

HYP

Don't forget our junior edition of the newsletter for younger people (anyone under 40).

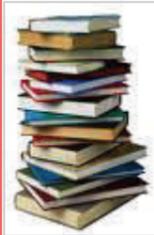
If you have any comments on this, please contact the editor, Jenny Dean at localheritagelibrary@stockport.gov.uk.

ANCESTRY

Remember the library service subscribes to the Ancestry Website which contains every census from 1841-1901 for the whole of the UK and is available **FREE** at any Stockport Library. It has proved very popular and extremely well used throughout the borough. The GRO (Births, marriages & deaths) index on Ancestry is available up to 2005.

TASTER SESSIONS

Do you want help finding your way around Ancestry? We are now able to take bookings for our taster sessions, which are on the following days
Every Wednesday 11-12
Every Friday 2-3
These sessions are designed for beginners to the website.



New Books

The Heritage Library is constantly adding to its collection of books on local and family history. Below are just a few of our recent additions—see the stand on the table in the library which has the new books.

The Oxford Companion to Family and Local History.

Nick Barratt's Guide to Your Ancestors' Lives.

The Awards of the George Cross 1940-2009 by J.F. Turner.

Alan Lowndes by Jonathan Riley.

FUN CORNER

(Jokes from an old edition of the Stockport Express)

The man who has no secrets from his wife, has either no secrets or no wife.

A egotist is a man who thinks that if he had not been born people would have wanted to know why.

"Why do those pipers keep walking up and down while they are playing the bagpipes?"

"Because it makes them harder to hit."

Displays & Events

(displays are on the landing outside the Heritage Library)

There is a new macabre and colourful display in the glass case provided by the museum service. On show to celebrate 150 years since the opening of the Vernon Park Museum are a sample of some of the weird and wonderful exhibits that you might see at the museum.

The main wall display, by the Local Heritage Library, will focus on the slightly longer history of Stockport Market which is 750!!! years old (yes, that's older than your granny times 10).

The display in the small glass case (by the Local Heritage Library) is about the history of the library service in the town.

The Heritage Library will be closed from Thursday 16th to Wednesday 22nd September.

In the next edition of the Stockport Local Heritage Library newsletter we will be looking at the career of local darts champion Tony O'Shea and the history of Bredbury.

Editors: Carole Perry and Andrew Lucas.

Now and Then Stockport Local Heritage Library Newsletter Autumn 2010

Welcome to the Autumn 2010 edition of our newsletter. This time our famous Stockfordian is the actress Joanne Whalley and we have the third and final segment of our brief history of Stockport. We also bid a fond farewell to our colleague, Carole Perry, who retired in August.

STOCKPORT'S FAMOUS PEOPLE Joanne Whalley

Joanne Whalley was born in Salford in August 1964, but was brought up in Bredbury. She was a sixth form A-level student at Harrytown R.C. school which was close to her home. Even whilst attending school, she was taking time off to pursue her acting career. Her first television role was Molly McLeod in "Joby a two part drama made by Yorkshire Television and written by Stan Barstow. She then appeared in television soaps such as "Emmerdale Farm" and "Coronation Street". She was also in pop group "Cindy & the Saffrons". In 1982 she played the role of Ingrid Rothwell in a television adaptation of Stan Barstow's "A kind of loving" before roles in popular series

such as "Juliet Bravo", "The Gentle Touch" and "Bergerac". In 1986 she appeared in the much acclaimed Dennis Potter's drama "The Singing Detective" where she played the part of Nurse Mills.



Following on from this success she was offered the female lead in the film "Willow" in 1988., playing the part of Sorsha. It was on this film set that she starred opposite actor Val Kilmer, who she married the following year. In 1989 she won the lead role in "Scandal", which was based on the Profumo affair, playing the part of Christine Keeler.



In 1991 she gave birth to their first child, a daughter, Mercedes. She was chosen to play the coveted role of Scarlet in 1994, a £29m sequel to "Gone with the Wind". She said of the role "I've always had a passion for Scarlett O'Hara but

I never imagined I would have a chance to play her".

In 1995 she gave birth to a second child, a son Jack. Eight weeks later the announcement was made that the couple were separating. After the split Joanne took time off to raise the couple's two children.

On her return to acting, mainly doing television work, she played the title role in "Jackie Bouvier Kennedy Onassis". A later role was that of Mary Tudor in the 2005 film "The Virgin Queen" with Anne-Marie Duff as Elizabeth.



Her latest film in 2009 was "Diverted" which is a fictional story inspired by the true events of 9/11 when the airspace over the USA was closed and planes diverted elsewhere, thirty-five of which were diverted to Gander, Newfoundland.

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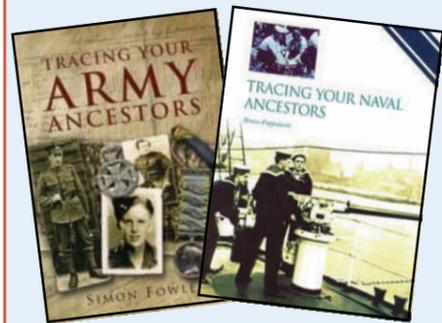
Website: www.stockport.gov.uk

Open: Mon, 10am-8pm; Tues & Fri 9am-8pm; Wed & Thurs 9am-5pm and Sat 9am-4pm

Military History

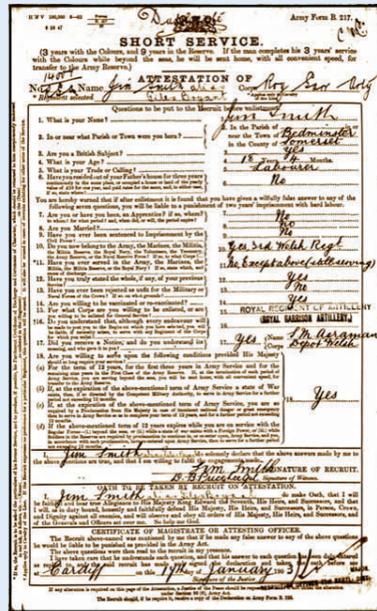
Over the past few years there has been an increase in the people interested in Military History, especially the first and second world wars. So we thought it would be a good idea to have a separate military history section. People who are doing family history will, at some time in their research, come across members of their extended family who served in the military.

We have a variety of books on how to trace your ancestors in the armed forces, whether they be in the army, air force or the navy.



These include how information books on the Cheshire Regiment, battles and war medals, which includes a index of holders of the Victoria Cross. One aspect of the section which is quite popular, is biographies of those of the borough who served in WW1, WW2 and conflicts after 1945. This information mostly consists of obituaries of those killed in action taken from the local newspapers usually

giving date of death, conflict, which regiment and also regimental number, grave number and details of the cemetery where they are buried. However other articles are also present such as medal awards. For online enthusiasts, the Ancestry website can be accessed from the public computers in any library within Stockport borough. Again this opens up a wide variety of information which includes,



British Army Medal Roll Index 1914-20; British Army Service and Pension Records 1914-1920; UK Army Roll of Honour 1939-45; UK British Army Prisoners of War 1939-45. It also has information regarding American casualties. There is of course, much more information regarding military history, way too much to be included here, so come in and have a browse, or talk to our staff who would be only too pleased to help. There are handouts available also please ask a member of staff.

GOODBYE TO

Carole Perry who is retiring at the end of August. Carole joined the Central Library ranks in 1990 from the National Library for the Blind. She then made the journey up to the top floor to join the team in the Local Heritage Library. And has been here ever since!

In 2008 Carole completed a course run by Chester Diocese and as a result was licensed as a Pastoral Worker in 2008 at Chester Cathedral. On her retirement she is planning, amongst other things, to finish her degree and catch up on her family history and also finish a work on the men of St Mark's who were killed in World War , she also hopes to see a bit more of her young grandson. Carole has a variety of hobbies including card making, gardening, walking and birding and is also learning to read music and play classical and electric guitar.



A Brief History of..... Stockport (Part 3)

In Parts 1 & 2 of A Brief History of Stockport (see our Spring & Summer editions) we covered the history of the town from pre-history to the Industrial Revolution.

The unrest resulting from the social and economic changes of the early part of the 19th century had one final outburst in the riot of June 1852. Immigration from Ireland had increased so that by 1852 a tenth of the town's population were Irish immigrants. This caused antagonism which erupted into violence leading to extensive damage to people and property. By this time a third of the town was employed in the cotton industry, with many others dependent on it in associated trades. This led to problems in the 1860s when there was a shortage of cotton due to the American Civil War. The North stopped exports from the Southern States to the UK, which meant many here were made unemployed leading to much hardship. It is estimated that at one point 30,000 out of a population of 55,000 were 'living on charity'. After the war the cotton industry recovered and flourished well into the 20th century with some of the largest factories of their kind in the world built in the town. By the end of the 19th century the hatting industry had also grown.



Furrier across the Mersey.

The number employed by the trade doubled to about 10,000. Christy's were reputed to be 'the largest hat-factory in England, probably in Europe'. Engineering was also important, making machines for all the other industries. Living conditions in the town improved as a result of measures taken after outbreaks of cholera and typhus in 1849. Mill-owners were forced to reduce smoke emissions in 1853. This was followed by the building of new sewers and better waste management. Public baths were erected on St. Petersgate in 1858 for people to wash and swim in. In the same year the town's first public park, Vernon Park, was opened so people could occasionally escape the crowded unsanitary conditions they lived and worked in. However, the death rate was, with Manchester, the worst in the country. In 1850 the town acquired the manorial rights from Lord Vernon and made improvements to the Market Place, which included the construction of the covered market in 1861. In 1889 Stockport became a County Borough. To show its increased status the town hall was built in 1908, which occasioned the first royal visit to Stockport when it was opened by the Prince and Princess of Wales. In 1913 the Central Library was opened. The transport infrastructure developed as the town grew, which in itself encouraged more growth. Railway lines and stations opened, the first electric trams started in 1901 and motorbuses in 1908. This enabled people to move out of the town centre into the suburbs. The cinema came to town in 1908 and by 1939 there were 27 in the borough, including the Plaza which was built in 1932.

In the First World War 2200 men from the town were killed. The War Memorial and Art Gallery was opened in 1925 to commemorate them. In the 1930s the town centre lost its riverside when the Mersey was covered over to form a new road. In the Second World War Stockport escaped relatively lightly with few casualties from enemy airraids. Air raid shelters had been built into the sandstone cliffs either side of the river, the ones on Chestergate could accommodate nearly 4000 and later nearly 6000 people (there were others at Portwood, Heaton Norris and Brinksway). The town centre was redeveloped again in the 1960s with the construction of the Merseyway Shopping Precinct. In 1967 one of the most tragic events in the town's history occurred when an airplane crashed at Hopes Carr, off Hillgate, on the 4th June with the loss of 72 lives. In 1974 Stockport became a 'Metropolitan Borough', incorporating the County Borough with the Urban Districts of Bredbury & Romiley, Cheadle & Gatley, Hazel Grove & Bramhall and Marple. The 1980s brought a motorway into the heart of the town (built over an old railway line). In the second half of the 20th century many of the old industries went into decline. Christy's, the last hat works, closed in 1997. Recently, many attractions have sprung up based on the varied history of the town; Staircase House, Hat Works, and the Air Raid Shelters. Whatever the future of Stockport, the past has plenty to offer. Visit the Local History Library to find out more of the town's fascinating history.

Next time the historical spotlight will be on Bredbury.