

“We may have men to represent us who know what it is to feel the pinch of poverty and the uncertainty of employment, whose homes for years have had the grim spectre of a rent lord hovering over them if work should fail, and who realise the depth of the shadow that falls in the evening of life, when grey hairs become a curse and men and women are no longer useful in the production of wealth for profit.”

Thanks to David Martin in the book entitled "The men who made Labour" for highlighting this quote which was first quoted by Charles Cresswell, "The Coming of Labour", *Asquith's Magazine*, London, 1916, p.26.



Emmeline Pankhurst



Ellen Wilkinson



Harry Pollitt



J.A. Open

J.R. Clynes, Emmeline Pankhurst, Ellen Wilkinson, and Harry Pollitt were all born within a few miles of each other in Manchester. All fought for their beliefs and rights and carried them out with distinction and courage.



# Manchester Links

Manchester has always been at the forefront of change, be it social with the advent of Peterloo Massacre, or suffragettes fighting for the vote, or the beginning of the Industrial Revolution starting with the invention of automatic cotton jennys for the worlds textile industry.

Whitworth, Fairburn, Nasmyth, A.V. Roe, and Royce are just some of the names synonymous with developed revolutionary discoveries in engineering, and along with Basil Ferranti in electronics, and John Dalton in chemistry, all had links with the North West in one way or another.

The first pilots to fly the Atlantic Ocean non-stop were two former Manchester Central High School students, J.W. Alcock, and A.W. Brown. Manchester University is where Rutherford split the nucleus of the atom, and in 1907 Hans Greiger began work with Ernest Rutherford where they created the Ruther-

ford-Geiger tube, later to become the Geiger tube. Politics and trade union organisation were always quick to gain a foothold in the city. People mentioned in the book and in this short accompaniment were steeped in radical action. The Trades Union Congress (TUC), a national forum for co-ordinating trade union demands, was founded in Manchester in 1868, with Gladstone Liberal legislation making it difficult for unions to organise picketing and strikes, but that never deterred people from carrying on the Capital versus Labour struggle. The theme of my book is to give a flavour of sacrifices, people from Manchester and outlying districts had to make in order to make working pay and conditions easier. The people highlighted in this short document could have made my main book but due to constraints of finance I decided to narrow it down to four people. There could have been a lot more.

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A English radical and writer, who was born in Middleton, Manchester. Fought to repeal the corn laws but stepped back from radical militancy after serving jail convinced that state power would always succeed.



## 06 Ewan Macoll

Macoll was born in Salford but graduated in the School of Life. He reached dizzy heights in several vocations including folk singer, songwriter, communist, labour activist, actor, poet, and record producer.



## 04 Hannah Mitchell

English suffragette and socialist, who rebelled at a early age about gender inequality. Married to Gibbon Mitchel, she was elected to Manchester City Council and worked as as a magistrate from 1926.

## 07 Joseph Whitworth

Whitworth has been called the father of precision engineering who trained in the workshops of Henry Maudsley and Charles Babbage who was later to become known as the father of computing.

## 05 Neville Cardus



Neville Cardus provided an alternate view, through his writings of the cricket fields of England and the giants that bestrode them before the Second World War. Quite a colourful Manchester upbringing as well.



## 08 Jackie Brown

Jackie was a flyweight boxer, who was British and European flyweight champion, and was also recognised by the National Boxing Association as the World flyweight champion.



## Samuel Bamford

Samuel Bamford was one of five children born in Middleton, Lancashire, on 28 February 1788, to Daniel Bamford, a muslin weaver, part-time teacher, Pugilist, and later master of a Salford workhouse, along with his wife, Hannah, the daughter of a local shoemaker, were both staunch Methodists.

In 1794 the Bamford family moved to Manchester where Daniel became the manager of a cotton factory. Soon after arriving in the city, Samuel's mother and his two brothers died of smallpox. Samuel began attending Manchester Grammar Free School but after his father remarried he was sent back to Middleton to live with his uncle.

### Early Years

His father withdrew Samuel from Manchester Grammar School because he did not want him to learn Latin, so Bamford became a weaver, and then a warehouseman in Manchester. His political views were formed as early as 1817, when he continued to educate himself and during this time he read John Milton, William Shakespeare and Robert Burns, but it was his interest in the books of radicals such as Tom Paine and William Cobbett which resonated with the young Bamford.

John Cartwright and his campaign for parliamentary reform, was also a particular influence at this time, so in 1816 Bamford formed a Middleton branch of the Hampden Reform Club, an organisation started by Cartwright four years previously, and became very active in the campaign for universal suffrage and organised several meetings on parliamentary reform in and around Manchester.

The authorities heard about Bamford's meetings and in March 1817 he was arrested and charged with treason, leading him to be imprisoned in the New Bailey Prison in Salford. Prime Minister Lord Liverpool thought Bamford was a danger to the Country, so he was taken to London and examined before the Privy Council presided over by Lord Sidmouth as Home Secretary. After promising to be on good behaviour for the foreseeable future, he was released and returned to live in his cottage at Middleton with his wife Jemima.

England was now suffering economically, socially and politically, and in August 1819, he was brought into great public

notoriety on the occasion of that meeting of local working class which led to the dispersal of which became known as the "Peterloo Massacre."

### Peterloo massacre

Bamford led a group from Middleton to St Peter's Fields, to attend a meeting pressing for parliamentary reform and to repeal the Corn Laws.

Ironically it was proved that Bamford's contingent to the meeting was peaceful and orderly, and that his speech was of the same tendency, but after witnessing the Peterloo Massacre, Bamford was still arrested and charged with treason. Although the evidence showed that neither he nor any of his group had been involved in the violence, he was found guilty of inciting a riot and sentenced to a year in Lincoln gaol. The experience of the massacre made a deep impression on Bamford, convincing him that state power would always succeed against radical militancy.

He came to be seen as a voice for radical reform, and had many other peculiar talents necessary to be a popular leader, but was opposed to any activism that involved physical force.

Bamford was the author of poetry (mostly in standard English) but he wrote some in a Lancashire dialect, and several, especially those that show sympathy with the conditions of the working class, became widely popular. Cheethams Library holds several volumes of Bamford's poetry including Hours in the Bowers, 1834 and Poems, which he self published in 1843. Miscellaneous Poetry was published in 1821 by Thomas Dolby at Britannia Press, The Strand, price 2s. 6d.

In 1826 he became correspondent of a London morning newspaper, and having ceased to be a weaver by employment, he incurred some dislike or distrust on the part of his old fellow workmen. Bamford refused to join the Chartists and in the 1840s he upset local radicals by serving as a special constable at Middleton. He was also critical of his former political friends especially in his autobiographical work "Early Days". (1849). Yet he always pleaded their cause as opportunity served, even when, as a special constable during the Chartist agitation, he incurred the downright enmity of his own class. He also compiled The Dialect of South Lancashire (Manchester: John Heywood, 1850). The poet Shelley, upon hearing of the event wrote The Masque of Anarchy, which was banned for 30 years.

<http://www.historyhome.co.uk/c-eight/distress/masque.htm>

Bamford wrote for the rest of his life. In 1858 on his 70th birthday started a diary which has been edited by Martin Hew-

itt and Robert Poole and published as The Diaries of Samuel Bamford. The diaries offer invaluable insights into the activities, contacts and reflections of a long lived working class man, revealing the poignant struggle for dignity of an old radical fallen on hard times and determined to set the historical record straight. He died at Harpurhey on 13th April 1872 and was given a public funeral, attended by thousands. A memorial obelisk was unveiled in Middleton Cemetery in 1877. Part of the inscription reads: "Bamford was a reformer, when to be so was unsafe, and he suffered for his faith."

## Bamford's Publications

**An Account of the Arrest and Imprisonment of Samuel Bamford, Middleton, on Suspicion of High Treason** 1817.

**The Weaver Boy, or Miscellaneous Poetry** 1819.

**Homely Rhymes** 1843.

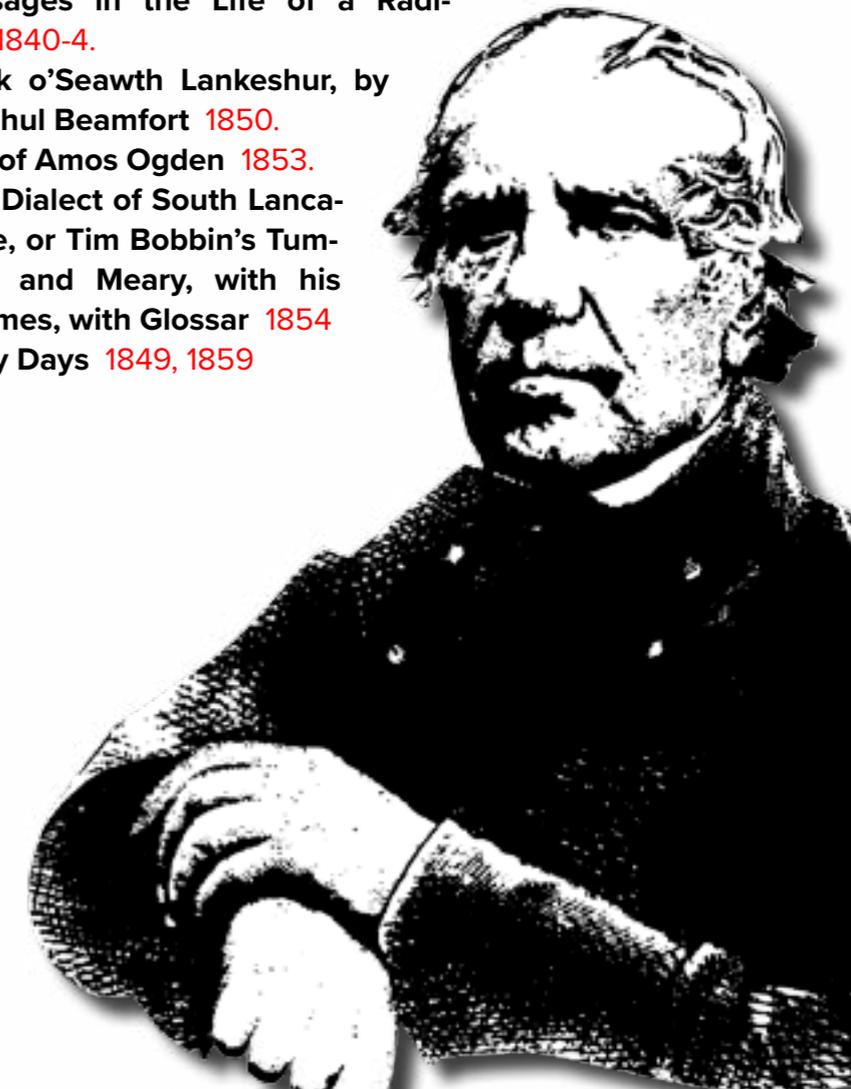
**Passages in the Life of a Radical** 1840-4.

**Tawk o'Seawth Lankeshur, by Samhul Beamfort** 1850.

**Life of Amos Ogden** 1853.

**The Dialect of South Lancashire, or Tim Bobbin's Tum-mus and Meary, with his Rhymes, with Glossar** 1854

**Early Days** 1849, 1859



## Hannah Mitchell

**H**annah Mitchell (1872–1956) was a lifelong fighter for working class values and Womens rights. She served a sentence in Strangeways prison in 1906 during the suffragette campaign for votes for women, but went on to become a councillor in Manchester, representing the eastern ward of Newton Heath.

### Early Life

Hannah was born in 1871 the daughter of John Webster, a small farmer in Derbyshire, one of six children raised on a remote farm in Alport Dale, Derbyshire, where she received only two weeks of formal schooling and was kept busy on the farm with domestic duties. Her three brothers did not have to work at home and she grew up with a strong awareness of gender inequalities. At the age of fourteen Hannah had a vigorous row



with her mother over the work she was expected to do. After being badly beaten with a stick, Hannah ran away from home, and lodged with her elder brother 10 miles away in Glossop, got work as a domestic but despised the work, but luckily found another job as a dress-maker in Bolton. Although she was only earning eight shillings a

week, she managed to subscribe to a small library and over the next few years taught herself to read and write. In the house where she lodged, she met a tailor's cutter called Gibbon Mitchell, who spoke publicly at meetings of the Independent Labour Party (ILP). She joined, and worked as a part-time organiser for Pankhurst's (WSPU). She toured the country making speeches, and campaigned for women's suffrage at by-elections. In 1895 she gave birth to her son and with her husband spent three years living in a village near Burton-on-Trent where they were active in the Independent Labour Party, attending meetings and putting up speakers, and also in the Clarion movement, helping out the Clarion newspaper's delivery van when it toured their area.

In 1900 the couple moved to Ashton-under-Lyne where

Hannah and Gibbon were active in the ILP and in the Labour Church where Hannah became the lecture Secretary, organising the weekly lectures and putting up the speakers: Hannah herself gave her first public speech when the Clarion Van came to Bolton and then began to speak at outdoor public meetings and at the Labour Church. To her surprise she was soon in demand as a speaker. In May 1904 she was elected as a Poor Law Guardian to the board in Ashton-under-Lyne. At the same time she became increasingly involved in the campaign for votes for women that had been started by fellow ILP members Emmeline and Christabel Pankhurst in October 1903. Hannah visited their home in Nelson Street and spoke at many meetings around Lancashire. In October 1905 she was amongst the crowd that greeted Christabel Pankhurst and Annie Kenney on their release from Strangeways prison after their arrest during a meeting in the Free Trade Hall. Hannah now committed herself body and soul to the cause of women's suffrage:

### Militancy

During the campaign for the 1906 General Election she interrupted a January 9th meeting addressed by Winston Churchill in St John's School, Deansgate (Churchill was then a Liberal). She wrote of the incident: "I rose and displayed my little banner, calling out; "Will the Liberal government give the vote to women?" At once the meeting broke into uproar, shouting "throw her out!" along with less decent suggestions. My banner was snatched from me, and clutching hands tried to pull me over the seat, but I was young then, and strong, and pushing my assailants away. I mounted the seat, held up my second banner, and repeated the question. The chairman seemed unable to do anything, except to make wild gestures of rage... so Mr Churchill himself took a hand. Appealing for order he said "Let the lady come to the platform and tell us what what she wants". My immediate attackers gave way at once, but I was subjected to so much rough handling on the way, that I must have looked a sorry sight when I reached the platform. The chairman, who seemed entirely to have lost his self-control, seized me roughly by the arm and lierally shook me, until Mr Churchill interposed, saying he would deal with me myself. With his usual forcefulness he induced the meeting to give order and invited to state my case. In spite of my agitation I did so, saying briefly that we wanted the promise of a government measure granting the vote to women, "as it is" or "may be" granted to men."

In 1907 she suffered a nervous breakdown which her doctor

put down to overwork and malnourishment. While she was recovering, Charlotte Despard visited her and gave her money for food. In her autobiography she mentioned the hurt that she felt when none of the Pankhursts contacted her during her recovery. In 1908 she left the WSPU, and joined Despard's new Women's Freedom League.

During the First World War, Mitchell supported the pacifist movement volunteering for organisations such as the ILP No Conscription Fellowship and the Women's International League. She states that "Men came home full of hope for the brave new world which was promised them by the politicians, which turned out to be even worse than the pre-war England we had tried to imbue with ideas of socialism".

In 1924 Hannah was elected for Labour to Manchester City Council and remained an active member until 1935. She became a magistrate in 1926, and particularly enjoyed being on the Libraries Committee because of her love of reading. She was also on the Baths Committee which established public wash houses in working class areas "...a real public service greatly appreciated by women."

### Later years

After the war, she began writing sketches in the Lancashire dialect for the Northern Voice, under the pseudonym Daisy Nook, a small paper run by the ILP. She also contributed articles for Manchester City News, which was a weekly local newspaper first Published on 2 January 1864, priced at one penny. The newspaper was circulated widely throughout the towns of Lancashire and Cheshire. It focused largely on commercial and local issues such as meetings of the town council and proceedings in the law courts, but it also included some more general news and book reviews.

A blue plaque commemorates Hannah living in Ingham Street, Newton Heath until her death in 1956, where she wrote her autobiography "The Hard Way Up" on the kitchen table while in her seventies. Unfortunately, the book was not published until after her death in 1956. when the manuscripts were found in her private papers.

Today a foundation is named after her which campaigns for democratic government in the North of England including an elected regional assembly.

## Sir Fred Neville Cardus

**S**ir John Frederick Neville Cardus, writer and critic, was born on 3rd April 1888 at Rusholme, Manchester. He states in his 1947 biography that this was a slum, but it was nothing of the sort, as "Summer Place" had a bay window with a great lounge attached that was only used on Sundays, and outside toilet facilities that were far better than those a few miles to the east of the city in Collyhurst or Ancoats where the real slums dwelled. He never knew his father Robert who was described as a first violinist and went to Africa, but this was never confirmed. Fred lived with his unmarried mother Ada Cardus (1870-1954), and aunts in the home of his maternal grandparents.

His grandfather was a retired policeman and the family took in home laundry (washing). By night Ada and her sisters worked as genteel prostitutes, frequenting Manchester's theatres and music-halls. His favourite was Aunt Beatrice who was tall and slender and dressed in the latest fashions and only took wealthy clients. She encouraged young Cardus to read good books, and most importantly bought him his first cricket bat.

### Growing up

An imaginative and nervous child, Cardus attended the local board school for some five years, "a place of darkness and inhumanity," and drifted through various jobs and in December 1904 was employed at Manchester as a clerk in a marine insurance firm. Resolving to 'live by my pen or perish', he began a rigorous scheme of self-education in literature, philosophy and the arts. He would walk miles to Islington Hall in Ancoats where Tom Mann and George Bernard Shaw would be addressing the issues of the day. He admired the music and theatre-critics of the Manchester Guardian, and set out to acquire their writing style.

He developed his own cricketing skills as a bowler and in 1912 became assistant cricket coach at Shrewsbury School, Shropshire. Rejected in 1914 for military service because of his short sight, he stayed at the school as secretary to the headmaster Cyril Arlington until 1916. After unsuccessfully trying to get clearance from the Army to work for Arlington at Eton, he briefly worked as music critic for the Daily Citizen. In March 1917 he was taken on by the Manchester Guardian as a reporter

after writing to CP Scott asking for any position in the company. He first worked for Scott at his palatial home "The Firs" and a couple of months later became a writer on the editorial staff. He called himself Neville; his articles appeared over the initials, 'N.C.' After Cardus had suffered a serious breakdown in 1919, W. P. Crozier suggested a few weeks convalescing at Old Trafford covering the first county cricket game at Old Trafford since the war. The rest as they say is history

He soon attracted a wide readership with articles which he signed as 'Cricketer'. 'Before him, cricket was reported', John Arlott wrote, 'with him it was for the first time appreciated, felt, and imaginatively described'. Cardus created folk heroes of the players; I remember reading in his book how A.C. Maclaren was bowled out for a duck by a young Warwickshire bowler called Hargreave, which reads like a murder plot right down to the off bail just and I mean 'just' being removed. Victor Trumper and R.H. Spooner were other demi gods of cricket which Cardus adored. The atmosphere and the incidents of the "Corridor" where he worked at the Manchester Guardian always have me captivated, as an old Printman like myself I conjure up vivid images of copy and type being assembled to produce the first edition of the night. In 1920 he also became assistant to the paper's chief music critic Samuel Langford who he succeeded in 1927. Cardus was now at the epicentre of Manchester cricket with Lancashire blazing all before them via McLaren, Ernest Tyldesley and Cyril Washbrook, and Sir Thomas Beecham taking the Halle Orchestra to new heights.

### Marriage

On 17 June 1921 at the register office, Chorlton, Manchester, Cardus had married Edith Honorine Walton King (1881-1968), an art teacher at Ducie High and an enthusiastic worker for amateur dramatics; they were to remain childless. In later years he described her affectionately as 'a great spirit and character, born for sisterhood not marriage'. He now spread his wings far and wide and covered concerts in London, Vienna and Salzburg, Austria, and mixed with leading musicians and composers. His approach to music, as with cricket, was intuitive and personal, rather than academic and technical. Indeed he met the passion of his life in Hilda Ede and rented a flat in London where he enjoyed numerous trysts. He confessed this affair to his wife who was neither surprised or angry. She later said she knew all along but it kept him even tempered and allowed the marriage to continue for another thirty years

As war in Europe approached, Cardus feared that he would lose his job. When, in December 1939, Sir Keith Murdoch invited him to cover Sir Thomas Beecham's forthcoming tour of Australia, he accepted at once, arriving by flying boat in February 1940. He went to Melbourne to write for the Herald, but found that he could not review concerts for an evening paper and negotiated a post as music critic for the Sydney Morning Herald.



In 1942-47 he also wrote regularly on music and cricket for the A.B.C. Weekly. Early in 1942 Cardus rented a small flat at Kings Cross. There he wrote *Ten Composers* (Sydney, 1945), with its acclaimed essay on Gustav Mahler, his *Autobiography* (1947) and *Second Innings* (1950). In 1942 his wife joined him. Undecided whether to remain in Australia, Cardus returned to England for a few months in 1947 and again in 1948 to cover the Test series. In April 1949 he eventually left Sydney to make his home in London. Edith followed him in June. In 1951 he rejoined the Manchester Guardian as its London music critic and occasional cricket writer.

### Honours

He revisited Australia to cover the M.C.C. tours of 1950-51 and 1954-55 for the Sydney Morning Herald. Appointed C.B.E. in 1964, he was knighted in 1967; he was granted honorary membership of the Royal Manchester College of Music (1968) and of the Royal Academy of Music (1972). Among his many honours, he valued most his presidency (1971-72) of the Lancashire County Cricket Club. He published eleven books on cricket and nine on music. His autobiographical *Second Innings* and *Full Score* (1970) included accounts of his time in Australia. Slight, lean and bespectacled, with a gnome-like appearance in his last years, Cardus was a familiar sight at Lord's or the Garrick Club, pipe in mouth and book under arm.

Sir Neville Cardus died on 28 February 1975 at St Marylebone, London.

## Ewan MacColl

**J**ames Henry Miller born on 25th January 1915, better known by his stage name Ewan MacColl, was an English folk singer, songwriter, communist, labour activist, actor, poet, playwright, and record producer. Born into Poverty he was the anthesis of what my book "Making a Difference" was about. He was self taught and never wavered in his belief that working class could succeed.

### Early Years

MacColl was born at 4 Andrew Street, in Broughton, Salford, to Scottish parents, William and Betsy (née Henry) Miller, both socialists. William Miller was an iron moulder and militant trade unionist who had moved to Salford with his wife, a charwoman, to look for work after being blacklisted in almost every foundry in Scotland. James Miller was the youngest and only surviving child in the family of three sons and one daughter (one of each sex was stillborn and one son died at the age of four). He was educated at Grecian Street School in Salford, and after leaving school at the age of fourteen after an elementary education he immediately joined the 1930 unemployment queue.

It was two decades before he devoted his energies to music. He spent most of the 1930s involved in experimental theatre projects after joining forces with his future wife, (Maudie) Joan Littlewood (1914–2002), with whom he formed a 'workers' experimental theatre', the Theatre of Action, at Manchester in 1934. Miller wrote and co-produced a series of political satires and dance dramas, and was arrested and charged with disturbing the peace after the police stopped performances of his 'living newspaper', 'Last Edition'. Always active in the unemployed workers campaigns and the mass trespasses of the early 1930s, he derived his best known folk song, "The Manchester Rambler", after the pivotal mass trespass of Kinder Scout. He was responsible for publicity in the planning of the trespass. His first marriage to Joan Maudie Littlewood (1914–2002) on 2nd November 1935 ended in divorce in 1948, and twelve months later he married Jean, daughter of William Newlove, a wartime director of regional supplies and part-time artist. They had a son, Hamish, and a daughter, the late Kirsty Anna MacColl, who was a very successful singer-songwriter. They divorced in 1974 and three years later he eventually married third wife

American folk singer Peggy Seeger after living with her since the 1950s. She was the daughter of Charles Seeger, musicologist, and sister of the singer Pete Seeger. MacColl and Seeger had three children, Kitty, Calum, and Neill. He collaborated with Littlewood in the theatre, and with Seeger in folk music

### The War Years

At the outbreak of Second World War, he was called up to join the army, and was arrested for desertion, although he claimed there had been a case of mistaken identity. He was discharged on medical grounds. He continued with his drama projects after the war, and he and Littlewood formed Theatre Workshop, becoming art director and resident dramatist. He changed his name to Ewan MacColl in 1945. Between 1945 and 1952 he wrote eleven plays, including Uranium 235 (1952), a drama with music, and Landscape with Chimneys (1951), which included one of his best-known songs, 'Dirty Old Town', written in a matter of hours on the opening night to cover a scene change.

MacColl severed his professional links with Littlewood in 1952 and gradually withdrew from the Theatre Workshop. From 1952 onwards he worked to establish a folk-song revival in Britain. He saw folk music not as some quaint historical curiosity but as a political force, an expression of working-class culture, and he wanted to develop a style in which 'songs of struggle would be immediately acceptable to a lot of young people'. With help from American folklorist Alan Lomax and Bert Lloyd, he mixed politics, British and American folk music, and jazz in a radio series, Ballads and Blues (1953). He founded the Ballads and Blues Club, later renamed the Singers' Club, in London, and by the mid-1950s was considered one of the leading folk-singers in the country.

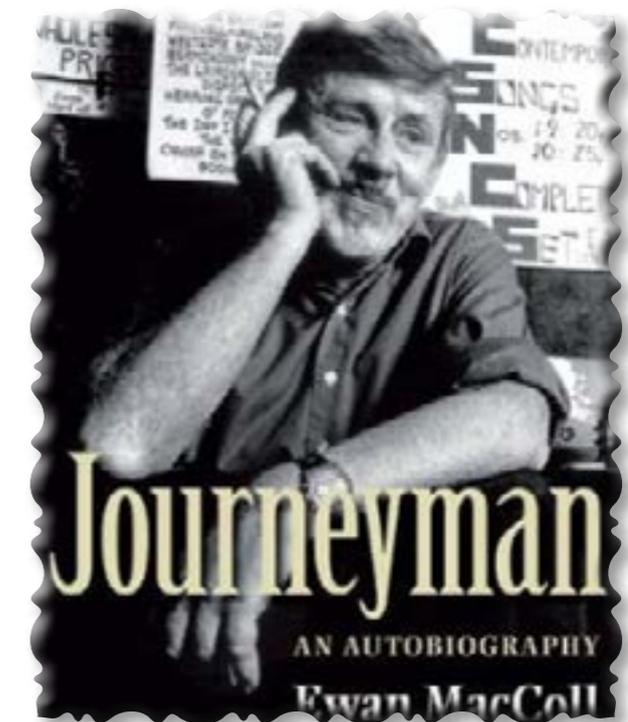
Initially, MacColl had encouraged the fashion for American folk and blues (he and Lomax and Peggy Seeger had even started a skiffle group, but by the late 1950s he became concerned that British traditional music was being swamped by American styles. He therefore introduced his controversial 'policy rule' - singers had to perform songs from their own tradition, depending on whether they were British or American.

In 1957, when he claimed there were 1500 folk clubs around Britain, MacColl returned to experimental multi-media work, this time with a distinctively British flavour. The Radio Ballads, broadcast on the BBC Home Service from 1958 to 1964, dealt with the everyday lives of British workers, from railwaymen to

boxers or fishermen, and used a montage of interviews and new songs written by MacColl.

### Grammy Award

In collaboration with the radio producer Charles Parker, he began with The Ballad of John Axon, the story of an engine driver who had been killed at work and was awarded a posthumous George Cross. He wrote many of his best songs for this widely praised series, including 'Shoals of Herring' and 'Free-born Man'.



Many of MacColl's best-known songs were written for the theatre. His best known song "The First Time Ever I Saw Your Face" was written very quickly at the request of Peggy Seeger, who needed it for use in a play she was appearing in. This song became a No. 1 hit in 1972 when recorded by Roberta Flack and won MacColl a Grammy Award for Song of the Year, while Flack received a Grammy Award for Record of the Year.

After many years of poor health (in 1979 he suffered the first of many heart attacks), MacColl died on 22 October 1989, in Brompton Hospital London, after complications following heart surgery. His autobiography "Journeyman" was published the following year.

# Joseph Whitworth

Joseph Whitworth was born in Stockport in 1803, but his name is forever commemorated in Manchester where the University has a Whitworth Hall, and a art gallery and a street are both named after him in respect for his work towards bringing prosperity to the city.

## Early Career

At the age of 14 Whitworth was placed with his uncle (a cotton spinner) after showing great aptitude for working all machinery. At 18 he went to work as a mechanic for Creighton & Co., later moving to Maudsley's in London, a firm noted for its machine work. Whitworth developed great skill as a mechanic while working for Maudsley, developing various precision machine tools and also introducing a box casting scheme for the iron frames of machine tools that simultaneously increased their rigidity and reduced their weight.

Whilst working for Holtzapffel & Co (makers of ornamental



lathes) he he helped with the manufacture of Charles Babbage's calculating machine, the Difference engine.

He was thirty when he returned to opened his first workshop at 44 Chorlton Street in 1833 and remained there until 1880. His ideas were to revolutionise mechanical manufacturing and armaments, as well as giving rise to uniformity of screw threads, he started to manufacture lathes and other machine tools, which became renowned for their high standard of workmanship. Be-



ing a great believer in apprenticeships and the value of technical education, Whitworth backed the new Mechanics' Institute in Manchester (later UMIST) and later founded the Manchester School of Design making several contributions, some totalling as much as £100,000 to make all this possible.

Whitworth is attributed with the introduction of the thou in 1844, and nine years later along with his lifelong friend, artist and art educator [George Wallis \(1811-1891\)](#).

He was appointed the British commissioner for the New York International Exhibition, which involved touring around industrial sites of several American states, resulting in a report entitled:- 'The Industry of the United States in Machinery, Manufactures and Useful and Applied Arts, compiled from the Official Reports of Messrs Whitworth and Wallis, London, 1854.'

## Lifes Feats

In 1850 Whitworth commissioned architect Edward Walters to build 'The Firs' which was a grand mansion in Fallowfield, which still stands today, functioning as Chancellors Hotel & Conference Centre. (CP Scott owner of the Manchester Guardian also resided there). Four years later he bought Stancliffe Hall in Darley Dale, Derbyshire and moved there with his second wife Louisa in 1872.

His other feats included supplying four six-ton blocks of stone from Darley Dale quarry, for the lions of St George's Hall in Liverpool. He was conferred with Honorary Membership of

the Institution of Engineers and Shipbuilders in Scotland in 1859. In 1868, he founded the Whitworth Scholarship for the advancement of mechanical engineering. He donated a sum of £128,000 to the government in 1868 (approximately £6.5 million by todays standards) to bring "science and industry" closer together and to fund scholarships.

In January 1887 at the age of 83, Sir Joseph Whitworth died in Monte Carlo where he had travelled in the hope of improving his health. He directed his trustees to spend his fortune on philanthropic projects, the establishment of the Whitworth Art Gallery now part of the University of Manchester, also leaving a sum of £500,000 to go to charity and Education start ups in Manchester.

He was buried at St Helen's Church, Darley Dale, Derbyshire.

The Whitworth 55° angle remains in worldwide use today in the form of the 15 British standard pipe threads defined in ISO 7, which are commonly used in water supply, cooling, pneumatics, and hydraulic systems. These threads are designated by a number between 1/16 and 6 that originates from the nominal internal diameter (i/d) in inches of a steel pipe for which these threads were designed. These pipe thread designations do not refer to any thread diameter. Other threads that used the Whitworth 55° angle include Brass Threads, British Standard Conduit (BSCon), Model Engineers (ME), and British Standard Copper (BSCopper).

Whitworth Thread Sizes

(in)	(mm)	(in-1)	(mm)	(in)	(mm)	(in)	(mm)
1/16	1.588	60	0.423	0.0412	1.046	#56	1.2
3/32	2.381	48	0.529	0.0671	1.704	#49	1.9
1/8	3.175	40	0.635	0.0930	2.362	#39	2.6
5/32	3.969	32	0.794	0.1162	2.951	#30	3.2
3/16	4.763	24	1.058	0.1341	3.406	#26	3.7
7/32	5.556	24	1.058	0.1654	4.201	#16	4.5
1/4	6.350	20	1.270	0.1860	4.724	#9	5.1
5/16	7.938	18	1.411	0.2414	6.132	F	6.6
3/8	9.525	16	1.588	0.2950	7.493	5/16	8.0
7/16	11.13	14	1.814	0.3460	8.788	U	9.4
1/2	12.700	12	2.117	0.3933	9.990	27/64	10.7

## Jackie Brown

Jackie Brown was born in 1909 to a poor family at 18 Armour Street, Collyhurst and was the youngest of five children, growing up in a notorious part that was nicknamed "Little Ireland." Life was hard in a two up, two down, terraced house with no electricity and toilet facilities that were outside in the back yard. He was surrounded by cotton mills, factories and giant warehouses, so as a young teenager he joined Collyhurst & Moston Lads' Boxing Club where it was discovered that he was a very talented fighter.

He worked on his "get out card" by taking on allcomers at 'Kid' Furness boxing promotion shows which were staged seven nights a week all over the North West. At first, Furness the typical no-nonsense promoter told

Brown "to go away, as you are too small" but eventually Jackie Brown persistence paid off and he started to win fights and pack out boxing booths along Rochdale Road. Furness realised he had something special in his midst, and a great boxing talent was about to be unleashed. He was less complimentary about Jackie Brown's character as a person though, and when asked the question Furness merely replied a "No Comment" to the interviewer.



### Early Career

Jackie Brown had his first professional fight on 18th May 1925, aged sixteen, against Harry Gainey (Gorton) at the Arena in Collyhurst, winning on points over six rounds.

His career now went from strength to strength, working on his two greatest assets, his speed and an agile boxing brain. Harry Fleming was given the task of guiding him to the top and in October 1929 he won the vacant British flyweight title by knocking out Bert Kirby in three rounds at West Bromwich skating rink. Thousands were locked out, and trouble stirred afterwards as home fans thought Brown had used his head at the beginning of the third round making Kirby groggy. No such trouble stirred along Rochdale Road later that night as

hundreds waited to give Brown a tumultuous welcome home. He lost the rematch six months later when he was knocked out in the third round. In February 1931 he met Kirby for the third time and won the title back at a packed out Kings Hall in Belle Vue by a points decision after fifteen rounds. After becoming the British champion he won the European flyweight title in May 1931 by beating a Romanian named Lucian Popescu on points. At this juncture he decided to settle down and he married his childhood sweetheart Mary Chapman, a fellow St Patricks classmate in the October with a reception being held at Piccadilly Cafe in the city centre. Twelve months later he fought Victor 'Young' Perez, of Tunisia for the World flyweight title and beat him after thirteen rounds, when Perez' corner threw in the towel.

### Manchester Express

Manchester now had a homegrown world boxing champion and Jackie Brown was treated like a king, he was mobbed everywhere he went in Manchester due to his extreme popularity. As a world champion he amassed a small fortune and was not shy when it came to flaunting his new found wealth, he was a sharp dresser with fast cars and a chauffeur. He moved from Collyhurst to the affluent area of Bramhall. He was simply living the good life but he also fell victim to the vices of this lifestyle, he drank heavily and wanted to be life and soul of every party.

The cracks started to appear when he killed a woman. He was driving home to Bramhall from Collyhurst with his family after the christening of his daughter when he hit a woman called Margaret Thornley who was killed instantly. It had been typical Manchester weather with incessant rain and grey cloud all that day, with poor visibility making driving conditions treacherous, and he did not see Mrs Thornley crossing the road, until it was too late.

At the inquest of her death it was alleged he had been speeding, but witness's accounts varied with one telling the court the speed was 'moderate,' another saying the car was travelling at a very high speed. To Browns credit the first thing he did after the crash was to pick her body up and take her to Stockport Infirmary, although she had passed away on arrival. Having heard the evidence, a jury took ten minutes to put the accident down to Brown's negligence but also said the negligence did not constitute manslaughter.

### The Trial

Ten months later on the 1st July 1934 further trouble came his way when he was sentenced and jailed for four months after a street fight in which Jackie Brown bit off part of a man's ear. The incident that led up to this occurred after Brown saw a wife of his friend in Blackpool with another man and asked her to leave with him. The woman refused and left with two other men in a car, so Jackie Brown had his chauffeur follow the car all the way back to Manchester. When the cars stopped on the corner of Bury New Road and Waterloo Road, Jackie Brown got out of his car and was confronted by the driver of the car he followed, a Mr. Tarchman, who also got out of his car. The men squared up and Mr. Tarchman said to Jackie "You may be a champion, but you take no liberties with me." A fight quickly ensued in which the ear biting incident occurred. Sentence of four months' imprisonment with hard labour was passed at Manchester Quarter Sessions by Sir Walter Greaves Lord KC when the world's fly-weight boxing champion, who, after a trial lasting over three hours, was convicted of assault by occasioning bodily harm upon Louis Tarchman, of Choir Street, Lower Broughton, Manchester. Brown was still living at Valley Road, in Bramhall. The jury, in returning their verdict, added that in their opinion Brown committed the assault under great provocation, but was still lucky to receive that lenient sentence as "Ordinary Joe" would have got a sentence equating to four or five years.

After he served time in jail the good times drew to an end in 1935 when he lost his titles to Scottish fighter Benny Lynch. Without the titles money did not come as fast and easily as it once did for Jackie and he fell into a fast and steep decline. His last fight was against Benny Jones on 24th July 1939 at Belle Vue which he won on points. His career record ended as follows; Total fights: 141 with 108 wins (40 KOs), 24 losses and 9 draws. Jackie defeated such men as Victor "Young" Perez, Valentin Angelmann, "Battling" Jim Hayes, Len Hampston, Nicolas Petit-Biquet, Chris "Ginger" Foran, Aurel Toma, Eric Jones, Bert Kirby, Benny Jones, Phineas John and Emile Degand

After he was finished with boxing his money disappeared and so did his friends. Mary and his three kids had to move in to a council flat in January 1964. He eventually lost all his fancy possessions, and spent the last four years of his life in North Manchester General Hospital where he died at the age of 61 in 1971.

Research taken from "Manchester Stories" by David Clayton.



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