

# THE DISPENSARY NEWS



Newsletter by Ancoats Dispensary Trust

Issue 6 Autumn/Winter Edition 2016

## 'I didn't know they made glass in Ancoats!'

In early June, as part of the Manchester Histories Festival, ADT exhibited one of the 'hidden histories' of Ancoats in celebrating the glass industry that thrived only a few hundred yards away from the Ancoats Dispensary. The historical research was fascinating and ADT are grateful to Neil Harris for allowing us to dip into his family history for much of the information.



Courtesy of Bridge 5 Mill, the exhibition attracted over 100 visitors and despite the dreary weather people were met with an amazing selection of glassware from the 1820s to early 1900s. These pieces were kindly loaned to us by glass collectors in Greater Manchester. Pieces of modern

glass showing the creative and colourful ways glass is now made were loaned to us by Manchester Metropolitan University. All in all a great success and inspiration for the creative and inclusive use of glass in the 21st century as well as an eye opener that Ancoats dominated the glass industry for almost 100 years.

Thanks to everyone who contributed in making the exhibition a great success.

## Burger Night

The opening day of the Premier League was on Saturday 13th August and so it was only right and proper that ADT did a famous 'Burger Night' to catch all those fans either from Sunderland or Manchester City who were en route or coming home from the game.



One group of fans said they had been walking past the Dispensary for years and had wondered what was going to happen to the building. We put them in the picture as well as selling them a burger so the evening went down well and we raised £89 in donations. Thanks to everyone who contributed, every little helps. Big thanks to Andy and Jackie who usually organises these nights and bring people along to help.

## ADT's Summer Events

### Party in the Park

ADT attended Phillips Park on 31st July and unveiled their new gazebo. Luckily this wasn't needed as the weather was fantastic and lots of people attended. People wanted to know where we were up to with the restoration and we were able to show them the draft designs of the architects Purcell which they found very interesting. The total raised on the day was £170.30 and a very enjoyable one it was too. Thanks to everyone who contributed.



### Through the Mill

Organised by Psychedelic DiscoTech, Through the Mill festival was held at the beautiful Hallé St Peter's in September and it was blessed with equally beautiful weather and people - glorious sunshine, amazing music, unbelievable community! Thanks for coming along!



(and a big thanks to Brian Stark, ADT's photographer, for great photos and kind words. Interview with Brian is featured on this newsletter and more photos are available on ADT's Facebook page)

## DIARY OF A NURSE IN THE 1960s BY LIZ McCAFFERTY

### PART 4 — NIGHT DUTY

We had to do our first night-duty in our *first* year of training and we all dreaded it. From being the very junior student on the wards, apart from the cadets, you were suddenly plunged into being in sole charge of a whole ward for a six- eight week stretch of twelve hour shifts.

We would glean what we could from our senior colleagues about routines and treatments as I cannot remember any sort of training or preparation for this ordeal.

We assembled at 7:45pm in the corridor outside the dining room and Night Sister would check us all in and announce which wards we were to work on. She handed us each a sealed envelope which contained a note written by the last night nurse in charge of this ward. This could be a bit of a life-saver as it contained more **personal** information about the patients and routines which would not normally be written in a formal ward report book. We might be tipped-off about any inappropriate behaviour to watch out for and who might be willing to help give out the bedtime drinks and breakfasts - no domestic staff on night duty in this period. Strangely the male patients were the most willing helpers and we salved our consciences by believing it was good for them to be moving about if they could.

My first night-duty on Cawley was a female ward for orthopaedic patients, though the majority of these were elderly and some of them could have been on the ward for months. Most of these patients required turning and treatment to pressure areas 2 or 4 hourly. If you were lucky a 'runner' (usually an auxiliary nurse who moved between two wards) would help with the really difficult or heavy patients but often you would have to carry out most treatments by yourself. The runner would also relieve you for dinner and tea breaks and for one hour rest in the middle of the shift. This odd hour was introduced when the maximum hours of work were reduced from 48 to 44 hours per week and the night shifts were timed from 8:00pm to 8:00am. If no runners were available these had to be missed.

Night duty on Jardine and Rothwell and Gaddum and Johnson was much preferred as the wards were adjacent and so you had professional support and company. However on the newer block, Thomson and Armitage and Ogden and Cawley, you felt very isolated - the only professional support being Night Sister who was often busy with emergencies all over the hospital including Theatre and Casualty.

Night Sister would do a round of each ward every night. On her arrival you were expected to know the names and medical conditions and give a verbal report on each patient on your ward. There was much snatching up of the charts from the end of the beds in order to remind oneself.

On Cawley Ward I had the renowned ghost, 'The Grey Lady', to watch out for though fortunately she did not appear on my watch. The sluice room cockroaches, however, **did** appear with morbid regularity. It was a rule that sluice room lights had to be turned off when leaving the room and this was the signal for cockroach attack. When the lights were turned **on** they would all scuttle away like a moving black sheet which was a stomach-turning sight to see. Holding a bedpan in my left hand, I found the trick was, to lean in, switch on the lights and wait for a few seconds before entering. Where do all those Ancoats cockroaches go now and will they return,,,,?

Coming off night-duty and back into the world of normality was bliss and to celebrate we would make a visit to a very posh hairdressers in St Peters Square which offered cheap hairdressing vouchers to student nurses. You lay on chaise lounge under the dryers and often had to be shaken awake by the hairdresser. It was then quite important not to go to bed until night time, not only for the preservation of the hairstyle but to get back into a normal sleep routine.

*This is Liz McCafferty's final chapter and we would like to thank her for all the articles that have made an enjoyable read.*



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

**Membership is FREE.**

**You can join on-line at [www.ancoatsdispensarytrust.co.uk](http://www.ancoatsdispensarytrust.co.uk)  
or email our Membership Secretary, Barbara at [barbara.whillans1@btinternet.com](mailto:barbara.whillans1@btinternet.com)**

## ANCOATS PORTRAITS: BRIAN STARK, PHOTOGRAPHER

### When did you first think of becoming a photographer?

I had a near fatal motorcycle accident in the early 90s which left me traumatised; this gave me the inspiration to do something creative with my life, and through this I began my journey into photography. I've never had any formal training in photography but I've read lots of books, magazines, and took lots and lots of photos too. It wasn't until around the mid 90s, I began to realise that I'd reached the standard that set by the photographers in those books and magazines.



### Favourite photo you have taken?

I regard this as one the best photos I've ever taken. Blackpool 1997.

### How would you describe your work?

I've lived in east Manchester for 36 years and have witnessed many changes such as the building of the now Etihad stadium also the factory closures and the empty houses everywhere, then one day in 2007 I'd realised that this area is going to change dramatically and that somebody should be documenting this, this when I started my east Manchester project.

### How did you get involved with Ancoats Dispensary Trust?

In 2012 I'd heard rumours that a campaign was being set up to save the historic Ancoats Dispensary from demolition, on 9th August I watched a report on the BBC's North West today breakfast bulletin, that some campaigners were setting up a vigil to save the Ancoats Dispensary, so I thought it would be worthwhile to go down and take some photos, later I was invited to attend a meeting at the Mustard tree to meet the rest of the campaigners.

This has been one of the most challenging projects I've ever done, as I've had to take on two roles - one as a photographer and the other as a campaigner and sometimes I'd get mixed up about which role I'm supposed to be doing - however while I was working on my project I've made friends with some really genuine people who share a common interest in saving this historic building which has served the people of Ancoats since 1874, it was more than just a hospital, it is an important piece of Ancoats heritage.



## ANCOATS DISPENSARY FUNDRAISING APPEAL!



A member of the ADT Board, Amy-Grace Whillans-Welldrake describes the Dispensary's future plans and fundraising for the building.

'The good news is that we've secured an initial grant of £771,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund, who have played a key role in supporting the project so far.

Our next challenge is to prove that we can win more funders and supporters for a project which we believe will play a pivotal role in changing the lives of a community who have lost all their local facilities.

Our immediate goal therefore is to raise £33,000 before the end of November 2016 to get us through the next critical stage in our funding with the Heritage Lottery Fund. To achieve this, we have just had a Community Business Event at the Victoria Warehouse on 1st November and this was very well attended. More events to attract funders and future tenants alike will be taking place during November. The star attraction at the event was the installation and replica of the vigil outside the Dispensary kindly made and provided for us by Bruce from BK Engineering and his two helpers.'

**In the meantime please consider choosing ADT as an organisation to support when purchasing items on-line by using the Easyfundraising option. There is no cost to you and it is a great way to help raise money required to restore the Dispensary. Details can be found at:-** <http://www.ancoatsdispensarytrust.co.uk/easyfundraising-189.html>

## ADT WINNER OF VICTORIA BATHS QUIZ!

Not just pretty faces but clever too as members of ADT won the Victoria Baths Quiz on 22nd September despite facing severe competition from other community groups and the dark looks from the Quiz Master Anne Heggarty (Miss Frosty Knickers) from the ITV programme 'The Chase'. Big hand to Andy, Amy Grace, Jackie and Alex for taking part. No monetary prize but their street cred has now gone up and it's a good beginning for future Quiz nights - so watch out!



## POEM INSPIRED BY FILM MAKING

Earlier this year, following a successful application for funding from Eastlands Homes and Manchester City Council Community Fund, ADT collaborated with Bad Bug Media and 5 people from the local community in a basic film making course.

Unfortunately the weather was dreadful and outdoor filming was not a success as people were busy running for shelter rather than stopping to have a chat. It did however inspire this poem and ADT would like to share this with you.



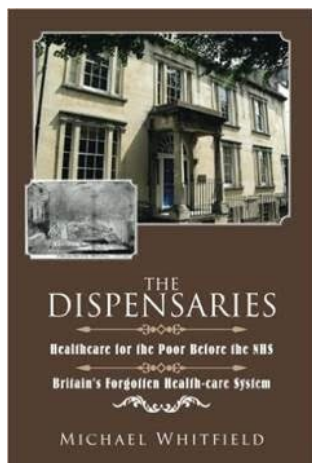
## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY...

11th November, 6pm onwards

### AWOL Studios Opening Evening

ADT and AWOL Studios invite you to Hope Mill to meet the 84 residents and discover what is now being produced in this landmark building. With artists and small businesses working across a range of disciplines from photography to textile to tattooing, it is a vital and dynamic community hub for many creatives.

There will also be a resident's exhibition curated by AWOL's community, an exhibition of archival material of the industrial history of the Mill, an independent exhibition hosted by curator Claire Turner of Comme Ca Art, and last but not least, 'Ancoats' curated by the Ancoats Dispensary Trust!



April 2017 (Date TBC)

### The DISPENSARIES Book Launch

A talk by Dr M. Whitfield, a retired GP, on his new book 'The Dispensaries – Healthcare for the poor before the NHS', which features Ardwick & Ancoats Dispensary. This event will be jointly organised by ADT and the Victorian Society and books will be on sale at the event. More information to follow.

## 'What Is It About the Dispensary'

What is it about the Dispensary  
That folk won't keep to memory  
The classic Venetian beauty  
Which found its calling and its duty  
To love, support and cherish  
To help the poor, whom without would perish  
Even in the Great Depression  
Funds raised for soldiers convalescence  
Cawley ward made  
From one mans' grief  
To tear the love down  
Beggars belief  
There's many a tale  
Old and new  
Like Lowry painting the waiting queue  
Or the boy mauled by a lion at Belle Vue  
The futures upon her,  
She'll be what she'll be  
Though forever our 'Ancoats Dispensary'

Poem by Kelly O'Rourke

9th March 2016

## OBITUARY

ADT are sad to announce the death of one of their long standing supporters - Mr Amal Basu. Amal lived in Victoria Square, Ancoats and despite his poor health used to deliver food to the people on the vigil as well as contributing donations whenever he could. Amal attended our launch event in February 2014 at Halle St Peter's, and was always interested in the progress of the campaign and wished ADT all success.

  
**ANCOATS**  
DISPENSARY TRUST  
[www.ancoatsdispensarytrust.co.uk](http://www.ancoatsdispensarytrust.co.uk)