

SHORT REVIEWS

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Shackcliffe, P. *Manchester in the days of steam: Part 1: Victoria Station and the North East suburbs*. Steam Images. Cheadle Hulme. 2003. Illus. 136pp. £16.99.

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Shackcliffe, P. *Salford in the days of steam*. Steam Images. Cheadle Hulme. 2004. Illus. 160pp. £17.95. ISBN 0 9543128 2 1

Many of the photographs in these two volumes cover the 1950s and early 1960s when steam reigned supreme on the railways around Manchester. This is a comprehensive look at the lines around Salford and north Manchester, including the main lines as well as branch lines, sidings and industrial railways. Not all the photographs are associated with railways as the compiler has extended the subject matter to include buses, trams and trolley buses of the period. The photographs are well reproduced and are accompanied by informative captions. These two books will provide an interesting addition to the collections of those interested in rail and public road transport at the time as well as a nostalgic look back to the past for those who remember the 1950s and early 1960s.

Hall, Susan. *Workhouses and hospitals of North Manchester*. Richardson. Stoneclough. 2004. 70pp. Illus. Maps. £5.75. ISBN 1 85216 161 2

Information on the Manchester Union Workhouse and the hospitals of north Manchester is not easy to come by for the

average person without a lot of research. This new book by Susan Hall brings together a wealth of information on the workhouse and the hospitals that were to be found in the area. Some of the information has come from surviving documents, but there is a wealth of information which has been gathered as a result of talking to those who were either inmates of the workhouse, patients in the hospitals or former employees. As well as charting the history of the workhouse and hospitals in north Manchester, there are also a number of pen-portraits of people who were associated with them which adds to the interest of the book. This new publication is to be welcomed by those with an interest not only in the history of hospitals, but also in that of the areas where they are located.

Baggoley, Martin. *Foul deeds and suspicious deaths in Manchester*. Wharncliffe Books. Barnsley. 2004. Illus. 160pp. £9.99. ISBN 1 903425 65 4

Very often, reading local papers, one comes across reports of crimes, but as the investigations and trials are often spread over several weeks or months, there is not sufficient time to follow the case to its conclusion. In this publication, the author has collected details of 12 crimes, either murders or manslaughter cases, that gripped the public's attention in the nineteenth century and retells the story from beginning to end in a very readable

manner. As he says in his introduction, all involved not only a crime, but also a human tragedy. This book shows the darker side of life in Manchester in the nineteenth century and is a good addition to the literature on this.

Goddard, John. *Huncoat uncoated*. Landy Publishing. Blackpool. 2004. 60pp. Illus. Map. £7. ISBN 1 872895 64 6

Until 1928, Huncoat was an independent authority on the edge of Accrington. In that year, its larger neighbour absorbed it and Huncoat became part of Accrington. Although this publication is essentially a collection of photographs of the area, there are extensive and informative captions, and a brief history of various topics precedes the illustrations; for example, there is a short history of the industrial development of Huncoat. This book fills the gap in the history of this part of north-east Lancashire.

Rees, Catherine. *Penwortham, Hutton & Longton in focus*. Landy Publishing. Blackpool. 2004. 72pp. Illus. £8. ISBN 1 872895 43 3

This book is a collection of photographs showing three small villages in central Lancashire. Although many of the illustrations are postcards, there are a number of photographs which have come from private collections which enhances the interest and value of this publication. The illustrations are accompanied by informative captions, many of which give the history of the building or site depicted, or details of the people in the photograph or why they were taken. As well as using photographs, use has been made of copies of advertisements from newspapers and

other items of ephemera, which adds to the variety of the illustrations. This book, as well as recording the villages as they once were, should encourage those who know the area to take a new look at the area and the changes that have taken place.

Barrett, Audrey & Eaves, David. *Sabden past and present: a photographic history*. Landy Publishing. Blackpool. 2004. 96pp. Illus. Map. £10. ISBN 1 872895 63 8

Sabden is one of a number of villages that lie in the shadow of Pendle Hill. This book traces the history of the village through the use of both old and new photographs. The authors have taken the opportunity to present the history of the village in an interesting and informative way so that it is possible to discover not only the main events which affected the village in the twentieth century, but also at a time before industry arrived in the area. It is a book that should interest all those who live in the village as well as those who have visited it or passed through it in the course of their travels in the Pendle area.

Parson, Martin. *Manchester evacuation 1939–1945: the exception to the rule*. DRM. Peterborough. 2004. 72pp. Illus. £5. ISBN 0 954722 90 6

This book is a collection of personal recollections, together with extracts from newspapers and official records, of the evacuation of Manchester school children, mostly in the period 1939–1940. There are many tables giving details of the places to which schools were evacuated as well as information on the numbers who were actually evacuated. This book brings together information from a wide range of sources and is an important addition to

the material available in print on this important, and in many respects, traumatic period in the lives of those who were evacuated from Manchester.

Rowbottom, Doreen (ed.) *A chronological history of Eccles 656–1996*. Privately published. Eccles. [44pp]. Map. [1996]. £1.50

The task of compiling this chronological history of Eccles was undertaken by members of Salford LLL/U3A Local History Study Group. It is a valuable addition to the literature available on the history of Eccles providing a useful starting point for those wanting to research or trace something that happened in the town since 656AD. There are also several useful maps which also trace the growth of the town.

Britton, Ronald. *An industrial history of Eccles 1800–1900*. Privately published. ND. [18pp]. Maps. [1998]

This book is the result of an interest in industrial history by the author before his death. It traces, albeit briefly, the development of industry in the town, the different types of industry and some of those who were involved in the town's industrial development. This book should provide a useful starting point for those who want to follow up Britton's work in the industrial development of Eccles as well as being of interest to anyone interested in the history of the town itself.

Watson, Stan. *The Rev. Canon James Pelham Pitcairn (Vicar of Eccles 1861–1892) and the Great Renovation*. Privately published. Eccles. 2nd edn 1995. 42pp. Illus.

Initially, Watson used the subject of Canon Pitcairn as the topic for his presidential address to the Eccles and District History Society in 1990. His researches, however, revealed far more than could be accommodated in a single lecture and so he turned the results of his work into a small publication. Not only was the parish church substantially rebuilt during Pitcairn's time at Eccles, but the old parish was sub-divided into a number of smaller parishes. This book traces the events of the 1860s at Eccles, providing a fascinating inside into the history of this ancient parish church at a time that Watson describes as 'most significant'.

Inglis, Simon. *Played in Manchester: the architectural heritage of a city a play*. English Heritage. 2004. 136pp. Illus. Bibliog. £9.99. ISBN 1 87359 278 7

Manchester has been involved with sport for many centuries whether it was a form of football mentioned in the Court Leet, horse racing or bull and bear baiting. However, it was only in the latter half of the nineteenth century that sport became organised and facilities dedicated to a particular sporting activity were developed. This publication begins by tracing the history of sport in Manchester and its immediate environs before examining the various sporting facilities that existed or still exist today. The book contains a wealth of information and is well illustrated not only with modern photographs, but also historic ones of various grounds

and other sporting facilities. It is a book that fills a gap in the published material available on this aspect of Manchester's history.

Nicholls, Robert. *Curiosities of Greater Manchester*. Sutton Publishing. Stroud. 2004. 192pp. Illus. £12.99. ISBN 0 7509 3661 4

Every area has its curiosities and oddities that attract the attention of local people as well as visitors. Some of the places mentioned in the book are not easily located whilst others are prominently located in town centres. As well as man-made structures and buildings, such as Barton Swing Aqueduct and what is said to be the smallest pub in Manchester, there are natural features such as Watch Hill in Bowden or the glacial boulder at Rosehill, Northenden. This publication lists some 140 such features in the ten districts that formerly made up Greater Manchester and is the first such a compilation for this area. For each entry there is a brief history or description, how to find it and photographs, both old ones and modern ones. This book will be of interest to local people as well as to visitors who want to find some of the more unusual things that exist in this industrial area.

Smith, J. H. & Garlick, J. H. *The people of Glossop in 1851 and 1881*. Glossop and District Historical Society. Glossop. 2002. 105pp. Tables. Map. £9.50. ISBN 1 902383 07 9

In 1979, Glossop and District Historical Society used the 1851 census to build up a picture of the town at that time, what the people did for a living and what this told the researcher about the nature of the

town at that time. Eleven years later, the Society transcribed the 1881 census for the town and undertook a similar project to discover what the census told them about Glossop and its inhabitants. However, rather than just using the one census, it was decided to compare the results of 1881 with those of 1851 and to try to gauge what changes had taken place in the 30 years. The result is this fascinating examination of the changes that had taken place in the town over the period. The analysis of the census data has been supplemented by information obtained from other sources, such as trade directories, which helps to fill in some of the gaps and also provide addresses where certain factories were located. It is to be hoped that other groups might follow the example set by Glossop and compare the 1851 census with that of later dates.

Pryor, H. & Hitchens, J. *Altrincham Gardeners' Society: a hundred years of professional gardeners*. Privately published. Timperley. 2003. 64pp. Map. Illus. Bibliog. £7 + £2.00 p & p from the publisher, 11 Thorley Lane, Timperley, Altrincham WA15 7BJ.

This book traces the history of a now defunct Society that was associated with one of the less well known aspects of social history, that of the professional gardener who often worked for owners of large houses with large gardens. The Society eventually became known as the Altrincham and District Gardeners' Mutual Improvement Society whose main aim was to encourage contact between professional gardeners and enable them to exchange views and information. The author has not only traced and reconstructed the history of the Society as far as

she is able, as many records have not survived, but also provides interesting and important information of the various horticultural societies that existed in the Altrincham area about which little is recorded. It is a book that should appeal to those who have an interest in gardening history and those involved in gardening professionally as well as any interested in the history of Altrincham and the surrounding area.

Rowbottom, D. (ed.) *Treasures of Eccles past and present*. Local Studies Group, LLL/U3A, Salford. Salford. 2001. Illus. No price.

This is a collection of brief articles on some of the more interesting buildings or organisations in Eccles, some of which have now disappeared. It provides a brief history of the building, structure or organisation concerned and what has happened to it if it is no longer extant. As there is no modern history of Eccles, this, together with other publications on the town, will help the local people to be aware of their heritage and could well provide a starting point for further research by individuals or groups.

Lamb, A. (ed.) *My Bohemian life – Leslie Stuart*. Fullers Wood Press. Croyden. 2003. 125pp. Illus. £13. ISBN 0 9524149 3 7

How many people know who wrote 'Soldiers of the Queen', 'Lily of Laguna' and 'Little Dolly Daydream'? Well, the answer is Leslie Stuart. This book consists of a series of reprints of articles Stuart wrote for the *Empire News* in 1927, shortly before his death which are, in effect, autobiographical. The articles, as well as

outlining Stuart's life, include many references to popular performers of the period, thus making them of interest to those interested in the world of light music at this particular period before the advent of cinema and later, radio. The editor of the articles has also added footnotes to explain references which might not be familiar names or places mentioned by Stuart, a fact which enhances the articles and adds to their interest.

Flynn, Tony. *Cross Lane*. Richardson. Stoneclough. 2004. 87pp. Illus. Maps. £5.75. ISBN 1 85216 159 0

Today, Cross Lane is one of those roads which motorists speed along from Regent Road to the A6 with little thought about those who lived in the area or the buildings which once lined this important road. Tony Flynn has traced its history and mentions the fact that the old landmarks have disappeared. This book provides an insight into the development of Cross Lane and some of the many people, buildings and organisations that were to be found along its length. It is well illustrated with photographs of some of the many buildings that lined its length as well as copies of posters of the local places of entertainment. It is to be hoped that this book will encourage others to write about individual streets before their history, as recalled by those who lived there, disappears. It sets a standard for others to aim for when writing histories of individual streets.

Hyde, Susan F. *The history of Welcome Brewery, Oldham*. Richardson. Stoneclough. 2004. 31pp. Illus. Maps. £5. ISBN 1 85216 160 4

This book traces the history of one of Greater Manchester's smaller brewers, the Welcome Brewery in Oldham, which was attached to the Welcome Inn on Henshaw Street. This brewery appears to have been started to supply the Welcome Inn, which was a beer house, and gradually expanded to supply other beer houses in the area. It was acquired by the Hyde family, no relation to the Hydes who established Hyde's Brewery, in 1912. The book traces the history of the brewery from the time Charles Frederick Hyde took it over in 1912 until its demise in 1959, the victim of the changes which were taking place in the brewing industry at that time. This is an interesting story about the problems which beset a small brewery during the twentieth century and will be of interest not only to those interested in the history of Oldham, but breweries in general.

Waterhouse, Robert. *The Other Fleet Street*. Altrincham. 2004. 224pp. Illus. Bibliog. £16.99. ISBN 1 84547 083 4

Throughout most of the twentieth century, Manchester was an important centre for the production of newspapers with many national newspapers having northern editions printed and distributed from Manchester. Until the publication of this book, little had been written about the newspaper industry in the city let alone those who were involved in the production of the newspapers. This book attempts to redress the balance by tracing the history of Manchester's rise and, one

might say, fall, as an important centre for the newspaper industry. The author has made much use of surviving archival material as well as the recollections of those who were employed in the industry, which adds to the interest of the book. This book should be read with interest by all those who are interested in Manchester's newspaper industry as well as those with an interest in the history of the city.

Hope, Michael. *Lever versus Liverpool: their six year struggle over Rivington and its water*. Anatole Publishing. Croydon. 2002. 69pp. Maps. Illus. Bibliog. No price given. ISBN 0 9542180 0 0

The Foreword to this book claims that it is an attempt to provide a more balanced account of the struggle between William Lever and Liverpool Corporation over the purchase of land at Rivington to safeguard Liverpool's water supply and its purity. The author has not only relied on already published accounts of the dispute, but also says that he has examined local authority minutes as well as contemporary newspaper reports of the dispute. The story makes interesting reading, especially as the Moors above Rivington are a popular open space and visited by many people. As well as tracing the history of the dispute, the author has also set the saga in its context in regard to Liverpool's water supply. This book is an important addition to the literature on the history of the supply of that most essential of public requirements – fresh clean water.