



Celebrating 21 Years of Tameside Local History Forum



'I have always enjoyed the fellowship of the History on your Doorstep group'.
P. Greenwood

3. Archaeological Excavations & Family History Centre

The Tameside Archaeological Survey, 1990 to 2012

Begun in 1990, and funded throughout by Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council, with supplementary funding from The Heritage Lottery Fund (now NHLF) from 1997 to 2001 (for Park Bridge), The Friends of Gorse Hall in the years 2001-07, and the Tameside Local History Forum in the years 2008-12, the survey ran for 22 years. It had 3 main aims:

- primary research to improve the understanding of the area
- community engagement of schools and adult volunteers through hands-on fieldwork, workshops, guided research, family history advice and research, classroom activities, and exhibitions;
- and legacy through the dissemination of the new information through publication in a variety of forms, museum exhibitions, and an improved Historic Environment Record.

The results of the survey were substantial: 24 research excavations, over 110 detailed building surveys; two publication series amounting to 18 academic and popular monographs, a monograph series of personal research and reminiscences written by Tameside residents; a range of academic journal articles; and seven national awards. Academically, the fieldwork has had a major impact on the practice and development of Industrial Archaeology in the UK and beyond, through the excavation of one of the earliest Newcomen steam engine sites in the world (the 18th century Fairbottom Bobs pictures on right); pioneering studies on canal warehouses, textile communities, and the archaeology of the twentieth century and the development of the Manchester Methodology for understanding the archaeology of industrialisation.

The project had three institutional homes during its life. It was established under the aegis of the Greater Manchester Archaeological Unit at the University of Manchester in 1990, before moving to the newly established University of Manchester Archaeological Unit in 1994. From 2009 until its completion in 2012 the project was hosted by the University of Salford in the Centre for Applied Archaeology.



Tameside Family History Centre

A unique feature of the collaboration between Tameside Council and the University of Manchester Archaeological Unit was the introduction of a fully funded, full time family history advice service. It was located in the Setantii, History of Tameside museum. When the museum closed in 2012, the help desk, now serviced by volunteers, moved to the Local Studies Library.



findmypast.com
family history in the making



'St John's has gone on to take part in and enjoy many ventures as part of the Forum group and has been encouraged to establish a display area in church for heritage (and other) exhibition purposes'.
Janet Matley

2005



9 April -The Wedding of Charles, Prince of Wales and Camilla Parker Bowles.

2006



9 October - Opening of the Beetham Tower, Manchester, a 168-metre 47-storey skyscraper.

2007



1 July - A smoking ban comes into effect in all enclosed public places in England.



Dukinfield Town Hall reopens after extensive refurbishment



IKEA store opens in Ashton-under-Lyne



Excavation at Park Bridge Top Forge

Red Hall Chapel stones preserved with the help of Audenshaw Local History Society

