

Introduction: Halifax – with perceptions and reflections from the 1950's and 60's



Much has already been written about Halifax. Many academic works have been published by eminent historians and others who are expert in a particular field of study. Equally, much has been written by those less eminent and less expert, but who are just as keen and just as dedicated in getting out the word. And of course there is the Halifax Antiquarian Society, which has regularly published volumes of its well-researched, analytical and insightful transactions since 1901. In short the resource base for Halifax is both vast in its scale, extremely varied in its subject matter and truly excellent in its content. Even so, much is still to be written – and much will no doubt be written.

Hopefully *perceptions and reflections from the 1950's and 60's* will add a touch more to the above. Not intended to be fact-filled, not intended to be deeply penetrating and not intended to reveal much that is new, the nature of content here is more socially based, people-centric and celebratory; perhaps even slightly off-beat.

The content is informed and shaped by the perceptions and reflections of four ordinary residents of Halifax. Historians they are not. But their views, opinions and understanding of what they know and have experienced is just as relevant as that of the academic. As observers and participants in everyday life and activities in Halifax their individual perceptions and reflections have validity and meaning.

Lavinia, Lily, Coops and Anthony are Halifax people. Anthony is Halifax by birth. Lavinia and then Lily, thirty years later, left their coal mining families in Castleford to take up positions at the Royal Halifax Infirmary. Coops came from The Potteries, via teacher training in Birmingham. All three fell in love with Halifax lads. And just like Anthony all three fell in love with Halifax. With a particular focus upon the 1950's and 1960's it is their perceptions and their reflections that illuminate the historical content in the following pages.