

Heywood Then & Now





Heywood in the middle of the twentieth century was a close-knit, well-run community. It owned and ran its own affairs. Heywood Corporation had its own water supply and reservoirs, electricity generation and gas works. The Corporation cleaned the streets, maintained the roads and street-lighting. Heywood people were in control of their own environment and the town Coat of Arms, with the Latin motto, *Alte Volto*, was proudly displayed above the Municipal Buildings. We relied on our neighbours for bus services. Red from Manchester, Blue from Rochdale and Green from Bury. The trams had ceased to run through Heywood, but the tram lines were still there in the middle of the cobbles in Market Street and Manchester Road. Heywood and Broadfield Stations were busy with freight and passenger steam trains.

The cotton, mills were belching out smoke from their engine-house boilers. Cotton workers, many in clogs, flat caps and shawls rushed off to the mills before the hooters signalled the start of the working day. Horses and carts were a common sight. Chain horses, (one in front of the other), pulled the heavy carts loaded with towels from Hooley Bridge Mill as they climbed Hooley Brow. Steam Wagons were also a common sight.

The borough of Heywood no longer exists and is now a "Township" in the Metropolitan Borough of Rochdale. This book attempts to show the changing face of Heywood over the past century. Yet another change in Local Government structure is proposed, namely a Northwest Assembly, plus the provision of multi-million "Regeneration Funds". Maybe there is a chance to re-establish the individuality and sense of community of Heywood, at the same time protecting and preserving the remnants of our historic past.

Compiled by Florence Sedman and Eric Haworth.

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The cobbled street now covered with tarmac.

The Seven Stars Pub was replaced by the Heywood which has the old Heywood Municipal Crest on its sign.





Heywood Council Municipal Buildings at the end of Longford Street were demolished after Heywood became part of Rochdale Metropolitan Borough. It is now the site of a doctors' surgery.



Rear of Municipal Buildings viewed from West Street





Trades Hall, Longford Street, demolished
along with the
Drill Hall and Municipal Offices.
Replaced by Bungalows and Longford Street
Surgery.





Heywood Corporation Electricity
Works on
Egerton Street
demolished and replaced by
private apartments

(Note the Heywood Coat of Arms
above the entrance)





Municipal Technical School built in 1894 has changed very little. It later became the Grammar School and then the Hind Hill Centre. In 1895 the Architects loaned their drawings for display at the Royal Academy as they considered the building to be one of the best examples of their work. This beautiful building has sadly been allowed to decay and is planned to be demolished in 2005.

The foundation Stone was laid by Alderman William Healey on the 4th February 1894.

Alderman James Lawton was Mayor at that time.





The old Post Office was on York Street shown from where Heywood Market is now

The modern building that replaced it is on Hind Hill Street

