

# Greater Manchester U3A Network



TOOLBOX



## Introduction

This pack had its origin in the U3A's greater focus on research by member U3As as a learning activity, as well as a joint project between the GMU3A network and Manchester University

'Cottonopolis' was chosen as a uniting theme for this initiative as it summarises the huge impact that the sudden industrial growth of Manchester had on all aspects of society.

What you will find in this resource pack is a set of notes organised by theme under the over-arching topic of 'Cottonopolis'. They are intended to help participating U3As of the Greater Manchester U3A Network assess what they might be able to contribute, either as individuals or as groups within their respective U3As, to co-ordinated research as a learning activity which may eventually benefit from a negotiated partnership with the University of Manchester.

The themes and associated notes provided here are intended to be suggestive rather than prescriptive. They should be seen as starting points for the dissemination of ideas or as catalysts for further investigation. Hopefully they will allow interested third-agers to claim a stake in an exciting project which seeks to take advantage of our unique geographical location in the world's first industrial city.

The notes in this pack do not yet address all aspects of the topic outlined in the diagram of 'the Cottonopolis Effect' on page 4. Please feel free to compile equivalent notes for any topic which still needs developing within your own fields of interest.

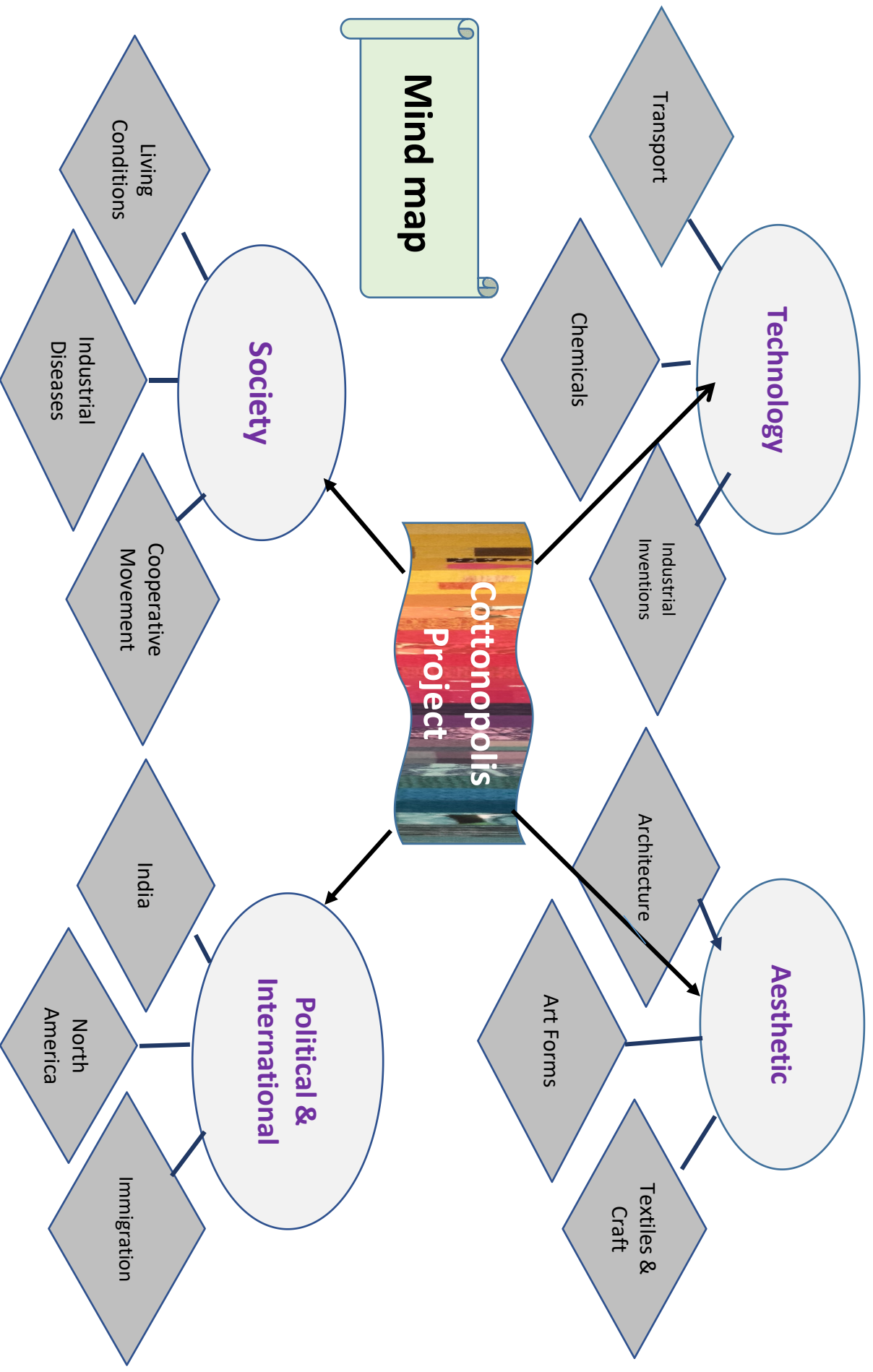
*Tony Pearson, October 2017*



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## The Cooperative Movement

**Conditions in the towns and villages that felt the impact of Manchester's growth led to the hugely popular Co-operative Movement.**

Like our present U3As, the Co-op consisted of self-determining branches led by committed and enthusiastic members

There will be co-op history in YOUR area

### **Quick results for a single group session:**

1. Do you remember your mum's co-op number
2. Where was your co-op
3. Where were other co-op shops, dairies or bakeries in the area
4. What kind of meetings/ activities did your co-op run eg lecture rooms, night classes, dances, children's outings
5. Anyone else's parents have their wedding reception at the co-op room?

Follow up session(s)

Stage one

These five points can be rounded out with photos, paper documents such as leaflets, and map extracts, from personal treasures, from the internet and from local studies sections

An additional thought: some co-ops built houses for working people, pre-social housing movement. Any in your area?

### **Stage two**

Visit(s) to co-op archives at Balloon Street

### **Stage three**

How shall we put this together?

A booklet / facebook / website

A means for continuing contribution (harder to keep up with printed work)



## **Aesthetic: Art Forms**

**A few suggested cultural milestones involving representations of Manchester which might provoke local interest among members to find out more:**

### ***Manchester Painters***

Adolphe Valette  
L S Lowry  
Roger Hampson

### ***Manchester Novelists***

Elizabeth Gaskell, 'Mary Barton', 'North And South', et al.  
Mrs G Linnaeus Banks, 'The Manchester Man'

### ***Manchester Playwrights***

Stanley Houghton ('Hindle Wakes', 1912)  
Harold Brighouse ('Hobson's Choice', 1916)  
Shelagh Delaney ('A Taste of Honey', 1958)  
Bill Naughton (active 1957 to 1992)

### ***Popular Music***

The Twisted Wheel, The Oasis, The Jungfrau, The Hacienda  
Tony Wilson's Factory Records  
The Northern Soul scene  
The Hollies, Oasis, The Smiths

### ***Classical Music***

The Halle Orchestra, Barbirolli and Sergeant  
Manchester Camerata  
Free Trade Hall and Bridgewater Hall  
Manchester Composers Harrison Birtwistle Peter Maxwell Davis David Ellis  
Alexander Goehr  
Royal Manchester College of Music(1893) Royal College of Music(1920)  
Cheethams school of music  
Brass bands - connections with factories

### ***Film representations of Manchester and environs***

'Sing As We Go' (Bolton, 1934); 'A Taste Of Honey' (Salford, 1961); 'A Kind Of Loving' (Manchester, 1962); 'Spring and Port Wine' (Bolton, 1970); 'Looking For Eric' (Manchester, 2009)



### ***Television Constructions of 'northern-ness'***

Tony Warren, 'Coronation Street' (ITV, 1960 to date)  
 Paul Abbott , 'Shameless' (C4, 2004-2013)  
 Sally Wainwright, 'Scott and Bailey' (ITV, 2011-2016)  
 Sydney Bernstein's Granada Television – 'From the North'  
 'The Royle Family' (BBC, 1998-2000)  
 'Cold Feet' (ITV, 1998-2003); 'Cutting It' (BBC, 2002-2005)  
 'Clocking Off' (BBC 2000-2003)

### ***Mass Observation and Culture***

Bolton as 'Worktown': Mass Observation in the 1930s  
 Tom Harrisson, Charles Madge, Humphrey Spender and Humphrey Jennings  
 The first Newspaper The Manchester Weekly Journal published 1791

### ***Leisure Pursuits***

Wakes Weeks; Music Hall & Variety Theatre; Sport; Speedway at Belle Vue;  
 Ballroom Dancing; Pub culture;  
 Worship, churches, chapel, synagogue, Sunday School, Whit Walks  
 Stories of Public houses in Manchester in particular those closed demolished  
 or disappeared.

### ***City Architecture***

Statuary and Sculpture in GM public spaces  
 The warehouses, mills and factories of Manchester used in cotton trade



## Transport

**An investigation into how modes of transport affected your area, and how they changed over time.**

This is a huge subject - to make it manageable, divide it into phases

You will have fun being specific in your area - your canal bridges, your turnpike toll-houses and your street names will not be identical to everyone else's.

### **Example 1: Before the railways: canal, river, turnpike road, packhorse track**

**Task:** Gather in map and photographic evidence that illuminates pre-industrial and early industrial transport in your area

#### **Stage one**

Use either local maps or online free archives to identify features in your area  
Eg the earliest OS map of your area will be available free from [www.nls.uk](http://www.nls.uk), and will be very useful as a starting point for discussion

Is there a canal? When did it arrive? Is it still there / used? Any buildings, stables, warehouses, wharfs

Canal bridges are important.....they were built to accommodate rights of way that were already there when the canal arrived. Noting them in your local landscape gives pointers to what was there before the canal.

#### **Stage two**

Street, lane and road names aren't accidental....

Park Lane...whose park? What were its boundaries? Is there still a big house? Market street, Back lane, Mill Lane, Fishpool, Church Street....all may be part of a much older landscape.

Older maps and local lore can also point to field names that tell a story

Tenterfield, Southfield, Brickfield, Marlfield

Sometimes these are incorporated into later suburban road names

#### **Stage three**

How to bring findings together and tell others about them

A booklet? Facebook / website?





## Example 2

### New roads, 1920s onwards

We are all acutely aware of the impact of road development and usage  
Examine this at local level

**Which came first** - the roads or the houses / shops / factories....seems simple but when you start to pick over the sequence of events, you'll find each area has a unique set of circumstances that led to change happening. Free online maps at [www.nls.uk](http://www.nls.uk) go up to the 1930s

**Did you get a ring road in the 1930s?**

**As suburbs grew, how did most people travel?** Eg how long were journeys 40 years ago compared to today

**When did individual car ownership start to rise?**

And what about car parking

How have bus services and passenger train services changed in your area since the 1920s?

Photographs, route plans, bus shelters, tram shelters.....

**Has motorway development had an impact in your area?** What is the impact - this might be as much to do with perception and feeling, as practical issues like congestion and journey times.

What are the travel and transport issues in your area now?

**Suggestion: group visit to Manchester Transport Museum**

<http://www.gmts.co.uk/>

How to bring findings together and tell others about them

A booklet? Facebook / website?



## Textile and crafts

**We have lost touch by and large with the manual processes that were the origins of the mighty cotton industry of Lancashire.**

However, there has been a revival of interest in textile crafts of all kinds, and research shows that these kinds of activities have a positive impact on health and well-being.

We are also fortunate in having fabulous public sites and collections that reflect on the area's textile heritage.

**Springboard for ideas: visit to a venue with renowned textile associations eg Whitworth Art Gallery; Macclesfield Silk Museum; Styal Mill**

### #1 Working with fibres

Exploring the hand processing of a variety of plant and animal resources, either spinning or felting them as appropriate

Record your results as you work! Digital snaps and a bit of explanation is all it takes.

Linen - a difficult one to process as it requires long soaking and the resultant liquid is highly toxic. Raw flax can be obtained from crafting suppliers

Nettle fibre! Apparently not as painful as it sounds

<http://www.jonsbushcraft.com/Nettle%20cordage.htm>

The same website has advice for using willow and lime wood as a source of fibre, although the processing takes a few stages

Cotton fibre from craft sources - doubt many will have grown their own....

Raw silk is available from craft suppliers

Wool: lots of different choices, from hedgerow gatherings to clippings from someone's pet lamb, to buying craft materials eg combed long-staple wool intended for felting projects

Depending on how easily grossed out you are, working with pet hair is an option. The obvious choice is angora rabbit, first obtain a pet angora rabbit and comb it regularly, saving the combings.....

Many people may have a pet long-haired rabbit that could substitute

People have been known to work with cat and dog hair.....

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u2pAUAMT5l8> making a blanket from dog hair....



Skills to explore: fibre cleaning and combing, spinning, felting

Suggestion: combine different fibres and plant textures in a felted square  
Most plant fibres alone will not felt together, but sandwiching them between layers of wool will secure them.

## #2 Exploring Natural dyes

<http://www.wildcolours.co.uk/index.html> is a very useful information source

There was / is a great amount of variation in the end-products of the dyeing process, before the introduction of man-made chemical dyes. This is an opportunity to explore them.

Many commonly found products can be experimented with as dyestuffs eg onion, blackberries, raspberries, beetroot, nettles, tree barks, teabags etc etc

Great variation in dyeing results can be obtained from the same dyestuff using different mordants, and again many mordants are commonly-found household materials.

In addition the choice of fabric or fibre will produce different results using the same dyestuff.

Suggestion: choose a specific fibre or fabric and a specific couple of dyestuffs for each session

Record your work with digital snaps and a bit of explanation

### **How to share findings**

Eg sew all samples together into a patchwork hanging

Frame individual pieces

Make objects from pieces eg cushion covers

What will you do to share your project with a wider audience?

Eg Facebook / website / display in local library (if any spared)



## Ideas for topics

- Cottonopolis and its influence on the creation of the cooperative movement.
  - See Booklet
- The influence of Manchester Cottonopolis on the textile industry
  - See booklet
- What you didn't know about the Industrial Revolution of Cottonopolis in Manchester.
  - Hidden cotton mills, The migration of workers to Manchester, New occupations e.g. engravers
- The birth of leisure pursuits as a result of the industrial Revolution in Manchester
  - Music, public houses, theatres, newspapers, walking
- Leisure pursuits in Cottonopolis Manchester
  - As above
- What was like to be a child during the Industrial Revolution.
  - Written from a child's perspective – from birth to death
- Could your occupation predict your life expectancy during the 'Cottonopolis' era in rural and urban Manchester
  - Effect of cotton fibres – coal fires – factory work before Factory Acts
- Communication in Cottonopolis Manchester
  - Birth of Manchester newspapers – politics (Unions) job opportunities, advertising arts, world news etc
- Parliamentary Acts brought about by the Industrial Revolution



## Resources: Institutions

### ***Libraries, Archives and Local Studies***

Working Class Movement Library, Salford  
 Manchester Central Library  
 University of Manchester Library  
 John Rylands Library  
 Salford Library and Museums Study Centre, Peel Park  
 Touchstones, Rochdale  
 Wigan Archives and Local Studies  
 Bolton local Studies Centre  
 Bury Archives  
 Lancashire Archives, Bow Lane, Preston  
 Cheshire Archives and Local Studies, Duke Street, Chester

Each Greater Manchester Authority has at least one library with a local studies collection. Each operates differently in relation to library / museum provision in their authority - check details locally when you plan your visits.

The National Cooperative Archive, Manchester  
 Manchester Medical school  
 Manchester Evening News  
 Other local newspapers  
 ICI Archives  
 Records on trade Unions Political parties, Co-op etc held at Manchester City Council [www.manchester.gov.uk](http://www.manchester.gov.uk)  
 Daily Herald Archive (online)  
<https://blog.msimanchester.org.uk/cottonopolis-daily-herald-archive/>

Greater Manchester Mills Survey, an ongoing project, archived material held at John Rylands Library  
<http://www.library.manchester.ac.uk/search-resources/guide-to-special-collections/atoz/greater-manchester-mill-survey-archive/>

### ***Museums and Galleries***

Manchester Art Gallery  
 Whitworth Art Gallery  
 Salford Art Gallery  
 The Lowry  
 Bolton Museum & Art Gallery  
 Gallery Oldham  
 Peoples' History Museum  
 Museum of Transport  
 Museum of Science & Industry, Manchester  
 Manchester Museum Oxford Road  
 Elizabeth Gaskell's House  
 Styal Mill  
 Greater Manchester Police Museum, Newton Street  
 Museum of Transport, Cheetham Hill  
 Other Greater Manchester museums and galleries



**Theatres**

Royal Exchange Theatre

Home

Palace Theatre

Manchester Music Hall

Bolton Octagon Theatre

Bury Met



## Greater Manchester U3A Network

**The Greater Manchester Network of U3As**, formed in 2014, currently comprises *twelve* of the twenty-four U3As which exist in the Greater Manchester area, though it is open to other eligible U3As to apply to join at any time. The participating U3As are:

Bolton	Bury	Davyhulme	Hale & District
High Lane	Leigh & District	Littleborough	Oldham & District
Sale	Salford	South Manchester	Tameside

### 'Cottonopolis' Working Group contacts

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