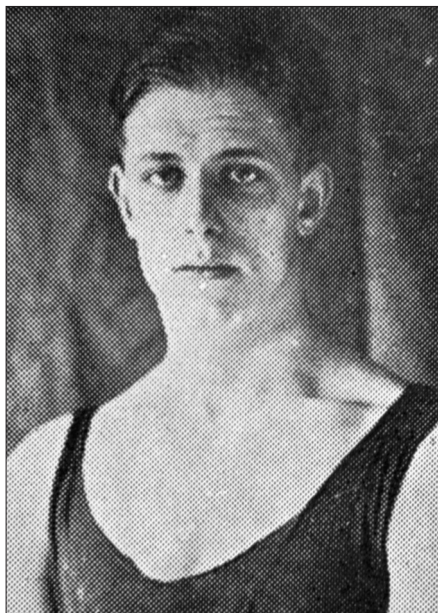
LEISURE

Stalybridge Public Baths opened in May 1870 I learnt to swim there and went as often as I could. Once I wasn't allowed in because the attendant said I was too small, and I went home upset crying, but my dad took me straight back and said to the attendant "see let him in he's a better swimmer than

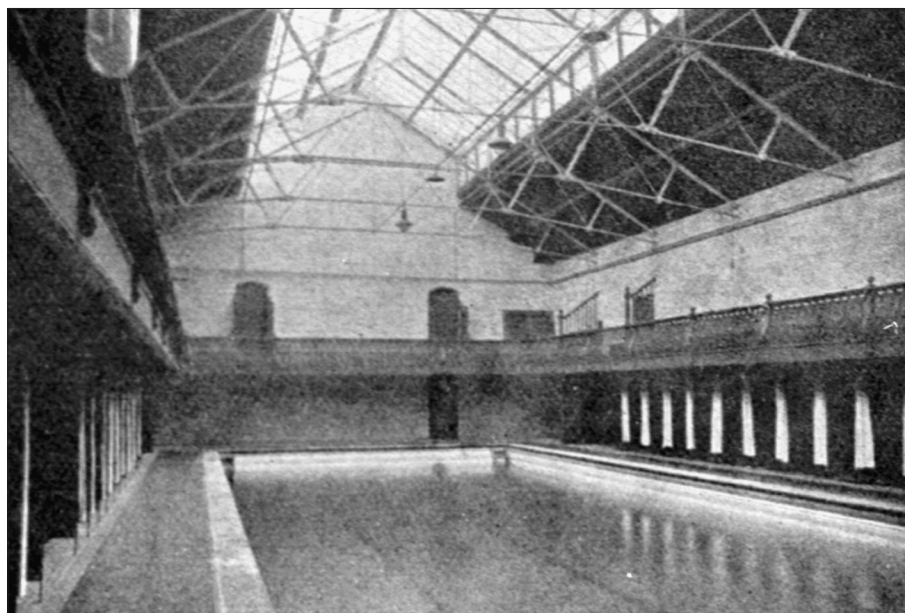


Coleman Family

you "and I was allowed in. I remember... "walking through the foot bath, wire basket clothes hangers with a number on for your clothes" and being in the Swimming Galas. When we didn't have money to get in the baths we swam in the canal. We knew where the water was warmest from discharges from the mills. There were two large swimming pools and stairs up to the balcony and lockers. We all used to dive off the high balcony into the pool when the attendant wasn't looking. The baths also had private baths called slipper baths. Most houses in Stalybridge at the time did not have bathrooms, so once a week mum and dad would go to the baths and pay for a slipper bath. Children were usually bathed once a week in a tin bath in front of the fire. We all shared the same water so my sister would go first then the youngest John and Ronnie as they were the cleanest and then me and Peter went last because we were usually the muckiest. A picture of Norman Standish Brooks a famous



Norman Standish Brooks



Stalybridge Public Baths

freestyle swimmer who lived in Stalybridge. The story goes, that Norman Brooks, a family friend, and neighbour came to see the new baby (me) soon after I was born and asked my mum what she was going to call the lad?. She said didn't know so, he said, call him Norman after me, and that's how I got me name, Norman. I grew up to be good a swimmer so, as well as giving me his name he passed on his swimming skills. Norman Brooks represented his country in the 1926 Olympics and Empire Games in the twenties and 30's and won many championships.

WORKING LIFE

Clarence Mill was where I first started work at 14 years of age. Going to work in the cotton mills when you left school was the only option for many poor families in cotton towns like Stalybridge. I remember my father took me to the gates of Clarence Mill on my first day but when I got inside the conditions, the noise, the heat and the smell completely overwhelmed

me, and I turned round and ran out of the spinning room into the yard and scaled the locked gates of the mill which were over 8 foot high and ran home. I got home before my father but when my father saw me, he just looked at me and said I'm sorry lad but thee'll 'af'ta go back "and so back I went as we needed the money, times were still really hard in 1936. As soon as I could I left working in the mills, I hated it. Peter my older brother got me a job at a new company called Aerialite at Castle Works Stalybridge. It manufactured cables including weatherproof clothesline. The company and others that were springing up in Stalybridge provided alternative employment to working in the mills. The work was hard but the basic pay included the option of piece work so you could increase your wages if you kept at it. I stayed there until 1939 when I joined the army.

In 1939 war had just broken out in Europe

and the British Army was recruiting. My brother Peter joined up first, he always did everything first and I usually followed. The recruiting office was in the old drill hall, and you got half a crown, 2/6d if you recruited someone so Peter recruited me and offered to split the money. The only trouble was you needed to be 18 to serve in the Army and I was only 17 so the recruiting officer told me to run round the drill yard and come back when I was 18. So, in 1939 I enlisted and joined the Duke of Wellingtons infantry Brigade and was sent to the Isle of Wight on Anti-aircraft duties operating a huge search light with my new pal shortie, Malcolm Short we became lifelong friends. In 1940 aged 18 I was posted to Egypt then Libya with the Duke of Wellington as part of 8th Army to fight in the North Africa Campaign. I left Stalybridge in 1939 and it would not return to the 'bridge' till 1946.

This is me in my army uniform aged 21 years of age. After landing on Gold

Beach 6 June 1944 (D-Day) we fought our way through France and into Belgium, where we re-grouped. Brussels was finally liberated in September 1944. which is where this photo was taken. Next was to liberate Holland and invade Germany. The war ended in September 1945. After peace keeping duties, I was finally released and demobbed on the 10 May 1946.

I had away been for over 7 years. I was 17 when I left and 24 when I returned home to Cross Leach Street Stalybridge, which was where my family were now living, and where another chapter of my life would start.



Norman Coleman, 6 June 1944



Bowton's Yard, Stalybridge



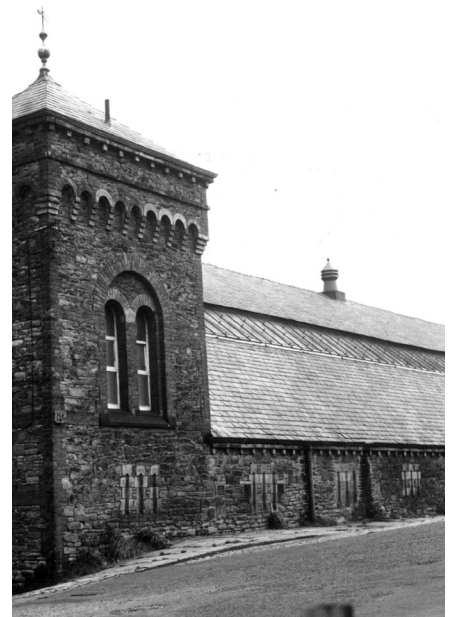
Gates of Clarence Mill



Stalybridge Public Baths



St Peter Roman Catholic School in Stalybridge



Drill Hall, Castle Hall, Stalybridge

HOW TO RESEARCH YOUR OWN HERITAGE STORIES

What is the role of the local studies & archives in your area?

Tameside Local Studies & Archives Centre acts as a hub for those interested in all aspects of local history, from personal family research and house history, to wider interests relating to how the area has changed over time. We host regular talks and events, as well as sometimes exhibitions, to promote interest in the history of Tameside. As well as this, we offer guidance to those who may require it, on how to undertake their research projects, and offer assistance with family history enquiries through our knowledgeable volunteers.

What kind of resources do you host and how can the public access them?

Our service is centred around our archive collection, which is comprised firstly of the local government records of Tameside Council and its predecessor authorities, including council minutes, tax records and rate books, voter registers, planning records, and much more. Beyond this, we look after deposits and donations from a range of different individuals and organisations in the area, spanning industrial, religious, military, political, personal, and geographical material, as well as many other subjects.

Newspaper archives provide thorough timeline of events in the area over the past nearly two centuries, and our map collection charts changes in the landscape and architecture of Tameside.

We also have a comprehensive library of books on history of Tameside and the wider area, which cover the most general to the most obscure topics. Our computers also provide free access to paid genealogy services, FindMyPast and Ancestry, as well as the British Newspaper Archive.

What was your interest in the Heritage Stories project and what did you hope would come from participating?

As the archive service for the borough, we aim to engage with all sorts of residents, with different requirements and backgrounds. In order to do so, we have to look at different approaches, and this project seemed like a fantastic opportunity to look at new ways of engaging with archives. The pandemic has made the importance of establishing these community connections clearer than ever.

Do you hope to inspire more people to tell their stories and how can people share them?

Part of the purpose of archives is to allow individuals, groups, or communities to put their own history into the wider context of the area, and to find their stories within it. Archives allow you to add peripheral information or fill in gaps in knowledge or information, but this project also highlights their ability to trigger thoughts and memories that may have been harder to access. We always encourage deposits of material such as photographs, archives of groups, organisations or businesses, and personal archives that may be of interest relating to the area, in order to increase the richness of the archive. At the moment we especially encourage the donation of material relating to the pandemic and the associated lockdowns and restrictions, that may tell the story of how Tameside dealt with these events.



PARTNERS

Manchester City of Literature

Manchester City of Literature manages the City's UNESCO designation on behalf of Manchester City Council, the University of Manchester, Manchester Metropolitan University and over 30 literary partners. We want Manchester to be a city where diverse voices and stories are celebrated, creative talent and industries are nurtured and where literary activity changes lives.

Tameside & Glossop Dementia Friendly

Tameside & Glossop Dementia Friendly Communities seeks to improve the lives of people living with dementia their families and carers by supporting their local communities to become more dementia friendly.

Marion Coleman

I have always been interested in local history and listening to stories from my family about how they lived and worked, what they did in their spare time etc. I had often thought of capturing some of the stories for my son and grandchildren before they were forgotten. This project has allowed me to start this work and spurred me on to go even further and complete it.

Dawn Buckle

Dawn has been caring for her husband Roy for almost 7 years since he was diagnosed with vascular dementia. Dawn and Roy have been married for 65 years so she knows Roy pretty well! She became involved in the Storytelling project because she had already written most of Roy's life story and the project gave her the opportunity to work with Tameside Local Studies and Archive Library to find suitable images that highlight elements of it. She intends to continue working on the story so that their daughter and grandchildren will have a rich remembrance of Roy.

The Shed

The Shed offers, as well as other activities, both sporting and musical memories for its shedders. The storybook project has complemented these by offering a wider field of possibilities for evoking pleasant thoughts through reminiscences and meaningful conversations. This helps the people who attend the Shed to connect to their past, present, and future by having

a resource to structure and support the process.

The Shed wants to use the Storybook Heritage project to support shedders and their families to research their own story by accessing their own and online resources including local archives to create a personalised storybook with text and images that records their life. This will also leave a legacy for their families by reproducing their storybooks in both hard copies and electronically. This will allow a storybook template to be generated to help shedders and their families to research and produce individual life stories.

I was born in Hyde but live in Dukinfield. I coordinate the Shed (Tameside). Our main aim is to help our shedders to age and live well. We approach this through a range of activities that encourage social interactions and meaningful connections with others.

Paul Sykes

I was brought up and lived in Stalybridge most of my life. I got involved with the storybook project for two main reasons: To work through the storybook template for my own benefit and experience the journey involved. Having experienced completing the storybook myself I intend to do something similar for my stepson Kevin. I am his main carer and want to document parts of his life as well as mine so that he will be able to relate to our lives in the future.

Tameside Local Studies and Archive

Material relating to the history of Tameside's nine towns (Ashton-u-Lyne, Audenshaw, Denton, Droylsden, Dukinfield, Hyde, Longdendale, Mossley, Stalybridge) is centralised at Tameside Local Studies and Archives Centre.

In addition to the records of the Borough Council and its predecessors, Tameside Local Studies and Archives takes in a wide variety of archives and photographs from private donors, depositors and organisations, and makes them available to the public. We accept records relating to places, organisations and people from the Tameside area, along with records relating to the Manchester Regiment.