

# *Cotton Famine Road Event*

Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> August 2017 12 – 4pm

Catley Lane Head Village, Rooley Moor Road, Rochdale OL12 6BN  
(just before the cattle grid as you approach the bus terminus)

*Music \* Exhibitions \* Performances \* Refreshments \* Outdoor Fun*

## The Cotton Famine Road Band Oakenhoof Folk Art Clog Dancers

*Guest Speakers & Performers*

Sue Devaney: Stage, TV & Film Actor

Tony Lloyd MP

Ian & Christine Duckworth: Mayor & Mayoress of Rochdale

Rooley Moor Neighbourhood Forum

Touchstones Creative Writing Group

Mary Findlay: Local Historian

*Exhibitions & Stalls*

Rooley Moor Neighbourhood Forum

Rooley Moor Local History Display

Whitworth Heritage Museum

Rochdale Ramblers Association

Rochdale & Bury Bridleways Assoc

Excel Falconry Birds of Prey

*Refreshments*

Lia's Cakes & Benjamin's Pizzas

*Children's Entertainment*

Face Painting & Henna Painting

Kite Flying & Skylight Circus Skills

*Bring a Kite! Bring a Picnic & a Rug! Bring your Clogs!*

[rmnf.org.uk](http://rmnf.org.uk)

*Come along and join us in a celebration of our rich history*

*RMNF gratefully acknowledge support from*

*Rochdale Borough Council, Rochdale Townships & Link4Life*

**Rooley Moor Neighbourhood Forum**

*Rooley Moor Neighbourhood Forum is a registered charity. Charity Number 1165602*

# NOW AND THEN...

Do YOU ...

Care about where you live? Want to preserve our heritage? Protect the environment and have a say in the development of our area? Yes, Then find out more about Rooley Moor Neighbourhood Forum:

- Visit our website [rmnf.org.uk](http://rmnf.org.uk)
- Visit our exhibition stalls and meet our members
- Visit the BBC's Black History Plaque
- *Join Us to Commemorate the Cotton Famine Road*



## **At the height of Britain's Industrial Revolution:**

- Rochdale's 95 Cotton Mills employed 14,000 people
- 16% of all Britain's jobs depended on cotton

## **The American Civil War and the cotton blockades of 1861 – 1865 impacted the livelihood of thousands of textile workers in the North West of England:**

- 1862 Nearly 11,000 people lose their jobs around Rochdale
- 1863 The Rochdale Poor Law Union recorded over 19,000 people receiving "Outdoor Relief"
- Soup Kitchens established alongside educational and skills training workshops for children and adults

## **Parliament passed "The Public Works Act" (Work creation projects) and work started on improving Catley Lane/Rooley Moor Road (an old 13th century pack horse and carter route linking Spotland and Bacup in Rossendale originally used for the wool trade):**

- 300,000 stone setts were laid into the ground across Rooley Moor during this time of abject poverty and starvation – this became known as The Cotton Famine Road

## **Rochdale's famed history of reform and solidarity continued throughout this period of extreme hardship:**

- 1861 – 1865 The people of Rochdale attended solidarity meetings in support of the anti-slavery movement and joined President Lincoln's fight for justice, equality and unity. Slavery was ended in the USA in 1865.

*In August 2016 - Rooley Moor Neighbourhood Forum and David Olusoga unveiled the BBC's Black History Plaque to commemorate the Rochdale millworkers who supported the struggle against slavery during the American Civil War 1861 – 1865.*