

MANCHESTER GROUP OF THE  
VICTORIAN SOCIETY NEWSLETTER  
Spring 2022





# MANCHESTER GROUP OF THE VICTORIAN SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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The Packet Steps, Worsley © Neil Darlington April 2019

Georgian brick meets Victorian half- timber at the point on the Bridgewater Canal where packet boats once departed for Manchester.

The views expressed within this publication are those of the authors concerned and not necessarily those of the Manchester Group of the Victorian Society.

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## THE 1854 OLDHAM LYCEUM EXHIBITION – PART 2: THE CATALOGUE

David Astbury

When the official 32 page catalogue finally appeared, the cover carried the sub-heading Educational and Industrial, perhaps seeking to unify the combination of art and technology on show. After a brief introduction, a floor plan was shown followed by a credit for the arrangement of the pictures by Mr William Agnew and an acknowledgement for the loan of a model of the steam yacht “The Fairy” by H.R.H. Prince Albert. Exhibits were arranged in the hall on two floors, the upper floor being a horse-shoe shaped balcony. The machinery and engineering items were in a separate shed erected alongside the hall. The catalogue records and credits the supplier of over 100 such items – mostly small such as valves and fittings. Even though the shed was 60 feet long, it would have not been practical to display huge cotton spinning machines – Oldham being famous for their manufacture and use. Platt Bros, the engineering company owned by the instigator of the exhibition Mr James Platt, was one of Lancashire’s largest manufacturers of textile machinery.

John Benjamin Dancer had contributed an “Analytical Balance” and the firm of Sugdens, Bradbury & Firth had shown a Braille printing/embossing machine. There was a model of James Nasmyth’s Steam Hammer and also his General Map of the Moon which had attracted great attention at the 1851 Crystal Palace Exhibition. The Union Plate Glass Company had on show several large mirrors, one with the size recorded as 113 inches by 63 inches.

To put the exhibition firmly in a Victorian context, Mr J.H. Seville of Mossley had submitted a glass dome showing a preserved pig with two heads and multifarious owners had loaned 181 glass cases of stuffed birds and animals. The Reverend J. Miller of Oldham had loaned a plan of the densely packed lower deck of the slave ship “Vigilante”.

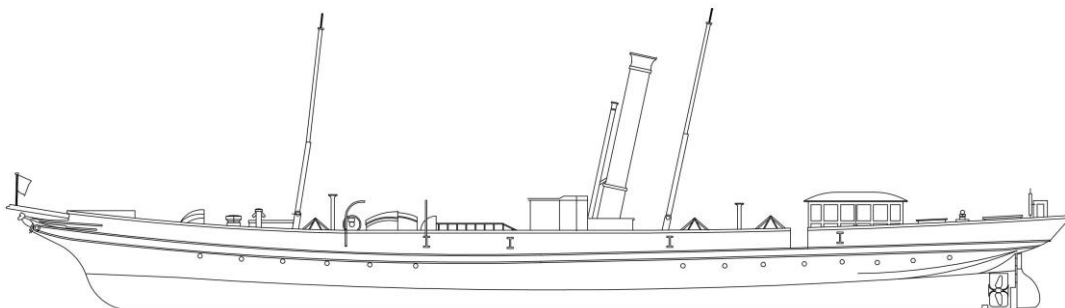
The breakdown of art listed was very impressive:

Engravings 145, Oils 116, Watercolours 34, Busts and Statues 22.

The Earl of Wilton had loaned a portrait of the Countess of Derby by Thomas Lawrence and a portrait of Sir Thomas Egerton by Sir Joshua Reynolds. No painting loans were credited to the Earl of Ellesmere despite such loans being mentioned in the Oldham Chronicle article the previous May. (The Earl may have been busy that summer celebrating being made a Knight of the Garter, a very high honour largely in the gift of the Sovereign.)

The Reverend H.M. Birch of Prestwich had loaned autographed engravings of Prince Alfred and the Prince of Wales. Mr Knott of North Moor Oldham was running a photographic studio within the exhibition enabling visitors to have their portraits taken with part of the proceeds going to the Lyceum fund.

Given the involvement of Prince Albert and the Earl of Ellesmere, it would seem to be at least possible that this Oldham exhibition set a seed growing that led to the organization of the 1857 Manchester Art Treasures Exhibition. In that year, there was a sad postscript to the Oldham Exhibition – James Platt, then an M.P., was shot dead in an accident above Dovestone reservoir, the event commemorated by a cross erected on top of the moor.



*H M Steam Yacht “Fairy,” a model of which appeared at the exhibition*

## RECENT EVENTS

### Digging the Bridgewater Canal: recent research at Worsley Green Workshops and Worsley Delph

19th February 2022. Speaker: Dr. Michael Nevell.

On 19 February, the first live meeting of the Manchester Group for almost two years was held at Stretford Public Hall. Dr Michael Nevell addressed a well-attended meeting on the subject of the Bridgewater Canal, built to transport coal from the Duke of Bridgewater's mines at Worsley to the rapidly growing town of Manchester. In a brief introduction he described the development of the canal by way of the various Acts of Parliament required for the work to progress. The first Act, passed in March 1859, allowed the building of the canal from Worsley Delph to the Salford bank of the River Irwell. However, when the canal had reached Monton a more ambitious scheme was put in place. At this point the canal deviated and was taken across the Irwell at by means of the famous aqueduct at Barton, thence progressing through Stretford to terminate at Castlefield on the Manchester side of the Irwell opened in 1765. Later Acts allowed the canal to extend through Cheshire to the River Mersey at Runcorn (1776) and to extend in a north-westerly direction from Worsley to connect with the Leeds and Liverpool Canal (1799).

Next, he went on to describe his recent work at Worsley Delph and Worsley Green at the heart of the village. The Delph was a sandstone ridge that had been quarried for centuries. It provided stone for the Bridgewater canal construction and is also the entrance to the underground canal system - a total of 48 miles extending as far as Farnworth. The underground canal intersected with coal mines to the north and was intended to transport coal directly from the coal face to the surface canal, while also draining the pits. Various works were undertaken as part of the renovation of the Delph and the creation of a new public viewing platform undertaken between 2011 and 2019. New discoveries included the existence of rooms under the bridge carrying Worsley Road across the site and a wharf and tunnel probably linking the basin with the former corn mill.

Worsley Green now stands as an archetypal village green and forms an early example of reclamation of a former industrial site. In the summer of 2019, research and community digs were conducted on the site of the former canal



workshops at Worsley Green to better understand the development of the Worsley Yard canal workshops, established on the site of Worsley Green in the 1760s by the Duke of Bridgewater and his estate manager, John Gilbert. These industrial buildings serviced the Worsley coal mines, and the boats using the Bridgewater Canal and underground canals at Worsley. They were closed around 1904 when the workshops were moved to Walkden. Permission to demolish the old buildings at Worsley Yard was given by the then Earl of Ellesmere to Captain Henry Hart Davis, Chief Agent of the Bridgewater estate, in 1904. The demolition of the yard buildings and the creation of a grassed green were part of a wider programme of gentrification to turn the area into a garden village. Dr Nevell provided much interesting detail of the results of these excavations.

A highly enjoyable talk well worthy of the new series of post-Covid events. (ND)

*Photograph: Coal still being transported along the Bridgewater Canal from the Leigh and Wigan coalfields to Barton Power Station in the 1960s.*



## The Villas of Edgerton, Huddersfield.

A guided walk by author and local historian, David Griffiths. Sunday 20th March 2022 at 2 oopm

Third time lucky! First postponed long ago in October 2019 by a great storm, secondly cancelled in March 2020, the weekend before the Covid lockdown, our guided walk around the villas of Edgerton, Huddersfield, led by local historian and researcher David Griffiths, finally took place in spring sunshine in late March 2022. It did not disappoint.

Edgerton was Huddersfield's premier Victorian suburb and almost all of its sixty plus substantial villas survive. Privilege, power and privacy were reflected in the designs of these grand houses. Their affluent residents played leading roles in Victorian Huddersfield's trade and industry, law, politics, education and religion. The land itself straddled the turnpike from Huddersfield to Halifax: a wooded landscape cut through by the steep ravine of Sunny Bank Beck. That highway is now the busy Halifax Road from which we were able to view glimpses of the various houses, often well hidden up or down steep driveways, obscured from view by trees and shrubberies for that privacy. We stopped first at Bremen House (listed II), - **see right** - a substantial Italianate mansion with an observation tower designed by William Cocking. It was built in 1868 for Huddersfield's wine and spirit merchant Richard Rhodes who imported German wines - hence the name. On the gate piers there remain carvings of bunches of grapes to reinforce this theme.



*Bremen House*

Behind the now overgrown green space of the once private Edgerton Park is Kaffir Road from which we were able to view the magnificent Tudor Gothic exterior of Lunnclough Hall (listed II) which dates from 1855. It was built for one Read Holliday, a chemical manufacturer of humble origins who in his younger days had been a political radical and republican. By 1830 he had founded a successful business converting the by-products of gas-works into chemical agents for the textile industry and was becoming a more bourgeois and wealthy gentleman. Designed by local architects Pritchett and Sons Lunnclough Hall has a magnificent port-cochere and a top lit circular hall capped by a sixty foot 'campanile'. It also boasted an observatory where a 'six people can sit comfortably. Gentlemen fond of the weed can enjoy themselves to perfection in this airy region. Four of the windows open for the purpose of using telescopes'. Today the house is divided into two homes.

Crossing another dried out ravine we came to Bryan Road to visit Stoneleigh (II listed): the highlight of the walk. (**see over**) It was built in 1860 for Edward Beaumont, cigar manufacturer, although it was sold on by 1865 to the woollen manufacturer Samuel Turner Learoyd. (Beaumont's business was possibly adversely affected by the American Civil War). The original architect is unknown, but later additions to the house were commissioned to local architects Edmund and Dennis Bamford amongst others. The main house is in free Gothic style, quite Flemish in character. A prominent porch juts out from a three storey spired tower. We were kindly welcomed in for an interior visit to one of the apartments fashioned within the house where we could admire the opulent carved wooden fittings and furniture dating from the 1880s made by the leading Leeds furniture makers, Marsh, Jones and Cribb whose principal designer was the renowned Arts and Crafts architect W R Lethaby.



This brief account of visits to just three of these impressive villas barely does justice to the grandeur of this Victorian suburb. David Griffiths is the author of 'The Villas of Edgerton, Home to Huddersfield's Victorian Elite'. It is a house by house tour of Edgerton's architectural heritage, extensively researched and beautifully illustrated with many photographs and is recommended for further reading and a self-guided tour.

Our thanks go to David for leading us on this immensely enjoyable and informative walk. (AH)

Photos © Anne Hodgson. 2022

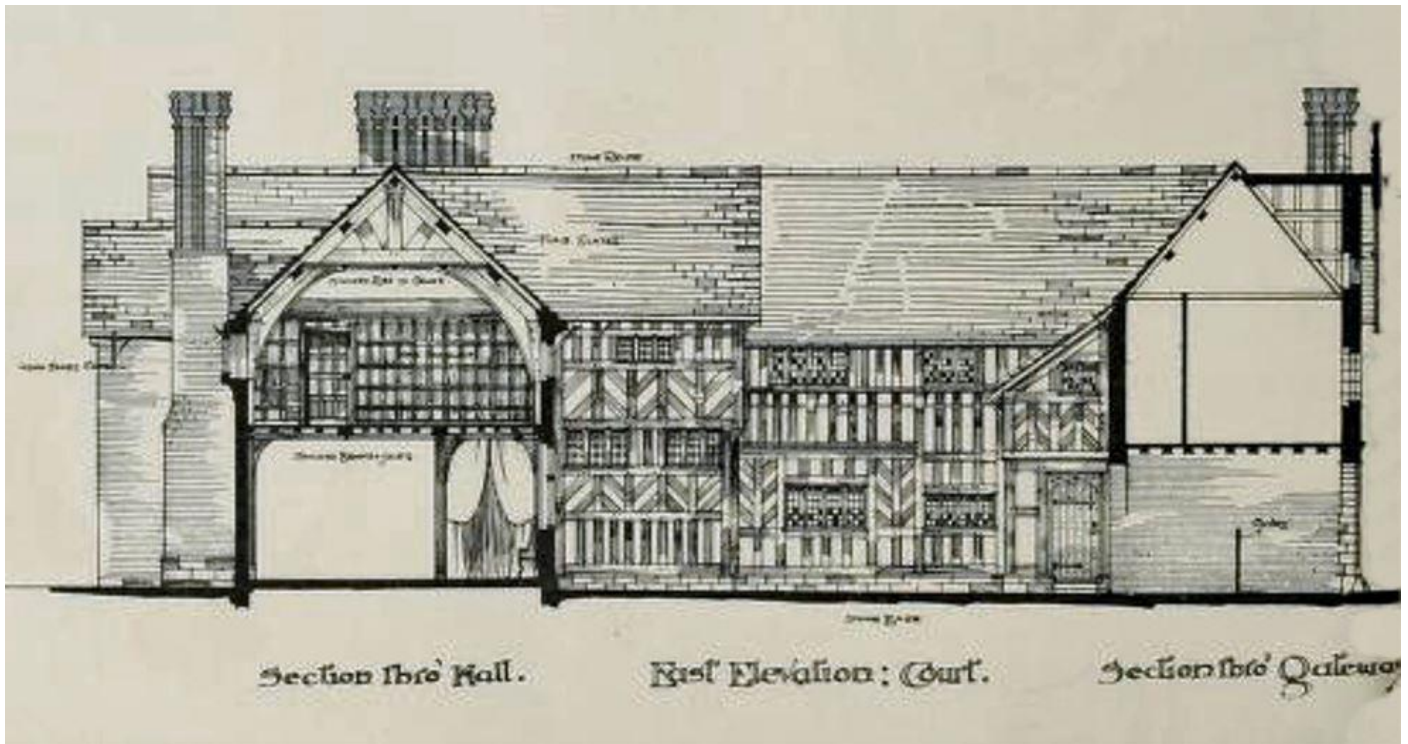
*Stoneleigh, Bryan Road*



## THE EARLY HALF-TIMBER REVIVAL IN WORSLEY

Neil Darlington

In the mediaeval period, a lack of suitable building stone in the Welsh Border counties led to the development of timber-frame construction in the region. From Herefordshire to Lancashire south of the Ribble half timbering was used for most classes of buildings from the humble farm to elaborate halls. Although much restored, such halls still survive In Greater Manchester – Bramhall Hall, Stockport, Wythenshawe Hall, Manchester and Ordsall Hall, Salford. Agecroft Hall, formerly on the bank of the Irwell, now stands in modified form in a suburb of Richmond, Virginia, USA. However, by the Jacobean period a shortage of suitable oak for building purposes had become apparent, vast quantities being employed by the British Navy for the construction of their fleet, while other woodland areas were coppiced for charcoal production. Although half-timber construction never entirely disappeared it was not until the 19th century that architects began to design in a revival of this style.



*Image*      *Wardley Hall: Section through Courtyard*  
*Drawing prepared by John Douglas as part of restoration works*

Some of the earliest examples of the half-timber revival may be found at Worsley. Worsley was always something of an oddity, being on the one hand an estate village for the Earls of Ellesmere, who resided at the nearby Worsley New Hall, and an industrial village and eighteenth century inland port comparable with Stourport, with workshops, dry docks etc. to serve the needs of the Bridgewater Canal and coal mines.

In the mid-1840s various village improvements were begun by the First Earl of Ellesmere. The architect was James Evans, born in Old Cleeve, Somerset in 1804. He was appointed Clerk of Works for St Mark's Church, Worsley in 1844 and remained as surveyor to the Bridgewater Estates until 1850 when he was appointed Borough Surveyor for Salford at a salary of £150 per annum. In 1869 he retired to become landlord of the White Hart Hotel, Cheadle. At Worsley he chose the style of architecture which prevailed early in the 17th century, examples of which he had seen in the neighbourhood. Such mediaeval half-timber halls within the manor of Worsley which still remain in use include Kempnough Hall, now a private house; Worsley Old Hall, a restaurant; and Wardley Hall, now the residence of the RC Bishop of Salford.

Early works in the half-timber revival style by James Evans in Worsley included:





**The Aviary Poultry House, Keeper's Cottage, and Boat House, Old Walke Dam, Mill Brow Worsley.**

Listed Grade II. Built for the First Earl of Ellesmere in 1848-1849 to provide fowl for the table of the Hall and to provide leisure and boating facilities for the Ellesmere family. Incorrectly designated a fishing and hunting lodge in the Listing Notice, the Aviary was originally built for the function its name suggests. Now greatly extended and altered.

The Manchester Courier of 15 October 1851 recorded:

On a rounded slope, covered with verdure to the water's edge, there is a poultry aviary and keeper's house, and in the water itself a boat house capable of containing two pleasure boats. The poultry house is a long building, about ten feet high, of three sides, two of them facing the water, trellised and prepared for climbing plants, but it does not present anything so attractive as the beautiful cottage for the keeper to which it adjoins. It is furnished with warming apparatus, to keep it at an even temperature, for the purpose of incubation and rearing throughout the year, and in winter especially. The supply of poultry for the hall is obtained from this house.

The cottage interior contains a suite of rooms for the accommodation of the keeper and his wife, and a private room for Lady Ellesmere and family, with a sitting room over it. The sitting room has a bold stone chimney piece and fire dogs instead of the modern grate. The exterior presents the usual quaint forms of arrangement of black wood and white plaster work, forming diamonds and squares, with acutely pointed gables and high-pitched roofs. At one angle there is a tower, crowned by a kind of bell turret; and there is also a verandah on two sides, formed by a thatch supported on posts still retaining their bark. The same form of covering is employed for the larger part of the roof as for the verandah; it is composed of wheat straw of great thickness, at least 12 inches, and the artisan who did the work was fetched by Mr Evans from the south-west of England – no one here knew how to construct it.

*Photo The Aviary before extensive enlargement and alteration from an old postcard. The boathouse, now demolished stood a short distance to the right.*





### **Worsley Courthouse, Barton Road, Worsley**

Listed Grade II. The Manchester Guardian of 4 August 1849 notes the move to the new courthouse and town hall of the fortnightly petty sessions. Assumed completion of the building must therefore be between 21 July and 3 August 1849. Lord Ellesmere sat on the bench and the proceedings were visited by members of the Ellesmere family together with guests at the Hall. A record of the court proceedings is given, but no other information concerning the new building is contained in the report. Given the attendance of the Ellesmere family at this court hearing it would seem that no other official opening ceremony took place.

The last Court Leet was held in 1888, but the Courthouse continued to be used as a magistrates' court. In the 1850's night school classes were held there for estate workers and tenants and later the building was used as a village hall for social functions. About 1905 side wings were added – possible to the designs of Douglas and Fordham. In 1966 it was purchased by Worsley Urban District Council. It was further extended in 1967 and passed to Salford City Council in 1974.

*Photo Courthouse (less street furniture) in 1963 © AND 1966-2022*

## Packet House, Boat Steps, Bridgewater Canal, Worsley.



A late eighteenth century brick building (1760?) with steps down to the canal where the packet boats once stopped. The seemingly older half-timbered wing of the house was in fact a later addition, built about 1850. A shop was later added by John Douglas as part of his later work in the village. Passenger services started on the canal in 1769 and by 1781 there was a daily service between Manchester and Worsley.

*Photo ©AND*

## Landing Stage, Bridgewater Canal, Worsley.

Built for the visit of Queen Victoria in 1851 with the design© attributed to James Evans. Now demolished.

The landing stage was built on the Leigh branch of the canal within the grounds of Worsley New Hall.

*Photo from old postcard*





**“The Old Nick” Former Police House at 3-5 Barton Road, Worsley.**



Listed Grade II. Datestone 1851. Timber framed construction with stone slate roof. Bargeboards and other details are similar to the courthouse. Attributed to J Evans and the last of the early half-timber revival buildings in Worsley. Now converted into cottages.

The use of half-timber in Worsley continued until the outbreak of the First World War. Drywood Hall, on Worsley Road, now a school, was built about 1878 while John Douglas made extensive use of the style for decorative rather than constructional purposes in his work at Worsley. The Bridgewater Hotel is partially half-timbered and a group of six houses of 1907 on The Green uses half-timbering decoratively. Adjacent to the Delph on Worsley Road half-timbered shops were constructed in 1903 following the clearance of buildings associated with the former mill.

More generally half-timber in the form of applied timber planks became a ‘must have’ feature of speculative housing during the inter-war period. The early use of half-timbering in Worsley owes more to local tradition than to the Arts and Crafts revival of medieval crafts or to the 1930s ‘Tudorbethan’ style, and is all the more honest for that. In South Lancashire, good quality timber construction refuses to die. Using traditional techniques, 50 tons of oak were used in the building of the Shakespeare North Playhouse at Prescott, now approaching completion.

*Photo ©AND April 2022*



## SIR WILLIAM CUNLIFFE BROOKS AND GEORGE TRUEFITT

### Richard Fletcher

In 1864, William Cunliffe Brooks (1819-1900) of Barlow Hall in Chorlton-cum-Hardy inherited the cotton manufacturing firm set up by his grandfather William Brooks of Whalley and Roger Cunliffe of Great Harwood. William had trained as a barrister, but now devoted himself to the family business which included its own bank.

He began by commissioning a new head office building for the bank in Manchester and chose as his architect George Truefitt of London. Truefitt had first come to his notice twenty years previously after submitting a design for the new Army and Navy Club in Pall Mall, London. Although the design wasn't accepted, Brooks was much impressed and now had the opportunity to give the architect a substantial amount of work. Over the next 25 years, Truefitt designed four of the company's bank buildings, all quite different in style. They were: Manchester, Brown Street, 1868; Blackburn, Darwen Street, 1870; Altrincham, Old Market Place, 1875; Darwen, Market Street, 1894.



Brooks's Bank Manchester – © Richard Fletcher





Above: Bank Altrincham – © Richard Fletcher



Left: Bank Blackburn – untraced source on Internet



Left: Bank Darwen – Google Streetview



Brooks was a great lover of Scotland and in 1869 took out a long-term lease on the Glentanner estate near Aboyne in Aberdeenshire. It belonged to Charles Gordon, the 11th Marquis of Huntly, who lived at nearby Aboyne Castle and went on to marry Brooks's daughter Amy. Brooks and Truefitt began to develop the estate and started with the main building, a shooting lodge called Woodend House. This was converted in the space of a few months into a permanent residence with the addition of a drawing room, a dining room, a billiards room, a kitchen and servants' quarters, and renamed Glen Tana House. In order to provide more facilities for guests, a ballroom and a bowling alley were added in 1877, and many new outbuildings were constructed including an attractive set of kennels. Gardens were designed by the landscape architect T H Mawson. An entrance lodge called the Tower O'Ess was built in 1887 on the South Deeside road, and close by a school and schoolmaster's house in 1896 to provide for the families of staff and estate workers.



*Glen Tana House – old postcard*

*Glen Tana ballroom – [glentana.co.uk](http://glentana.co.uk)*





GLEN TARA

Above: Glen Tana school – Google Streetview



Left: Glen Tana kennels – Vero Kemball Shaw,  
The Illustrated Book of the Dog



Left: Tower O'Ess – Google Streetview



Meanwhile back in Manchester, Brooks was very much involved in public life. As well as being a JP and a Deputy Lieutenant for Lancashire, he became the Conservative Party MP for East Cheshire in 1869 and for Altrincham in 1886. He was made a baronet in 1886. His father had acquired a large area of land from the Earl of Stamford covering Baguley, Timperley, Hale, Ashton-on-Mersey, Carrington, Partington and Sale, and Truefitt was engaged on various building projects in these areas, including a new tower and lychgate for St Martin's church in Ashton upon Mersey (1887) and a new church of St Mary's in Partington (1883).



Despite the large amount of work Truefitt undertook for Brooks, he was not short of work elsewhere in the country. He designed a wide range of public and private buildings and was responsible for developing the Tufnell Park estate in London. It is surprising therefore that he is not now more widely known. Although he trained in the Gothic tradition, he developed his own individual style which is difficult to classify. He can perhaps be counted as a forerunner of the Arts and Crafts movement, many of whose principles he shared.

*Above: Partington St Mary – © Richard Fletcher*

*Right: Ashton St Martin's – © Richard Fletcher*



## PRUDENTIAL ASSURANCE BUILDING, UNION STREET, OLDHAM

In early March 2022 news came that Oldham Council had finally decided to act regarding the Prudential Assurance Building on Union Street, designed by Alfred Waterhouse and Son. At a meeting, the cabinet ordered a repairs notice on the owner to secure the preservation of the building, to be followed by the compulsory purchase of the premises by the local authority.

After almost 12 years of standing empty and left to rot, the Grade Two-listed building was placed on the Victorian Society's list of most endangered buildings in 2020. The Victorian Society, had previously urged the council take steps to reuse the Prudential Building – and to consider using compulsory purchase powers. A Council report states that the building is now in a 'significant state of disrepair, attracting anti-social behaviour, presenting health and safety risks, and posing aesthetic issues as a gateway building for those arriving in to or leaving Oldham town centre'. Officers state that despite 'sustained efforts' over a number of years to work with the owner to bring it back into use, there is 'no reasonable prospect of the owner bringing the building into an adequate state of repair to ensure its long-term protection'.

Under the plans for the future of the building it is aimed to create 71 new businesses and more than 156 jobs over a ten period, as well as helping emerging businesses grow, focusing on the creative, digital and media sectors.

However, without the publicity generated by the Victorian Society it is debatable whether the building's survival could have been assured.



Photograph © Mark Watson



## MANCHESTER GROUP: FROM THE COMMITTEE

We are so pleased events have restarted for our group: after a two-year hiatus our first in person talk and first guided walk have taken place and were enjoyed by those members able to attend and reports of these are elsewhere in this newsletter.

We hope you have received the events email with the programme for the year until November 2022. Yet again we are attempting to hold our postponed AGM on May 28th and details are also elsewhere in the newsletter. Following the AGM itself there will be this unique opportunity to have first-hand reports by Mark Watson and Ken Moth of the Victorian Society Northern Buildings Committee of the progress being made on the multi-million pound restoration of Manchester's iconic Town Hall. The behind-the-scenes view should prove of great interest: work is not scheduled to be finished until 2024.

Another event of interest is the forthcoming Manchester Histories Festival 2022 (9-12 June 2022). There will be a series of events during these days, details of which can be found on the Manchester Histories website as they are announced. The Festival culminates in a 'Celebration Day' for many and varied local history and heritage societies and the general public on Sunday 12th June at The Monastery, Manchester (aka Gorton Monastery). Our group has a stall booked for the day and anyone wanting to help or with ideas for a display, please get in touch! The festival has changed in many ways since it began and this year the theme is 'The History of Climate Change'. At first glance it might not seem to reflect the interests of the Victorian Society. However, the home page of the national Victorian Society states boldly that 'we help tackle the climate emergency by campaigning for the sensitive reuse of historic buildings to generate much lower carbon emissions than demolition and rebuild'. Thus we do fit the remit of the Festival!

We hope members are now feeling more confident to be out and about and that you look forward to coming to one of our events soon. If that is still not an option then the Society nationally is continuing to stream many of its fascinating talks by Zoom so we are able to have the best of both worlds.

Anne Hodgson (Chair).



## MANCHESTER VICTORIAN SOCIETY EVENTS: APRIL - NOVEMBER 2022

**Saturday 30th April 2022 2pm for 2 15pm**

### MARCHING TO ZION: Non-Conformist Chapels and Meeting Houses of the North West

A talk by Dr Roger Holden, independent historian and council member of the Chapels Society.

Stretford Public Hall, Chester Road, Stretford, Manchester M32 0LG.

£7 pay on the day. Please book with Anne Hodgson at [anne.hodgson@hotmail.com](mailto:anne.hodgson@hotmail.com)

**Saturday 28th May 2022 2pm for 2 15pm.**

### **\*\*REARRANGED AGM\*\***

Following the cancellation of January's AGM it has now been rearranged.

All members are entitled to attend the AGM free of charge. Following the AGM there will be refreshments and then a discussion led by Mark Watson and Ken Moth, members of The Victorian Society Northern Buildings Committee.

Stretford Public Hall, Chester Road, Stretford, Manchester M32 0LG.

### THE RESTORATION OF THE TOWN HALL, MANCHESTER: AN ILLUSTRATED PROGRESS REPORT.

Earlier this year Mark and Ken went on a tour of the town hall with the architects to review progress on this immense project with three years still to go. This is a unique opportunity to see their photos taken from behind the cladding!

£5 pay on the day. Please book with Anne Hodgson at [anne.hodgson@hotmail.com](mailto:anne.hodgson@hotmail.com)

**Sunday 24th July 2022 2 pm**

### WORSLEY DELPH AND WORSLEY GREEN: The Bridgewater Canal Basin

Walk and talk led by Dr Mike Nevell around Worsley's Delph and Green (by request from some members following February's successful talk on the Bridgewater Canal Basin at Worsley).

£7 pay on the day. Please book with Anne Hodgson at [anne.hodgson@hotmail.com](mailto:anne.hodgson@hotmail.com).

**Tuesday 23rd August 2022 6-8pm**

### PETER STREET TO PICCADILLY

An evening architectural and commemorative sculptural walk led by David Astbury, recent Chair of Manchester Vic Soc.

£7 Pay on the day. Please book with Anne Hodgson at [anne.hodgson@hotmail.com](mailto:anne.hodgson@hotmail.com)

**Saturday 24th September 2022 3pm**

### VISIT TO ALL SAINTS RC CHURCH, (E W Pugin) REDCLYFFE ROAD, BARTON-UPON-IRWELL

A chance to visit this grade 1 listed church which is not often open these days. Situated alongside the Manchester Ship Canal and with the Barton Swing Bridge and Barton Swing Aqueduct nearby, the church is, in Pevsner's opinion, 'Pugin's masterwork' built in the Gothic Revival style for the de Trafford family.

Talk by Brother Solanus of the Franciscan order of Friars Minor Conventual who live in the adjoining house, now the friary. The order moved here in 1962 to serve within the Salford diocese.

£10 pay on the day. Please book with Anne Hodgson at [anne.hodgson@hotmail.com](mailto:anne.hodgson@hotmail.com)

**Saturday 15th October 2022 2pm for 2 15pm**

### THE GREAT MISS LYDIA BECKER: SUFFRAGIST, SCIENTIST AND TRAILBLAZER.

A talk about this remarkable woman of nineteenth century Manchester by Joanna Williams, historian and biographer who has recently published the first biography about Lydia Becker: 'The Great Lydia Becker: Suffragist, Scientist and Trailblazer'.

Stretford Public Hall, Chester Road, Stretford, Manchester M32 0LG

£7 pay on the day. Please book with Anne Hodgson at [anne.hodgson@hotmail.co](mailto:anne.hodgson@hotmail.co)

**Saturday 12th November 2022 2pm for 2 15pm**

### THE ARTS AND CRAFTS MUSEUM AT THE MANCHESTER MUNICIPAL SCHOOL OF ART: - A GUIDED TOUR FROM 1903

A talk by Stephanie Boydell, Curator of the Manchester School of Art Collection, Manchester Metropolitan University Special Collections Museum (and PhD candidate).

This talk will look at the history and rationale behind the establishment of the Manchester School of Art's Arts and Crafts Museum in 1898 and explore the variety of objects that were acquired for display through a virtual tour of the gallery as it was arranged in 1903.

Stretford Public Hall, Chester Road, Stretford, Manchester M32 0LG

£7 pay on the day. Please book with Anne Hodgson at [anne.hodgson@hotmail.com](mailto:anne.hodgson@hotmail.com)



## MANCHESTER GROUP OF THE VICTORIAN SOCIETY

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

To be held at Stretford Public Hall on Saturday 28th May 2022 2pm for 2 15pm.

#### AGENDA

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of 2020 AGM
3. Matters Arising
4. Membership Secretary's Report
5. Treasurer's Report
6. Election of Officers and Committee
7. Conservation Reports
8. Chair's Report
9. AOB

All members are entitled to attend the AGM free of charge.

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#### NOMINATION FORM FOR A COMMITTEE MEMBER

Name of nominee .....

Address.....

Tel..... Email.....

Nominee's signature of acceptance .....Date.....

Please give reasons for nominating this person to the Manchester Group Committee:

.....

.....

Your contact details:

Name.....

Address.....

Tel..... Email.....

Return to: Anne Hodgson, 17 Parkway, Westhoughton, Bolton BL5 2RY, or bring along to AGM.

## MINUTES OF 2020 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held on Saturday 26th January 2020 1.45pm for 2.00pm  
Stretford Public Hall

1. Apologies The Lord Mayor, Councillor Chohan, Maxine and Robert Reader, Ann and Graham Redford.
2. Minutes of 2019 AGM, held at Long Street Methodist Church, Middleton, 26th January 2019.
3. Matters arising - Interest in a tour of Manchester Town Hall, this will have to be much later in the restoration programme.

### **4. Membership Secretary's Report**

In the Manchester Group we currently have 166 members.

According to Priory Gardens, 10 new members have joined the Manchester Group since our last AGM in January 2019. These may be new members of the Victorian Society or they may be people who have moved in to the area or who have been re-classified by postcode as being part of the Manchester Group. The Victorian Society Membership Secretary, Richard Seedhouse, has advised me that 20 addresses should be deleted from the Manchester Group list since our last AGM in January 2019 as they are no longer subscribing members of the Victorian Society.

We are always very pleased to welcome new members to the group and we would urge all our members to spread the word about our group and its aims, whenever and wherever you may feel it would be appropriate. Membership leaflets are always available at our meetings so please do feel free to ask me or any member of the committee for a leaflet if you know anybody who you think might be interested in joining the Victorian Society! Could I also remind everybody that, thanks to Fiona, we now have a Facebook page and I would urge everybody to 'like' this page so that you can receive information about topical issues relating to conservation and to events. We are also on Instagram and I would strongly recommend that you take a look at all the beautiful photos relating to things Victorian that Fiona has posted on there.

We have 18 members, at present, who have asked to receive information and updates by email only.

May I also remind all of you who are currently receiving or would like to receive information updates via email about future VicSoc events and local conservation issues that I would be very grateful if you could please ensure that you let me know if you change your email address or if you are not receiving the email updates. Unfortunately, when I send out email updates, there are always quite a few returned as 'undeliverable' due to an invalid email address! Or you may be receiving more than one email notification as I seem to have more than one email contact for a few people and if this is the case, please do let me know which address you would prefer me to use for Manchester VicSoc email.

I have added my email address and the addresses for Facebook and Instagram to the 'Suggestions for future events' sheet at the signing-in point in case you think that your email details may need amending and so that you may share with us any ideas for topics/visits/speakers etc. Please feel free to use this sheet during the break between the AGM and today's lecture. [Hilary Poole, Membership Secretary, Manchester Group]

### **5. Treasurer's Report \* SEE NOTE**

The report was accepted. Proposed by Stephen Broadhead Seconded by Beric Bartlett.

### **6. Conservation Reports**

Ken Moth reported on the work of the Northern Building Committee. Mark Watson reported on matters relating to Manchester.

Steve Roman commented that work on the St Michael's Tower will commence in the summer 2020

7. Anne Hodgson reported on forthcoming events to include rescheduled visit to Huddersfield to tour villas in Edgerton. Appreciation expressed to the Events Group for its work.



8. Venues for meetings and alternative formats for talks and walks. One suggestion: a weekend walk ending at a coffee shop. The current venue is not good for people needing to drive, the hire of the projection equipment is costly. The committee were recommended to discuss.

## **9. Chair's report**

10. Election of officers Acceptance of all those continuing to stand. Proposed Stephen Broadhurst Seconded Steve Roman.

11. AOB Beric Bartlett expressed thanks to David Astbury as he stands down as chair for all his work for the Society.

Steve Roman drew attention to the opportunity to comment on the City Council's Development Plan. Individual comments are always important as well as those coming from the Society. A representative of the Friends of Stamford Park, Stalybridge asked for support in their campaign to preserve the glasshouse.

**NOTE** – Due to Covid Restrictions last year's AGM could not take place. However, the last available accounts (for 2020) were prepared and issued in the Spring 2021 Newsletter. Copy shown below.

No further items of income or expenditure have been incurred between 1 January 2021 and 31 December 2021. These accounts therefore still remain valid for the year to January 2022.

## THE VICTORIAN SOCIETY MANCHESTER GROUP: 2020 ACCOUNTS

### Income and expenditure

	2020	2019
<b>Income</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Deposit account interest	5.40	11.66
General donations	—	50.00
AGM + talk	260.00	165.00
Event(s)	<u>312.00</u>	<u>3300.00</u>
	<u>577.40</u>	<u>3526.66</u>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Expenses from previous year	30.00	—
AGM + talk	175.00	250.00
Committee meetings	30.00	90.00
Event(s)	56.00	2934.00
Subscriptions	16.00	8.00
Publicity, stationery etc	—	130.15
General donations	<u>----</u>	<u>300.00</u>
	<u>307.00</u>	<u>3712.15</u>
Income (from above)	577.40	3526.66
Less Expenditure (ditto)	<u>307.00</u>	<u>3712.15</u>
Surplus (deficit) for the year	270.40	(185.49)
Balance brought forward	4138.04	4323.53
Balance carried forward	4408.44	4138.04
 <b>Balance sheet as at 1 January 2021</b>	 <b>£</b>	
Balance at bank	1978.86	
Balance in deposit account	2062.93	
Petty cash	<u>374.65</u>	
	4416.44	
Less liabilities Cheque not presented	<u>8.00</u>	
	<u>4408.44</u>	