

Gaddum

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Gaddum - a brief 180 years of history

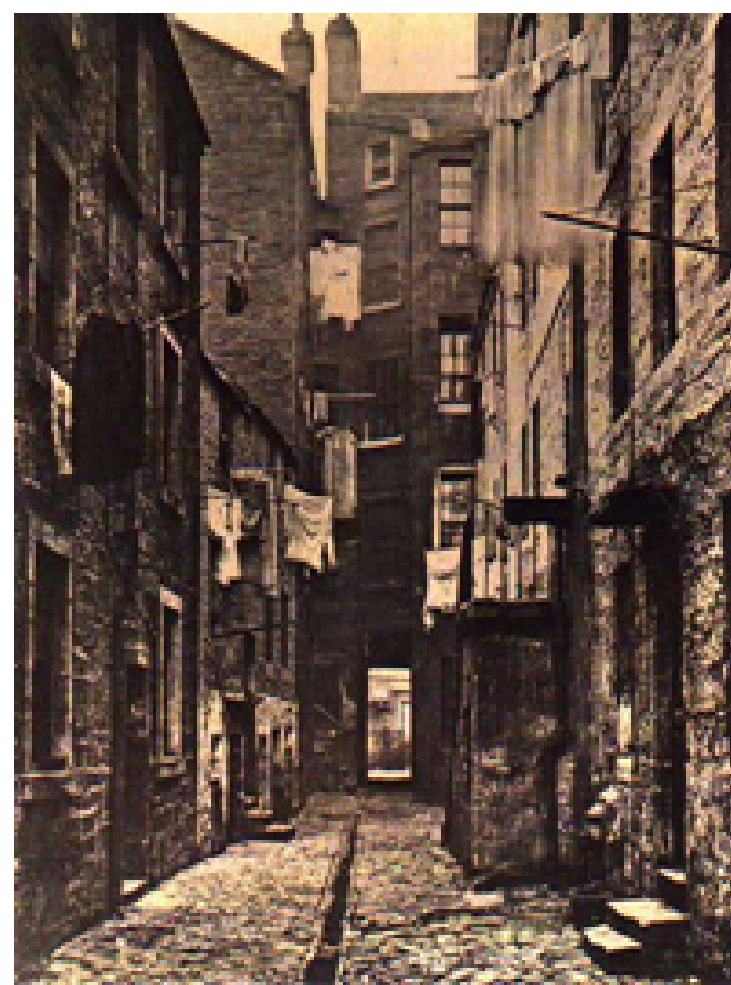
Gaddum Centre is a well-respected independent voluntary sector organisation established in 1833 with a long history of providing quality services in the field of social and health care.

Social and economic roots

In the 1830's Manchester was a centre for the cotton industry in the UK as well as being firmly part of the industrial revolution. At this time Manchester's population had grown to 125,000 people with cotton mill and industrial workers living in cramped back to back accommodation. The population had grown by 45 per cent between the census of 1821 and 1831. While this reflected rapid industrialisation and expansion of employment, it brought acute housing problems and disease in its wake.

With poor sanitation and living conditions, sickness and disease and was rampant in the population leading to the Manchester cholera epidemic of 1832. This outbreak was the event which brought the work and name of Dr James Kay Shuttleworth to public prominence.

In 1829, Kay had been appointed physician to the Ardwick and Ancoats Dispensary, that meant he was in the right place at the right time to witness the developing battle between factory master and worker which was threatening the security of the country.



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Kay quickly realised that conflict was no good to anyone; what was needed was an easing of conditions under which the working man lived. He advocated shorter working hours and better education to counteract civil unrest.

When cholera hit Manchester on 17 May, 1832, the boards of health which had been set up six months earlier found themselves with a massive battle to clean up the workers' slums. A board of health was set up, with Dr Kay as secretary, to co-ordinate the work of the city's 14 district boards, and Kay personally visited each area to investigate conditions.

What he found was reflected in his pamphlet 'The Moral and Physical Condition of the Working Classes Employed in the Cotton Manufacture in Manchester', which he produced following his efforts to control the outbreak, this became a classic text of its kind and had a tremendous effect on attitudes.

It is still read widely today as a historical record of the social conditions in Manchester at that time (see extract below).

"Banishment from the grate-ful air and the cheering influences of light, the physical energies are exhausted by incessant toil, and imperfect nutrition. Having been subjected to the prolonged labour of an animal his physical energy wasted his mind in supine inaction the artisan has neither moral dignity nor intellectual nor organic strength to resist the seductions of appetite. His wife and children, too frequently subjected to the same process, are unable to cheer his remaining moments of leisure. Domestic economy is neglected, domestic comforts are unknown. A meal of the coarsest food is prepared with heedless haste, and devoured with equal precipitation".

Dr James Kay



Dr James Kay Shuttleworth

Founding the charity

Dr Kay's work and realisation of the poverty and unhealthy conditions of Manchester formed a strong contrast to the positive perception of Manchester as the "Worlds first Industrial city". As well as being aware of the rising dissent in the city and the Chartist movement, many of the city's businessmen were realising the factory system in the mills and foundries had some deeply negative effects on the people who worked there and the conditions that resulted.

On 20 March 1833 Dr Kay and later Sir J P Kay Shuttleworth, Mr William Langton and Benjamin Heywood met and found the Manchester District Provident Society at the Mayoral Dinning rooms in the Town Hall.

William Langton was also a founder of Manchester Statistical Society (1833) gathering statistical data to relive the conditions and cause poverty within the area. He was a cashier at Heywood's bank and a close friend of Dr Kay.

Benjamin Heywood (later Sir) was an enthusiast for workers' education and was a founder of the Manchester Mechanics' Institute, serving as its president from 1825 until 1840.

Heywood briefly served as Member of Parliament for Lancashire from 1831 until 1832, receiving his baronetcy in recognition of his work in support of the 1832 Reform Bill. He was also active in the Manchester Statistical Society.

Kay, Heywood and Langton met to discuss the appalling living conditions within the city of Manchester mainly due to the introduction of power driven machinery, an influx in workers and cheap housing.

This led to the founding of the Gaddum charity called at the time the Manchester District Provident Society.



William Langton

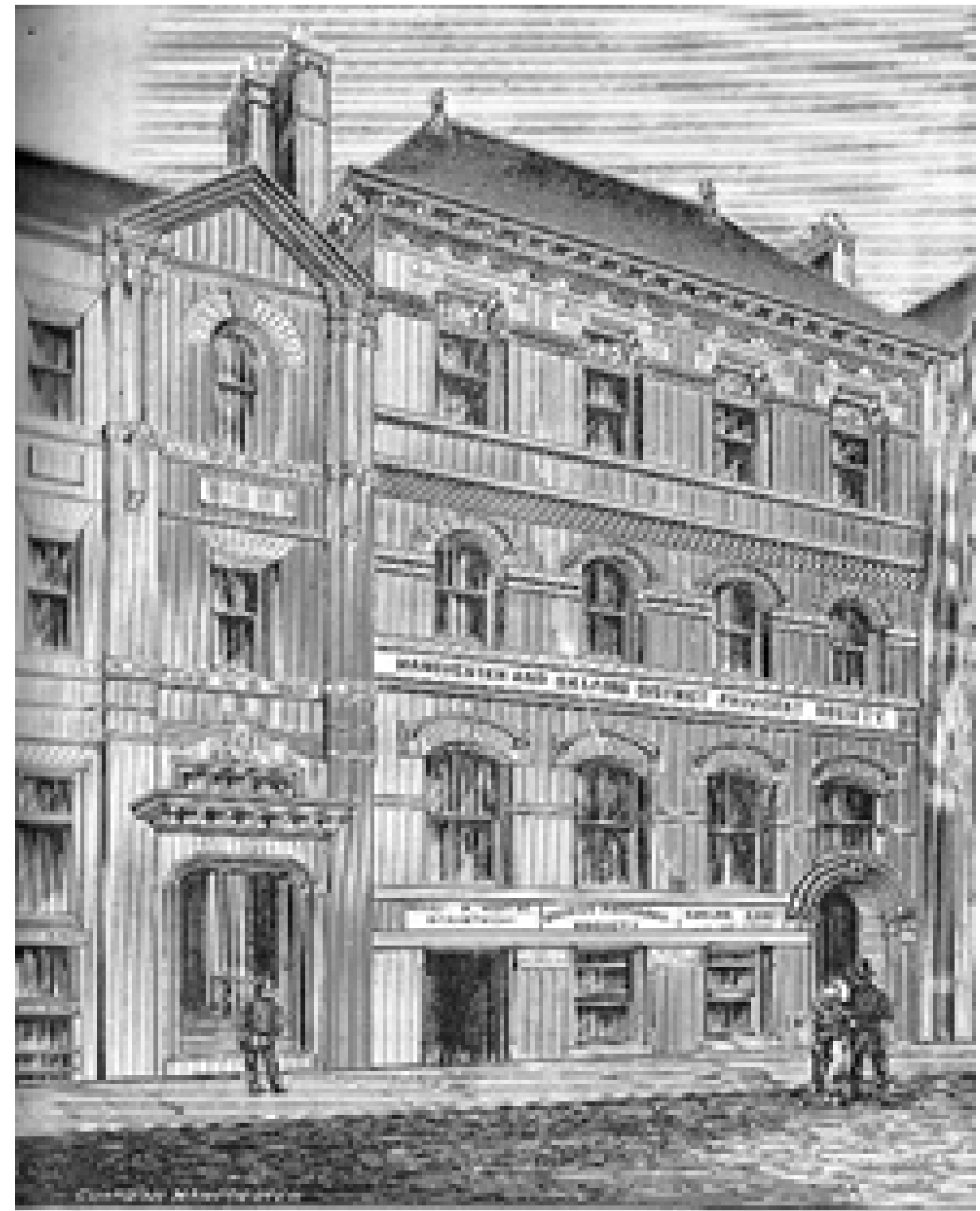


Benjamin Heywood

Their aim was to provide advice and information as well as financial relief to people in need or as they stated at the time:

"The encouragement of frugality and forethought, the suppression of mendacity and imposture, and the occasional relief of sickness and unavoidable misfortune amongst the poor."

In the first few years of its operation the society grew quickly, the committee was formed of 60 members, and the town was divided into districts with each one having its own sub committee.



DISTRICT PROVIDENT SOCIETY'S OFFICES,
MANCHESTER.

The main objective of the society was to organise house to house visits providing advice and information as well as occasional financial relief. In 1835 there was 259 "visitors" going from house to house and in the process realising the depth and impact that poverty was having in the area.

Elizabeth Gaskell was become famous for her stories of Lancashire working class life such as her first novel in 1848 - 'Mary Barton' - (subtitled - 'A Tale of Manchester Life'). The story reflected the conditions and hardships of the workers' daily lives, their living conditions and financial hardships, reflecting the huge contrast in fortunes between the mill owner and the mill worker. In the preface to the novel she wrote:

"How deep might be the romance in the lives of some of those who passed me daily in the busy streets of the town in which I resided. I had always felt a deep sympathy with the careworn men, who looked as if doomed to struggle through their lives in strange alternations between work and want." Elizabeth Gaskell

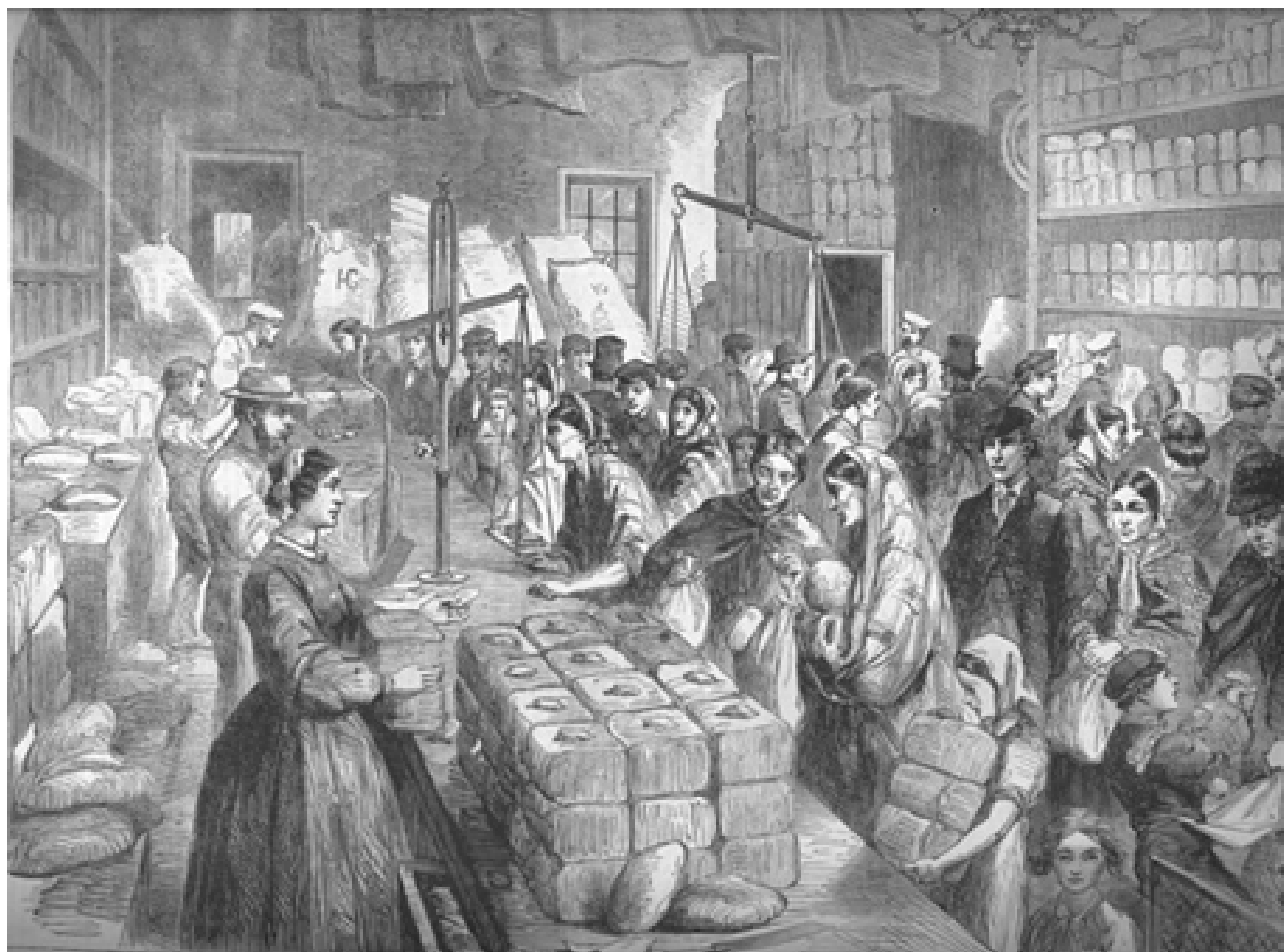
Charitable Works

The Society also undertook other practical steps to support the poor by opening "Penny Banks" in which the poor could save small amounts of money at a time for an emergency or loss of work. At one point there were 14 of these small part-time banks in operation across the city each one consisting of just 2 staff.

The Society established dispensaries in each of the sub districts where the poor could come directly for clothing, food and fuel for heating. The development of this structure meant that the Society was placed uniquely in the city to respond to the cotton famine of 1860's and the hardships that followed.

During the American Civil War the blockade of the southern ports by the Federal navy cut off the supply of raw cotton on which Lancashire's mills depended. Mill closure, short time working and mass unemployment resulted. The crisis reached its peak in November 1862, three fifths of the labour force, 331,000 men and women were idle. Many operatives, their savings exhausted, were forced to apply for charitable handouts or for relief from the poor law system.

The Charity co-ordinated the dispensing of relief across Manchester from national donations through the Lord Derby appeal. Dr James Kay now (Shuttleworth) by this time was deputy chair of the main relief committee that allocated relief money to the most hard hit areas including Manchester.



Dispensing food vouchers and aid during the cotton famine

During the famine the society set up Sewing Schools for the mill lass's and Reading Schools for the Men. The idea was that instead of just giving out money the factory workers could gain skills.

The society was soon swamped by over 14,000 referrals for relief each week and so rented a large Mill in the middle of Manchester in Garden Lane in Spinningfield just off St Mary's Parsonage. At the mill a sewing school for 150+ mill lass's was set up on the top floor with a Reading School on the middle floor while distribution of goods (food, clothes, shoes) took place on the ground floor.

At this time the society was staffed predominantly by volunteers from the "well off" classes, in particular one of the sewing school volunteers was the by now famous "Elizabeth Gaskell" - in the Gaddum Archives is a reference to a request from Mrs Gaskell for a "a stove for the sewing school so that they might warm dinners and possibly conduct cooking class's".

Mrs Gaskell makes reference to her and her daughters work at the sewing class's stating that they are at work there from 9 am getting home at 7.30pm and they are utterly exhausted by their labours.

The Gaskells voluntary work reflects the conscience of the people of Manchester and how the need for improvement in the lives of the poor should continue, and so after the famine the provident society was established as the main charity in the area providing what was in effect Manchester's first Social Services at a time before the welfare state.

Over the years, the Society adapted and evolved alongside the changing population within the city of Manchester. They provided support in times of further unemployment and hardship as well as administering specific trust funds such as one for the families and dependants of soldiers injured or killed in the Boer War as can be imagined this continued with the support of families during the first world war and second.



In 1877 the Charity opened "West Hill" Convalescent Home in Southport providing accommodation by the sea for people recovering from illness or disability away from the smoke and fumes of industrial Manchester.



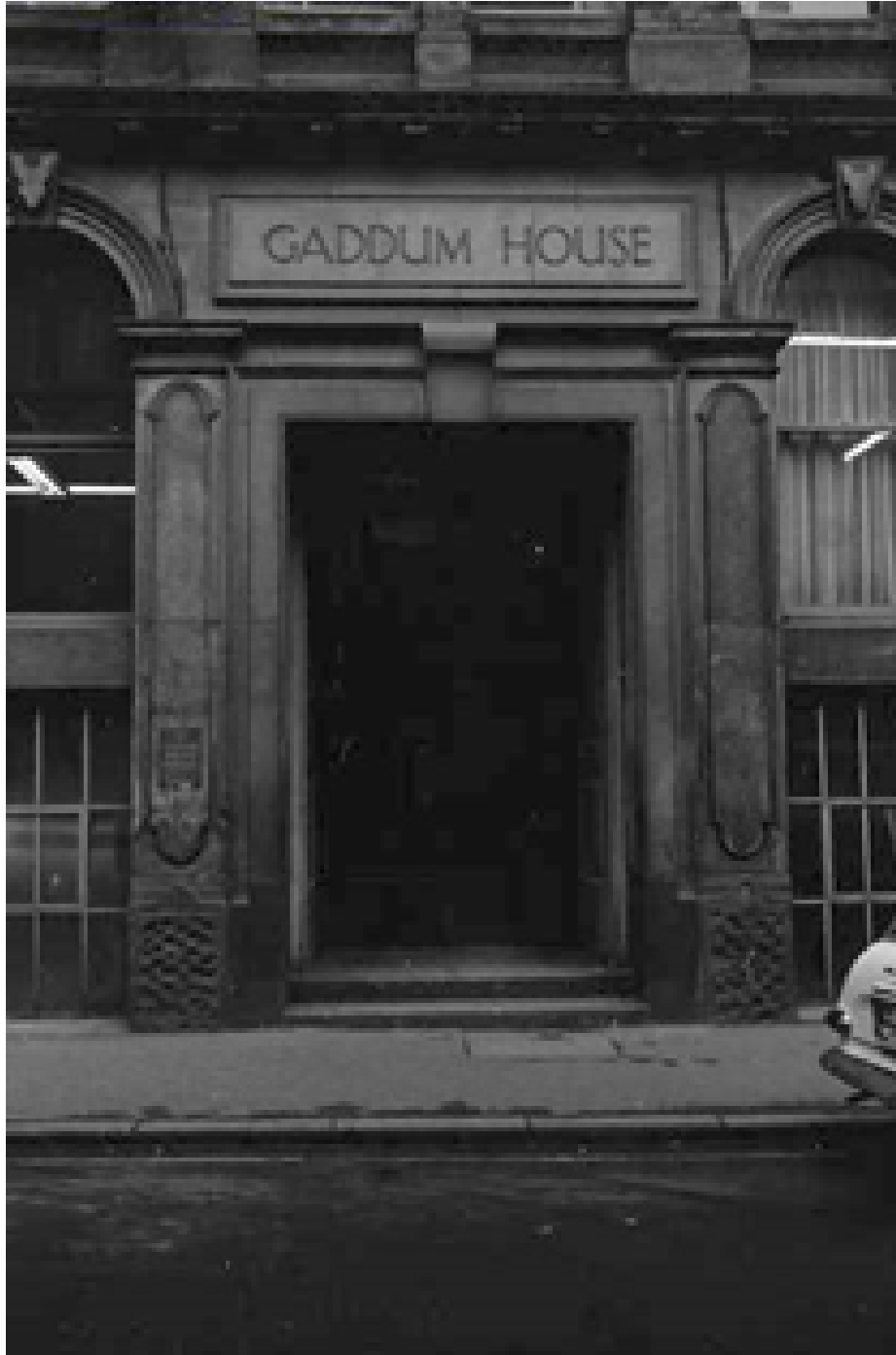
West Hill Convalescent Home

Each year over a thousand people would stay at the home after being referred by their GP to the Charity. The home's operation and maintenance was funded by voluntary contributions and fundraising events. A number of Manchester's wealthy residents would provide regular monthly or annual donations or subscribe to the charity providing a steady flow of income. The home continued in operation until the late 1950's as the demand for its service's had fallen.

In July 1936 the "Gaddum House" HQ was opened in Queen Street Manchester named after Harry Gaddum, the President of the Society.

Gaddum House was established to provide a centre for voluntary societies and a meeting place for social workers. In 1936 approximately 26 organisations had their offices there including some of the city's statutory agencies.

Over time Gaddum House became well known by outside bodies, social workers and by people needing help and advice.



The Gaddum Family had always been involved in the manufacture of textiles in Manchester and had been involved with the charity for several generations. Gaddum textiles is still in operation today supplying silk as well as hi-tec fabrics and yarns.

In 1949 The District Provident Society changed its name to the District Provident and Family Welfare Society. Following various amalgamations and changes within other groups during 1958, The DPS joined with the City League of help and became the Family Welfare Association of Manchester and Salford.

In 1973 Gaddum House was sold and the occupants moved to a new building on Deansgate, which was called Gaddum Centre. The name Family Welfare Association of Manchester and Salford soon became Family Welfare Association in everyday usage and this was acknowledged in the official change of name in 1994.

In 1990 Gaddum Centre 274 Deansgate was discovered to have serious structural faults and the building had to be closed. All the occupants then moved to various locations in the city and the FWA eventually found the current building on Great Jackson Street, which the landlord allowed to be called Gaddum House. For a range of reasons the name FWA had to be reviewed and in 1999 it was agreed to change the name officially to Gaddum Centre.

In 2005 we purchased the building on Great Jackson Street and in addition to our staff we have five tenants who are voluntary sector organisations thus nearly turning the clock back to 1936.

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Gaddum House today - 6 Great Jackson Street

Gaddum Centre has managed to survive for over 175 years due to its ability to adapt to changing needs of the people of the area. It also seeks to find out how to provide the most efficient and appropriate service's for the communities in need, and so the need for the charity's existence is still as relevant as it was in 1833.

The Charity still provides financial grants from its trust funds to people in need to relieve poverty as well as providing free advice and information via a helpline. These are core aspects of the charities operation that there is still a great need for across Manchester. Within a 3 mile radius of the charity are some of the most deprived areas in the country where some wards have up to 99% of children living below the poverty line - (Govt Statistics 2007). The need for charitable work within Greater Manchester remains high particularly at a time of financial recession.

Please get in touch if you would like to know more about our history or have a particular enquiry – call 0161 834 6069. Gaddum also has a number of historical documents lodged in the National Archives.

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