



Celebrating 21 Years of Tameside Local History Forum



'The Forum has taken me to numerous archives and museums for research, I have been on archaeological digs and written many articles for the HAT magazine'.
Val Bowker BA hons.

5. Ashton Manorial Documents and Court Leet Chair

Ashton Manorial Documents



Picture above & below right Records arriving and being unpacked at Local Studies

In 2012 the Local History Forum was involved in the deposit at the Local Studies and Archives Centre of manorial documents relating to the early history of Ashton. The documents had been held by the Stamford Estate at Enville Hall in Staffordshire and at Cordingley's, their estate office in Ashton. Forum members visited Enville with archives staff to discuss the transfer of the documents.

This collection dates back to 1305 and shines a light on the very early history of our area. Most of the oldest documents are catalogued in the collection DDSW/Med and contain some unusual items such as "a tryall by battell in Mottram" from 1377/8 - an account of a land dispute which was to be decided by a battle except that one party didn't turn up! (DDSW/Med/3). It also includes a very early large scale plan of Ashton, surveyed in 1765 (DDSW/11/2).



Ashton's Court Leet Chair (Manor Court Chair)

Ashton's Court Leet goes back many centuries and continued to meet annually in Ashton until the 1950s. These were criminal courts for the punishment of small offences with the word leet denoting a territorial and a jurisdictional area. After the 16th century the duties of the court leet were increasingly transferred to the justice of the peace. The steward of Ashton manor presided, utilising the manorial mace and chain presented by Maurice Lees of Park Bridge in 1911. He also occupied a unique carved chair, unseen for 364 days of the year! Sadly a number of manorial treasures, including the mace and chain were sold at a auction.

However, the beautiful carved chair was auctioned separately and purchased for the town by the Tameside Local History Forum. It was put on display for the first time ever at the Heritage Fair at Albion URC Church. It is a fragment of Ashton's history and was rescued in the nick of time. Unfortunately the sale means other manorial items have been dispersed or sold, so their collective significance has been irretrievably lost.



2011

14 May - Manchester City win the FA Cup to end their 35-year wait for a major trophy.

2012



4 August - Team GB wins six gold medals and a silver on Day Eight of the 2012 London Olympics.

2013



22 July - Catherine, Duchess of Cambridge, gives birth to a boy. He is named George Alexander Louis.

Aldwyn School, Audenshaw, help explore the archaeology and history of Ashton Moss, and produce a calendar and exhibition.



Court Leet chair purchased by TLHF (see above)



The Olympic torch passes through Tameside on 24 June en-route to the 2012 London Olympics. Torch bearer John Burns at Ashton Market with Civic Dignitaries



Metrolink service reaches Tameside, first to Droylsden and then to Ashton-under-Lyne.

Two graphite drawings by Hyde artist Trevor Grimshaw sell for £3,200 and £3,800 on Flog it.

