

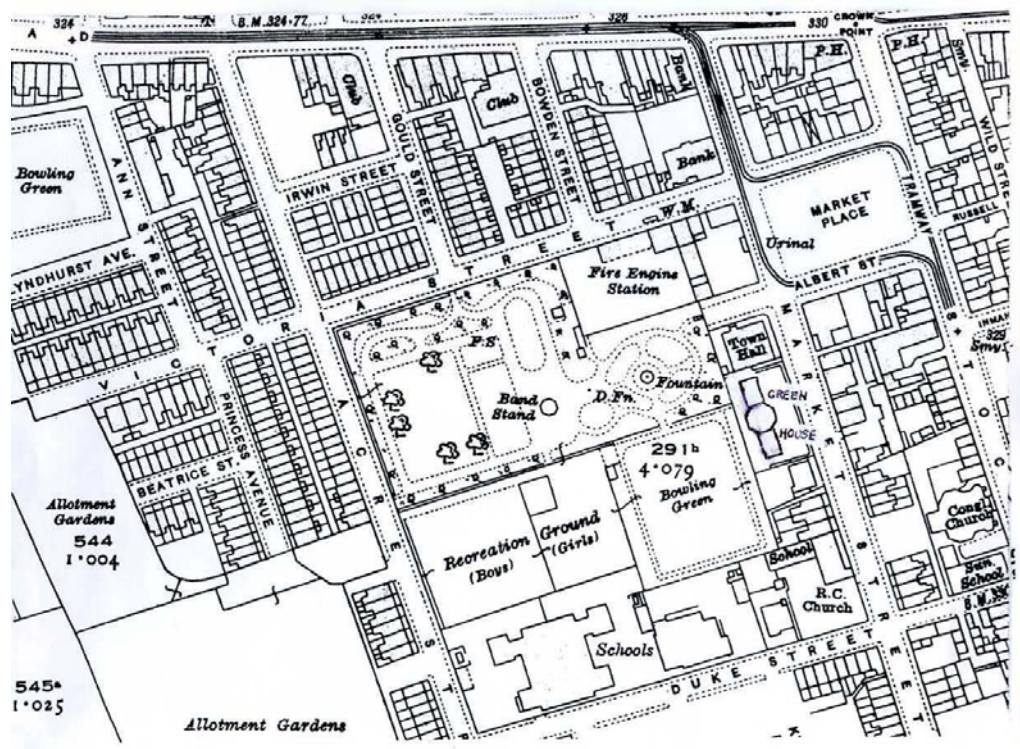
The History and Heritage of Victoria Park (Denton Park) Playing Fields and Recreation Ground

Victoria Park was opened officially in 1913 on land which had been bought in 1886. The Park originally had a number of features which have been lost over the years including a children's paddling pool, a drinking fountain and a stone archway at the entrance to the bowling greens. Fortunately other features such as the bandstand, bowling green and flower gardens have been retained to the present day. The war memorial originally unveiled on July 23rd 1921 also remains as an important feature of today's park.

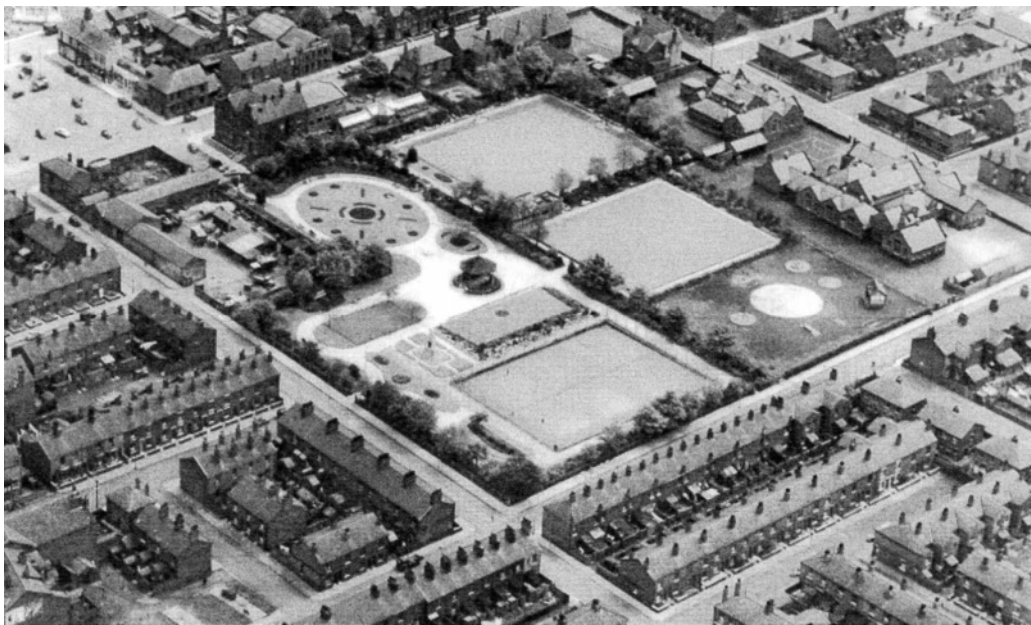
In common with many other urban parks across Britain, Victoria Park suffered a decline in its appearance over a period of time. However, in recent years work has been undertaken to halt this pattern and improve the condition of the park. Recognition of this was the award in 2000 of the park's first Green Flag, which served not only to note what had been achieved but more importantly to form a base from which to move forward and improve this important and popular local park still further.



The recreation grounds between Victoria and Acre Streets were opened on Whit Friday, June 14th 1889 by Mr Lees Broadbent and Mr Jonathan Moores. The events leading up to the opening have been recorded in detail as follows: At the annual meeting of ratepayers held in the old church (St Lawrence) not only were the constables, surveyors and overseers elected but, as village life expanded, the town's meeting also elected a committee of management called a Board, empowered to perform the functions of local government for a year and usually meeting monthly in St Lawrence's School. The neighbouring township of Haughton had its own Board but, in 1884, the townships of Denton & Haughton were amalgamated under one authority as 'The Denton & Haughton Local Board'.



The proposed land on which the park stands was formerly part of the Woodiwis Estate, it was bought on 1st May 1886 at a cost of £6,750 and measured 40,535 square yards. A scheme of alterations to the Recreation Grounds included the enclosure of strips of land along Victoria Street and Acre Street as part of the Grounds and provision made for a bandstand, fountain and bowling green. The execution of the work extended over 7 years from 1907 to 1913. The map above is a 1918 OS Map of Victoria Park.



The aerial photograph above was taken in the 1930s and shows the full extent of Victoria Park at that time. Acre Street runs from bottom left to right and Victoria Street is to the left of the park. No. 1 and No. 2 bowling greens are clearly visible at the top of the picture and the original tennis courts are at the bottom of the photograph.

Byelaws

Denton Urban District Council made byelaws (Section 164 of the Public Health Act 1875) in respect of PLEASURE GROUNDS including Victoria Park, some of which by today's standards may seem strange, examples of which are as follows:

Cattle, sheep, goats or pigs, or any beast of draught or burden are not allowed in the park unless authorised.

A person shall not in the pleasure ground hang, spread, or deposit any linen or other fabric for drying or bleaching.

The opening ceremony : Denton and Haughton Recreation Ground - Presentation of Gold Keys

The extracts below are taken from the Ashton Reporter, 22nd June 1889

The local Board, being ready to do their best for the rising generation, have made a recreation ground out of their estate near The Free Library (Town Hall). The surveyor, Mr Wharam, managed the project. The playground is divided into two portions for boys and girls. The whole is fenced round with un-climbable railings and has two entrances. Swings, gymnasts, etc, including a little sand bed for the children in the girls' portion are provided without stint. The opening of the ground took place on Whit Friday, 1889.

A meeting of the Board was first held in the Board Room, Market Place, the object being to present Mr Lees Broadbent (the Chairman of the Board) and Mr Jonathan Moores (Chairman of the Market and Building Committee) each with a gold key, with which to open the gates. One key was engraved with the words

“Presented to Lees Broadbent Esq C.C. on the occasion of the opening of the Denton and Haughton Public Playground, 14th June 1899”. The key presented to Jonathan Moores carried a similar inscription. The reverse side of the handle contained the Denton Coat of Arms and the following inscription “Denton 1857, Haughton 1877. The Denton and Haughton Local Board AD 1884”. The gentlemen present included Messrs Broadbent, Howe, M Taylor, Hyde, Moores, Trubshaw, Blackshaw, Woolfenden, Cooke, Walker, Rothwell, Richards (Clerk), Veevers and G Taylor.

The company proceeded to the playground, the two gates unlocked and the playground declared open. The gentlemen now walked to the platform, which had been fixed in the centre, to await the arrival of the children from the Sunday Schools. The weather was not very bright but, fortunately no rain fell and, as the scholars marched on the ground to their allotted places, the scene was picturesque in

the extreme. Mr John Richards announced the proceedings and Mr Broadbent, who was received with loud cheers, said the Board had great pleasure in dedicating the ground for their use.

The Denton Original Band struck up the “Old Hundredth”, and the proceedings concluded with the singing of the National Anthem.

Staff in the park.

A considerable number of gardeners and park keepers have been employed since the war and prominent amongst these are Harold Johnson, J Clark, Harold Hansford and Peter Ebbrell (late 1960s to 1974). Park keepers working in shifts included Jack Atkinson, Mr Pearson and Mr Fishwick. Ken Ridley worked from the 1960s through to his retirement. Bernard Pedley became Head Gardener having worked in the Parks and Cemeteries Department for almost 40 years.

In the 1960s, Ken Ridley was a gardener in Denton Park working for the local council, the Council had to pay £10 per day to hire a tining machine. Due to the cost, Ken worked late into the evening to finish the job and to enable him to see what he was doing (as darkness fell) he fixed bicycle lamps on to the machine. This drew the attention of the local police who came along to the scene and were duly relieved to see that it was Mr Ridley doing his job with homemade floodlights.



The photograph above shows gardeners working in the park in 1918.

Then there were three greenhouses on the east side of the park – where the OAP Centre (now renamed the Victoria Park Community Association) and police compound are today. They were heated by boilers. The centre one was the tropical house where bananas were grown. The two on either side were used for growing and hardening off bedding plants. The greenhouses were demolished in the early 1970s and plants are now supplied from Denton Cemetery Road nurseries.



Ruth Robinson, now a Project Support Officer, previously worked as a gardener in Victoria Park. In the photograph, Ruth can be seen tending one of the flower beds.

An imposing list of gentlemen responsible for the park management includes Mr Gowdrige who was the Park Superintendent and Registrar of Denton during the 1950s. He was followed by Mr Ernest Horrobin who held similar positions from 1960 to 1974.



Mr Gowdrige



Mr Horrobin

In 1974, Tameside was created and Mr Edward Neighbour became Chief recreational Officer, others included Mr Holland and Mr McBurney. In the 1990s, Paul Lawday followed as Director of Leisure Services until District Assemblies were formed who then assumed responsibility for the parks. The General Manager was Colin Fielding , Stuart Mollison became first Denton & Audenshaw District Assembly Town Manager.

Lost Features with in Victoria Park

A number of features have existed in the park, some of which have survived but sadly one or two have had to be dismantled for safety reasons, these include-



The Stone Arch

Was constructed in 1926 from marble rockery stones and formed an impressive feature near to the Bowling Greens but was unfortunately demolished in the 1980s after being left to become dangerous. The photograph above was taken in 1935 and shows Mr William Jackson Fraser passing through the archway towards the Bowling Green – probably to watch his grandson, Jim Stafford, playing in a championship bowling match.

The Water Feature

Shown in the photograph below was particularly ornate and at one time had a double pathway around its perimeter. The feature was demolished and landscaped into one of the largest flower beds in Tameside. Also in the photograph of the water feature is a floral archway which was another outstanding feature of Victoria Park.



The Drinking Fountain

Seen in the photograph below was another ornate feature of the park. With the availability of cleaner water to towns in the mid/late 19th century, drinking fountains were built in public places. Denton Park had its own fountain which was stepped all round to enable easy access to the metal cups used at the fountain. There was an extra step on one side to allow children to reach the tap. Sadly the fountain was closed in the 1950s and eventually dismantled and the mark of its base can be seen in the pathway approaching the bandstand.



Public toilets

Stood in the area next to the swimming baths.

The Brick Bowling Shelter

This small building stood near to the corner of No. 1 bowling green and was built before the last war. The view shows the open side of the shelter which contained all round seating. The opposite side contained a small room in which the bowling equipment was stored. It was demolished in 1993. Next to the bowling shelter stood the Tennis Club hut which was demolished in the late 1970s.



Surviving Features of Victoria Park

Playground Area

The children's playground first featured in the early 1900s as a playing area and has been located in several places in the park. Its present site lies along Acre Street, as shown in the photograph below, after refurbishment in 2006.



The photograph below shows the Victoria Park playground in the early 1950s. In the foreground, children are sitting on a rocking horse and in the distance can be seen a typical "Plank Swing". In the centre of the photo is a paddling pool installed in 1931 together with a Merry-go-round Ocean Wave, a Plank Swing, set of Parallel Bars and a 5-seater Rocking Horse. The cost, estimated at £320 was met by the Carnegie Trustees.



The coloured photo below shows a rather more sedate 'kiddies' roundabout' in the early 1970s and was taken in the area now occupied by the Swimming Pool Car Park. The young ladies featured are the daughters of Mrs Joyce Heap, a Local History Society member.



Tennis Courts

Three tennis courts were constructed in the park between 19th November 1919 and March 1920. Two were laid with turf and one with shale. After the 1922 season, the two turf courts were also converted to shale.

Tennis tournaments were played in aid of the Denton Hospital Fund. The prestigious Denton Jubilee Hospital Challenge Cup was presented to the Tennis Section by Mr C H Pinnington in 1935. Harold Lennie won the championship in the park three times. When Harold died, his brother Harry donated the Tennis Cup to the Denton Local History Society to enable future generations to appreciate a small part of the club's history.



Headlines in the sports columns of the Denton Reporter in the late 1930s regularly featured tennis events in Victoria Park and, in particular, highlights of the year including the competition for the Pinnington Cup. The most prominent player at that time was H L Logan winner of the cup in 1936 and 1937. He was the defeated finalist in 1938.

Exhibition matches were also held in the park and the tennis events were always well supported by tennis enthusiasts from all around the area. In the photo over leaf are the winners of the Denton Tennis Tournament in the 1930s.



Winners of Denton Tennis Tournament, staged in July.

The photograph below is Mr Frank Ashton, who was a County tennis champion, umpired many of the local tennis matches. Later he went on to be a first class match umpire at Wimbledon where many famous international players featured including Bjorn Borg, also in the picture.



Bowling Greens

Denton Park Bowling Section started on 4th August 1910 when the No. 1 bowling green was opened, as part of a scheme of alterations to the recreation grounds to provide a bandstand, fountain and public bowling green. The work extended over

seven years from 1907 to 1913. The No. 2 green was opened in 1927 and is devoted to the Ladies Bowling Section.

The photograph below was taken in 1912 and shows the entrance to the bowling green as it was at that time.



Mr Whitham Moss, born in 1875, was a renowned local bowler. As a keen and very competitive sportsman he would play for stakes backed by local bookies, never using his own money. He travelled around the area playing in bowling competitions even as far as Blackpool. He loved a challenge and would never fail to accept or give one. Whitham won the Local Hospital Fund Cup three times – once in 1940 at the age of 65. The money raised went into the fund to pay for treatment of the people of Denton. The photograph on the left shows Whitham Moss at the age of 65, in 1940, when he had won the Denton District Hospital Fund Bowling Handicap Cup.

Whitham Moss was a dyer by trade in the hatting industry and worked for Wild & Booth, hat manufacturers. He applied the same dedication to his work as he did to his bowling and was a well respected and valued employee. As a young man he lived in Wild Street which ran behind the Red Lion public house off Hyde Road and, after marriage, resided in Gould Street off Manchester Road. Many people in Denton still remember him to this day.



Mr James Stafford, an aspiring young bowler and grandson of Whitham Moss, had been taught by him from about the age of 8 years. James idolised his grandfather and wanted to follow his footsteps into bowling. In July 1938, aged 21, James won the “Independent Order of the Oddfellows Cup” (the Manchester Unity). There were 80 competitors and the current holder at the time, Mr J M Bromley, another Denton bowler, was defeated in the first round by a Lancashire County Bowler, Mr J Kenyon. Mr Bromley won the Denton Hospital Fund Cup in September 1938. James played for the Bowling Green public house team. Several public houses had excellent bowling green facilities, including the Fletchers Arms, Wilton Arms and the Gentlemen’s Club in Wilton Street. Pub players pursued a more aggressive game whereas the Denton Park players pursued a gentler game – their team consisting of older players. The Denton Hospital Cup was always played for on the Denton Park bowling greens. James is pictured below.



During the war years, most young men were away fighting for King and Country but the older ones, left behind, still managed to get in a little bowling and were always referred to as the Denton Park Veterans or "Owd Fellers".

In July 1938, for the second successive year, the Denton Park Bowling Club won the Eastern Section of the Manchester Parks Association League. They were undefeated throughout the season and then went forward to compete for the Goldman Cup. The Hon Secretary of the Park Bowling Club was Mr George Follows of the "Park Shelter" or, as some preferred to call it, "Th'owd Fellers Forum". George wrote to thank several benefactors (via the newspaper) for their generosity:- firstly, for a trip to Belle Vue circus – all expenses paid, also, the renewal of their wireless licence and last but not least for providing seats at the shelter, some of which were the plush seats formerly at the Palace cinema on Ashworth Street, Denton – small pleasures but very much appreciated by all.



This happy group of bowlers from the Ladies Section celebrate the winning of a Bowling Cup in 2000. Making the presentation on the right is May Thompson and the other ladies are Irene Parkin and Irene Layfield. They are standing in front of the portacabin clubhouse which was installed after the original clubhouse was demolished in the early 1950s.

The Bandstand

The Bandstand is a very important structure and well deserves its status of a Grade II Listed Building. Over the years, it has been the means of providing a great deal of pleasure to many local people. Although its appearance and condition have varied between many successive bouts of renovation, it has always remained in regular service and, in recent years, has contributed to the Park's entry in the 'Green Flag Award Scheme'.

The cost of the recent restoration work has been mostly covered by grants from the Government and the Heritage Lottery Fund. Guided by the 'Planning and Historic Environment Document' and with a view to protecting its archaeological heritage, the following rule was laid down in the survey of 2005: All repairs, replacements and materials must be true to the building's original concept, using original methods of construction and components whenever possible.

The structure was first designed and built by Hill & Smith in their Brierley Hill Foundry in the Midlands. Their 1904 catalogue says it would have an octagonal plinth, wrought/cast iron balustrades attached to cast iron pillars supporting a domed roof with an ornamental weather vane and would be supplied and erected for the sum of £172-10s-0d. Since, however, the very function of the Bandstand is to create a venue for the bands, its story cannot be told without mention of the many bands which have played on it over the years. Although it was not built until the early 1900s, the need for a bandstand existed long before then.

Denton's very first band was formed in 1818 and began playing in public for various celebrations. The townspeople, and especially the hatter Joseph Howard, had subscribed generously to the appeal for funds. They were able to buy a set of instruments, music paper and instruction books for a grand total of £210. The big drum was duly painted with the title 'Haughton & Denton Band'. Haughton, however, was at that time a separate town and the Dentonians, who outnumbered the Haughtonians, objected to this and so the name was eventually changed to 'Denton & Haughton Band'.

Their meeting room was initially at the Masons' Arms, Stockport Road, but in 1837 they moved to the Cock Inn on Two Trees Lane, Haughton. It was a very popular band and played for many years. Until 1869, it led the St Lawrence's Sunday School Scholars' Walk at Whitsuntide. However, since 1859 it had a rival. This was the Baxendale's Band named after their small factory at the top of Taylor Lane. As they went from strength to strength, they had to move their Headquarters; first to the Bowling Green Inn and then to their own Band Institute on Ashton Road. They needed a new name, and so they called themselves the 'Denton Original Band'. This distinguished it from the 'Denton & Haughton Band' and indicated that it was the original 'all Denton band'.

As its popularity grew, it eventually eclipsed its old rival. Its great achievement came in 1900 when it won £75 and the 'One Thousand Guinea Challenge Cup'

at Crystal Palace, having competed against entrants from all over Great Britain and the Colonies. There was much rejoicing in Denton at the time and this was the first band to play on our new bandstand in 1913.

The band had many assignments and a new custom had started in 1900. Whenever a member left the band to go and fight for his country, he was given a great 'send-off'. He was marched from his home to Denton Station by the entire band and a procession of well-wishers. The band played patriotic marches and hundreds of people turned out to watch.

In the early 1900s, the hatting industry presented the band with a beautifully crafted mace which was proudly carried by the drum major when marching. The top of the mace was adorned with a model of a bowler hat to symbolize what Denton was famous for. Over the years, the mace led many processions but, alas, the mace is now lost.

By 1919, when they had celebrated their Diamond Jubilee, they were meeting in a dining room at the Market Place but moved later to the King's Head and then in 1973 to Denton Cricket club on Egerton Street. In 1979, following a fire in their band room, the band folded, but from this came the 'Crown Point Band' and the 'Oldham Batteries Band'. The latter name was derived from their venue which was Oldham Batteries' Sports & Social Club but, as some members came from the former band, it soon regained its title of the Denton Original Band. In the 1990s it again re-formed and adopted the title of 'Denton Brass'. This is still with us today and they practise in their room at the Silver Springs Hotel, Ashton Road.

In addition to the local bands, many others from all parts of the UK have played on our bandstand over the years, and still do. They cover all types – such as military bands and especially colliery bands. Before World War II, brass band concerts took place there every Sunday afternoon and evening during the summer months.



Denton Brass Band outside Denton Town Hall about 1910



Denton Original Band in the early 1900s



The Bandstand Opening Event June 16th 2007 with Denton Brass Band

War Memorial

In June 1919 Denton Urban District Council decided to collect the names, addresses, and service details, of all those from the area who had served their country during the Great War. In the weeks that followed enumerators were sent from house to house collecting the names of those who had served. Residents of Denton were also encouraged to write to the council with the details of relatives who had served.

The Denton War Memorial, unveiled on July 23rd 1921 in Victoria Park, Denton, was compiled from the resulting listing.

Fortunately the original notebooks in which the enumerators recorded the names, along with many of the letters received by the Council, have survived. These are now part of the records of Denton UDC, held by the Tameside Archive Service. These have now been transcribed and entered onto a searchable database, which can be accessed by all those endeavouring to find details of Denton`s First World War servicemen.



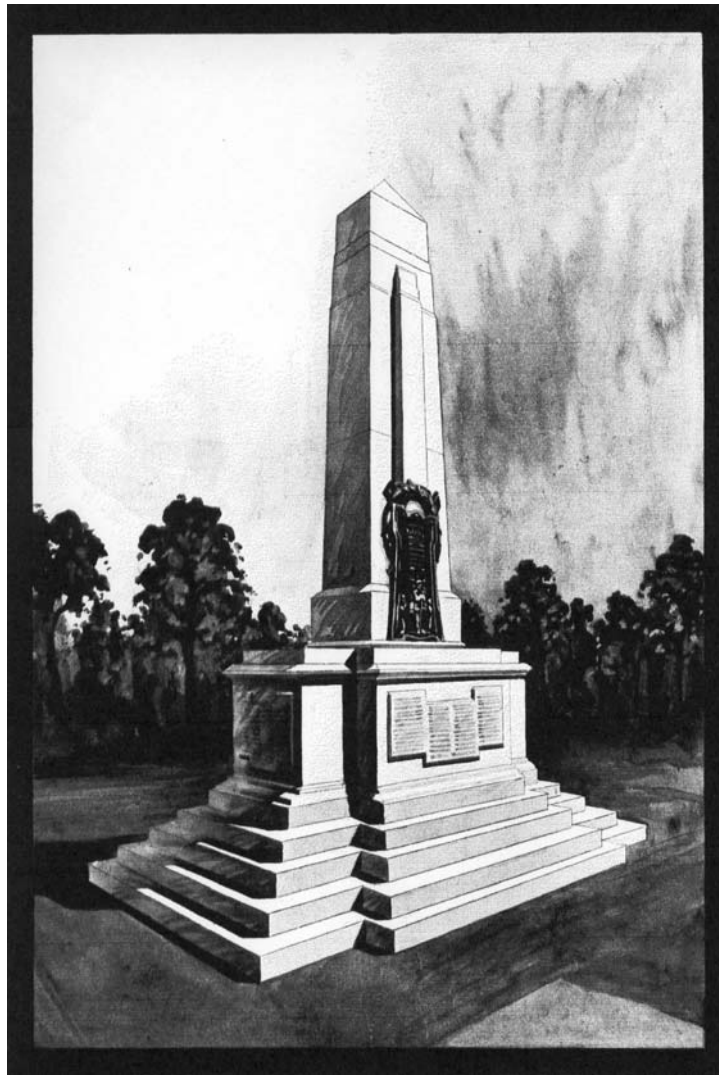
It is estimated that in 1914 the population of Denton was approximately 17,000, of which just over 8,000 were males. It is also estimated that almost 3,500 Denton men served during the Great War and that of those, 379 lost their lives. This listing comprising approximately 2,500 men is not complete, nor, as with any such listing, is it 100% accurate.



The memorial was constructed by Messrs J. and J. Hirst of Denton, who were also co-designers; the other party being Mr Arnold Radcliffe; the son of Mr Clarence Radcliffe of Radcliffe and Ogden, Silk Hat Manufacturers - one of the towns many hatting firms. Having organised a competition to decide on a design for the memorial, the council proved unable to choose between Hirst and Radcliffe, and the £30 prize was shared between them; parts of both designs being adopted.

Standing 20ft high and weighing 90 tons, the memorial is grey in colour and in the form of a cenotaph. It is fixed into a solid concrete bed more than a yard thick. Four steps lead up to the memorial on four sides. At the front, the dates 1914 and 1918, surrounded by wreathes, are either side of a panel of names. Above, on the central column, it states:

'In grateful and undying remembrance of those who gave their lives in the Great War 1914 - 1918. This memorial has been erected by their fellow townsmen July 1921'



The original bronze plaque with its crossed guns on the front of the memorial sadly was stolen in about 1978 and has never been recovered. A new tablet replaced it.

Names of the fallen on the Denton War Memorial

The Names of the Fallen ☪

Ackley, Harold
 Acton, John
 Adshad, George W.
 Adshad, William
 Ainsworth, Frank
 Ainsworth, Herbert
 Ainsworth, William
 Alcock, Joseph
 Anderson, Tempest
 Andrew, Harry
 Andrew, John W.
 Arrandale, Ben
 Artingshall, John A.
 Artingshall, William G.
 Ashley, George
 Ayson, John R.
 Axon, Albert E.
 Bagnall, F. W.
 Bagnall, Harry
 Bagnshaw, Cyril
 Bardsley, Albert
 Barlow, Percy
 Basnett, Joseph
 Basnett, Alfred
 Beard, Arthur
 Beard, Joseph
 Beedley, Herbert
 Beltinger,
 Bonnett, James
 Bonnett, Walter
 Bousford, James
 Berry, Richard
 Bewick, William
 Bilsbury, George E.
 Bins, James
 Birchington, Harry
 Bird, Arthur
 Birkby, E. Eric
 Blackledge, William G.
 Boardman, Fred
 Boardman, William E.
 Boardman, William E.
 Booth, John A.
 Booth, John W.
 Booth, Clarence
 Booth, Frank
 Booth, Mark
 Booth, Norman H.
 Booth, William
 Bowden, Jonas
 Bowers, Edwin
 Bradburn, Anthony
 Bradburn, Josiah
 Bradbury, Arnold
 Braddock, Fred
 Braddock, Herbert
 Braddock, Percy
 Bridge, Harold
 Broad, Alfred B.
 Bromley, Charles
 Bromley, Percy
 Brook, James A.
 Broom, William
 Broom, William
 Brown, Horace
 Brown, Solomon
 Burgess, Harry
 Burt, William
 Callaghan, Edward
 Carrington, John
 Carter, George
 Carter, Robert
 Carvell, John
 Catlow, Harry
 Catlow, Harry
 Catlow, Harry P.
 Chandler, Joseph H.
 Cherham, Henry
 Chorlton, William
 Christopher, William
 Clark, Harry
 Clark, Joshua
 Clayson, Louis
 Cliffe, Peter J.
 Collis, Sydney
 Condon, John
 Cooke, John A.
 Cooke, John W.
 Cooper, Fred
 Cooper, James
 Cooper, Wright
 Costello, John
 Cotterhill, Samuel
 Crabtree, Edwin
 Crosswell, Harry
 Crowther, Joseph H.
 Culley, Herbert
 Curtis, Roland W.
 Daley, William
 Davenport, Charles
 Davenport, Thomas
 Davies, Albert
 Davies, Arnold
 Davies, George
 Davies, George L.
 Davies, Phillip L.
 Davies, Samuel
 Davison, Harold
 Dawson, Tom B.
 Day, Fred
 Dean, Arthur
 Dean, Frederick J.
 Dennerley, Alfred
 Dickin, William E.
 Diggle, Harry
 Diggle, Jack
 Douglas, Fred
 Douglas, John W.
 Downs, Albert E.
 Downs, James
 Downs, John W.
 Downs, William T.
 Drinkwater, D.
 Dudley, Herbert
 Duncan, Harry
 Dunkerley, Tom
 Dyson, Rupert
 Dyson, William
 Eades, William
 Earnshaw, James
 Earnshaw, Joseph H.
 Eastwood, Alfred
 Eaton, Arnold
 Eaton, John
 Eaton, Percy
 Eaton, Wilfred
 Elliot, Ernest H.
 Elliot, Frank
 Ellor, John
 Faulkner, Arthur
 Faulkner, James
 Fenn, Harry
 Fernley, Percy
 Fidler, John
 Fiddle, James
 Follows, Harry
 Follows, James
 France, Albert
 France, Charles
 France, Harold
 France, John
 Fraser, John R.
 Ganson, Herbert
 Ganson, James
 Gardiner, Harry
 Gaskell, Randall
 Gaskirk, Albert
 Gee, George
 Gibbons, Harry
 Gibbons, Ralph A.
 Gibbons, Thomas
 Graham, John T.
 Graham, Percy
 Grant, Thomas H.
 Grayson, Thomas
 Greenthough, Geo. W.
 Grice, Wilfred B.
 Groves, Joseph L.
 Groves, Thomas
 Gurney, Walter R.
 Hadfield, Norman
 Hallworth, Walter
 Hampson, Frank
 Hancock, W. L.
 Harbach, Charles E.
 Hardy, Charles
 Hardy, Harold
 Harrison, John
 Harrison, Leonard
 Harrison, Samson
 Harrison, William
 Hartley, Arnold
 Hartly, Horace
 Hawkins, William
 Hawley, John E.
 Heginbottom, John H.
 Heginbottom, Amos B.
 Higgins, Frank
 Hill, Enoch
 Hill, Joseph
 Hirst, Tom
 Holden, Herbert
 Hopwood, James
 Hosfall, James
 Hough, Joseph
 Howard, Harry
 Howard, Harry
 Howard, Raymond
 Howard, Samuel
 Hudson, Albert
 Hughes, Thomas G.
 Hulme, John
 Hulme, Samuel
 Hurley, Vincent
 Hurst, Charles
 Ingham, Alfred
 Inman, Wilfred
 Jackson, Robert W.
 Jackson, Walter
 Jackson, W.
 Johnson, Thomas
 Jones, George
 Jones, Henry
 Kavanagh, Daniel
 Kelly, Edward
 Kemp, Edward
 Keyworth, Fredk. B.
 Keyworth, William
 Killeday, Harry
 Knowles, Abel
 Knowles, Harry
 Knowles, James
 Knowles, William
 Langan, Anthony
 Leaver, Samuel
 Longden, Alfred B.
 Lowe, Fred
 Lowerson, Harry B.
 Madsen, A.
 Magson, John
 Magson, Willie
 Malahen, Leo S.
 Malpas, Ellis
 Manwaring, James
 Manwaring, Jas. (Jnr.)
 Margerison, Edward
 Marlor, Charles E.
 Marsh, William
 Martin, Samuel
 Mason, Samuel
 Maude, James
 May, William
 Middlemiss, George
 Middleton, Joseph
 Moore, Percy
 Moore, John S.
 Moore, Wilfred S.
 Moorewood, Ed. H.
 Morrell, Ely
 Morrell, William A.
 Moss, Leonard G.
 Mout, James W.
 Myatt, Samuel Y.
 Nadin, Joseph
 Neal, Harold
 Newham, James
 Newham, Thomas
 Nixon, Frank
 Oakley, Eli
 Ogden, Joseph
 Oldfield, Allan
 Oldham, Herbert
 Oldham, Tom C.
 Owen, Herbert
 Parkes, Daniel
 Parkes, Samuel
 Pearson, Fred
 Pinnington, William
 Platt, Jess
 Prendergast, Harold
 Preston, Philip
 Procter, Herbert W.
 Radford, John
 Rayner, Percy
 Redfern, Benjamin
 Redfern, Edwin
 Redfern, William
 Renshaw, Alec
 Renshaw, James H.
 Richardson, Hedley
 Ridgway, Samuel
 Rivers, Oswald
 Roberts, Isaac
 Roberts, George
 Rooney, Samuel
 Routledge, John
 Rowarth, Edwin
 Rowbotham, Samuel
 Sample, Charles
 Samuels, Edward
 Saxton, Harold P.
 Saynor, Charles E.
 Schofield, James
 Schofield, Wentworth
 Schoolden, Jno.
 Seddon, Albert
 Seddon, Harold
 Shaw, Booth
 Shaw, Hubert H.
 Sheares, Harry
 Sidebottom, Harry
 Sidebottom, Thomas
 Sidebottom, Harry
 Skirvin, Edward
 Skirvin, Norman
 Sleight, Frank
 Smith, James
 Smith, John
 Smith, Leonard
 Smith, Wulfram
 Stainthorpe, Fred
 Stansfield, John
 Stenton, Tom
 Stevens, Harry
 Stopford, A.
 Stopford, G.
 Stott, James
 Swarbrick, Joseph
 Swindells, Thomas
 Swindells, Frank
 Taylor, Fred
 Taylor, Harry
 Taylor, James
 Taylor, Thomas
 Taylor, William
 Thatcher, James
 Thewlis, Frank
 Thickett, Frank
 Thredgold, Harry
 Tomlinson, Charles
 Tonkin, John L.
 Turner, Samuel
 Vaughan, Charles J.
 Vickers, Thomas
 Wagstaff, George
 Wagstaff, Samuel
 Walker, Lewis
 Walker, William
 Ward, William
 Ward, William
 Warhurst, Samuel
 Watson, Percy
 Webb, Joseph H.
 Wells, Fred
 Weston, Charles
 Whitehead, Harry
 Whitehead, Herbert
 Whyatt, Joseph
 Wild, John T.
 Wilde, Handel
 Wilde, John
 Wilde, Joseph
 Wilkin, Thomas
 Williams, George A.
 Williams, Harry
 Williams, William
 Williamson, George
 Willis, Russell
 Wilson, James
 Wilson, Robert L.
 Wiseman, John
 Woolfenden, Ronald
 Woolham, John
 Wright, Wilfred
 Yates, Ellis
 Yearsley, James

The Names of the Fallen ☪

Heginbottom, John H.
 Heginbottom, Amos B.
 Higgins, Frank
 Hill, Enoch
 Hill, Joseph
 Hirst, Tom
 Holden, Herbert
 Hopwood, James
 Hosfall, James
 Hough, Joseph
 Howard, Harry
 Howard, Harry
 Howard, Raymond
 Howard, Samuel
 Hudson, Albert
 Hughes, Thomas G.
 Hulme, John
 Hulme, Samuel
 Hurley, Vincent
 Hurst, Charles
 Ingham, Alfred
 Inman, Wilfred
 Jackson, Robert W.
 Jackson, Walter
 Jackson, W.
 Johnson, Thomas
 Jones, George
 Jones, Henry
 Kavanagh, Daniel
 Kelly, Edward
 Kemp, Edward
 Keyworth, Fredk. B.
 Keyworth, William
 Killeday, Harry
 Knowles, Abel
 Knowles, Harry
 Knowles, James
 Knowles, William
 Langan, Anthony
 Leaver, Samuel
 Longden, Alfred B.
 Lowe, Fred
 Lowerson, Harry B.
 Madsen, A.
 Magson, John
 Magson, Willie
 Malahen, Leo S.
 Malpas, Ellis
 Manwaring, James
 Manwaring, Jas. (Jnr.)
 Margerison, Edward
 Marlor, Charles E.
 Marsh, William
 Martin, Samuel
 Mason, Samuel
 Maude, James
 May, William
 Middlemiss, George
 Middleton, Joseph
 Moore, Percy
 Moore, John S.
 Moore, Wilfred S.
 Moorewood, Ed. H.
 Morrell, Ely
 Morrell, William A.
 Moss, Leonard G.
 Mout, James W.
 Myatt, Samuel Y.
 Nadin, Joseph
 Neal, Harold
 Newham, James
 Newham, Thomas
 Nixon, Frank
 Oakley, Eli
 Ogden, Joseph
 Oldfield, Allan
 Oldham, Herbert
 Oldham, Tom C.
 Owen, Herbert
 Parkes, Daniel
 Parkes, Samuel
 Pearson, Fred
 Pinnington, William
 Platt, Jess
 Prendergast, Harold
 Preston, Philip
 Procter, Herbert W.
 Radford, John
 Rayner, Percy
 Redfern, Benjamin
 Redfern, Edwin
 Redfern, William
 Renshaw, Alec
 Renshaw, James H.
 Richardson, Hedley
 Ridgway, Samuel
 Rivers, Oswald
 Roberts, Isaac
 Roberts, George
 Rooney, Samuel
 Routledge, John
 Rowarth, Edwin
 Rowbotham, Samuel
 Sample, Charles
 Samuels, Edward
 Saxton, Harold P.
 Saynor, Charles E.
 Schofield, James
 Schofield, Wentworth
 Schoolden, Jno.
 Seddon, Albert
 Seddon, Harold
 Shaw, Booth
 Shaw, Hubert H.
 Sheares, Harry
 Sidebottom, Harry
 Sidebottom, Thomas
 Sidebottom, Harry
 Skirvin, Edward
 Skirvin, Norman
 Sleight, Frank
 Smith, James
 Smith, John
 Smith, Leonard
 Smith, Wulfram
 Stainthorpe, Fred
 Stansfield, John
 Stenton, Tom
 Stevens, Harry
 Stopford, A.
 Stopford, G.
 Stott, James
 Swarbrick, Joseph
 Swindells, Thomas
 Swindells, Frank
 Taylor, Fred
 Taylor, Harry
 Taylor, James
 Taylor, Thomas
 Taylor, William
 Thatcher, James
 Thewlis, Frank
 Thickett, Frank
 Thredgold, Harry
 Tomlinson, Charles
 Tonkin, John L.
 Turner, Samuel
 Vaughan, Charles J.
 Vickers, Thomas
 Wagstaff, George
 Wagstaff, Samuel
 Walker, Lewis
 Walker, William
 Ward, William
 Ward, William
 Warhurst, Samuel
 Watson, Percy
 Webb, Joseph H.
 Wells, Fred
 Weston, Charles
 Whitehead, Harry
 Whitehead, Herbert
 Whyatt, Joseph
 Wild, John T.
 Wilde, Handel
 Wilde, John
 Wilde, Joseph
 Wilkin, Thomas
 Williams, George A.
 Williams, Harry
 Williams, William
 Williamson, George
 Willis, Russell
 Wilson, James
 Wilson, Robert L.
 Wiseman, John
 Woolfenden, Ronald
 Woolham, John
 Wright, Wilfred
 Yates, Ellis
 Yearsley, James

The Millennium Sundial.

This modern feature was introduced to the park by the Council in the year 2000 to celebrate the Millennium. It stands near to the Victoria Street entrance to the park in front of the War Memorial.



Floral Coat of Arms

Is an inclined flower bed showing the Denton Coat of Arms in a display of appropriately coloured carpet bedding. It stands in front of the flagstaff proudly displaying the Green Flag.



The Mural

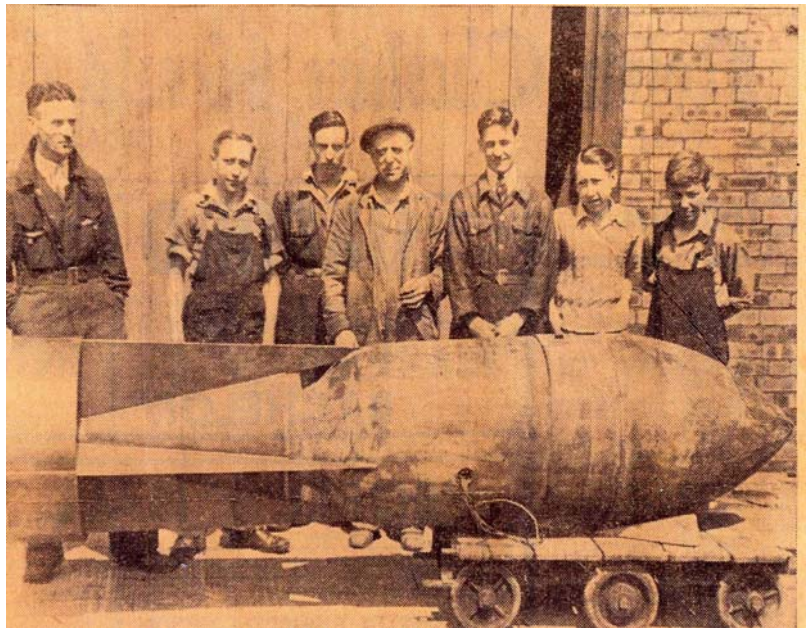
Was commissioned by the Denton Town Twinning Association with the co-operation of Denton & Audenshaw District Assembly. The mural, which was conceived by David Vaughan serves to commemorate both the second millennium and the continuing friendship between the people of Denton and Montigny le Brettoneux.



Memories of Victoria (Denton Park)

Bomb in Victoria Park

On Christmas Eve 1940, a 2 ton bomb fell near Hyde Hall Farm but did not explode. It was not uncovered and was later defused by the Bomb Disposal Squad in May 1942. A police sergeant named Vardy picked up a piece of metal from the crater and assumed that the bomb had already exploded. However, he later watched a training film and recognised the piece of metal he found which was identified as a "Kauf" ring (a device for retarding the bomb's progress into the ground). The Bomb Disposal experts found the bomb to be 20 ft down and safely defused it.



The two pictures show the German bomb at the time of its removal from Hyde Hall Farm. In the picture on the right, the gentleman shown is a Mr Cooper. Later, the defused bomb was displayed at the Bandstand in Victoria Park for one month to raise money for the National Air Raid Distress Fund. Its fins had been restored by the Progressive Engineering Company Ltd (later to become Sturtevant Engineering Co Ltd) in Acre Street.



Dancing in the park

Once a year all the schools took part in the dancing in Denton Park for what was known as Baby Week. A variety of dances were performed including Morris dancing. This was organised by the Denton Welfare Committee for mothers and babies who were very pleased to take part.



Baby Week 1928 as described by Ellen Hanson.

Here Ellen, aged about seven, is sitting in the front row, first right. The teacher is Miss Forth. This was the class from St Anne's School prepared for dancing in Denton Park. I remember that the girls of St Anne's School were asked to wear white dresses. Six or eight of us, girls only, walked in crocodile from St Anne's with teachers. Miss Simister and Miss Olive Forth (later Mrs Downs). – **Clare Knott (nee Bagnall)**

The area in the park where the dancing took place is shown in the photograph below. The picture was taken from a point to the left of where the swimming baths now stand. The baths were opened in 1975 by the Olympic swimmer Anita Lonsborough MBE. In the distance can be seen the War Memorial, to the right of which is the 'kiddies' playground' and roundabout, roughly where the swimming pool car park is now situated. The young lady in the centre of the photograph is Miss Susan Hallsworth.



In the past, there was little to do on Sundays. Shops and cinemas were closed and so most people went for a walk, often to the park dressed in their Sunday best clothes. We listened to the band and girls and boys assembled in separate groups. We threw money into a sheet for the band. You could pay to sit on wooden slatted chairs which when folded were kept underneath the bandstand. You could meet acquaintances and chat – girls often met their future husbands there – **Marion Redfern**

My father, George Matley, was born in 1892 in Taylor Street, Denton and emigrated to the United States in 1913. In July 1947 my father, mother Ellen and I sailed on the Queen Elizabeth for a reunion of our UK families after the war. When I arrived at my Aunt Sally's home in Denton, there was a letter waiting from Reginald Millington from

Northwich (whom I had met at a British War Veterans' picnic in the United States). We had corresponded and resumed our friendship. In August 1947, Reg visited Denton and we went for a walk in Victoria Park – which didn't close until dark.

We sat on a form and talked for a long time and it was about 10 p.m. when he asked me to marry him. We had talked so long that he had missed the last bus home and Cousin Mary found him lodgings for the night. Our parents met for dinner that week. My family and I returned to the US in October and Reg sailed on the Queen Mary in January.



The photograph above shows Reg and I on our wedding day on 17th April 1948 in America. Reg had served on HMS Bootle, a minesweeper, on D-Day and it was our purpose to visit our family in Denton for the 1994 D-Day anniversary. We made a point of visiting Denton Park and sitting on a form to reminisce. We were married for 48 years (Reg passed away in 1996). We had four children, eleven grandchildren and ten great grand children – to date 2007 – and it all began in Denton Park.

Elizabeth Matley Millington, Southampton, New Jersey, USA.

Denton Local History Society

The photograph below shows members of the Denton Local History Society dressed in Victorian regalia. The picture was taken in the park in 2000 to celebrate the opening of the newly refurbished Council Offices.



Standing left to right: Angela Pitman, Jackie Pitman, Daniel Pitman, John Pitman, Frank Brown, Jean Marlor, Jill Cronin. Claire Knott, Gerry Cartwright, Lynne Rhodes, Frank Horsfield, Edith Freeman and Kate Kerry. Kneeling: Frank Rhodes and Paul Cronin.

The Denton Local History Society exists to research, record the history of Denton and publish people's memories. The Society collects, preserves and exhibits material from its archive which includes documents, maps, photographs and other artefacts.

Members meet monthly to hear a speaker and also once a month at workshops to research, prepare exhibitions and deal with enquiries. Members receive copies of their quarterly publication "The Dentonian".

Meetings are held on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month. Workshops are at the Festival Hall, Peel Street, in Room 10. Meetings to hear speakers are held at the Victoria Park Community Association Centre.



Steve Marsland Head Teacher of Russell Scott Primary School proudly receiving their School Pack from Jean Marlor and Fred Heap of the Denton Local History Society, June 16th 2007 during the Bandstand Opening Celebratory Event.

Denton Local History Society worked in partnership with Denton & Audenshaw District Assembly to research the heritage of Victoria Park and the Bandstand. This was carried out to ensure that visitors were able to learn about the parks history through two A0 display boards with in the park as well as by creating school packs to be provided to all the primary school in Denton and Audenshaw. Much of the history with in this application was provided through the research of the group and has been of great assistance to ourselves in 'bringing to life' the historical value of Victoria Park.

Denton Carnival

The town Carnival has taken place intermittently over a considerable number of years. Usually held in September, the event centred round a procession of well decorated floats –carts, lorries and other conveyances – paraded along the town centre roads. Young and old dressed for the occasion and competed with each other for the best float. Sadly, the Carnival lost favour during the 1970s.

When the town twinning was organised in 1992 by Mr Fred Elms, a delegation of Denton dignitaries was invited to its French counterpart, Montigny in France and were extremely well received. A reciprocal visit to Denton by a French delegation took place in 1993 and, to celebrate the occasion, the Carnival was regenerated. Mr Elms successfully organised the event which relied heavily on the goodwill of local tradesmen. It continued for several years by which time Mr Elms, former Headmaster of Egerton Park School had retired. Mr Dennis Fogg then took over as Carnival Organiser.



Town twinning- Denton and Montigny Le Bretonneux, France



The photograph was taken during the Memorial Service which was conducted by the Rev J Tutton – to celebrate the twinning in 1993 of Denton and the French town of Montigny which is near Paris. Present were dignitaries from Denton including Mr Fred Elms, former Headmaster of Egerton Park School who negotiated the twinning. The Mayor of Montigny (Monsieur About) and his wife, together with the then Mayor of Tameside, Cllr Albert Hatton, can be seen at the front of the main group, ready to place wreathes at the Cenotaph, near to the flagpole, are the Town Crier and his lady.

Bandstand Opening Celebratory Event on the 16th of June 2007

The Bandstand underwent major refurbishment in spring 2007 after receiving external funding from numerous sources with the main contributor being The Heritage Lottery Fund, helping to preserve the bandstand for years to come. Various community groups supported the project including The Friends of Victoria Park, Denton Local History Society, Russell Scott Primary School, Denton Brass Band and the Local Scout Group to name a few. Denton Local History Society were also commissioned to look further into the Heritage of the

park and the bandstand, producing school packs for all the primary schools in Denton & Audenshaw and two interpretation boards featuring the heritage of the park and bandstand placed within Victoria Park. The Bandstand Opening Celebratory Event, see picture above included a procession of Civic Dignitaries, Town Crier, Denton Local History Society in Edwardian costume escorted by the Denton Scout Group with the local members unveiling the interpretation boards and declaring the bandstand open. The bandstand, now painted in its original colours and once again boasting a Zink roof was the centre of entertainment including Denton Brass Band and Musical Youth who were very well received. Family entertainment was also featured during the celebration for the local community including fair ground rides, circus skill workshop, face painting, refreshments and the Countryside Service.



Before Restoration



After Restoration



Bandstand Opening Celebratory Event