



The Bugle



Royton Local History Society's Newsletter

10th ANNIVERSARY EDITION

Welcome to the 2012/13 season of the Royton Local History Society. The committee and I hope you have all had a good summer break. Although we have not had any meetings the work of the society has continued through the summer months.

In August we celebrated Royton's 800th anniversary by joining with Oldham Council in an event in Royton Park. This coincided with Royton Park's 101st anniversary and the Olympic Games and the various displays and events reflected all three.

I would like to thank those members who supported our society by helping out on our stall. Despite the poor publicity about the event a large number of people visited the park and many came to our stall and read our display boards with interest. We also asked visitors to fill in small cards with memories of Royton. Some of these can be seen further on in this edition.

On a smaller scale 2012 is also the 10th anniversary of our society and, to mark this, our secretary Jess Wild has put together a varied and fascinating series of talks for us to enjoy and enhance our knowledge. I'm delighted to say that nearly all are of a local flavour and even better, some are 'home grown' showing the talent and knowledge amongst our own membership.

Our web site has proved to be invaluable once again. A lady from America wrote in saying she was a descendant of John Mellor, the Royton Botanist. She found an article written by Doug Ashmore about him on our web site and was so grateful for the information she reciprocated by sending a photograph of a painting of John Mellor to me. I have added the photo to the page on the web site. To see it use the following:-
http://www.rlhs.co.uk/new_page_13.htm

Don't forget our Annual General Meeting comes up very soon. Please see the invitation letter for details. We need your attendance in order to elect a new committee. I look forward to seeing you there.

Geoff Oliver, Chairman



As you can see it is 10 years since Royton Local History Society was founded. I wasn't one of the first members but there are some who came to the Inaugural Meeting on the 9th September 2002 who still attend our meetings today. Thanks to each and every one of you - I hope you have enjoyed the experience. I am told that the first meeting was held on a very wet and windy night and there were fears that nobody would turn up. As it happened around 90 people attended!

A lot has been achieved in the 10 years since that night, the most notable being the Royton Hall archaeological digs. This is when I became involved with the society - a poster asking for volunteer diggers for the site lured me in and I haven't been able to escape since! I took over as secretary in March 2006, so that makes me the longest serving secretary of RLHS - a position I am proud to hold.

The first 'Bugle' I produced was in September of that year. It was edition number 5 and I can recall asking for your memories of Royton for future editions. I am still asking for these 24 editions later!

Let's hope that in the next ten years Royton Local History Society will continue to be as successful as in the last ten. Modern technology means we can be accessed from anywhere in the world via our web site and may this continue to grow and develop our society for future generations.

Jess Wild, Secretary

Memories of Royton

As our chairman reported earlier in this edition, RLHS had a stall at a Royton Park event in August. Visitors to the stall were asked to write down their memories of Royton on small cards. Many did not leave their names but those who did have been acknowledged. Here are some of their memories:-

In about 1925 my grandfather, who was severely wounded in the Great War, moved to Royton after being demobbed. He owned the greengrocers shop on the corner where the Band Club is now on Sandy Lane/Park Lane. He was also in the Salvation Army in Royton which is now the Moravians.....ANON.

My Grandfather. He used to have a cat on his shoulders!..... WILLIAM FILLINGHAM, bowl's keeper 1940

My grandad was born in Royton in 1942 on Oozewood and still lives in Royton on Holly Estate. I love coming to Royton to see my grandad.....REAGAN PARKER, WILFRED WEBSTER (this might be the grandfather's name)

1947 - 1948. S.S. Aiden & Oswald School did not have any facilities for cookery etc. so students had to go to Byron Street School. My first lesson was how to make a proper cup of cocoa.....ANON.

In the late 1950s my grandad lived on Catauley Street, known as cat alley! It was at the junction of Hall Street, Middleton Road and High Street. I remember him telling me about Royton Hall. I loved listening to him.
ANON.

Cotton in the air. Park Mill mums fetching sweets to Byron St. School kids.....ANON.

I travelled from Oldham to Royton on the train. We changed at Royton Junction and remember the Magistrates Court and Police Station across the road from Royton Town Hall.

My wife's uncle was shift manager at Royton Mill on Rochdale Road. He took us in when he was on nights. The mill has now long gone and is a small residential development.....BERNARD

Walking to Byron Street School in my balaklava to help me not breathe in the smog! Saving up for Christmas at the fancy goods shop at Shaw Road end.....ANON.

I first came to Royton in 1964 and went to work for Stotts for 6 weeks and stayed for 28 years! Were told that Thornham Mill (at the end of Oozewood Road) was closing down. Bought house on the strength of it but 46+ years later it is still there! However, I would not move from Royton.

OLWEN CHADDERTON, MAYOR OF OLDHAM

I moved to Royton in 1966 and still live in the same property on Highlands. I have seen Royton grow from a small close community into what we have today, a thoroughly friendly town that continues to grow. The building of the new Health Centre brings back fond memories of the little terraced house which was the practice of the late Dr McNamara and Dr Osbaldeston ANON.

In the late 1960's/early 70's my father worked in the Gas Board showroom at the corner of Radcliffe Street and Oldham Road. It is now Modern Line bathrooms. I also remember my sister and mother taking me to Royton Baths for swimming lessons in the early 1970's.....ANON.

I moved to Royton in the early 1980's. My daughter was born here and went to Thorp Primary school on the estate where I still live. Royton has changed over the last 30 years but it still has a strong sense of community. I always thought it was quite 'posh' and a good place to live. I loved the children's clothes shop in the precinct which sold the Windsmoor suits. There was a ladies fashion shop too selling all the good makes for special occasions. The butcher and fishmonger and greengrocers were all next to each other. The market has always been one of the best things in Royton.....ANON.

Taking part in the Tug-of-War at Royton Carnival in 1981/82. I was dressed as an Hawian girl one time, complete with 'strategic' coconuts! And another time as a Bunny girl!COUNCILLOR TONY LARKIN (I bet he wished he had put down 'ANON' on the card - he might never live this down!)

I arrived in Royton in 1997. Very friendly people and places but so many hairdressers and bakeries!!! How do they all make a living??? But they are still here in 2012!ANON.

So that's all there is to it! If you have any memories of Royton please write them down and let me, Jess Wild, have them you don't even have to put your name on if you don't want to!



Visit the R.L.H.S. websites at www.roytonlocalhistorysociety.co.uk or www.rlhs.co.uk

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