Manningham Guided Walk, Bradford

An online version of the route for 2020
Introduction & Background

We, Peter Nias and Mollie Somerville, have organised this free guided walk several times a year since 2011, some for the public, some for schools and some for private groups. Led by either ‘Samuel Lister’ owner of Manningham Mills, or ‘Ben Turner, trade unionist, the circular walk covers many parts of Manningham. It normally takes one and threequarter hours on the ground. However, in this online version we have added some additional 'stops' which are of interest but would otherwise make an actual walk too long.

It follows the same route and uses the same notes as the walk, and includes illustrations and a map. One can also use Google Earth (starting at BD8 5BE) if wished. Illustrations are by the authors, from group walkers, from Simon Geoghegan and others. YouTube (‘Manningham Mills’) has a 6 minute audio video version of a part of the walk and for elsewhere in Manningham, with ‘Samuel Lister’ and Mollie Somerville. The organisers will be pleased to hear any additional contributions of places and events that are visited.

We realised that the area has spectacular attractions for a guided walk. These include the massive mill, visible from across the city, wherein thousands of people had formerly worked, the many large houses, and the associated social history of men, women and children who came and are coming there to live, work and grow. Even before these ‘textile revolution’ times, there was the tiny village of Manningham wherein one of the 17th century buildings still exists today.

A book Manningham: people through the mill : past and present 121pp 2013 was written by Peter Nias and Mollie Somerville and covers the area as a whole from the people point of view, including but not only the walk route. It is now out of print but is available in both Manningham and Bradford Central Local Studies libraries. An A3 exhibition of the book with 7 laminated panels is available from the authors. English Heritage previously published a book on the buildings of the area in 2010, entitled Manningham: Character and Diversity in a Bradford Suburb.

An original publicity leaflet for the walk:
The route and main places visited during the walk (in semi-note form)

**The walk**

Starting at the corner of Lilycroft Road and Patent Street opposite the police station.

Image is of a group, with the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress, before the start of a previous walk.
'Samuel Lister', in top hat and tails, or 'Ben Turner' in 'trade union' apparel, then guides the group on the route.

The tour covers both present day and Victorian Manningham with its remarkable architectural features such as high porches, turrets, steeply pitched gables and elaborate barge-boards.

Manningham is not mentioned in the Domesday Book.
Edward II owned the estate in 1332.
In the reign of Henry VIII the Lister family acquired Manningham.
In the early map of 1613 there are only 12 homesteads.

Engels wrote of Bradford as a sooty, dirty city with a foul-smelling stream. It was to its suburb of Manningham that many Bradfordians fled. English Heritage claims that 'Bradford is one of the great stone cities of England' an impression largely created by the locally quarried yellow sandstone which gives Manningham its appearance.

We have Baroness Thornton of Manningham, a Labour peer who used to live here but now lives in Shipley.

Enter the Manningham Mills quadrangle to stand in the centre:
Samuel Cunliffe Lister inherited the Mill in 1853 from his father. The current Manningham Mills was built in 1873 following a fire.
Many thousands worked there and the whole area was dependent on the mills, but unlike Saltaire it was not a 'new town'. Lister made himself very rich. Later became Lord Masham.
Aerial image of the Mills, looking north, in 1975, showing the chimney, the two parallel blocks and the large area of low level quadrangle works in the middle of the blocks, plus more to the right and behind. Heaton Road is on the right, leading into the distance. Lilycroft Road left-right across the image. The low level blocks and the quadrangle are now either demolished or just the outline structure is left.

Steeplejacks repairing the chimney (above)
Main block of mills (below)

Look on YouTube
('Manningham Mills') for a drone's eye view of the mill including of the top of the chimney.

The chimney (right) from one of the 'pods' - new living spaces on top of the original mills
Walk downhill to nearer Heaton Road to see the plaque recording the Independent Labour Party formation after the Mill strike of 1890-91, the forerunner of the 1920's Labour Party.

The strike occurred in 1890 when wages were reduced due to a decline in business. This was because of an American tariff (The McKinley Tariff) which put a tax on goods from Britain. This strike was led by the Trade Unionist Ben Turner. It lasted four months during the winter of 1890-91 but then the workers went back to work.
Walk further downhill to and left along Victor Terrace. Stop outside two houses to hear their features and who lived in them around 1890-1900.

At no. 33 in 1891 there lived Thomas Brogden, a worsted overlooker/foreman with his wife, 2 sons and a daughter and a lodger. At no. 48 there lived Sarah Carter, a draper lived there with her adult daughter, niece and grandchild. Houses nearest the mill were back-to-back originally in rows and later they then had to be in blocks of 4 with a tunnel passage (right) leading to ash-pits and privies.

Walk group in Victor Terrace

From 1890 to 1910 there were 40,000 houses built in Bradford and two-thirds of the working population lived in back-to-back houses, usually with a side-scullery, keeping cellar, 2 bedrooms and an attic. The roads were wide because of planning regulations in the late 19th century.

Noted that going further from the mill downhill towards Lister Park takes you up a social gradient - from terrace houses to large villas.

Down Victor Road past former St Luke's Church (left) (built 1882), later used by Church of God of Prophecy and its church hall, now the Jamia Mosque (below) (in Victor Street). This shows the change of use of some religious buildings.
The ‘Preaching Plumber’, Smith Wigglesworth, lived in late 19th-mid 20th C. at 70 Victor Road. He worked at the Bowland Street Mission (off of Lumb Lane and opposite the synagogue - further below) for one year. He is better known in the USA than the UK. He travelled the world as an independent preacher.

Other places of worship:
St Paul's church (which we shall see later) was the original church in Manningham parish, when it was still a village. But as the population grew, three churches in the area were named after colleagues of St. Paul, namely St. Barnabas, St. Mark and St. Luke. In 1859 a commission named Bradford as the town in England with the least number of Anglican churches - hence the probable reason for the 'dark satanic mills' label. Samuel Lister never paid for the construction of any churches, unlike some other mill owners such as Hollins of Hollins Road.

We have passed near two other churches:
St. John’s – with a remarkably tall spire – built in 1882 - as a Wesleyan Methodist Church to hold 1,000 in a very strongly Methodist area. Since 1969 it has been used by the Ukrainian Catholics who had settled in the area. St. Cuthbert's in Wilmer Road – built in 1890 for Roman Catholics – mainly Irish migrants working in the mill.

Not passed and quite a bit further away, nearer town, is the Bowland Street synagogue (right), off of Manningham Lane.

Then noted (but not passed) 43 Leamington St – a house where Bradford’s Nobel Peace Prize winner of 1933 Norman Angell stayed when he was MP for Bradford North 1929-31. He wrote many books, in particular *The Great Illusion* 1910, saying that war was bad economics.

Environmental house no. 15 Victor Road (right). Looks ordinary but refurbished c.2010 by Accent Housing Association to very high internal environmental standards.
The walking route does not usually take in Lister Park because of the distance. The previous property on the park was owned by the Lister family but he moved to Addingham in the early 1870's. After three decades of leaving his house to rack and ruin, he sold the land to the Council and Cartwright Art Gallery was built, opening in 1904.

![Cartwright Hall](image)

A school visit to Lister Park and his statue

**Cartwright Hall**

**General points on housing in the area:**

- In the mid-19C manufacturers, tradesmen and merchants were looking for ‘beautiful houses’ - Manningham was being described as ‘the best end of town; among green fields’
- There were views across more green fields to ‘the heights of Bolton (Road)’
- The large villas nearer Manningham Lane were private, secluded and gated
  - they imitated classical building styles and had servants’ quarters and service areas
  - smaller versions were built in the streets we are in today
  - at 201 Park View Road – parallel to Victor Rd. - a German yarn merchant, Hugo Eylert lived with his wife, two daughters, a cook and a maid.
  - nearby Sarah Culvert lived ‘alone’ with only 3 servants!

**Street names** – Oak Lane – but can anyone spot any oaks? (none) - used to be just a track. Emm Lane may have been Elm Lane

Kana Peena supermarket on Oak Lane was a cinema around 1915. It was previously the tramshed terminus of the trams from town.

Opposite, on Oak Lane/St Mary's Rd/Rosebery Rd corners, is the foundation stone of the 19th C Congregational church in the area – showing influence of people from Scotland for work. This one was Salem Congregational Church built in 1889.
On Rosebery Road (with one ‘r’) is the ‘Old Manor House’ : originally early 1600’s. Rebuilt later in 1600’s at around the time of the Civil War.

It is the oldest building in Manningham. Grade II listed. It was not a Manor House - just a good well-built property. It was wider and formerly stretched across Rosebery Road a couple of centuries ago. That end part was demolished in the 1800’s for road widening.

Sketch by Margaret Sowden of 1894 ‘Manor’ house (from an old photo)

It was lived in early 1900’s by Mr Addison, an electrician. Later in 1911 his son Albert took over the house. He was a millinery traveller. Also in the house was a lodger who was a Christmas Card Manager.

Jane, Margaret, & Alice Fitzgerald. Loma (child) in 1914

Protective work on the house in 2020

A walking group at the house 2012

Grade II listed, it was occupied until 2000 and had 2011 planning permission to make into a 4 bedroom house. This was started but not finished. Currently vacant, it has had protective sheeting put on by the Council which agreed in July 2020 to compulsorily purchase it.

Next door at No 21 the double fronted detached house was a former private school for girls, run by German-born Headmistress Miss Bruning.
Then go south along Rosebery Road to Skinner Lane/St Mary's Road corner

Viewable from St Mary's Road is the former 'St Catherine's home for Incurables' *(right)* built in 1898 and closed in 2002. It is now renovated into 16 flats by Accent Housing Association.

See the original words engraved in relief on the very top *'And the greatest of these is charity'* *(below)*

Opposite is the former Children's Hospital *(right)* with its round wards.  
In 1883 an order of nuns, the All Saints Sisterhood, bought and altered 3 houses in nearby Hanover Square as a home for incurably sick children. In 1887 this became a health trust.  
Designed by James Ledingham this building was opened as a children's hospital in 1889 in response to an outbreak of smallpox. The circular wards were unique at the time and nurses were in the middle so they could easily keep eyes on all the beds. Samuel Lister was its principal patron.  

It had an outbreak of smallpox in 1962, with others elsewhere in UK. Closed around 1987. Now it is the Anjuman-e-Haideria Mosque - a Shia mosque. *(most Bradford Muslims are Sunni)*

*'Founded in 1883 Hanover Square'*
Area around East Squire Lane and Church St. was the original centre of the village of Manningham, with stocks and a water pump. Former farmhouse behind the mosque. It had neighbouring cottages occupied by home weavers.

11,13 and 15 Skinner Lane (the name came from the local tanning industry) were originally a farmhouse and then cottages in early 19th C where families lived downstairs whilst weaving took place upstairs – see the right hand end which had an external hoist space. The new large mill put an end to that.

St Paul's Church (right) – early English Gothic style – with its elegant spire and some good stained glass - was originally surrounded by field and predates Manningham becoming part of Bradford in 1847 – despite objections that it was too far from the city!

Hanfia Mosque (below)
We have seen other buildings adapted as mosques, but this is one of the first in Bradford to be purpose, in 1995. It can hold 1600 men and women, and ministers to the Sunni Muslim community. Includes as a primary aim ‘community cohesion’ and the education of non-members about Islam.

Left downhill and across the junction of Carlisle Road and Lumb Lane at traffic lights to:
Apsley Crescent (right)
- is a local Conservation areas
- built in 1852 one of the few curved terraces in the country
– rivalling York and Bath in its day
- Built for wool merchants in the mid-century boom.
The middle classes wanted stylish housing in broad leafy avenues.

- This was a venture of the new building societies, or sometimes called ‘Land Societies’. One of which, the ‘Apsley Land Society’, built Apsley Crescent as well as Mornington Villas nearby. It was a uniform development – with a ban on business or industry.

- stepped buildings to take full advantage of the then views across the valley
Examples of families who lived here with the German connection especially: The 1891 census for 23 Apsley Crescent had Hermann Roebling, a yarn commercial agent living there with his British-born wife Mary, daughter Gertrude, a servant plus two lodgers who were a Unitarian minister and a German newspaper correspondent.

Useful place to give population info:
The population of Manningham in 1841 was about 5,000
30 years later in 1871 it was about 20,000
The census of 1891 listed it as over 45,000
The census of 2011 counted it as 20,000
It also found in 2011 that 85% of Manningham’s population have British passports
It’s a very young population with nearly half the population, 45%, under 25 years old.
For Bradford as a whole it is much less, at 35% under 25.

In 1904 Lord Masham of the Lister Family suggested he could foresee a day when instead of Bradford clothing the East the reverse would happen. In 1966 Japan overtook England in the wool trade. By 1950 refugees from Soviet-occupied Eastern Europe came in numbers to Bradford. In the 1950’s Bradford advertised in the Indian sub-continent for workers for its buses and textile mills. The first arrivals were men who sent money home but families soon arrived for whom the larger houses of the district were ideal.

Return uphill along a very busy Marlborough Road and Carlisle Road

Marlborough and Carlisle roads were formed when the old village lanes were straightened in 1854. Carlisle Road dates from 1869. Going past the F & F Co Ltd (right) building which is now the Carlisle Business Centre but was formerly the Fur and Fabric Company Limited which manufactured a range of fabrics.
Manningham Library (right - public toilets available inside)
Bradford has always been in the forefront in educational initiatives:
- think of Forster and Margaret McMillan among others
- before the 1870 Act, this was Back Lane School – built in 1832
  - partly financed by the Lister family. The first schoolmaster was a self-educated handloom weaver.

In 2010 it was ‘Civic Building of the Year’ after being renovated and extended with a Heritage Lottery grant.

Marlboro’ Cinema (right)
Marlborough Cinema built 1921. The area was slow in adding public entertainment to its facilities. Closed 1962. After a fire in 2001 was redeveloped as an Asian marriage and function hall and is now a bazaar.

Manningham Swimming Pool
Built in 1904 – was one of the few listed Edwardian baths in the country. It had a sauna and used to have slipper baths.
Closed as part of Bradford Council’s programme of cuts in expenditure 2011.
Now a privately-owned ladies gym (no pool)

Cross Carlisle Road at pedestrian traffic lights and turn right up Bavaria Place
Former Police Station & Bavaria Place (right)
Just one of the unexpected riches of Manningham’s architecture
- this strangely ornate gothic building dates from 1877, and is grade 2 listed
Note the corner tower with a French roof in green slate
The architects, Milnes and France, were responsible for many of Bradford’s better buildings including the former Swan Arcade and much of ‘Little Germany’ in town. See high up on the coat of arms the Bradford Boar.

Opposite the old police station is 2 Bavaria Place. In the 1891 census Tom Greenwood a butcher living there with his wife Janet, 3 sons, a daughter and a servant, all born in the Bradford area.

The building stone marked ‘Bavaria Place 1847’ on the wall of no.2 (right) highlights the influence of migrants from Germany in the mid-19thC. Many streets from Oak Lane to Wilmer Drive were almost entirely occupied by German-named people, as were many offices and warehouses in ‘Little Germany’ in town.

Does anyone know of other German street names around the area, or in Bradford generally?
- Hannover Square, Mannheim, Heidelberg, Bonn, Hamm.
- German Church on Great Horton Road near the College in town.

Right onto and uphill along Heaton Road.
Past former Primitive Methodist Chapel 1873 on left (now Aslams carpet shop)- as below
Then left up a private drive (with prior permission from the Tradesmen's Homes administrator and then only as far as to the first corner).

Bradford Tradesmen’s Homes

Here are 43 almshouses in private grounds – built from 1867 ‘for elderly tradesmen who could no longer support themselves’ - each has 2 bedrooms, bathroom, living room, kitchen/dining room and gas central heating - there are also 3 one bedroom bungalows. There is a chapel and social centre. Present occupants are retired and with ‘limited financial resources’. They are ‘beneficiaries, not tenants’.

A website note:
‘An excellent site was purchased at Lily Croft, Manningham, and in September, 1867 the foundation stone was laid by Sir Titus Salt, Bart., who gave the munificent sum of 2,000 guineas and this, with other donations, enabled the original design of three blocks and the Chapel to be completed, at the cost of £15,272. In addition, in 1867, the building which houses the office and administrator’s accommodation was built by Miss Rawson of Nydd Hall in memory of her father Benjamin Rawson, Lord of the Manor of Bradford. During 1877 and 1878 a fourth block of thirteen houses was erected by Mrs Eliza Wright in memory of her husband, the late Mr Isaac Wright and their son, the late Mr Henry Wright, at the cost of £5,209. Mr Cockshott Wright also gave £1,000, the interest on which was to be used to keep in repair the thirteen houses built by his mother.’

Inside the Homes’ Chapel and Community room
Return to Manningham Mills main entrance, via the 'Victoria Regina' post box (right - one can just see the 'VR' at the top) in the wall just outside the Tradesmen's Homes. On the opposite side of Heaton Road are stone built houses, where at no 44 used to live a cab driver.

Almost opposite Manningham Mill in Lilycroft Road just uphill past the current Police Station is Lilycroft Primary School (below). At the rear of this is the first open air nursery school in the country. It was opened in 1921 (plaque on gatepost). Miriam Lord was its first headteacher. It transformed the way very young children had experiences and it led the way for the establishment of other nurseries across the UK.

End of walk

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Any comments please to PeterNias@aol.com or to m.somerville@phonecoop.coop
Thank you.