



ON DISPLAY: Farnworth Library's history exhibition which includes a Hylda Baker polka dot dress on display in the glass case on the right

They know y'know!



COMEDY GIRL: Hylda Baker was born and bred in Farnworth



COMMENTATOR: Kenneth Wolstenholme

Museum finds way to take history to the people

BOOK borrowers popping into Farnworth Library for the latest best seller could well walk out chuckling and uttering comedienne Hylda Baker's catchphrase "She knows y'know."

For locally-born Hylda and football commentator Kenneth Wolstenholme, who also comes from the town, are both featured in a new exhibition.

Bolton Museums has launched a project to take history to the people.

And visitors to Farnworth Library can listen to Wolstenholme's famous "They Think It's All Over" World Cup commentary —

or admire one of Hylda's fabulous frocks.

The scheme is a follow-up to the success of a similar project at Westhoughton library. Sean Baggaley, Bolton Museums' keeper of social history, said it gave them an opportunity to get items out of storage and put them on show.

He said: "Getting objects from the museum collections into the local community has been an extremely rewarding experience."

"People in Farnworth have really responded to seeing items from their home town being displayed in their town. It is hoped to extend the project to other libraries where there is space."

At Farnworth, among the highlights are a polka dot dress worn by Hylda Baker as well as a moustache she used when she did her Laurel and Hardy sketches.

Hylda Baker was always described as Bolton's Marie Lloyd and became famous for her catchphrase: "She knows y'know."

She was born in Ashworth Street, Farnworth in 1909, but spent her early years in Plodder Lane.

She always said her home was in the north where folk were friendlier.

The items on show are from a collection she left to Lancashire museums when she died.

There is also a chance to hear Kenneth Wolstenholme's famous phrase on a "listening post", as well as speeches from a former Farnworth MP George Tomlinson.

"Other items include exhibits from the textile and mining industry from Farnworth," said Mr Baggaley.

There is a paper weight carved out of coal into the shape of a dog which was found on the site of a mine, plus Davy lamps, a weaver's shawl and clogs, and the old Urban District Council seal.

Those trying to trace their family trees will be interested in

some fragile notebooks from the 1780s. "These are from the time when the Duke of Bridgewater owned the mines in the area."

"His secretary has listed all the colliers' names."

"Because the paper is so fragile, we have been able to exhibit it in a glass drawer which can be seen at close quarters," said Mr Baggaley.

The exhibition space within Farnworth Library has been redecorated, temporary partitions built and new lighting installed. The new gallery offers display cases, exhibition boards, audio information and a computer presentation of hundreds of old photographs of Farnworth.

Cllr Laurie Williamson, Bolton Council's executive member for culture said: "Staff from the museum and the library worked hard to get the £11,300 grant which launched this project. The result is a space the people of Farnworth can be proud of."

Bolton Evening News

IN ASSOCIATION WITH



PRESENTS

International Spiritualist Medium STEPHEN HOLBROOK

For an evening of

CLAIRVOYANCE

Back in Bolton as part of his sell out UK tour appearing for one night only at

THE BOLTON MOAT HOUSE
Higher Bridge St, Bolton

TUESDAY, 3RD JUNE, 2003

FROM 7.30pm

Admission by ticket only • £10

Ring the events team to reserve on
0161 762 6401 • 0161 762 6434



"I act as a telephone exchange, a vehicle of communication. 99 per cent of people go away buzzing feeling elated. I am looking forward to my long awaited return to Bolton and the audience can expect to be absolutely mesmerised".
Yorkshire based Stephen Holbrook has been described as "Britain's most accurate medium". He is precise and specific with his evidence, frequently naming names and dates.



BOOK EARLY TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT

Vicky's heartache as Tia and Maria vanish

HEARTBROKEN animal lover Vicky Minion is pleading for the return of two of her prized guinea pigs.

The two unusual Himalayan guinea pigs, named Tia and Maria, were taken from their hutch in the back garden of her home off Moss Bank Way, Astley Bridge on Tuesday night.

Vicky, aged 27, still has two other guinea pigs which were not disturbed in the raid.

A neighbour saw someone leaving the garden of her home at around midnight on the night of the theft. It is

believed the rare albino animals were stolen by someone who mistakenly thought they were valuable.

But Vicky said: "Although they are an unusual breed, my particular two were not worth anything as they are not purely bred — they have blotches of off-white fur. But they are valuable to me."

The theft was reported to the RSPCA and the police.

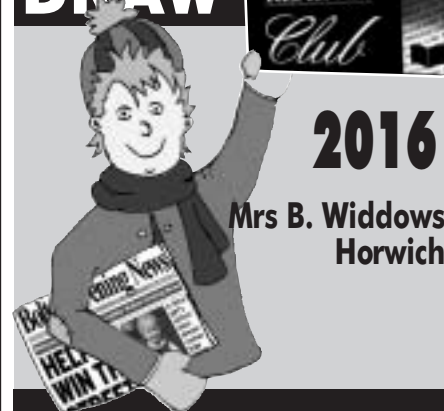
The animals are both white with black nose, ears and feet. They have red eyes and slight patches of off white fur. Vicky can be contacted on 01204 591056.

DAILY DRAW



2016

Mrs B. Widdows
Horwich



To claim your £5 gift voucher,
phone before 5.30pm tomorrow
01204 537202