



Celebrating 21 Years of Tameside Local History Forum



'I like digging into the past and sharing the information with like-minded people. We always get a warm welcome in Tameside Local Studies Library'. A. Brewster

4. Archaeological Excavations

Newton Hall Hyde

One evening in late February 2012 more than 50 enthusiastic archaeologists and historians gathered at Newton Hall. They had come to hear about a new project organised by Tameside Local History Forum (TLHF) and funded through the National Lottery.

The Forum members explained how the history and archaeology of the hall would be rediscovered and explored by local community volunteers and Tameside school children with the support of professional archaeologists from the University of Salford.

This could not have been achieved without the support of William Kenyon & Sons who owned the land and building. Initially to be demolished in 1967, Sir George Kenyon saved and restored this late medieval Barn later dated to 1530. This support continues today.

In all 297 children from 10 local schools, 40 teachers, scout groups, Young Archaeologist Club and A level students helped, plus 126 adult volunteers. The experience, through the work of TLHF and the University of Salford, had made 'HISTORY COME ALIVE!'



The foundations of the late nineteenth century brick barn.



The foundations of the new single-storey range added to the barn.

Gorse Hall

The Friends of Gorse Hall were formed in 1999 to promote the use and knowledge of the 35 acre site of Gorse Hall, once part of the Manor of Dukinfield. The site is situated on the border of Stalybridge and Dukinfield and is managed by volunteers as an open public space and has links to Beatrix Potter and a famous unsolved murder.

A grant from Heritage Lottery enabled the Friends to carry out work to make the community more aware of the historical and educational value of Gorse Hall. Supported by the University of Manchester Archaeological Unit, a digger began to uncover the outer walls of the foundations, the kitchen, hearth, porch and outbuildings.

The project lasted 10 years with 6000 school children experiencing real archaeology, thanks to Maurice Smith TMBC and John Crosslands Educational Archaeologist. The late Roy Oldham, the then leader of TMBC, also supported this project throughout.



Some of the excavated outer walls of Gorse Hall



The excavated cellar steps that Beatrix Potter recalled in her diary.

University of Salford MANCHESTER

Below - The Chapel Trenches



Top Picture - The Nave Trench showing 19th century heating and the 3 earlier post pits.



Lower left - Post pit 037
Lower right - post pit 35 with partial leg bone in section

Dukinfield Old Hall Chapel

Dukinfield Old Hall Chapel is all we have left of Dukinfield Hall. Members of the Forum campaigned to save it and set up the Friends of Dukinfield Old Hall Chapel in 2011. They have taken a keen interest in the work of archaeologists, who have returned several times since 1982, when the Greater Manchester Archaeological Unit first excavated the medieval Hall site.

1995 The University of Manchester Archaeological Unit carried out an 'evaluation' of the Old Hall and courtyard areas, before workshops were built.

1996 They surveyed the remains of the Chapel as part of the Tameside Archaeology Survey project.

2002 They kept a 'watching brief' while the roof above the nave was dismantled.

2013 A team, led by Dr. Michael Nevell, Head of Archaeology, University of Salford, excavated the Chapel.



13 December- Barack Obama was elected the first black president of the United States.

2008

Closure of Robertson's Jam Works, Droylsden



2009



Restoration of Stamford Park begins.

2010



13 October - In Chile 33 miners are successfully rescued after two months trapped underground



The Stamford estate papers, including the oldest known map of Ashton-under-Lyne, (See board 5) are donated to Tameside Local Studies and Archives.

Archaeological exhibition and monthly lectures take place to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Tameside Archaeological Survey