



DISPENSARY NEWS Special Edition



OWNERSHIP OF ANCOATS DISPENSARY SECURED!

Ancoats Dispensary Trust CEO, Karen Houghton, celebrates with campaigners outside the landmark building after taking ownership from Urban Splash, along with their development partner, Igloo Regeneration, on the 4th September 2015.

Karen said *"We could not have reached this point without our supporters in Manchester, including of course the Heritage Lottery Fund. We now have legal possession of the building and initial funding in place for the safeguarding works to begin. We are on our way to creating a space that will make a huge contribution to the health and wellbeing of the Ancoats communities and the local economy"*.



NEW PARTNERSHIPS WORKING WITH ANCOATS DISPENSARY TRUST



**Basic film-making workshops
in partnership with Bad Bug
Media and Eastlands Homes.**

Eastlands
Homes



Over the past year we have worked with various organisations and formed interesting and valuable connections. The following two opportunities are our latest ventures with Eastlands Homes, Manchester University and the Rivers and Canals Trust. There will no doubt be more creative working opportunities in 2016.

Earlier this year we were successful in being awarded £1,000 from 'Manchester One' Community Fund. This is a combination of **Manchester City Council and Eastlands Homes** and we are pleased that Eastlands are supporting our film making workshop project with Bad Bug Media.

Bad Bug are a small film making company who are supporting the Ancoats Dispensary Trust and this 'taster' project that begins in late October will be the forerunner of a much larger project in the near future.

Eastlands have offered a space at their Cornbrook offices on Stockport Road where the workshops will take place and already people who attended our events have signed up for this 'taster project'.

The workshops will cover the basics of making a straight-forward short film focussing on the architecture and heritage of Ancoats Dispensary. They will run on **Monday the 26th October from 1.30pm, Wednesday 28th October from 10.30am and Friday the 30th October from 10.30am**. Each workshop will be approximately 2 hours in duration. They would be suitable for anyone aged 16 yrs and over.

There may be a few places left so if you are interested please contact Lynne Harrison from Eastlands on Tel: 230 1078 or email Bad Bug Media (Ryan, Kieran or Sean) on badbugmedia@gmail.com



The University of Manchester



Canal &
River Trust

Dr Jenna C. Ashton, Project Officer, Researchers in Residence at The University of Manchester has invited Ancoats Dispensary Trust to work alongside the Rivers and Canal Trust on an exciting project she is setting up to explore Health and Wellbeing in Urban Areas. If Dr Ashton is successful in her funding bid ADT could very well have a Researcher in Residence. We will be giving further details on our website as soon as we have more information.

<https://researchersinresidence.wordpress.com/>

www.ancoatsdispensarytrust.co.uk



**MEMBERSHIP IS GROWING— BE PART OF THE
JOURNEY**

**Membership is FREE. You can join on-line at
www.ancoatsdispensarytrust.co.uk or email our Membership
Secretary barbara.whillans1@btinternet.com**

DIARY OF A NURSE IN THE 1960'S

PART 3

THE NURSES HOME

By Liz McCafferty



It was a rule in the 1960's that you had to live in the Nurses Home during your first student nurse year. I was quite looking forward to this as I was ready to leave home and from Ancoats you were in walking distance to the centre of Manchester.

The rooms were really spacious with built-in wardrobes and drawers along one wall, a wash basin in the corner and quite comfortable single beds. The views, not surprisingly, were poor from the windows but in summer we would go up to the top floor and climb out of a window onto a flat roof to sunbathe. This was totally against the rules but nobody could see you so we were never found out. The views were no better of course though you **could** see the tower of Strangeways Prison - home to some of our patients.

I think there must have been central heating in the rooms as I can only remember being cold in the shared bathrooms. There were two of these spartan tiled rooms on each floor all of which had enormous iron baths and no shower. They were so inhospitable and cold we often resorted to stand-up, all-over ablutions in our rooms. In those days few people bathed or showered **every** day - or maybe that was just Manchester - it was 'grim up north'!

The nurses lounge was enormous with a big bay window, a grand piano and two fireplaces at either end of the room. I never witnessed any form of racism at Ancoats, and we got on well with the West Indian and African staff on the wards, but it was a strange fact that the black nurses gathered round one fireplace and the white ones round the other. I can remember, though, being taught to do a West Indian dance they called 'The Mashed Potato' and having my first taste of goat curry at an African student's wedding.



We had a large radiogram and I can remember only two long-playing records ever played - Ella Fitzgerald and Frank Sinatra. No alcohol was ever allowed to be consumed in the Home, even at the occasional party's

we were allowed to hold though I do remember one of Lab technicians brought some pure alcohol to mix in the jugs of orange juice.

You could receive telephone calls in the foyer - if you managed to hear someone yelling out your name, but you were not allowed to make them. To do this we had to use the really old fashioned horn type telephone hung high in a smelly kiosk in the Outpatients waiting room. Lowry's painting has it on the right of Admissions but it was in a corner on the left.

Sister Deasy was in charge of the Nurses Home and organized allocation of rooms, changing of bed-linen and towels and discipline within the Home. She was also in charge of domestic staff as we did not have to clean our own rooms. We did our own personal laundry in the basement Laundry Room.

The front doors were locked at around 10pm and if you wanted to stay out later you had to apply for a 'late pass' which allowed you to be let in by the night porter, however at times social events did run over time and the latter had to be bribed with a large amount of charm and flattery or, as a last resort, a pack of 10 cigs.

Apart from the lack of some of our freedom most of us enjoyed the community living of the Nurses Home. Easy walking access to the centre of Manchester allowed us to visit cinemas, theatres and concerts with relative ease. There were often free tickets to theatres and events pinned onto the notice board and we certainly made use of them in our off-duty time.

The final part of Liz's story will be in the next edition. Hope you've enjoyed reading her escapades as a young nurse in the 1960's.



Jim Allen
(07.10.1926 – 24.06.1999)
Socialist Playwright

Another interesting fact about the 1960's is that the playwright, Jim Allen, from Miles Platting, wrote the script for the television drama 'The Lump'. The drama is based on Jim's experiences in the building trade and is being shown at The Three Minute Theatre, Affleck's Palace 35-39 Oldham Street, Manchester, M1 1JG. Tel: 0161 834 4517 on Saturday 14th November at 2pm Tickets £3. Tony Garnett, the producer of 'The Lump' is going to be present to answer any questions. Seating is limited and so we strongly advise booking in advance by emailing : maryquaileclub@gmail.com

HERITAGE CORNER

Does anyone recognize this stained glass window?



Yes, you are right, it is at present in North Manchester General Hospital on a corridor. However, it was until 1994 in the Chapel of Rest at Ancoats Hospital. Following the full closure of the Hospital it was renovated by the Hospital Arts and re-sited at NMGH. A re-dedication ceremony was held on October 11th 1994.

The stained glass was made by a famous company in London Heaton Butler & Bayne and cost originally £150. This was made in 1896 and paid for by the Governors of the Cotton Districts Convalescent Fund for the Cotton Districts Convalescent Home in Southport. In 1970 it was resolved that the window be transferred from Southport to the Chapel of Rest within Ancoats.

It represents the suffering of cotton operatives during the cotton famine in Lancashire and neighbouring communities as a result of the American Civil War.

Annie Coates Reborn

Andy Hickmott, our Poet in Residence, has written a book of poems in support of Ancoats Dispensary Trust. The book is called *in:dispensable*. Andy has kindly given his permission for us to publish this particular poem for our Special Edition newsletter. This poem is so pertinent as there is a sense of anticipation from Annie as to how the Dispensary will serve the area, both the new and old communities.

Mrs Coates, Reborn (2015)

Shrunken down to the shape and size
that she cut as a child,
her skin frail and crumbling,
only a scaffold kept her from tumbling----

but Annie was loved by those she delivered
from wombs, from complicated births,
from stockyard-falls and boiler-bursts,
from faltering hearts and livers.

The grateful kept vigil while she slept,
petitioned the deity *Urban Splash*:
made sure Annie's life support was kept
turned on with generous libations of cash.

Annie blinks out across the canal
And wonders how best to love us now.

*Copies of Andy's poetry book will be available for sale at the Victoria
Baths event on the 1st November at £5 per copy.*



SAFEGUARDING WORK HAS BEGUN ON THE DISPENSARY

Photograph by Brian Stark

Before the Stage 2 Development Phase can begin we have essential safeguarding works to be carried out. The contractors appointed are Bullens and Cheshire Scaffolding so if you see people on the site don't be alarmed.

We are fortunate to have recruited a graphic design artist, Claire Normansell. Claire will tell the story of Ancoats Dispensary, past, present and future through images which will be placed on the hoardings facing Old Mill Street.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

2015

ADT COMMUNITY MEETINGS

1st Monday of the month at 7pm

Cassidy Close Community Room

Thompson Street Fire Station

Manchester M4 5EP

SUNDAY 1ST NOVEMBER

11am—4pm

Victoria Baths Art & Craft Fair

Victoria Baths,
Hathersage Road,
Chorlton-on-Medlock,
Manchester M13 0FE

EARLY DECEMBER

DATE TO BE CONFIRMED

ADT Fundraising Event

to be held at

The Miners Community Arts & Music Centre

35 Teddington

Moston, Manchester M40 0DJ

CHRISTMAS IS COMING!

Look no further for a unique Christmas Card to send to family and friends this Christmas.

Illustrator Philip Chin continues to support ADT and has generously designed a Christmas card for us which we think you will love. The Dispensary takes centre stage in a wonderful Ancoats winter wonderland.



Cards will be on sale for £4 (pack of 10 cards) at our events (see Dates for Your Diary).

Orders can also be placed via our Membership Secretary but please note that there will be an additional charge to cover postage.

Email: barbara.whillans1@btinternet.com



ANCOATS VOICE UP.

LET'S GO IN PARTNERSHIP WITH
GREAT PLACES HOUSING ASSOCIATION
INVITE YOU TO THE LAUNCH OF
'ANCOATS VOICE UP' PROJECT.

Saturday 31st October 2015

All Welcome!
Drop in anytime from 1.00 – 3.00pm

St Michael's
36 - 38 George Leigh Street
Ancoats
M4 5DG

Free Event



ART & CRAFT FAIR

Sunday 1st November 2015 11am - 4pm

In the beautiful setting of Victoria Baths we are holding another of our popular Art & Craft Fairs, bringing together local craftspeople and artists selling a wide range of goods.

Come along with family and friends to browse the stalls, shop for unique artwork and crafts and enjoy all the features of our Open Day.

- Guided Tours
- History Display
- Gift Shop
- Café

PRICES

Admission only	£4* / £3
Admission and guided tour	£7* / £6
Under 16s	Free
Friends of VB	Free

*Gift Aid Price
Tours subject to availability

**Proceeds from this event will support
Victoria Baths Restoration**

Victoria Baths, Hathersage Road,
Chorlton-on-Medlock, Manchester M13 0FE

Email art.craft@victoriabaths.org.uk Twitter [@victoriabaths](https://twitter.com/victoriabaths)
Facebook [VictoriaBaths](https://www.facebook.com/VictoriaBaths)



Ancoats Dispensary Trust Community Meetings take place on the

1st Monday of every month

at 7pm

Cassidy Close Community Room

Thompson Street Central Fire Station

Manchester M4 5FP

EVERYONE WELCOME

Ancoats Dispensary Trust would like to thank

Manchester Communication Academy for printing this edition of our newsletter.