

Westhoughton Local History Group | Exhibition 2017

'ASPECTS OF HOWFEN'

Westhoughton's heritage profiled in major and creation of the town's first permanent 'Timeline'.

Westhoughton Library – ran from Saturday, 23rd September until Tuesday, 31st October 2017.

September 2017 saw the launch of a major exhibition staged by Westhoughton Local History Group, profiling many facets of the town's rich industrial, social, cultural, educational and sporting history. 'Aspects of Howfen', is a free exhibition, held on the upper floor and viewable during [Library](#) opening hours.

Several key factors have combined to provide the catalyst for the new exhibition, the most significant of which came in January this year, with the sad news of the untimely death of Pamela Clarke, president and founder-member of the flourishing heritage organisation.

For some years, Pam cherished the hope that one day the walls of the library could be adorned with a comprehensive 'Town Timeline', profiling in graphic fashion all the key events in Westhoughton's history, which could be viewed in perpetuity by all visitors to the library, and in this respect she especially had the town's schoolchildren in mind.

Whilst having conceived the idea, and been responsible for much of the embryonic work, sadly she was destined not to see her vision implemented. Now, however, working in close collaboration with key members of staff at Bolton Library and Museum Services, and aided by a generous grant from Westhoughton Town Council, the Group has brought the project to fruition, the result being a most impressive and colourful graphic display, comprising a series of themed information panels, 4 feet high, and with an overall length spanning 65 feet. One of these panels carries a caption informing that the Timeline is dedicated to the memory of Pam Clarke, a lady whose contribution to the town's history has been incomparable.

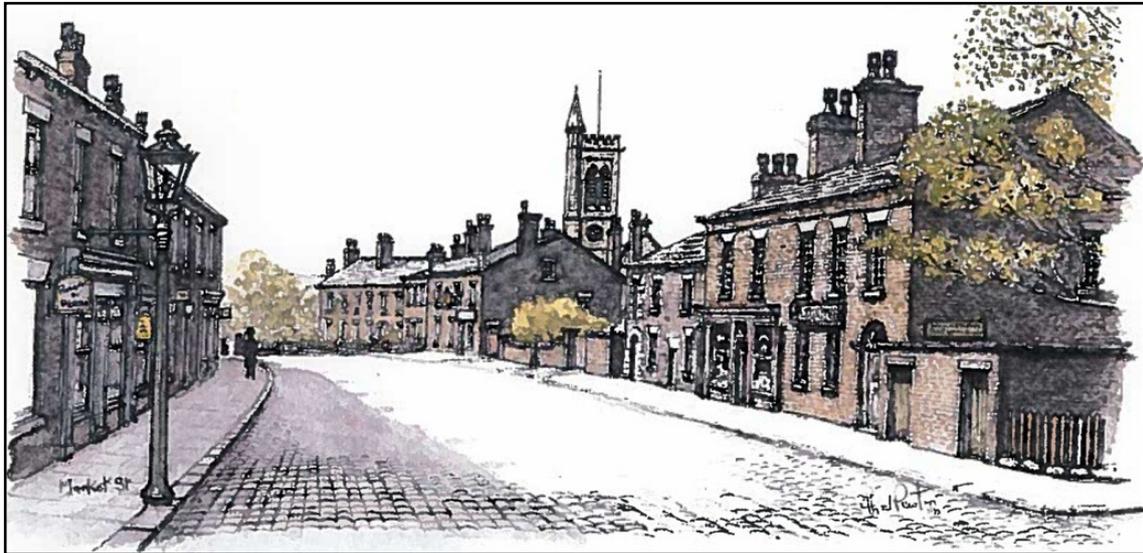


The event combined the official dedication of the permanent Timeline feature with the opening of the temporary exhibition, and also the launch of two new WLHG publications, all being intrinsically-linked to the Timeline project.

The exhibition had two major segments, one comprising material which expands upon that featured on the wall-mounted panels, and the second a most colourful and impressive display of superb water-colour paintings illustrating the Westhoughton of yesteryear. These are all the work of one of Westhoughton's best-known and much-loved sons, Tom Newton MBE, whose artistic talents have augmented many of the Group's activities over the years, including a number of the images which feature in the Timeline.

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One of the two new publications is a collation of 37 of Mr. Newton's evocative images of Westhoughton past, whilst the second documents the many facets of the Timeline, and provides an ideal permanent souvenir of this latest major project implemented by the heritage group.



The exhibition has been coordinated by Garth Ratcliffe, the group's vice-chairman, who was also responsible for many of the organisation's previous successful major exhibitions listed above.

Whilst the exhibition will represent the main public manifestation of the group's commemorative activities, other significant initiatives are also planned, visit westhoughtonhistorygroup.org.uk for more information.

A series of books, leaflets and DVDs are available from the group, sales of which help to fund group projects for the benefit of the Westhoughton community.
