

Wardle and Smallbridge History Group



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washg@mail.com



Remembrance Day. In the previous edition of the Newsletter we mentioned that the Centre, in conjunction with members of the Prince's Trust would be open after the ceremony at the nearby Cenotaph. Among other visitors we were delighted to welcome Mr Ray Dutton, the Mayor of Rochdale who showed great interest in our **`Watergrove project.`** Mr Dutton together with Mrs Dutton, the Mayoress, has kindly agreed to perform an official opening ceremony on March 22nd at 10.30am. Representatives from Local Studies and local Councillors have also been invited to join us. Light refreshments will be served.

Towards the end of a busy year members rewarded themselves with a pre - Christmas Party. On December 7th the work tables were cleared; festively trimmed table cloths were laid, Christmas Carols were played, paper hats were worn and crackers were pulled.

Delicious `Traditional` Meat and Potato Pie and Cheese and Onion Pie were supplied by Tattersalls' in Wardle followed by Mince Pies and a brew.

Not Content with this, an open day was held the following week on December 14th when festively decorated tables were set up in the large room downstairs. Friends and members of the public were invited to join us for Mince Pies, a cup of tea and a chat.

Once again we had a good turnout and a most enjoyable morning

On a Financial Note - Once again, Annual Subscriptions are being collected. If you aren't a member would you consider joining ? Its only £5 a year and helps us keep Local History alive.



Mr Dutton greeting History Group member Leslie, and Chris a former member of the British Army and Team Leader for the Princes' Trust.

Marjorie Turner

During the Christmas holidays we were saddened to learn of the death of Marjorie; a member for many years. Her contribution to all of the society's events will be greatly missed.

Please see the following page for a few words of appreciation.

Contact us

At the **Wardle & Smallbridge History Centre**
110 Wardle Road
Rochdale OL12 9ER

We're *almost* always there on Wednesdays between 10am and 12 pm – pass straight along the corridor, then up the stairs for a friendly chat and a look at our exhibits.

Email on wardlehistorygroup@mail.com

Website www.washg.co.uk

Our **Facebook** page continues to be most successful, once again covering a wide range of subjects with enthusiastic support from far and wide

Even if you don't subscribe to Facebook, you can still access our page by simply going to our website at www.washg.co.uk and clicking on the link,

.... while you're on the website, you can also download a copy of this newsletter.

Marjorie Turner (nee Hall)

Marjorie lived in Smallbridge for almost all her life. She had a wealth of knowledge about the district and willingly shared this with others. Her tales and anecdotes often had our meetings reduced to hysterical laughter. She was ever an optimist, her glass was always half full, never half empty. Whatever task she was involved in she attacked with gusto and there was always a solution to any problems encountered. She was very generous, always producing tasty soups and lovely cakes at our functions. We will miss her presence greatly. God Bless Marjorie.

Wardle Library

The staff at Wardle Library have kindly allowed us to use their most prominent window for this display of items of local interest, including photographs, which will be changed on a regular basis.

We understand that members of the public have already commented favourably on it.



A Grand Day Out has been discussed for far too long. Last year passed us by but Spring is here (almost) and ideas for an interesting trip which includes a cup of tea are being sought. All are welcome - just an informal couple of hours in pleasant company

Banner Display

The collection of church banners on the staircase is now complete with a display of leather straps and buckets - small leather holsters to take the weight of the banner pole. These are fixed to the straps which then go around the shoulders.

Recollections - A new project to which we all can contribute.

The group are compiling a record of what it was like to grow up in this part of the world.

All aspects are of interest; from earliest memories, relatives' gossip, school days, leisure time, Easter, Christmas, New Year and other celebrations.

Tell us about your teenage years, starting work, going on holiday, health and sickness, law and order - in fact anything at all! All of us can find something in our memory which is worth recording for the future.

No personal details will be included in the final work (unless you request that we do) and we would be happy to help if you feel unable to record it yourself.

Please contact the group, either personally, by email at washg@mail.com or through [Facebook](#) to learn more about this opportunity to record your memories for future generations

Research - recent subjects have included the intriguing question of street names at Hurstead which have a link with the construction of Watergrove reservoir, and the story of the later years of Rocks Mill and the wheelwright's business. This was also recorded on film a number of years ago by the BBC - the fascinating story of a traditional craftsman at work.



St John's Church Smallbridge. During their years at Smallbridge, Mrs Ellen Cook, wife of Canon Cook painted an Altar piece depicting daVinci's Last Supper. As can be seen above, it suffered a considerable amount of damage after the church was closed. After restoration by the well known artist Walter Kershaw, it will be re-homed at the United Reformed Church in Littleborough. We believe that Mrs Cook painted another copy of this piece for the church at Elwick where they spent their last years, and are doggedly following the trail.....