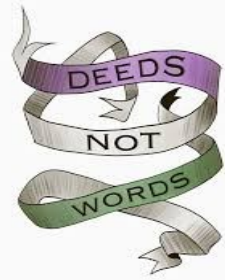




# TAMESIDE'S WOMEN



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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- The members of the Local History Forum for sharing their personal research and allowing us input,
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- The Family History Society of Cheshire, Tameside Group.



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G.J. Oliver and K.A. Booth assert the moral right as the authors of this book

Front cover – images of some of the women.

Back cover - exhibition display

# DEDICATION

.... to all the millions of women who have lived in our area since the first weary travellers found our valleys and decided to settle here.

.... unknown and unconsciously carrying out their work and domestic tasks, they built the net of their hamlets, villages and towns leaving few imprints of their lives but the examples of hard work and caring to the next generation.

.... they include a woman who, in the C18 married a widower with 7 children, most of them sons, and went on to have 11 of her own raising 14 to adulthood [including a daughter who was to die in childbirth aged 21]. She continued to work on the family farm whilst either pregnant or breast feeding.

.... they include a mother of 6 who brought up her children in a 2 up 2 down whilst she and her husband worked in a cotton mill. She watched their 5 boys go to war, and saw them return. A son emigrated to Detroit to work in the motor industry, to be followed by her daughter: she would cross the Atlantic several times to visit them before her death. A quiet but courageous life, but not exceptional.

.... and the mothers, sisters, cousins, friends and teachers of our “exceptional” women who gave them the tools to take on the world. And those who gave up their own chances to give them a future in their chosen professions.

We are not forgetting the men of our area, but this is dedicated to the ½ of our population too often forgotten by history: our very special women.

## TAMESIDE'S EXTRAORDINARY WOMEN

Where to start? The Local History Forum decided that the 2018 Heritage Open Days should be on this theme to celebrate the partial enfranchisement of women a century ago. The floor was open for suggestions and the following list compiled:

DAWN ACTON	Actor
CATHERINE EMSLIE ANDERSON	Surgeon
MARGARET ASHTON	Suffragist. Philanthropist. Pacifist
FRANCES LOTTE BALFOUR-BROWNE	Botanist
KAREN BARBER	Ice Skating
ELLEN BARNES	Philanthropist
MARY BARNES	Philanthropist
AMANDA BARRIE	Actor
MARGARET BECKETT	DBE. First Female Foreign Secretary
CHRISTINE BELL	Athlete
SHARMAN BIRTLES	JP. Banker. High Sheriff of Manchester
FANNI BOGDANOV	Professor. Medieval scholar
WINIFRED BOWMAN	Historian
KATE BRADBURY	Egyptologist
LILIAN BUCKOKE	Nurse. Spanish Civil War
SHEILA BUXTON	Singer
JENNY CAMPBELL	Business Dragon
JULIE CAMPBELL	Singer. Guitarist
BARBARA CASTLE	Politician
STACEY COPELAND	Boxer
JOAN D COOPER	Social Worker
SARAH DALE	Writer
SUE DEVANEY	Actor
CHRIS DUFFIN	Prison Governor
EDITH MARY O ELLIS	Writer & Activist
AMANDA FERGUSON	Sport
KATE FLOWERS	Opera singer
BRIGIT FORSYTH	Actor
SADIE LIZA FROST	Actor & Fashion Designer
ANNA/NINA de GARIS DAVIES	Egyptologist
AMANDA GOODWIN	Business
DOLORES GORDON SMITH	Author
NICOLA GRAHAM	Reuben's Retreat
JULIE HESMONDHALGH	Actress
GWENDOLINE HUGHES	1 <sup>st</sup> World War Hospital Matron
PAULINE JONES	Law
SARAH JONES	Medicine
JOAN KELLEY	Science
ELIZABETH HANNAH KENYON	Philanthropist

PHYLLIS KERSHAW	Code breaker
HANNAH LEES	Industrialist
FRANCES LOCKETT	First Cotton Queen
KAREN LOFTHOUSE	RAF
CHRISTINE McQUEEN	Director of an Abbey
EDITH GLADYS MAMOURIAN	JP. Pilot
ANNIE MARLAND-BRODIE	Trade Unionist
JILL MARSHALL	Author
BERTHA MASON	Philanthropist
LYNDA MEEKS	Singer
HANNAH MITCHELL	Suffragette
HANNAH MITCHELL	Sailing
MARY MOFFAT	African Missionary
CONSTANCE MARY MORTON	Philanthropist
JANE NELSON	CEO Oddfellows
PAT PHOENIX	Actor
SYLVIA PLATT	Swimmer
BEATRIX POTTER	Author. Artist
LILLIAN PREECE	Swimmer
SUSAN PRIEST	Midwife
KATHLEEN RADDIN	Police
ANGELA RAYNER	Politician, Shadow Secretary for Education
KELLY RICHARDSON	Business
TRUDIE ROBERTS	Medicine
JANE ROGERS	Writer
CLARINDA ROWBOTHAM	Superintendent of St John's Ambulance
KATHY STAFF	Actor
SHIRLEY STELFOX	Actor
ADA SUMMERS	First Female Magistrate
MELANIE SYKES	Actor
REBECCA TUNNEY	GB Gymnast
MABEL TYLECOTE	Politician
MARY TYRRELL	Founder of Fairfield School
BROOKE VINCENT	Actor
ANDREA WORRALL	SPORT
VIVIENNE WESTWOOD	Fashion Designer. Activist
ELLEN WILKINSON	Politician
RHIANNON WILKINSON	Education
ALICE WOODHOUSE	1 <sup>st</sup> World War Hospital Matron
AUDREY ROBINSON	Organist

What follows are brief biographies of some of the women followed by details of the others whose biographies are less detailed. Several attempts were made to contact those still active for their permission given to include them. Acknowledgements are included of the many who have worked tirelessly to bring these special women to our notice.

## MARGARET ASHTON



Margaret was the daughter of Thomas Ashton [ a cotton manufacturer in Hyde] and Elizabeth Gair. She was born in Withington on 19<sup>th</sup> January, 1856, and brought up at Ford Bank Estate, Didsbury with 6 brothers and sisters. She was a pacifist, philanthropist and suffragist. She was a voluntary manager of Flowery Fields School and a governor of Manchester Grammar School for Girls. She died on 15<sup>th</sup> October 1937.

She is noted for being the 1<sup>st</sup> Woman City Councillor for Manchester [Withington] in 1908. She served on the Manchester Public Health Committee and the Child Welfare Subcommittee. In 1914, she co-founded the Manchester Babies' Hospital.

At the outbreak of war, she split from the NUWSS and Suffragette movement. She was a signatory of the Open Christmas Letter which was a call for peace to the Women of Germany and Austria which was published in January, 1915. She started the Manchester Branch of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom. In 1921, she was labelled, incorrectly, a 'friend of the enemy.'

Her legacy includes a bi-annual Memorial Lecture, a seat in Manchester Town Hall for the Lady Mayoress and guests, and the renaming of Harpurhey High School as the Margaret Ashton 6<sup>th</sup> Form College.

Her brother, Thomas Gair Ashton was the 1<sup>st</sup> Baron Ashton of Hyde, an industrialist and philanthropist. He was a Liberal Politician and Peer. A first cousin was Helen Potter, the mother of Beatrix Potter.

## FRANCES LOTTE BALFOUR-BROWNE

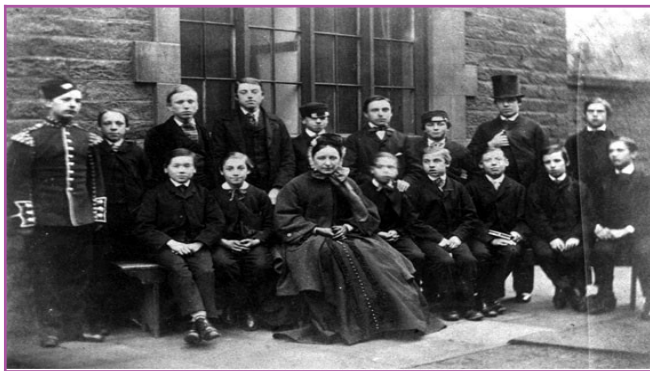


Frances Lotte Stephens was born on 31<sup>st</sup> December, 1904, to Ira Stephens and Elise Charlotte Lindeman. She had 2 sisters: Frida and Margot. In 1911, they were living in Sparkhill, Birmingham where her father was a machine belting traveller. The family moved to Ashton where her father owned a leather tanning factory. She attended Fairfield School for Girls. She studied at Manchester University gaining a BSc in Botany in 1926, and her MSc in 1928 having been awarded the Grisedale Scholarship for Advanced Research. In 1939, she was living at 15A South End, Kensington. She married John William Alexander Francis Balfour-Browne in 1944. Both Frances and her husband died in 2001: he in Kirriemuir and she in South East Hampshire.

She was the Scientific Assistant in the Department of Botany at the British Museum in 1936. In 1939, she gave her occupation as mycologist, and was a first aider based at the museum. She was the Senior Experimental Officer at the Natural History Museum in 1946, and Principal Scientific Officer by 1955. She retired in 1967.

Researcher: Anne McGarry

## ELLEN BARNES



She is shown in the photograph with her Sunday School class.

Ellen was the daughter of millowner John Cheetham and his wife, Emma [née Ra/elynor]. Her siblings included Agnes [1833-1931], John Frederick [1835-1916 who married Beatrice Emma Astley in 1887], Charles Arthur [1836-1853] and Francis Henry [1844-1922 married to Emily Blacklock]. Ellen grew up at Eastwood House, Stalybridge, now part of the bird sanctuary.

In 1864, she married James Richardson Barnes in Stalybridge Congregational Church. He was the son of Thomas Barnes MP: the Rev Gwyther and Rev Samuel Martin [Westminster] officiating. She was to live most of the rest of her life living on the Shropshire/Welsh border including Quinan, Oswestry and Weston Rhyn. Following the death of her husband in 1899, her sister Agnes lived with her. Ellen died on the 23<sup>rd</sup> February, 1920, at 'Brookside', Weston Bryn, Shropshire. Probate was granted to Wilfred Ormrod Bailey, William Edward Frith [estate agent], and solicitor Charles Edward Hutton. She left £453,113 some of which was to the Mayor and Aldermen of Stalybridge borough.

She was a committed educationalist and supporter of local organisations but never forget the town of her birth. Her father died in 1886 leaving monies to Stalybridge Congregational Church

In 1925, The Ellen Barnes Memorial Lectures began taking place in the winter months. The charitable instruction included '*for the benefit of the library at Stalybridge either in the purchase of books or in the payment of lectures on Literary subjects as the council shall think fit.*' The trust was closed in 2012.



## MARY ELIZABETH BARNES



Mary Elizabeth Gwyther was born in Stalybridge to Rev John Howe Gwyther [Congregationalist] and Deborah Wilberfosse in 1864. She had 3 brothers: James Theodore, Cecil Harry Wilberforce, and Harry Earlston and a sister, Agnes Dora. In 1871, she was staying with her grandparents at 10, Tynwald Terrace, Shelford. She married Harold Alfred Barnes, a prominent millowner, on 17<sup>th</sup> Febuary, 1885 in Birkenhead. They had 2 children: George Le Maire, and Mary Ellen. In 1929, Harold gave the family home in Bolton for use as a nursery, and the family moved to their home Hillcroft, Weston Rhyn, Shropshire. She died on 23<sup>rd</sup> February, 1942, at the Cottage Hospital, Chirk, outliving her husband and son. She left £1769/ 6/ 6.

Mary was a non-militant, non-party philanthropist and suffragist. She was a member of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Society. The Bolton Guild was unable to hand out funds during a coal strike, and she wanted to know the best way to help: '....the amount of preventable poverty and the hard conditions under which so many people live. It all went to prove how money was not always the best means of helping people but that personal service and sympathetic care might do much more good.' In the First World War she started a Tipperary Club in Farnworth. 900 members sewed and made parcels for the serving men. In 1922, she was the first female councillor for the town and a county magistrate. In 1934, she had been on the Board of Guardians for 25 years and was a JP and OBE. 'Probably the most prominent public woman in town.' In 2018, Farnworth celebrated her life and pioneering work for women's suffrage with a plaque in Farnworth Park.

## DAME MARGARET BECKETT



Margaret Mary Jackson was born in Ashton on 15<sup>th</sup> January, 1943. She grew up on Wilshaw Grove and was educated at St Mary's Junior School, Notre Dame High School and UMIST. She took an apprenticeship in metallurgy, training as a metallurgist and becoming an Experiment Officer. At the same time, she was a Labour Party researcher.

In 1970, she was a Labour Party officer and advisor to Judith Hart. She was elected the MP for Lincoln in 1974 losing her seat in 1979.

She married Lionel Beckett in 1979 at Patricroft Registry Office.

In 1983, she was elected MP for Derby South. She was the Deputy Leader of the Labour Party under John Smith until 1994. In 2001 she was the 1<sup>st</sup> female Secretary of State for the Environment. By 2006, she was Britain's 1<sup>st</sup> female Foreign Secretary. In 2013, she was awarded Dame Commander of the British Empire for Public and Political Services. At the present time [2018] she is the longest serving woman MP in the Commons.

She enjoys caravanning and writing. She is also a supporter of Derby County FC.

Researcher: Margaret Beckett's Constituency Office



Sharman Rhona Newth was born in 1951 in Droylsden, the fourth and final daughter of Leslie Newth and Bette Curel. She attended Fairfield High School for Girls acquiring many life lessons such as respect and care for others and self-belief. She joined what is now the Royal Bank of Scotland rising from post clerk to Regional Facilities' Manager. She married Grahame Birtles in 1987 and has always lived in Tameside. She took early retirement in 1996 but is very involved with local groups including The Shed where she is a Trustee, and she is a Governor of Fairfield High School for Girls and a member of the Soroptimists. In her spare time, she enjoys Local History, football and dancing. And walking her elderly dog!

In 1981, she became the youngest magistrate in the country serving on the Manchester City Bench: on the Adult, Youth, Family and Licensing panels, was Deputy Bench Chairman then Chairman of the Bench from 2009-2012, transferring to the Supplemental Bench in 2013. She was appointed Deputy Lieutenant in 2009 and in a ceremony at Dukinfield Town Hall she was made High Sheriff of Greater Manchester 2015-16: the second High Sheriff from Tameside, and the first female, making sure all entertainment was done within the Borough.

She supports many charities including being the Deputy Chair of the Cotton District and Barnes Charity, the Duchy of Lancaster Benevolent Fund, is a Trustee of the Manchester Guardian Society and Manchester High Sheriffs' Police Trust Fund, the Christie Hospital Foundation, the Guide Bridge Amateur Theatre, the Donkey Sanctuary, the Manchester Dogs' Home and has been a Patron of Marie Curie Nursing since 2013. She is a patron of Willow Wood Hospice and a trustee of SAFE Networks which deals with female exploitation and modern day slavery. She is Chairman of the Manchester & District Hospital Choirs Committee whose Christmas Concerts raise money for CLIC Sargent. She was delighted to become Honorary Colonel of the Greater Manchester Army Cadet Force.

'I absolutely celebrate that as a woman I was able to progress in the bank...when I started my career in 1969, there were only whispers of an organisation called Women's Lib.'

Researcher:

Sharman

Birtles

The Shed is an organisation which helps older men to avoid social isolation and promotes a healthy lifestyle.

## FANNI BOGDANOV



Fanni Bogdanov was born in Dusseldorf, Germany, in 1927. She came to Britain from Affltrach, as part of the Kindertransport in 1939 aged 11. Her parents were incarcerated in several concentration camps: Dachau, Bergan-Belsen and Auschwitz. She was taken in by Quakers Mr and Mrs Clement of Haughton Green who tutored her before she entered Fairfield School: Mrs Clement's brother paying the school fees. She learnt Latin and gained Distinctions in 7 of her 8 subjects. She left school aged 16 working for a time at Stalybridge Library whilst taking an external London University Course. She sat the Entrance Exam for Manchester University and won a scholarship to study French in 1945. In 1947, she travelled to Germany to be reunited with her parents – her mother later joining her in Manchester. She spent her career at Manchester University as undergraduate, post-graduate, lecturer, reader gaining her MA then PHD becoming Professor. She retired in 1994.

She died in August, 2013, aged 86. In her will she left £1. 5 million to Manchester University for prizes for high performing students and monies for a series of lectures around Holocaust Memorial Day.

She was an outstanding scholar of medieval literature and inspired by Eugène Vinaver, she researched ancient and medieval French texts being the leading scholar in the field of Malory and King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table. She was awarded the Prix Excalibur in 1997. It was said that she had no sympathy for anyone working on material written later than 1300! This 'kind-hearted motivated individual' 'devoted her life to studying and teaching.'

There is a Blue Plaque dedicated to her at Fairfield School.

## KATE BRADBURY GRIFFITHS



Kate Bradbury was born in Ashton on 28<sup>th</sup> August, 1854, to Charles T Bradbury and Elizabeth A Tomlins and she was baptised on 21<sup>st</sup> November. She was brought up at Hall Green Terrace, Dukinfield, and had a brother and sister both of whom died young. Her father was a cotton manufacturer employing 120 men and women, and as a child she was educated by a governess. For a time her father was the manager of the print works at Buckton Vale and they lived at Buckton Grange. The family later moved to Riversvale Hall in Ashton where they were friends with another Egyptologist living nearby, Aquila Dodgson.

She was very involved with the Egyptian Exploration Society and the Department of Egyptology at UCL. She accompanied her friend Amelia Edwards, known as the godmother of Egyptology, on a lecture tour of America. Following her friend's death, she established the Edwards' Professor of Egyptian Archaeology and Philology at University College, London: William M Flinders Petrie being the first postholder. She continued to coordinate the unpacking and display of antiquities and collaborated in the translation of ancient Egyptian texts.

She married Francis Llewelyn Griffith in Ashton in 1896 and they lived with her father at Riversdale Hall, Bardsley. Francis was appointed the Honorary Professor of Egyptology at Manchester University. On the 1901 census where he is described as an Egyptologist, she has no occupation. She died in Silverdale on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 1902. Francis lived for a time at Riversvale Hall with Kate's father, Charles Timothy Bradbury until he remarried. Their legacies formed the foundation of the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford. He died in 1934.

Researcher: Gay Oliver

e-mail: [gayjoliver@gmail.com](mailto:gayjoliver@gmail.com)

## LILIAN BUCKOKE



Lilian Doris Buckoke was the daughter of steel worker Harry Urmston and Emma Lee. She was born in Stalybridge on 2<sup>nd</sup> June 1914 growing up on Copley Street, Stalybridge with her sisters Mary and Hannah and brother Harry. She attended St Paul's School, was a Sunday School teacher there and a Girl Guide. Although she had passed the scholarship for secondary school, her father couldn't afford to let her go which meant she couldn't fulfil her dream of being a doctor. She was radicalized during the Great Depression after seeing the queue of hungry, depressed and ashamed people outside Stalybridge Labour Exchange. Leaving school, she was an apprentice florist before becoming an SRN and midwife at the Lake Hospital [Ashton].

In 1936, she joined the Spanish Medical Unit. In 1937 she left for London then Spain with the Medical Service attached 15<sup>th</sup> Army Corps before joining the International Brigade. Lilian was based on the Aragon Front at Teruel, and in a railway tunnel near Flix. She treated the wounded from the Battle of Ebro in a cave which had beds for 120 patients. She returned home in September, 1938 to raise support. Stalybridge raised £700 for the Nurse Urmston Fund. She returned to Spain laden with carbolic, soaps, bandages and disinfectants. She was interned in France in March, 1939, in a camp in a sandy desert with a small spring which supplied water for 15,000 to 20,000 people. Later she was with the British Army in Dunkirk. She later served as a nurse in Egypt, Syria, Sicily and Italy being injured by shell fire treating men at Anzio. She also acted as a journalist in Malaysia and for the Daily Express and Daily Mail.

She had married John Buckoke in Cairo Cathedral in June, 1945. She died on 17<sup>th</sup> October, 1990 aged 76 at Shardethorne, East Grinstead although she lived in Marylebone, London. She was given a military funeral organised by her husband.

## JENNY CAMPBELL



Jennifer Bernice Sproson was born in Hyde in 1961 to Philip Sproson and Dorothy Bernice Petch. Her family members include the Hyde based business Norgrove Builders, and Petch Printers. Jenny married Andrew Campbell in 1983: they have 2 sons – Richard and Thomas. She breeds and shows flatcoat retrievers.

Jenny is an ex-career banker turned business woman specialist and cash machine entrepreneur.

After leaving school age 16 to begin her working life counting cash in a bank branch, she climbed through the ranks to become one of the few senior female bankers at the time in the UK. Following 30 years in the banking trade, in 2006 she left the corporate world for a new challenge – to turn around a failing cash machine business owned by RBS. She launched a major operational restructure of Hanco ATM Systems, turning it from a business that was making a huge loss in competitive markets to a thriving profitable entity operating across Europe. She later bought-out the business from RBS becoming the major shareholder, later relaunching it as YourCash Europe Ltd. This quickly expanded to become a leading provider of ATMs to the retail market across Europe, handling millions of ATM transactions and processing billions in cash value. She sold Your Cash in October 2016 to a company listed on the New York stock exchange.

In 2017, she joined the TV programme ‘Dragons’ Den’.

Previously awarded Business Woman of the Year in 2014, she stays true to her favourite business motto: *live by corporate standards, but breathe like an entrepreneur.*

Researcher: Jenny Campbell

## JOAN DAVIES COOPER

Joan Cooper was born on 12<sup>th</sup> August, 1914, at no 38, The Square, Moravian Settlement, Fairfield, to Valentine Holland Cooper and Louise Wynnefred Gardner who had married on 27<sup>th</sup> August, 1913. Her father served in the 1<sup>st</sup> World War, and she was educated at the Settlement before moving on to Fairfield School. From there, she studied Arts and History at Manchester University gaining a BA. She did Teacher Training, and in 1939 she was a Secondary School teacher living at 5, Berries' Mount, Bude-Stratton: she was also a nursing auxillary for the ARP. She died in Brighton on 15<sup>th</sup> January, 1999.

She was moved by the plight of children 'deprived of a normal home life' by the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War. Aged 27, in 1941, she was Assistant Director of Education in Derbyshire. She was appointed as the first Children's Officer for East Sussex in 1948. Joan had a role in the Children's Officers' Association helping to inaugurate what became the National Children's Bureau in 1963. She initiated imaginative work through the Community Development Project. She was the Director of all Social Work Services within the Department of Health and Social Security in 1970 being the Government's chief professional advisor on all social work. She had no time for 'fudge' or shallow thinking.

The Dictionary of National Biography describes her as 'one of the greatest social workers of the twentieth century'. She was made a Companion of the Order of the Bath in 1976 when she retired. But she enrolled as a mature student at the National Institute for Social Work. From 1979-87 she was involved with Parents for Children, from 1984-6 she chaired the Central Council for Education and Training. In 1998, aged 84, she was involved with the celebration of 50 years of Social Work: she was an Honorary Research Fellow from 1979 until her death.

Sussex Style named her as one of the Amazing Women of Sussex.

'Children mattered to her, not only collectively, but as individuals'.

Researcher: Anne McGarry



## CHRIS ROBERTS DUFFIN



Christine Roberts was born in Ashton in 1946. She married Harry Duffin in 1993, in Rugby. He was Head of Development for Cloud 9 in New Zealand, and later wrote for a wide range of TV programmes including Coronation Street. They retired to Spain, but now live in Stratford-upon-Avon.

After a range of jobs, she entered the prison service a prison officer in 1978 and was posted to Styal Prison but soon became a trainee Governor. Her first posting was to a male Borstal in Market Drayton which was not welcomed by staff, but after that she was posted to HMP Strangeways as the first female Governor Grade. After a period of 5 years at Strangeways, she became the first female Governor Grade at HMP Dartmoor.

She became a Trainee Governor specialising in training hostage negotiators, and later trained Prison Officers at the Prison Service College. She also went to Guernsey to train a group of staff to run their new prison. She was the Assistant General Secretary of the Prison Governors' Association. She spent a year on secondment to The Care and Resettlement of Offenders [NACRO] and after taking early retirement she worked with the Prison Reform Trust before leaving for Spain.

She has written a book of mainly amusing anecdotes 'Jail Tails'.

Researcher: Chris Duffin

Gay Oliver

## ANNA/NINA de GARIS DAVIES



Anna Macpherson Cummings was born in Salonika on 6<sup>th</sup> January, 1881, to Cecil J and Sarah: the eldest of 3 daughters. Her father was working with another Englishman helping the Turkish authorities to develop experimental farming. They returned to Scotland following the death of her father in 1894. The girls attended a private school in Bedford before they moved to London so she could study art. In 1901, they were living at 15, Welbeck Mansions, Hampstead when, aged 20, she gave her occupation as Deciphering Assistant, Turkey. In 1906, she took a holiday in Alexandria where she met Norman de Garis Davies. They married on 8<sup>th</sup> October, 1908, in Hampstead at Emmanuel Church, and in the same year she completed her first tomb painting. They moved to Ashton where Norman was a Congregational minister at The Albion Church. But they later returned to the Theban Necropolis to document the tomb paintings. In 1939, they were living at The Copse, Hinksey Hill, Berkshire. In the war years she was a VAD at her local First Aid Post. Norman died in 1941 leaving her £12,249. She died on 21<sup>st</sup> April, 1965, leaving £58,444.

She was a noted and talented painter of images in the tombs. Using egg tempera to give the correct opaque look, she spent ½ her time completing drawings for the Metropolitan Museum, New York, and ½ for Alan Gardiner replicating tomb paintings co-writing with him The Tomb of Amenemhat and The Tomb of Huy. The first solo exhibition of her work was at the V & A in 1923, followed by exhibitions in Brussels and Oxford. In 1926-7, Nina and Norman joined the Egypt Exploration Society at Armana again working on replicating the tomb paintings: as they both signed their work N de Garis Davies, some of the authorship can not be proved! She spent the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War cataloguing the textile collection of PE Newberry. Following her husband's death, she gave his collection of Egyptian objects to the Ashmolean and his books to University College, London. Later, some of his papers were given to the Griffith's Institute.

Researcher: Gay Oliver

## EDITH MARY OLDHAM ELLIS



Edith Mary Oldham Lees was the daughter of Samuel Oldham Lees and Mary Letitia Bancroft who died after giving birth to her in 1861. She was baptised at Newton in Mottram on 13<sup>th</sup> April 1861. Her father described himself as a collier and a gentleman. Following her father's remarriage, she was sent to a convent school, and then to school in London. In 1881, she inherited £150 giving her some independence.

In 1884 she was a founder member of the Fabian Society which was to include George Bernard Shaw, Charles Trevelyan and HG Wells. She was a writer and women's rights activist.

She met Havelock Ellis in 1887 marrying him in November, 1891. Theirs was an open marriage. Havelock described her as 'small, compact active person scarcely 5' in height with a fine skin, singularly well-shaped head with curly hair, powerful hand, very small feet and large pale blue eyes. At the time of the 1911 census they were living at Rose Cottage, Carbis Bay, Cornwall when she described herself as an author and dramatist and he as an author.

She was living at 28, Sandringham Court, Maida Vale when she died in Paddington on 14<sup>th</sup> September, 1916, aged 55 suffering from diabetes following a nervous breakdown. Her service was held at Golder's Green Crematorium. Probate was to Algernon West and Isabella Farina. She left £397.

Researcher: Anita Wozniak

## MANDA GOODWIN



Amanda Jane Goodwin was born in the Ashton area in 1964 to Derek and Dorothy Goodwin. She attended Fairfield School before moving to Manchester High School to complete her A levels. She gained a Ph.D. in bioinorganic chemistry from Manchester University in 1989: her thesis being on Synthetic Studies of the Oxo-Molybdoenzymes. She is married with 2 sons, one of whom is studying medicine, and the other is an accomplished musician – they have lived in the north Yorkshire since 2005. She is a member of the Royal Society of Chemistry and a chartered chemist.

Manda moved out of the area in 1989 joining ICI as a Polymer Research Scientist. She made a move in 1994 into Conoco Ltd, an oil company owned by DuPont, moving to London as a Crude Oil Market Analyst. The following year she joined the trading team as a 'black oils' trader: the first female Oil Trader for Conoco in the UK. After 4 years, she made another internal move to Government Lobbying in which she debated possible Acts of Parliament affecting the oil and gas industry working with MPs, civil servants, regulators and members of the House of Lords. In 2003, Manda moved to Aberdeen, with her young family, to carry out a commercial role negotiating new off-shore developments in the North Sea. By 2005, she was the Procurement, Warehousing and Commercial Manager at the Seal Sands Refinery in the North East of England. In 2009, she returned to Aberdeen as Asset Manager responsible for 10 off-shore fields. Manda returned to London in 2011 as Commercial Development Director negotiating with governments in Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan and Russia. She is currently Head of European Gas Regulatory Affairs, Financial Compliance and Tanker Scheduling also managing the Facilities Team in the London Office. At present she is heavily involved with the effects Brexit may have on the oil industry.

Researchers: Manda Goodwin

## NICOLA GRAHAM



Nicola Jane Taylor was raised in Ashton and Stalybridge: the daughter of Elizabeth née Connor and Philip Taylor. She married Michael John Graham at Albion United Reform Church, Ashton, in 2006. She worked in the Travel industry for over 25 years.

With her husband, she set up Reuben's retreat just 2 days following the death of their son from a brain tumour in 2012. She didn't want his life to be in vain and wanted to help other families that had life-threatened children or were bereaved of a child.

Reuben's Retreat is based at what was Wood's Hospital in 1.63 acres in Glossop. It is a haven for families and friends of children who have an uncertain future and is a place where they can relax, recharge batteries and make memories. It also serves as a bereavement, counselling, and support centre for parents and siblings who have lost a child. The charity has gone from strength to strength completing 3 of its 10 phased £3.5million renovation project. The more renovation, the delivery of more support work.

As of July 2018, it had supported over 600 individuals and raised over£2.4 million. Their patrons are Julie Hesmondhalgh and Ian Kershaw who are well supported by volunteers and a full-time staff of 5. It is a well loved and supported charity which has won The Points of Light Award, 2015, Inspirational Awards of Women, 2014, Pride of Britain Fundraiser Award, 2014, National family Hero, 2013, and Community Award – Inspiring Women, 2013.

#reubensjourney 'We are forever grateful for all those generous hearts full of love and compassion that grace Reuben's journey' - Mummy & Founder.

Nicola Graham:

[www.reubensretreat.org](http://www.reubensretreat.org)

## JOAN KELLY



Joan Wood was born in 1952. She attended Ashton Grammar School from 1964-1971. She gained her BSc and PhD in Biological Sciences at Aston University, Birmingham, studying the microbial ecology of natural and man-made systems. She married Thomas Anthony Kelly in Ashton in 1977.

She started her career as a lecturer in Microbiology at the Birmingham College of Food and Technology, later becoming Officer in Charge of the UK Ministry of Defence Biodeterioration Lab, which she left in 1984 to take up a role at the International Mycological Institute [IMI].

From 1991-1994, she was the President of the Biodeterioration Society, and from 1994- 1997, the President of International Biodeterioration Association. Joan is also a visiting lecturer at several universities in UK and Brazil.

By 2006, she was the Director of CABI Bioscience UK. and from 2007-9 was the Global Director Bioservices at CABI. In 2010, she became CABI's Executive Director of Global Bioscience retiring from this post in 2016. She is currently the Technical Director of Conidia Bioscience Ltd a company established in 2001 to exploit her patented technology for kits to detect microbial contamination in fuels.

She is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Biology, and a Certificated Member of the Institute of Directors. She is currently Director and Trustee of a charity: the Normandy Community Therapy Garden.

## ELIZABETH HANNAH KENYON



Elizabeth Hannah Darlington was born in 1854 to Charles Edward Livesey Darlington and Sarah Littlewood in Stonecliffe, Lancashire. She had 4 sisters and 5 brothers. She married George Henry Kenyon in Haslingden in 1875. They were the parents of 4 sons: Arnold [1876], Ernest [1878], Percy [1879] and George Henry [1883]. In 1891, the family was living at 139 Higher King Street, Dukinfield. Ten years later, they were living at 21, Fairfield Square, Droylsden, and George's niece, Norah Rigby was living with them as she was in 1911 when they had moved to Holly Bank, Currier Lane, Ashton: George [62] was a rope manufacturer, Elizabeth was 56, Arnold [35] was a cashier and work's secretary, George Henry [28] was a mechanical engineer and Norah was 22. Also living with them was Elizabeth's mother, Sarah, and Lorna Elizabeth [6] her grand-daughter who had been born in Mexico. Her youngest son, George, enlisted in the Cheshire Regiment in 1916. George Henry died in 1917, and she died at Holly Bank on 20<sup>th</sup> November, 1935 leaving £11,159.

There is a collection of letters in Tameside Archives from Dukinfield soldiers fighting in the 1<sup>st</sup> World War thanking her for her many kindnesses to them. She was the Chairwoman of the local Needlework Guild and as such provided each soldier with 2 shirts, 2 pairs of socks and some with scarves. Her husband was Mayor of Dukinfield and she was his Mayoress. Following his death in May, 1917, she took over his role for the rest of the year. She remained Mayoress until her death. She took a very active role in both political and public activities in the borough. She was the first lady in the Chair of the Board of Guardians in 1922, and was on various children and hospital committees. Lady Kenyon was a JP in Cheshire and a Freeman of the Borough.

Her husband was a rope manufacturer in Dukinfield. A firm which is still extant: their ropes were used for the Everest Expedition in 1953, and the firm was visited by Edmund Hillary. Queen Elizabeth II also visited the works.

## PHYLLIS KERSHAW



Phyllis Hawkins was born in 1921 in Ashton to Thomas Hawkins and Rose Lillian Barker. She gained a scholarship to Fairfield School in 1931 where she excelled in German. The family later moved to Collyhurst. In 1939 they were living at 484, Rochdale Road where her father was the newsagent. Her mother died following the Manchester Blitz. Phyllis married Jack Donald Kershaw at Ryecroft Independent Chapel in 1951. They had four children: Lilian, Neil, Andy and Diane. She always taught her daughters the importance of the Suffragette Movement and insisted they trained for a profession. She and Jack were living at 14, St Asaph's Drive, Ashton in 2008. They were living at Carrbrook, Stalybridge, when she died on 26<sup>th</sup> August, 2011, aged 90.

At the outbreak of the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War, she joined the ATS, and was transferred to the Y Service [Wireless Intelligence]. She was trained in advanced Morse Code on the Isle of Man for 6 months before being posted to Kedleston Hall, Derbyshire, and Beaumont Hall, Leicestershire, where she intercepted enemy messages which were then forwarded to Bletchley Park. She became a comptometer operator following the War. In 2009, she was awarded a commemorative medal recognising her service 64 years after the event!



## HANNAH LEES



Hannah Buckley was born on 27<sup>th</sup> April, 1764 the daughter of John Buckley, Millowner, Oldham. She married Samuel Lees Jnr on Christmas Day, 1783. They built Park Bridge House [later Dean House]. They had 12 children but tragedy struck in 1800 when 3 of her children died within 2 months. Her husband died in 1804 leaving her with 6 surviving children. He was the owner of Park Bridge Ironworks and left her between £600-£800, and the administration of the business. The family fell under the influence of the prophet/charlatan John Wroe and Hannah's daughter gave birth to his child who was a daughter and not the promised messiah. Hannah died in 1831.

At the time of her death, Hannah was the owner of the earliest and largest ironworks in Manchester. The firm developed from producing iron bars to an engineering works producing rollers for the textile industry, and iron billets etc. Samuel Lees had left the business to Edward, the oldest son, but it was Hannah to whom the lease was transferred by the Stamford Estate, and it prospered under her care. Edward and Harry also ran their own businesses but it was Samuel who expanded Hannah Lees & Sons even further so that it encompassed a neighbouring colliery and rail link to the Oldham/Ashton Railway.

The family business finally closed in 1963.

## ANNIE BUCKLEY MARLAND-BRODIE



Ann Buckley Marland was born on 22<sup>nd</sup> November, 1861 to William Marland [a stone mason] and Nancy Buckley who had married in Rochdale. She had 3 sisters: Mary Ann [1852], Sarah [1853] and Ada [1864]. She was born at Lane Head, Knott Lane, Ashton but the family soon moved to Saddleworth then Mossley living at Egerton Street by 1881 – 10 years later, she was living with her widowed oldest sister.

Annie was a ½ timer aged 10 and worked in a cardroom for 15 years. She was a union member paying 1/- a week. She married Robert Brodie on 12<sup>th</sup> June, 1895 in Mossley but kept her maiden name. She was given away by Lady Dike. Their son Roy was born in 1898 when they lived at Egremont. In 1902 she suffered her second serious illness. In 1911, they were living in Essex with Robert working as an estate agent and auctioneer. She left for Florida in the 20s, and died in Tampa in 1947 aged 86. She was described as bubbling over with good humour.

She was a popular organiser for the Women's Trade Union League and a supporter of women's suffrage. She became Secretary of the Women's Liberal Association which had formed in Mossley in 1889. In 1891, she attended a conference in London where she refuted speakers who slighted mill girls. Following this, she was taken up by Lady Dike to organise female workers at a salary of £72pa. Two years later she attended the TUC on behalf of the Mossley Card and Blowing Room Operatives being the first woman to represent a textile union. In 1895, she severed her links with the Liberal party to support Labour representation. In 1901, she was living at Eastham, London and gave her occupation as a Trade Union Lecturer.

Researcher: Shirley Howard

## JILL MARSHALL



Jillian Michelle Marshall was born in 1965 in Denton, the third of Marion and Bert Marshall's four children. She was educated at Denton Central Primary School, Fairfield High School and Hyde 6<sup>th</sup> Form College. She read History at Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge, graduating with a BA Hons in History in 1987, and a Masters' in 1990. Jill worked in Human Resources and Learning & Development in Commerce, rising to be Director of Training & Development for NTL/Virgin Media for 14 years. Deciding on a change of lifestyle, she returned to her studies and gained a Masters' Degree in Creative Writing for Children. She emigrated to New Zealand in 2003 but returned in December, 2012. She now spends time between Surrey and New Zealand where her daughter, son-in-law and grandson live.

She is the author of the children's series Doghead and girl spy Jane Blonde as well as some adult novels. The Jane Blonde novels is a best-selling series sold in 22 countries and 11 languages featuring in in the Times' top ten for fiction and as a World Book Day title. She had a publishing company: Pear Jam Books. She donated a percentage of the profits from her picture book 'The Christchurch Dog to the New Zealand Red Cross following the 2011 earthquake – in that year she was named Woman of the Year by New Zealand Next for her contribution to the literary scene.

She has trained thousands of writers and edited hundreds of books on behalf of individual clients and publishing houses. She has a passion for independent publishing in all media and is currently curating her books and characters into a multi-media story telling platform. She divides her time between life as a writer and as a Communications Consultant and her family.

Researcher: Anne McGarry

Jill Marshall

## BERTHA MASON



Bertha was the daughter of Liberal politician, millowner and social reformer, Hugh Mason. She was born in 1855, and grew up at Groby Hall. At the time, Ashton was considered an extremely radical town.

She was a Temperance worker, and supporter of women's suffrage. She organised branches of the Women's Liberal Society and the Lancashire and Cheshire Union. By 1902, she was a prominent member of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies becoming their Honorary Secretary. In 1906, she was a member of the Executive Committee. She travelled the country giving limelight lectures on women's suffrage. When women were working as tramguards in 1915, she advocated that female police should have the same status as men with the same powers. In 1916, she was President of the W.L.S. working in a Rest Camp, and British Hospital in France. She also supported funding for Ashton POWs.

By 1934, she was Vice President of the national Council of Women in Great Britain, and a member of the Women's Advisory Council of the League of Nations' Union.

She died on 8<sup>th</sup> July, 1939, at Brownlow House, Hindhead, Surrey, leaving over £15,400. Probate was given to Reginald Courtney Gayer [Doctor of Medicine], cotton spinner Francis Howarth Basley, and Henry Barry Carlisle [solicitor].

Researcher: Mary Whitehead

## LYNDA JANE MEEKS



Lynda Jane Meeks was born on 1<sup>st</sup> February, 1947, in Macclesfield to William Meeks and Elsie Payne who had married at New St George's, Stalybridge in 1935, where she grew up. She had 2 older brothers: John Charles and Robert Hamilton. Her grandfather had a shoe business and she was a Director for many years. It is now in the hands of the 4<sup>th</sup> generation and based in Altrincham. She married David Wharton in 1973. She lived in Dobcross and later at Church Brow, Mottram. She worked for a time on the checkout at a supermarket spending time to look after her mother. She died of cancer on 22<sup>nd</sup> January, 2013. Her funeral was held at Central Methodist Church, Glossop.

She was a member of the Fivepenny Piece which usually sang in the Lancashire Dialect. Her brother John was a member of the group with friends Colin and John Radcliffe and Eddie Crotty from Stalybridge and Ashton. They rehearsed at the Broadoak Hotel being known as the Wednesday folk. They gained national fame when they won New Faces in 1968. Contracts were signed with Noel Gay Artists. Their rise to fame was documented by the BBC in 1969. Their name was chosen following another TV programme. By 1978 they had sold over a quarter of a million records their biggest success being the album King Cotton. The band was seen on TV in the late 1970s and early 1980s. She left the band in the 1980s but in 2007 made a one off live performance with John and Eddie Crotty

Researcher: Dean Carroll

## HANNAH MITCHELL



Hannah Maria Webster was born in Hope Woodlands, Derbyshire, on 11<sup>th</sup> February, 1872, to Benjamin Webster and Ann Nixon. She lived on Elizabeth Street. She was not allowed to go to school but her father taught her to read. Her relationship with her mother was poor, so she soon left home to live with her married brother, Will. Then she moved to Bolton working as a seamstress and domestic servant. Whilst working for a teacher's family she joined the library and was allowed to read his books becoming her own teacher. She married Gibbon Mitchell [a native of Dukinfield in Bolton in 1895 where her son Frank Gibbon Mitchell was born. She also took in her orphaned niece. She later stated that *married life...calls for a degree of self-abnigation which was impossible for me.* In 1900 they moved from Burton-upon-Trent to Ashton where they lived until 1910 moving to Ingham Street, Newton Heath. She died on 22<sup>nd</sup> October, 1956. She left £1,232 to her bank manager son, Frank.

Hannah Mitchell is a well known suffragette, socialist, and pacifist. For a time she worked as a part-time organiser for Emmeline and Christabel Pankhurst and their Women's Social and Political Union. She toured the country tirelessly campaigning, but had a breakdown in 1907 caused by overwork and under-nourishment. Ignored by the Pankhursts, she was visited by Charlotte Despard who saw to her treatment and gave the family monies for food. Recovered, she joined Charlotte's Women's Freedom League. She supported the peace movement during the war. After 1<sup>st</sup> World War, she was elected to Manchester City Council for the Independent Labour Party and in 1926 was made Magistrate a position she held until 1935. She also worked for Keir Hardie. In 1939, she organised a meeting for 40 surviving suffragettes.

Her grandson, Geoffrey, edited her autobiography in 1969. A blue plaque was put up for her in Ashton. In 2012 the Hannah Mitchell Foundation was formed for the development of a dissolved North of England.



## MARY MOFFAT

Mary Smith was born on 24<sup>th</sup> May, 1795. She was the only daughter of a prosperous nursery gardener living at Plantation Farm, Dukinfield. She was a devout Christian and attended Fairfield School shewing a keen interest in missionary work. In 1816, Robert Moffat, a Scot, arrived to work with her father. He asked her father if he would do for Africa and sailed for South Africa later that year. Mary had tried to persuade him to marry, and Robert: *a missionary without a wife in South Africa is like a boat without an oar* agreed. In 1818, she sailed out to join him and they soon married. They travelled 700 miles by ox-cart to Lattukoo a missionary station. They had 9 children. They travelled home whilst their children were at school. They returned to South Africa in 1843. In 1845, their daughter Mary married missionary David Livingston. Robert and Mary finally returned to England in 1870 but she couldn't adjust to English village life. She died 5 months later on 10<sup>th</sup> January, 1870 in Brixton. Her husband died on 9<sup>th</sup> August, 1898.

Whilst in South Africa, she built the respect of the local tribesmen. In 1828, they moved to a new mission station near Kuruman complete with school, church and dwelling houses. They created an oasis, and the most successful mission of its day. Its church was the cathedral of the Kalahari built from hand-quarried stone and timber gifted by Matabele Chief Mzilikazi who was a lifelong friend. Robert was praised for defending the tribes from predatory colonists.

In 1998, a Blue Plaque was unveiled at Plantation Farm, and another at Fairfield School.

Researcher : Gay Oliver

## MARGARET CONSTANCE MARY MORTON



Constance 'Maggie' Ewa/ert was born in Invergordon, Rossshire. Her mother was born in St Helen's, and her father was a ventriloquist. She married Joseph Thomas Vollam Morton who was to be the editor of the Ashton-u-Lyne Herald 1889/90 previously the Stalybridge and Ashton Herald and Dukinfield, Mossley, Millbrook and District News – a conservative journal under the auspices of Thomas Machell, the Conservative Mayor of Stalybridge who died in 1897. Her date of birth is debateable as she gives different ages on different documents. The 1891 census shows her living at 46, Stamford Rd aged 26, with Joseph [sub-editor] and her widowed mother Ann Ewart aged 59. They later moved to 17, Chester Square, Ashton. Their son, Henry Canova Vollam Morton was born in 1892, and their daughter Marguerite in 1896. By 1901, they had moved to 334, Bury New Road, Broughton. Ten years later, they were living in 12 roomed Heathfield, 23 Alcester Road Birmingham and Joseph was the editor of the Birmingham Gazette. Constance died in Colchester in 1918 when her age was given as 48.

But it is the years that she spent in Ashton that mark her out. She was very concerned by the amount of child poverty in the town. This 'gentle but imperious' lady contributed to a children's column of her husband's paper writing poems and stories, and in 1891, there was a child's subscription to provide food etc for the 'poor' children and young patients in the hospital as part of the Kind Hearted Band which in a matter of weeks had over 2,000 members. The sad thing was that no liberal would support a motion in a Tory paper. In February, 1894, she organised the sale of self-photos using monies to organise girls to make quilts for the children's hospital, monies for treatment and to endow a cot. Cots were also endowed by Ada Summers and Bertha Mason. In 1896, she organised a 3 day bazaar in the Armoury. She was supported by Princess Mary Adelaide of Teck who sent a box of beautiful and useful items. The aim was to endow a cot at Kershaw's Childrens' Hospital in Ashton. She also supported the introduction of a piano and the development of false limbs. But she was little appreciated when they left for Salford in 1897.



**JANE NELSON**



Jane Ashton was born in 1966 to Frank and Marjorie in Stalybridge. She was educated at Staley Hill, Astley Grammar School and Hyde Grammar 6<sup>th</sup> Form. She married Graham Nelson in 1987 and is the mother of 2 sons.

She qualified as an accountant in 1991. She is FCCA and FCMA qualified. In 1995, she joined The Oddfellows as their Financial Controller eventually becoming their Financial Director. In 2012, she became their first female CEO. In 2013, she gained the UK award for the Diploma of Institute of Directors: the top in the UK.

She is the Vice Chair of the Association of Financial Mutuals.

She is Trustee of Stalybridge Celtic Foundation.

The Oddfellows was established in the early 17<sup>th</sup> Century: a fraternal society representing craftsmen from a range of trades. As a mutual, it has no shareholders. A branch surgeon provided medical treatment for members and their families. In 1810, it transferred to Manchester. In 1893, it had female branches with equal status to men. In 1912, it was one of the Government approved societies to administer Nation Insurance. In 2013, it became an Incorporated Friendly Society, and moved to Deansgate. According to Google, it has a current value of £500 million pounds, and has 140 branches in the UK.

Researcher: Kate Booth

## PAT PHOENIX



Patricia Frederica Manfield was born on 26<sup>th</sup> November 1923 in Fallowfield to Thomas Manfield and Anne Maria Josephine Noonan. She attended Fallowfield Central School but the poor relationship with her step-mother turned her thoughts to the theatre. She worked as a filing clerk for Manchester Corporation. She married Peter Marsh in 1951, Alan Browning in 1972, and her long time friend, Anthony Booth, just 8 days before her death on 17<sup>th</sup> September, 1986. She was 62. A Roman Catholic, she was buried at St Peter and St Paul, Crosby. She had lived in Hollingworth. She had been a life long member of the Labour Party.

Her first performance was on Children's Hour when she performed a monologue she had written. Later she attended the Manchester Arts Theatre and other northern Reps. Her break came in 1948 when she worked with Joan Littlewood's Theatre Workshop. She returned to Manchester in 1960. She changed her name and was given the role of Elsie Tanner in Coronation Street. PM James Callaghan called her 'the sexiest thing on television'. She left the programme in 1984 doing other TV and film work. Suffering from lung cancer, she still carried on working until her death.

## BEATRIX POTTER



Helen Beatrix Potter was born in Kensington on 28<sup>th</sup> July, 1866. She was the grand-daughter of Glossop's Edmund Potter the owner of the largest Calico Printers in England, and an MP. Her father Rupert, was a barrister. In 1863 he married Helen Leech at Hyde Unitarian Church, Hyde Gee Cross. She was the daughter of John Leech, a mill owner and shipbuilder from Stalybridge: Gorse Hall. Beatrix was born at 2, Bolton Gardens, where her brother was born in 1872. They grew up isolated from other children in an artistic household which had a passion for nature taking their holidays in Scotland and the Lake District. She also visited her grandparents in Stalybridge. Beatrix and Walter had many pets including rabbits, mice and hedgehogs. She had 3 governesses, the last one, Annie Carter, teaching her German and acting as a companion. She had a life long interest in nature, science and conservation. She was taught watercolour painting and made many sketches of the wild life around her including fungi which became a scientific study. She was also well read in the old sagas, fairy tales and was a student of classic stories. Whilst on holiday in the lake District, she met Hardwicke Rawnsley the founding secretary of the National Trust. In 1905, she bought Hill Top Farm in Nr Sawrey. In 1913, she married William Heelis, a local solicitor. She died at home on 22<sup>nd</sup> December, 1943 of pneumonia and heart failure. She left her property to the National Trust.

Beatrix was a writer, illustrator, natural scientist and conservationist. She is best known for her 23 children's tales though she wrote 30 books in all and a selection of scientific studies. Age 14, she was writing her diary in her own code. In 1887 she submitted a paper to the Linnean Society On the Germination of the Spores of the Agaricineae but as she had been rebuffed by the Director of Kew because of her gender, it was to be read by Massee: she was well respected in the field of mycology. She sent illustrated letters to the children of Annie Carter, and it was these that led to the publication of her first story: The Tale of Peter Rabbit which she had self published in her 30s. Her publisher being Frederick Warne & Co. She purchased several farms in her local area to preserve the local landscape, and was a breeder of the native Herdwick sheep.

Researcher: Christine Clough

## SUSAN PRIEST



Susan Priest née Heeney was born in 1954: she is one of a family of 6. She married David Priest in 1984 and is the mother of 3 grown-up children, has grandchildren and a great grandson. The family originally lived in Hyde but later moved to Bardsley. They downsized to Park Bridge where she is near to her 95 year old mother who lives independently in Waterloo. They have a Jack Russell.

Susan has worked for the NHS for 44 years: 40 of those as a midwife mostly in Tameside Maternity Unit and in the community. She took a year's sabbatical to work in the Middle East.

She qualified with a Certificate in Midwifery and a BSc [Hons] whilst studying and working full time. She was a Supervisor of Midwives for several years mentoring fellow midwives and students. She benefitted from many of the changes in midwifery including 3D Ultrasound IT Technology and on-line education. Today's midwives need to be academically and clinically competent which poses challenges for the future.

As a Community Midwife, she witnessed many changes affecting women and families such as the Sure Start programme, and its demise. The 1970 Peel Report encouraged women to have their babies in hospital and 1993 Changing Childbirth Report offered choice to women. Clinical changes brought about changes in clinical practise with midwives becoming skilled and autonomous practitioners. Since the early 1990s, she has been involved with the conception of the Bereavement Service for women and families in Tameside Maternity Unit setting up the Harebell Suite: a discreet and self-contained facility providing privacy during and following birth, set up by a Trust Fund not only to furnish the suite but to fund midwives on study days. This is augmented by The Care and Support Circle which is a self-help/support service. The multi-faith, Annual Baby Memorial Service has been held for 21 years. These innovations in service provision have been recognised by other maternity units in the north-west, and following publication other units have now adopted this flagship for maternity services throughout the country.

Research: Susan Priest  
Kate Booth

## TRUDIE ROBERTS



Trudie is the daughter of Jack and Beryl Roberts née Dearnaley: she has twin brothers. She was born in 1953 and grew up in Millbrook attending St James' Junior School and Astley Grammar School. She gained her Degree in Medicine and a BSc in Anatomy at Manchester University with research in Manchester and at the Kalinska Institute, Sweden. In 1995, she was the Senior Lecturer in Transplant Immunology at Manchester. Her parents still live in the centre of the village.

She became Professor of Medical Education at Leeds University in 2000, and in 2009 was she Director of Leeds Institute of Medical Education being responsible for leadership and scholarship in Medical Education at the University, and internationally with the Association for the Study of Medical Education. She is the research project supervisor for the BSc Applied Health.

She was a Council Member for the GMC from 2009-12 and Chair of the Association of the Study of Medical Education until July 2013 when she became the President for Medical Education in Europe.

She is married to a surgeon and has 2 children.

Researcher: Val Bowker

Kate Booth

kateaboath@aol.co.uk

## CLARINDA ROWBOTHAM



Clarinda was born in Newton in 1885 to Sarah Jane Maun and Samuel Rowbotham. She had 2 sisters: Frances and Sarah. The family had moved to Egmont Street Mossley by 1901 when she was a cotton cardroom hand. They later moved to 12, Gladstone Terrace when, aged 25, she was the first school nurse in Mossley, and then to 1, Seel Street where she is commemorated by a Blue Plaque. When she died on 2<sup>nd</sup> September, 1962, she was living at 42, Winterford Road, Ashton. She is buried at St George's Church, Mossley: Range 12 Grave 7. Probate was given to her brother-in-law retired grocer, Percy Mosley. She left £185/11/-.

She was a school nurse, became a State Registered Nurse in 1924, a State Registered Midwife having qualified at St Mary's, Manchester, and a Health Visitor. By 1913, she was the 1<sup>st</sup> Lady Superintendent of the Mossley St John's Ambulance Brigade, holding the position for over 50 years. She was the Sister -in-Charge of an Auxillary Hospital set up in 1914 by the Mossley Branch of the St John's Ambulance Brigade. In the 1<sup>st</sup> World War, over 500 patients were cared for by 38 local women as nurses. During the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War, she provided a First Aid service to the Air Raid shelters in Mossley. Post war, she worked at a local GPs practice retiring from full time work in 1948. Clarinda continued to work for Mossley St John's Ambulance until her death.

She was an Associate Royal Red Cross, held the Serving Sisters' Holder Badge, the Defence Medal, and the Service Medal of the Order of St John becoming the most decorated woman in Mossley.

## ADA SUMMERS



Ada Jane Broome was born in Oldham to Jane Walker and George Kelsall Broome in 1861, and baptised at Oldham St James' on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 1862. Her father was a textile mill owner. She had 3 siblings: Lucy [1864], Richard [1865] and Marion [1866]. The family lived at Copster House, Oldham. On 4<sup>th</sup> December, 1881, she married John Summers JP of John Summers & Sons Steelworks and owned Globe Ironworks. She had 4 children including Gerald who was to be a successful painter and furniture designer, Kathleen Mary, John and Ada Norah. They lived at Inglewood on Mottram Road Stalybridge. Her husband died on 20<sup>th</sup> May, 1910, leaving her £192,093 which she used to benefit Stalybridge and the local community.

'The Lady Bountiful' used her monies in many areas: Stalybridge had the highest child mortality rate in the country and so she started a school for mothers, she bought a large Christmas Tree and held a children's party with presents for all, she opened an unofficial employment centre in the ironworks, she gave £3000 for a nurses' home and gave donations to the infirmary including the sponsorship of a cot in the Children's Hospital, she started a Ladies' Society with picnics for nurses and convalescents, she was President of Stalybridge Mechanics Institute [1926/1929]. But she is best known for her political involvement: she was elected Liberal Party Councillor in 1912, and was the first British woman to sit as a magistrate, she was one of the first female JPs and the first female Mayor [1919] and Freeman [1939] of Stalybridge. She was given the OBE in 1918. She also had a keen interest in probation and social services.

She died at Inglewood on 16<sup>th</sup> January, 1944, leaving £65,943 with probate to her son Gerald and son-in-law Samuel Stockton.

Globe Ironworks was founded in 1850. It moved to Bayley Fields and had 12 puddling furnaces, rolling mills and a railway connection. The HQ moved to Shotton in 1908.

## MABEL TYLECOTE



Mabel Phythian was born in Crumpsall on 4<sup>th</sup> February, 1896 to solicitor and lay preacher John Ernest Phythian and Ada Crompton Pritchard. In 1901, they lived at The Cottages , Church Holme, Holmes Chapel before moving to Hertfordshire. She studied at Manchester University. She married Frank Edward Tylcote, physician and researcher, in Hitchin in 1932, and gave birth to their son John a year later. She also had 2 step-children. In 1939, they were living at Heaton Lodge on Didsbury Road, Stockport and she gave her occupation as Lecturer and Historian. Frank died in 1965. She was made a DBE in 1966. She died on 31<sup>st</sup> January, 1987. Her papers including personal correspondence, and those relating to elections, her career in politics, and watercolours and sketches done in the 1<sup>st</sup> World War by her brother Wilfrid are kept at John Rylands Library, Manchester.

She was a Labour Party politician, activist, and educationalist. 1917: *I remember being in the Women's International League Office looking across to the Town Hall and on one occasion I was in the office...and the police raided it. We had some pamphlets which were banned.* She was a Manchester City Councillor, and stood as a Labour Party candidate in parliamentary elections. She was a member of the Manchester Committee of the Free German League of Culture in Great Britain formed in 1939. She worked with Albert Einstein, Thomas Mann and Sybil Thorndyke amongst others. From 1956-63 she was a member of Stockport Borough Council and from 1961-79 she was Vice President of the National Federation of Community Associations.



## MARY TYRRELL



Mary was born in Nottingham in 1767. The family moved to London and then Newcastle. At the age of 14, she was sent to Manchester by her mother to deal with a business matter. She travelled the 200 miles alone in November. She stayed in the Moravian Sisters' Home refusing to return to Newcastle with her mother. She earned her living with needlework. The Sisters moved into a new home in Fairfield in 1785.

In 1796, she was asked to set up a girls' boarding school with 21 girls and 6 teachers. After 12 years she returned to take charge of the Sisters' House. She successfully put them on a sound financial footing. In 1818, she travelled to Herrnhut in Germany to attend the Moravian Synod. She died on 13<sup>th</sup> January, 1820, and is buried at Fairfield.

By 1881 the school moved to the former Sisters' House [now the Moravian College]. By 1906, they had moved to their present building.

## DAME VIVIENNE ISABEL WESTWOOD



Vivienne Isabell Swire was born on 8<sup>th</sup> April, 1941 in Tintwistle which at that time was part of Cheshire. She attended Glossop Grammar School but in 1958, the family moved to Harrow. She studied silver-smithing at the Harrow School of Art, and studied at the University of Westminster and Middlesex University. She was a primary school teacher. She married Derek Westwood in 1962. They divorced in 1965, and she lived with Malcolm McLaren who was the father of. In 1992, she married Andreas Kronthaler and they moved from their ex-council flat to a Queen Anne style house. She is a vegetarian and keen gardener and is an ambassador of clean energy.

She is a fashion designer, businesswoman: *a modern day female impresario. I didn't know how a working-class girl like me could possibly make a living in the art world.* Whilst teaching, she made and sold her own range of jewellery. Malcolm McLaren was the manager of punk band Sex Pistols and greatly influenced her: *I was messianic about punk.* From 1981-85 her designs were new Romantic, and 1988-91 were her pagan years. She was British Designer of the Year in 1990, 1991 and 2006. She was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of letters from Heriot-Watt in 2008. In 2012 she was named one of the 60 new Elizabethans.

She is a supporter of the CND, Liberty, climate change and civil rights which influenced her when she moved from supporting the Labour Party in 2007 joining the Conservatives because of their policies on Civil Liberties and Human Rights. In 2015, she supported the Green Party, but latterly supported the Reality Party.

## ELLEN WILKINSON



Ellen Wilkinson was born in Chorlton on 8<sup>th</sup> October, 1891 to Richard and Ellen. She grew up on Everton Street, Chorlton. She had a sister, Annie, and brothers Richard and Harold, growing up in a poor but ambitious family. She studied at Manchester University. Never strong, she caught a bronchial infection in the winter of 1947 suffering from bronchitis and pneumonia and died of a medicinal overdose on 6<sup>th</sup> February, 1947 at St Mary's Hospital, London.

Aged 16, she joined the Independent Labour Party. She was a supporter of Womens' Suffrage and Trade Unionism. She was also a member of the Fabian Society. She briefly joined the British Communist Party in 1917. In 1921, she joined USDAW. In 1923, she was the sponsored candidate in the General Election for the Ashton/Gorton Ward: she came 3<sup>rd</sup>. She was elected to the Manchester City Council meeting Hannah Mitchell. From 1924-31 she was MP for Middlesbrough East, and MP for Jarrow from 1935-47 taking a proactive role in the Jarrow March. She supported the Republican fraction in the Spanish Civil War. In the 2<sup>nd</sup> World war she served in Churchill's Coalition Government. She was Parliamentary Secretary for Pensions in 1940, Parliamentary Secretary for the Home Department 1940-45, and Minister of Education from 1945 until her death. She was also Chair of the Labour Party from 1944-45. But her main task was to implement the 1944 Education Act raising the school leaving age to 15. She was a prolific journalist and writer.

## RHIANNON WILKINSON



Rhiannon Jane Fell was born in Ashton in 1962 to teachers David, who was Head of Art at Stamford High School, and Letty, who worked at Primary Schools in Denton becoming Headteacher at Corrie and Manor Green.

Rhiannon attended Russell Scott Primary School, Denton, and Fairfield High School. She graduated from St Hugh's College, Oxford with an MA in Modern History. She later attended Manchester University gaining a Med in Educational Leadership and Management. She married Donald J Wilkinson, also an Headmaster, in Macclesfield in 2000. They have 2 sons: William and Edward.

She taught in the maintained sector before moving to international schools in Hong Kong and Brunei. Rhiannon then moved to become Deputy Head at Cheadle Hulme School following 5 years as Senior Mistress at Haileybury College. In 2009, she became Headmistress of Harrogate Ladies' College. Rhiannon is currently the Headmistress of Wycombe Abbey, one of the top schools nationally being the top performing boarding school in the UK, and is regularly ranked in the top 5 schools in terms of academic results. It has a worldwide reputation for academic excellence and holistic education with pupils heading for top universities in the UK and US: a third of the Upper Sixth leave for Oxford and Cambridge every year. After 6 years at Wycombe College, Rhiannon has been headhunted to set up a brand new school in Shenzhen, China: she will be working for the New York based Whittle Schools and Studios Organisation which is an ambitious project to modernize 2-18 education for the New Innovation Age.

Rhiannon is extremely proud to have been born and educated in Tameside. She visits as often as she can never forgetting the debt she owes to the community which nurtured her.

Research:

Rhiannon Wilkinson

The Whittle Schools and Studios are led by the American education entrepreneur Chris Whittle. The next 10 years will see more than 30 Whittle Schools established in the world's most vibrant cities. They will devise their own curriculum and range of educational experiences creating the world's first integrated, global learning community.

## OTHER WOMEN OF NOTE

### ARMED FORCES

#### KAREN LOFTHOUSE

Karen McKnight was brought up in Tameside. She was educated at Fairfield School. She is a wife and mother.

Flt Lt Karen Lofthouse graduated from the RAF as a Pilot Officer in 1997 one of 60 National RAF Scholarships. She served in Afghanistan in 2009. She was Air Traffic Controller at Linton-on-Ouse in 2011, and was promoted to Squadron Leader in 2012. Later, she was promoted to Senior Air Control Officer. She was based at RAF Flight Safety Air Command.

Researcher: Anne McGarry

### HISTORIANS

#### WINIFRED BOWMAN

Winifred Mary Wilson proudly remembered her clergyman grandfather who wrote his sermons using a quill pen! In 1925, she married Doctor Bernard Bowman at Bury St Mary's and came to Ashton as a young bride. Her daughter, Gillian Margaret, was born in Audenshaw in 1931 whilst her husband was working at the District Infirmary. In 1953, he celebrated 30 years as a doctor.



She is best known for 2 major pieces of research: 50,000 Acres of Ashton and England in Ashton under Lyne both of which involved the examination of old documents. The latter took her 13 years to complete and involved many visits to the John Rylands Library in Manchester.

She was a great supporter of local dialect. She saw little difference between social and political history but firmly supported the inclusion of social history in the national Curriculum. 'A good imagination is a great asset to an historian'.

## THE LAW

### PAULINE JONES

Pauline Marie Jones was born in 1968, and grew up in Stalybridge attending Fairfield School. She graduated from the University of Nottingham LLB, and the University of Leicester LLM. She has spent some time in New Zealand.

She was the European Director of Equifax for 10 years but is now an independent Legal services professional.

Researcher: Anne McGarry

### KATHLEEN RADDIN

Little is known of Kathleen's life. She was born circa 1903 and lived in the Stalybridge area when she attended Fairfield School. The only Kathleen Agnes Raddin born at that time was the daughter of George and Minnie Kate Raddin born in Bristol on 6<sup>th</sup> April, 1906, and the sister of Isabella. In 1911, they were living in Bolton. Isabella married William land in Ashton in 1930. By 1939, Kathleen, in kennel management, and her mother were in Southport. Both Kathleen and her mother died in Taunton in April, 1959: Minnie on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, and Kathleen on the 28<sup>th</sup>, their monies being left to Isabella.

She joined the police force at the end of the 1920s being only one of 6 women serving in Sheffield at a time when the Women's Police Force was in its infancy.



Researcher: Anne McGarry

## CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY

### SARAH JONES

Sarah Jones comes from Droylsden. She was educated at Fairfield School, and gained her degree at Oxford University.

She was a volunteer in South Africa and Sierra Leone where she raised £40,000 for charity winning the Vodaphone International Funding Competition. She worked as a Clinical Psychologist with the Manchester Intervention Psychosis Team. She later studied for a Doctorate in clinical psychology.

Researcher: Anne McGarry

## MEDICINE

### CATHERINE EMSLIE ANDERSON

Catherine Anderson was born in Maskeliya, Ceylon [Sri Lanka] on Boxing Day, 1881, the daughter of Tea Planter James Anderson and Isabella Craib. Her siblings were Mary Ellen Emslie [1877], Isabella Christine [1879], James Alexander [1879] and Charles Peter [29/12/1883].

Katie Emslie took her Prelims in Aberdeen in April, 1899, and registered at the University there in May commencing her medical studies qualifying in 1904, then gained her DTM at Liverpool Hospital of Tropical Medicine. She worked in Dublin before moving to Sheffield where she assisted a local doctor before becoming, in 1908, House Surgeon at the East End Branch of Sheffield's Children's Hospital Out Patients Department. She then became the Medical Officer of Sheffield Union Hospital. She joined Ashton Infirmary as Junior House Surgeon in 1909 being the first female doctor at the hospital. She resigned in 1911 to take up a post at the Lady Havelock Hospital for Women & Children, Ceylon. During the 1<sup>st</sup> World War, she worked at the Scottish Women's Hospitals in Salonika and Corsica caring for Serbian refugees. She returned to the Lady Havelock Hospital as Medical Superintendent and also lectured at Ceylon's Medical College on the Diseases of Children. She gained her FRSC in Edinburgh in 1921. She lived at Taproban, Argyle. She was missing at sea on 12<sup>th</sup> January, 1934, whilst sailing on the SS Strathnaver en route to Ceylon. Her death was attested by Isie Christine Anderson.

## GWENDOLINE HUGHES

Gwendoline was born to John Ellis Hughes [a civil engineer] and his wife Frances Sara in Chiswick on 23<sup>rd</sup> January, 1880. She had a sister, Frances Sara born in 1883, and a brother: John B. In 1883, the family was living in Clitheroe. In 1891, the family was living at 6, Alexandra Villas, Norwood, Southall, Middlesex. Gwendoline was educated at the Fairfield Moravian Girls' School. She died at Newton Abbot in December, 1953.

By 1911, she was a sick nurse at the military Royal Victoria Hospital. She was Acting Matron in the Queen Alexandra Royal Army Nursing Corps in Cairo in the 1<sup>st</sup> World War. She was Mentioned in Dispatches 3 times and awarded the Royal Red Cross Medal. In 1932, she was Senior Supervising Matron No 7 General Hospital, Shanghai. She was living with her sister in 1939 at 'Arcott' Torquay proud to be a retired QAIMNS..

Researcher: Anne McGarry

## ALICE WOODHOUSE

Alice was the sixth child of Registrar Godfrey Woodhouse and Amanda Walworth. She was born in Millbrook in 1878. She was baptised at St Paul's Church on 19<sup>th</sup> April. They had moved from Queen Street to 280, Huddersfield Road by 1891. Godfrey died in 1882: by that time he was Registrar for births, marriages and deaths.

She is remembered on a plaque in St James' Church, Millbrook *Ye are the salt of the earth*. She dedicated her life to nursing. In 1901, aged 23, she was a hospital nurse at the Royal Infirmary, Piccadilly, and 10 years later she was a Sick Nurse at Nelson House Nursing Home. By 25<sup>th</sup> April, 1917, she was Matron of Ducie Avenue Military Hospital. In May, she was one of 4 matrons presented to the King and Queen in Manchester. In November that year, she was presented with the Royal Red Cross 1<sup>st</sup> Class for her work as a matron with the Territorial Force Nursing Service, 2<sup>nd</sup> Western General Hospital, by the King at Buckingham Palace. She was also responsible for additional TFNS beds in civil hospitals including Ashton Union, Ashton Infirmary, Wellington St Hospital, Dukinfield and Early bank, Stalybridge. Her health broke after the War but she continued her nursing career as matron.

She died at the Ethel Hedley Hospital, Windermere, on 17<sup>th</sup> November, 1925. She left £81/ 2/ 4 to her brother Robert who was a retired technical teacher.

Researcher: Kate Booth



## OIL INDUSTRY

Kelly Richardson was born in 1983 and educated at Fairfield School. She has degrees from Durham [BSc Physics], and Heriot-Watt [MSc Petroleum Engineering].

After graduating, she worked for BP as an engineer in Norway, Canada, Angola and the UK working both onshore and offshore on rigs, platforms and boats. From 2006, she was a senior drilling engineer

Researcher: Anne McGarry

### KELLY RICHARDSON



## PERFORMING ARTS

Dawn Jean Acton was born in Tameside.

As a child she attended Oldham Theatre Workshop, and appeared as Tracey Barlow in Coronation Street for 11 years from the age of 11. She is a DJ and works for the charity Beanstalks which helps children to read.

### DAWN ACTON



### AMANDA BARRIE

Shirley Anne Broadbent was born to Hubert H Broadbent and Connie Pike in Ashton in 1935, growing up off Broadoak Road. She attended Mrs Robert's School. She trained at the Arts Educational School [London] and then Bristol Old Vic Theatre School. She changed her name in 1961 before her West End Debut. In 1967, she married theatre director Robin Hunter who died in 2004, and in 2014 she married Hilary Bonner. They now live in Somerset and London.



She starred in 2 Carry On Films, and One of Our Dinosaurs is Missing, played Alma Sedgwick in Coronation Street, and performed in Bad Girls, Doctors and Benidorm.

Researcher; Gay Oliver

## SHEILA BUXTON



Sheila Buxton was born in the Manchester area. Her parents ran a public house on Oldham Road, Ashton..

During the 1950s and 60s, she was a regular performer on the radio, being principal vocalist with the BBC Northern Dance Orchestra. She appeared with Lenny the Lion quite often. Sheila was represented by the Bob Monkhouse Agency.

## JULIE CAMPBELL aka Lone Lady



Julie was born in Ashton and grew up in Audenshaw. She gained a fine arts degree from Manchester University. She still lives in the Manchester area.

She is a singer/guitarist/solo artist and producer. Earlier influenced by the post-punk era, she has since incorporated dance and funk. She plays a wide range of instruments on her records

including clarinet, electric drums and cello. Her first album 'Nerve Up' was described as a 'unique brilliant debut'.

## SUE DEVANEY



Susan Barber was born in 1967 in Ashton and was a member of Oldham Theatre Workshop. At the age of 16 she formed the band The Dam Busters.

She has acted in Dinner Ladies, Casualty, Coronation Street, and on stage in the west End production of Wind in the Willows.

She now lives in Rochdale and London.

## KATE FLOWERS

Christened Katherine Newton Flowers, opera singer Kate Flowers was born in Dukinfield in 1952 to George Flowers (a farmer from Littlemoss ) and Dorothy Newton (Author of My Dukinfield Childhood) and together with her older sister Elizabeth lived on Cheetham Hill Road, Dukinfield.

Kate attended St John's C of E School and Astley Grammar School in Dukinfield, studied music at the RNCM in Manchester, and continued her studies at the London Opera Centre and in Paris.

She began her operatic career with Benjamin Britten's company in Aldeburgh before joining Glyndebourne where she won the John Christie Award. Her career spanned almost 40 years taking her around the world and nearer to home with Welsh National Opera, Scottish Opera, Opera North, ENO and the Royal Opera House Covent Garden.

In 2009 she started Co-Opera Co. with her partner, Lighting Designer Paul Need, she being artistic director and he the general manager, in a bid to help aspiring artists at the beginning of their careers

Kate has three sons, all of whom are following careers in the arts in Berlin and London and Kate's life is now divided between London and Wales doing all the things she has never had time to do before.

## BRIGIT FORSYTH

Brigit Forsyth was born in Edinburgh in 1940. She studied at St George's School for Girls, and trained as a secretary before enrolling in RADA.

She has had numerous TV roles including Thelma in Whatever Happened to the Likely Lads? and Madge in Open All Hours. She has also starred in radio, film and stage plays.

She was living in Tameside. She is Honorary President of Tameside Festival Chorus.



## SADIE LIZA FROST



Sadie Liza Frost was born in Islington on 19<sup>th</sup> May, 1965, but her home town is Ashton. She studied at the Italia Conti Academy then Hampstead School

She is an actress, producer and fashion designer. She has worked at the Royal Exchange. In 2004 she won PETA Designer of the Year.

## **JULIE HESMONDHALGH**



Julie was born in Accrington on 25<sup>th</sup> February, 1970, to John and Maureen Forrester. She studied at Accrington and Rossendale College and the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art [LAMDA]. She is married to Ian Kershaw and has 2 children. She lives in the Tameside area.

Julie is a TV and stage actress who is perhaps best known for her role in Coronation Street where her characters raised the issues of transgender and pancreatic cancer: both of which have been causes she has supported. She has won many awards including Best Actress in the 2014 British Soap Awards, the National TV Award for Best Performance in a Continuing Drama, and best Female Actor in a Drama in the 2015 Royal TV Society Awards for her role in Black Roses. In 2018, she was nominated for a BAFTA for her role in Broadchurch. She is a founder member of Take Back – a grass roots political theatre company, a patron of Rueben's Retreat, the Sophie Lancaster Foundation and Believe and Achieve Tameside.

Research: Julie Hesmondhalgh

## **AUDREY ROBINSON**

Audrey Kennedy was born in 1926. She married Norman Robinson at Hurst in 1954 and had 2 daughters and a son. She died in 2006, just short of her 80<sup>th</sup> birthday.

She was awarded the Gold Medal of the Manchester College of Music. She was the organist at Albion and was a well-known and respected musician. Audrey had an exchange with a fellow organist in America, spending time at Corpus Christie, Texas. She both organised and played in concerts in the Manchester area.

## **KATHY STAFF**



Minnie Higginbottom was born on 12<sup>th</sup> July, 1928 to Alfred Higginbottom and Minnie Hartley at 243, Astley Street, Dukinfield: she had an older sister, Constance. Her parents were devout Christians and members of The Band of Hope. Her father was a lay reader at St Mark's Church where she was a life-long member of both congregation and choir. She was Head Girl at her school and left aged 14 to work at National Gas & Oil Engine Company, Ashton. She married John Staff in 1951 and had 2 daughters.

She died of a brain tumour on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2008, her funeral service being held at St Mark's. She described herself as a strong northern lady.

When she started in Repertory Companies, she changed her name to Katherine Brant. She had film and stage roles but is best known for her television roles especially Crossroad and Last of the Summer Wine playing the iconic Nora Batty, a role she played from 1973 until 2008

## SHIRLEY STELFOX

Shirley Rosemary Stelfox was born in Dulkanfield on 11<sup>th</sup> April, 1941: the youngest child of Evelyn Pilling and Harry Stelfox. She suffered from bilateral amblyopia which meant she found it difficult to read small print. She attended Lakes Road School, appearing in local pantomimes through her school career. She married Keith Edmundson and later Don Henderson. She lived in Stratford-upon-Avon but was living in Nottinghamshire when she died on 7<sup>th</sup> February, 2015 She left one child and 2 step-children. She had a close connection to Old Chapel, Dukinfield.



She studied at RADA with Edward Fox, John Thaw and Sarah Miles. She worked in both film and theatre, but the bulk of her work was in television where she starred in almost every day-time serial and soap. But she was best known for playing the role of Edna Birch in Emmerdale. She was renowned for being straight talking and independent.

Researcher: Janet M Ford

[Janetmford@yahoo.com](mailto:Janetmford@yahoo.com)

## MELANIE SYKES

Melanie Ann Sykes was born in Ashton in 1970 but lived in Mossley,. She attended Mossley Hollins School before studying at Ashton Sixth Form College. She played baritone horn with Ashtonian Brass with her parents and 2 sisters. She lived in Hampstead.

A TV and radio presenter, and model she became known for her role in the Boddington Bitter adverts. She also has her own range of lingerie.



## BROOKE VINCENT

Brooke Levi Vincent was born in Audenshaw in 1992. She attended Fairfield School.



She is a film and television actor. She was given the role of Sophie Webster in Coronation Street in 2004. In 2008 she was named best young actor in the National Soap Awards. Her cousin Ellie Leach appears in the same programme

## POLITICIANS

### BARBARA CASTLE



Barbara Ann Betts was born in Chesterfield on 6<sup>th</sup> October, 1910, to Frank and Ann, the youngest of 3 children. She was only resident in Tameside for a short while as her father worked in Hyde. She joined the Labour Party as a teenager. She attended St Hugh's College, Oxford. She married Edward C Castle in London in 1944. She died in Chiltern on 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2002.

She was MP for Blackburn from 1945-79, and MEP for Manchester from 1979-1989. Amongst her Government appointments she was Secretary of State for Employment, Secretary of State for Health and Social Services, Minister of Transport and First Secretary of State. Barbara is perhaps best known for her fight against apartheid, and the introduction of the 70 mph speed limit, the breathalyser and seat belts. She was made Baroness Castle of Blackburn in 1990.

### ANGELA RAYNER



Angela Bowen was born in Stockport on 28<sup>th</sup> March, 1980 to Martin Roy Bowen and Lynn[e] Ingram. She was educated at Avondale School but left without any qualifications. She attended Stockport College studying British Sign language, and Care and Counselling. She married Trade Unionist Mark Rayner in 2010, and has 3 sons. She lives in the Ashton Constituency and is a grandmother. Angela is a Labour politician, care worker and trade unionist. She won the 2015 election for the Labour Party and has shadowed 3 ministers: Pensions, Women's Equalities and is currently Shadow Minister for Education.

## SPORT

### KAREN BARBER

Karen Barber was born in 1961 in Audenshaw.

Karen trained at Audenshaw Ice Rink which was owned by Nicky Slater's parents. Her first partner was Kim Spreyer before she successfully teamed up with Nicky Slater. Together they represented Great Britain at 2 Olympics in 1980 and 1984. In 1983 they gained a Bronze Medal at the European Championships. She has been a coach, and a judge on the TV programme Dancing on Ice.



### STACEY COPELAND

Stacey is a native of Godley. She was born on the 19<sup>th</sup> August, 1981. She attended Godley Primary School before moving to Longdendale School. Her grandfather had a boxing gym in Stockport which she loved to attend. She works at Parris Wood High School, Didsbury, as Head of Personal Development and Well Being.



As it wasn't legal for women to box, she began her sporting career as a footballer playing for Doncaster Belles and England under 18s. She played in America for 5 years on a sports' scholarship, finishing her playing career in Sweden. Both she and her father won ABA national titles [being the only father and daughter to do so], and won a silver medal at the European Championships. She is

now a professional boxer – a super welterweight, with a 5-0 record and in July, 2018, won the Commonwealth Title against Mapule Ngubane being the 1<sup>st</sup> British female to hold the title.

She won the Role Model of the Year award for the Sports' Womens' Trust in May 2018. She is a community ambassador for Sports Tour International which organises the Tour of Tameside.

Researcher: Stacey Copeland

## AMANDA FERGUSON

Amanda Jane Ferguson was born in 1967, and lived in Droylsden.

She was a member of the Ashton Salle Jones Fencing Club. She used the foil. In 1982, she was 2<sup>nd</sup> in the British u-16 event, was 2<sup>nd</sup> in the u-20s in 1983, she won the u-18s in 1984 and 1985. In 1986, she represented the country in foil, and competed in Spain coming 1<sup>st</sup>. She was selected for the World Youth Championships in 1985, 86 and 1987. In 1992, she represented Britain in the Barcelona Olympics.

It should be noted here that the fencing club had a string of successful youngsters including Marilyn Holmes and Susan Green. Marilyn joined the WRAF following her university career, and Susan [born in 1950] also represented Britain in the Olympics. There is no indication where these girls were born or where they grew up.

## HANNAH MITCHELL



Hannah Alice Mitchell was born in 1992. She was educated at Fairfield School. She enjoyed sailing on Hollingworth Lake: her first boat being a Mirror Dinghy.

She sailed as crew with Joanna Freeman in RYA Volvo Team GBR in a 420. In 2010 they were first in the RYA Volvo Nationals, and represented Britain in the ISAF Youth World Awards in Turkey coming 4<sup>th</sup>. She was

nominated for the Panteanius Young Sailor of the Year.

Researcher: Anne McGarry

## CHRISTINE PERERA



Christine was reportedly born and brought up in Denton, but this has been difficult to prove. She attended Fairfield School.

As Christine Bell, she represented England at the 1970 Commonwealth Games gaining a Bronze Medal in the 100 m hurdles being the fastest British woman hurdler.

Researcher: Anne McGarry

## SYLVIA PLATT

Sylvia Marie Platt was born in 1950 in Hyde

Aged 16, she was a member of Hyde Seal Swimming Club and was already spoken of as a future champion. In 1967, representing her swimming club she came second in the national Ladies' 100 yard back stroke with a time of 1:11:7. In 1970, she represented England in the Edinburgh Commonwealth Games gaining a silver medal. She was also a member of the Olympic Training Squad.

## LILLIAN PREECE

Lillian Preece was born in the Stockport area on 1<sup>st</sup> April, 1928, and lived in Hyde. She was the daughter of Elizabeth Wills and William Stanley Preece. The family later moved to the Wallasey area. She married Frank Parrington in March, 1948. They emigrated to Zimbabwe in 1959 as her husband had a job as Bath's Manager: he trained several Olympians. Their son, David, was also an Olympian. Lillian died in July 2004. She always said she was immensely proud to have come from Hyde: Preece Close, Newton, was named in her honour.



She learnt to swim when she was 11, and won 3 titles that year at Hyde Seal Annual Gala. By the age of 19 she was setting ASA records and representing Cheshire County and the North of England. In 1947 she took part in the European Championships in Monte Carlo. She was selected to represent Britain and travelled the world following her sport. She took part in the 1948 Olympics coming 3<sup>rd</sup> in the 4x100 yd relay. In 1952 she was captain of the women's team in Helsinki. In 1953, she was awarded the ASA Yeadon Trophy as Swimmer of the Year.

## REBECCA TUNNEY

Rebecca Tunney was born in Ashton in 1996. She attended Droylsden Academy Secondary School. She showed great promise in gymnastics, so when she was 10 the family moved to Liverpool to train.



She had a strong connection to TCA Tycoons who trained at Ray Mill before it was destroyed in 2018.

She performed in Women's Artistic Gymnastics in both European Championships in Birmingham and the 2012 London Olympics being the youngest athlete aged 15. She retired on 6<sup>th</sup> April, 2017 to concentrate on her studies.

## ANDREA WORRALL



Andrea Sarah Worrall was born in Ashton in 1977. Whilst at school, she wanted to play football but was refused as soccer was a boys' game! Her parents found her a girls' team she could play for and her career started at the Greater Manchester Youth Games representing Tameside. She retired from football in 2014, and recently married her long-term partner, and has a 1 year old daughter. Andrea is an avid Manchester City fan.

Andrea was scouted by Stockport Girls' and at 16 she went on to win the first ever U16s FA Cup Final beating the Arsenal Girls 1-0. She is a goalkeeper, and has played for Everton, Liverpool, Leeds United and Stockport County Ladies' teams. But she is best known for playing for Manchester City Women. She was scouted by both England and Wales and despite attending a training camp with England chose to represent Wales, the birth place of her grandmother, winning 6 caps.

She is currently a Community Safety Manager working for a housing association in Manchester and works supporting LGBT causes. Andrea is one of the first out gay female footballers in England and Wales and is a patron for Just a Ball Game, and in 2014 won Hero of the Year award for her work. She continues to work for the LGBT community through her job and regularly takes part in the Manchester Pride Parade.

## WRITERS

### SARAH DALE

Sarah Schofield was born circa 1825 at Lilly Lanes when Hurst was a village surrounded by cornfields and hedgerows. Her parents were handloom weavers, and Windy Bank was a 3 storey cottage with woollen looms and a small spinning jenny on the top floor. As a small child she attended the Moravian Sunday School at Roundthorn where she learnt to read and write. Aged 8, she got a job as a nursemaid earning 1/- [5p] a week. From childhood, she was writing small stories and verses. She married James Dale in Saddleworth in 1851. In 1861, they were living at Cotton Street, Ashton: James [32] was a machine minder and Sarah was 35. She crossed the Atlantic 16 times, returning in 1897. They lived at 80, Lumb Lane: James was still a mechanic, and she was a woollen weaver. She died on 20<sup>th</sup> December, 1903, and is buried at Hurst. She left a hundred pounds to St James' [Ashton] and St John's [Hurst] – the interest to provide bread for the poor. The Dale Charity was distributed by both churches.

She loved writing and published several volumes and poems.

Researcher: Janet Matley – Rev Parry -

contact: 01528 386771

## JANE ROGERS

Jane Rogers was born in London in 1956. She attended New Hall, Cambridge and Leicester University. She lived for quite some time in the Mossley area and in Banbury.

She is a novelist, editor, scriptwriter and lecturer perhaps best known for Mr Wroe's Virgins and The Voyage Home: she has written 9 novels to date and many short stories. In 1989 she won the Samuel Beckett TV Award, the Arthur Clarke Award and in 2009, the BBC National Short Story Award. In 1994, she was made a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature. She was the Professor of Writing at Sheffield Hallam. She has lectured at the University of Adelaide and Pans Sorbonne iv.



## DOLORES GORDON-SMITH

Dolores Whitbread was born in Glossop in 1957. She graduated from Kingston Polytechnic, now Surrey University, in 1986, where she read English Literature. She married Tax Consultant Peter Gordon-Smith at St Peter's Roman Catholic Church, Stalybridge, where she is an active member of the parish. They have 5 daughters, and cats and dogs! They live in Stalybridge from where she can see the moors. For a special birthday, she had a flight in a Tiger Moth, a real family occasion, as it was the same type of aircraft that her father, an RAF pilot in WW2, trained on.

She has a keen interest in the First World War and in the 1920s and is the author of the Jack Haldean murder mysteries, set in the 1920s and a WW1 mystery/spy series. A regular speaker at the British Library's Day celebrating the Golden Age of detective fiction. Dolores has also contributed to American podcasts about detective and fantasy fiction.

Researcher: Dolores Gordon Smith Kate Booth



## EXCEPTIONAL OTHERS

### FRANCES LOCKETT

Frances Lockett was born in 1910. She lived in a 2 up-2down in Hyde where her father was a policeman. She left school at 14 to work as a weaver. In 1931, she returned to work at J & J Ashton Mills, Hyde. In 1937, she married policeman James Burgess and lived at Queen

Street, Hyde.

To promote the cotton industry, in 1930 the towns of the north-west decided to hold a 3 week event in Blackpool to select a Cotton Queen who would attend exhibitions, fashion parades, public events etc representing their industry. It would be open to cotton girls between the ages of 16-26. Frances, aged 19, was tall, graceful, and modest with a sense of humour and so impressed that she was chosen as the first Cotton Queen. Returning home, she was mobbed by a crowd of 20,000. In her year she travelled widely meeting a variety of celebrities including the Prime Minister.

### CHRISTINE McQUEEN SISTER SCHOLASTICA

Trying to find personal details of Christine is difficult. She was supposedly born and brought in Droylsden, but the only Christine McQueen was named Mavis Christine, and was born in 1945. She was definitely educated at Fairfield school and gained a Masters Degree in Philosophy.

She became a nun taking the name Sister Scholastica. She joined the Benedictine Abbey at Frauenworh, Bavaria. In 2016, she became the Director of the Abbey. She was the head of the Seminar Programme at the Neuroinformatics Jamboree.

MAMOURIAN, Edith Gladys. 11143

67, Stalybridge Road, Ashton-under-Lyme.

**Born** 20th. November. 1888. *at* Ashtpn-U-Lyne.

**Nationality** British.

**Rank, Regiment, Profession** Married.

**Certificate taken on** Avro Avian. Cyrus. 75 H.P.

**At** Lancashire Aero Club.

**Date** 2.6.1933.



Frauenworth Abbey

## EDITH GLADYS MAMOURIAN



Edith Gladys Annett was born on 20<sup>th</sup> April, 1888, to Henry Annett and Edith Crawford and baptised at Widdrington, Northumberland on the 28<sup>th</sup>. She had 3 brothers and they lived at Widdrington Farm. By

1901, they lived at 11, Widdrington Farm as her father had died. Ten years later, she was living with her brother Henry. In 1912, she married Murat Marcus Mamourian in Morpeth. He was a surgeon at Ashton's Children's Hospital [see Maggie Morton] in 1910. They lived at Ashford House and later on Stamford Road. They were living at Hyde Park Gate, Kensington by 1951 where her husband died in 1955 aged 76 leaving her £73,317/14/4. She died in Northumberland in 1967 aged 79.

On 2<sup>nd</sup> March, 1933, she gained her Royal Aero Club Aviators' Certificate at Lancashire Aero Club on an Avro Avian Cyrus. In 1946, she was made a JP for public service to Ashton. In the same year, she was given the OBE in the Birthday Honours List for services as a Councillor

Researcher: Alice Locke

**Edith Mamourian (left) with Mabel Tylecote (centre) and Lilian Keck a native American**

# OUR FOREIGN ALLIES

## THE SECOND WORLD WAR

### ESTHER MARIE ALLARD

Esther Marie Allard was born in 1925 to Mr and Mrs Cyrille Allard. She had a brother, Philip, who was killed whilst training to be a pilot in the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War. The family escaped from France in May, 1940, and lived at 'Langherne', Heyheads.

She helped with a WVS canteen and spent 18 months at a Civil Defence First Aid Post. Esther joined up with the Corps Feminine Aerieenne in October, 1943, and was based at the London HQ. She was sent to France in September, 1944.

Auxilaire Allard died in Paris in February, 1945, and was buried in the Pantin Military Cemetery. She is commemorated by St James', Millbrook.

### NINETTE HEAP

Nellie Gladys Langley was born on 1<sup>st</sup> January, 1922, to John and Marguerite: she had a brother, Norman. John was a mill manager in 1939, living at Rock Bank, Mossley. His wife was French, and this was to have a great influence on Ninette's future. She married Alan Heap at the Unitarian Chapel on Stamford Street in 1945. They had 2 children: Marguerite and Philip. She died in 1997 aged 74.

**Ninette is the most enigmatic of our women. She actively served in the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War and was honoured by the French, but she was always reticent of her service. She taught for many years at Saddleworth School and was a loved teacher and colleague.**

This booklet was compiled by Gay Oliver and Kate Booth in 2018 for the anniversary of when some women got the vote, with the invaluable input from members of the Tameside Local History Forum, which also funded the publication, and from Tameside Archives

### **Gay Oliver**



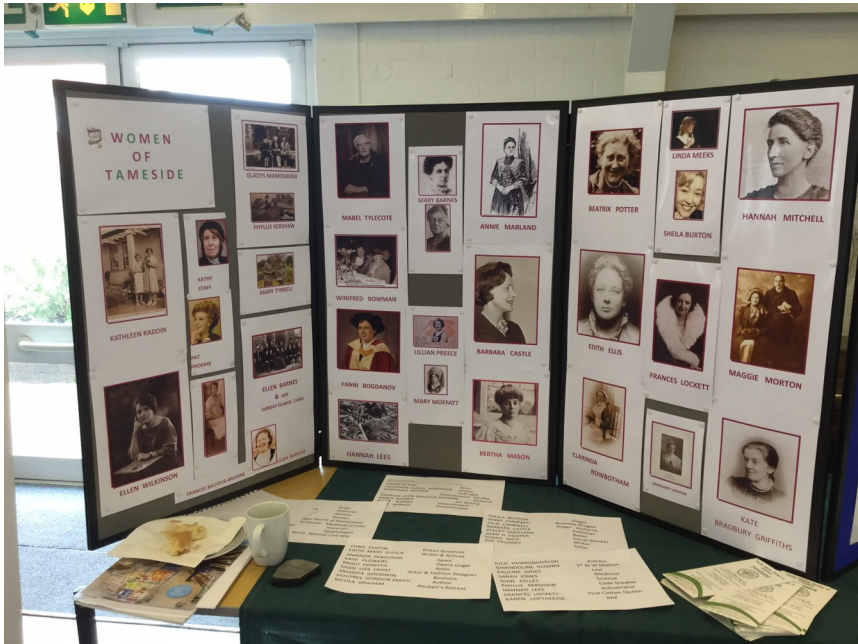
Has been a member of the Forum from almost its inception. She is our Web-Site Manager, and responsible for co-ordinating most of the group's activities on line. She has many interests and is constantly researching her personal interests which include her own family history [including the Stanleys, and Irish immigration], local issues, people and places of note [including the Dukinfields and their links to the slave trade, Egyptologists and John Wroe] and local politics. She is Chair of the local Family History Society which meets monthly in Dukinfield, and as such attends the Cheshire Family History Society as our local representative. She is an accomplished lecturer to local groups and ran courses on Family History.

### **Kate Booth**



Has been a member since 2008. She has written several books mostly concerning the village of Millbrook, and the 300 soldiers missing from Stalybridge War Memorial. She has correlated the Tameside soldiers who were casualties of the 1<sup>st</sup> World War and is working on identifying the survivors. She has given talks to local groups on such themes as The Influenza Outbreak of 1918, and local men killed on the first day of the Somme. She wrote and produced a play based on children's experiences in the 1<sup>st</sup> World War working with pupils in Yr6 of Buckton Vale who presented a memorable performance. She is currently working with a group from the Forum on the celebration in 2019 of The Battle of Peterloo.





Top Women no longer with us and bottom those still alive

