Not a brush in sight. In October 1964, six members of Salford Corporation Cleansing Department swapped their brushes and shovels for American-built, petrol-driven suction machines. The machines share a family resemblance to Noo-noo, the vacuum cleaner in Ragdoll Productions’ TV series *Teletubbies*.

Clive Hardy
Manchester United fans return home from Wembley following the Red Devils’ 4-1 victory over Benfica in the European Cup on 29 May 1969.
Introduction

The idea to compile this book came about during discussions as to whether we should reprint *Around Manchester in the 50s & 60s* which we had published in 2003. It took just a few minutes for us to knock that idea on the head; the main reason being that many of the photographs had appeared in several other publications and quite frankly they’d been done to death. We then decided to split the book in two – *Around Manchester in the 1950s* and *Around Manchester in the 1960s* – allowing us to publish several hundred additional images. There are at least 350 in this volume alone.

The book follows our usual scheme. It is divided into topic-related sections, each of which may or may not have images from Manchester, Salford, Stockport, Bolton, Bury, Oldham, Widnes, Wigan, Rochdale or various points in between all mixed together. The exceptions to this are in the sections *Funny Game Football* and *Grandstand?* Here images relating to Bury FC, Bolton Wanderers, Manchester City, Manchester United, Rochdale FC, Widnes RLFC, Wigan RLFC, Leigh RLFC etc., are in individual subsections.

The first section, *Tin Baths II*, continues from where we left off in *Around Manchester in the 1950s*. Slum clearance continues at a pace around the area. However, even before some developments have been completed, the signs are there that high-rise is not turning out to be the revolution in social housing that planners and architects thought it would be. High-rise was politically expedient – and cheap – but many tower blocks turned out to be a nightmare for their tenants. Once close-knit communities were ripped apart as neighbours, friends and extended families were scattered. The noise you might have got from neighbours either side of you in a row of terraces could now come from either side, as well as below and above – and possibly from people you no longer knew. No one seemed to take responsibility for public space with the result that many landings became litter traps, stairwells and lifts stank of urine. The Corporation Cleansing Department were not going to take on the job, and the very nature of the new blocks put off many tenants from doing it for themselves. People who had lived close to their place of work now found themselves living miles away, though as early as 1965, Rochdale had started to build blocks in the town centre.

That there were problems with some of the new building techniques employed during construction came home to roost during 1969, when a gas explosion in one flat caused an entire corner of the twenty-three storey Ronan Point tower block to collapse.

The next section, *Growing up in the Sixties*, takes a look at school, play, Whit Walks and Christmas. The Sixties was the decade when business woke up to the fact that there was a whole new market out there – the teenager. Clothes, music, books, films, TV (*Top of the Pops*, and *Ready, Steady, Go!* and radio – “*Radio Caroline on 199!*”) was probably the first decade that teenage girls did not wear clothes like their mothers. Minis, jeans with fly-front zips, PVC jackets and caps defined the generations.

*World of Work*, looks at coal mining, Trafford Park, Manchester Docks, Beyer, Peacock & Co, textiles, and so on. There are several images of industrial disputes, including that at textile machinery manufacturers Arundel-Coulthard, Chestergate, Stockport. This was a company where there had never been any industrial unrest, that is until it was taken over by the Americans. See page 45 for the full story.

*On the Move*, looks at transport during the Sixties. New motorways, the increase in car ownership – from 5.6 million in 1960 to 11.8 million by the end of the decade. In 1965 a Morris Minor Traveller cost £583 and a Rover 2000 cost £1298, though the defining cars of the decade were the Mini and the E-type Jaguar.

By the end of the Sixties, 600 miles of motorways were available to thrash them on. We also look at the expansion at Manchester Airport, electrification of the railways and the battle between British Railways and British European Airways for passengers on the lucrative Manchester-London-Manchester routes. The section isn’t all smiles as we have included a couple of pages of images taken in the aftermath of the Stockport air disaster and given similar treatment to the train crash at Cheadle Hulme on 28 May 1964.

*People and Places* looks around the area. There are images taken around Manchester such as the Kardomah in Market Street. It was the decade when going out for a meal took off. Berni Inns, the Forte chain and Pizza Express were launched. In 1965 a Pizza Margherita would have cost you 5/6d (27.5p) and a bottle of red house wine a staggering 14/6d (72.5p). A Wimpy brunch cost 4/9d (24p) and their special grill 5/9d (29p).
The section includes some famous faces of the time. We have Tory leader Ted Heath having a Christmas splurge before heading back to London. We also have Sir Oswald Moseley on the stump at Alexandra Park and Prime Minister, Sir Alec Douglas-Hume, at the Bear Pit, Stockport. Irish MP Bernadette Devlin is pictured at Manchester University and Cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin is seen with Sir Bernard Lovell at Manchester Town Hall. The difficult part comes at the end – The Moors Murders.

Grandstand? Looks at athletics, boxing, cricket, tennis, horse racing and rugby league. Funny Game Football covers some of the League clubs in the area as well as the then non-league side Wigan Athletic.

In Rock, Pop, Rhythm & Blues, we have images including Georgie Fame, the Mudlarks, Eden Kane, the Beatles at Wigan ABC and the ABC Ardwick. Freddie and the Dreamers, Dave Clarke Five, the Rolling Stones, BeeGees, Wayne Fontana and the Mindbenders, the Hollies, Cilla, and the Monkees. That British groups went on to dominate the US music scene is probably due to a girl by the name of Marsha Albert who wrote to disc jockey Carol James and asked him to play the Beatles’ I Want to Hold Your Hand. It took off and the rest, as they say, is history. Soon, if British bands were not touring the UK, they were away touring the US. The Dave Clarke Five sold one million records a month during their first six months and were the first UK group to undertake a tour of the USA. The Rolling Stones, classed as the bad boys of the British pop invasion, played a mix of blues, R&B and delta blues and along with the Animals and the Yardbirds reintroduced it into mainstream American music.

The last section, That’s Entertainment, includes a series of images taken on the Coronation Street set at Granada.

Just a word of two about prices and costings in the book. They are given in pounds, shillings and pence with the metric equivalent in brackets where necessary. However, you will need to use the inflation calculator to bring them up to 2017 levels. For example, an item costing £1.10s.0d (£1.50p) in 1962 needs to be multiplied by 20.11 to bring it to its 2017 cost of £30.16 – you might need to round up or down. During the 1960s, prices could be written several ways but they all meant the same, so £1.10s.0d (£1.50p) could be written as £1/10/0 or £1/10/- or 30/- (£0.30) (thirty shillings), similarly 6s.9d (34p) could be written as 6/9d, or 69p.

Conversions are: 6d = 2.5p; 1 shilling = 5p; half-a-crown or 2s.6d or 2/6d = 12.5p; 5s.0d or 5/- = 25p; 10s.0d or 10/- = 50p; £1.0s.0d or £1/-/- = 100p. By the late-60s specialist outlets as well as family-run corner shops could trade on Sundays. In some of the advertisements reproduced in the book, some prices are given in guineas. A guinea was 21/- (twenty-one shillings) or £1.1s.0d (£1.50p) and a half guinea was 10s.6d or 10/6 (52.5p). So, three guineas £3.3s.0d (£3.15p) would be written either as 3gns or 3Gns. In 1969 a 3ft wide divan bed could be bought for seven and a half guineas equating to £7.17s.6d (£7.88p). To find its 2017 equivalent multiply £17.88 by 15.66. The inflation calculator for the decade is: 1960 21.01; 1961 20.80; 1962 20.11; 1963 19.28; 1964 18.91; 1965 18.30; 1966 17.46; 1967 16.81; 1968 16.40 and 1969 15.66. Have fun.

As we always state, these books are not academic works nor do we cover everything. So, put the cat out and the kettle on. Sit back, turn the pages and enjoy our look at what was and is Around Manchester in the 1960s.

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Tin Baths part II

Terraced houses in Hulme probably towards the end of 1961. The image was published several times in the *Manchester Evening News*, especially during the 1970s when the city was debating whether it ought to improve rather than demolish unfit housing. By the end of 1967, it was estimated that in England and Wales there were 5million people living in 1.8million slums unfit for human habitation. A further 12million people were thought to be living in homes fit for habituation but lacking one or more basic facilities such as a bathroom, an inside toilet, mains sewerage, or their own water supply.

Number Two Court, Dickinson Street, Oldham, 1 June 1962.
This photograph, taken in Northenden during 1962, depicts a typical communal backyard often associated with slum housing. The scene would have been played out all over the UK, especially in its industrial heartlands. The toilet block is behind the lady pegging out her washing. If you were lucky your family had its own toilet, if unlucky then you shared with one or more other families. If not lagged, the pipes would freeze in winter and it was no joke tramping out to the loo in the freezing rain in the middle of the night. Toilet paper choices were Izal – which doubled as tracing paper - or squares of old newspaper hung by a piece of string from a nail. A tin bath hangs on the wall behind the other lady.

On bath night, the tub would be dragged indoors and placed in front of the fire. It was not unusual to take turns. A jug or two of hot water might be added at the change-over, otherwise everyone used the same water. Then came the fun of emptying the damn thing. Kids of today would be horrified at not being able to lock themselves in a cosy, heated bathroom.

Facebook Memories

Steve Pownall – I was born on Dickinson Street court and appeared in a documentary with my mother Joyce Pownall. My sister and I were filmed when we were very young having a bath in a tin tub. The houses had toilets at the very bottom of the court.

Mark Wheeler – I remember my grandmother’s outside loo – and the pipes bursting in the winter when it got really cold! And then there was the Izal toilet paper. It really was like grease-proof paper!

Linda Thompson – We used to follow the coal lorry back to its depot in Moss Side, picking up pieces of coal as they fell off and put them in an old child trolley to take home.

Ian Elliott – I remember going with my Mam’s wash-house pram for coal bricks and coal nuts from a local coal yard – now the Midway Hotel in Levenshulme.
And now for something completely different. John Worthington spent the winter months of 1967-68 building this 16ft cabin cruiser on the roof at the back of his terraced house in Salford. Pictured with him are his wife Beryl and their son Robert. Must have been fun getting it down.

Facebook Memories

William Walker – My Dad was a chimney sweep and would ride his bike with his rods tied to the crossbar and sacks of soot on the handle-bars.

John Richardson – Grandad used to tell me about how the whole family shared the bath on bath night. Didn’t want to be last!

Jim Etherington – Everyone looked out for each other in the old streets. We all knew each other and knew when folk were ill or needed help.
Spring 1968 and the £4million housing development at Hulme is progressing to schedule. The focal point of the development by architects Hugh Wilson and J Lewis Womersley, was four south-facing crescents, consisting mainly of a mix of two and three bedroom maisonettes. Womersley had designed the award-winning Park Hill flats at Sheffield, a development hailed at the time by architects, planners and sociologists alike as one of the most significant housing schemes for decades.

Yet even as the Hulme redevelopment gathered momentum, trouble was brewing over at Park Hill. Things were not going to plan. Stairwells stank of urine, walkways had become litter traps, vandalism was rife and structural problems were already emerging as steelwork rusted and concrete began to crumble. Within a very short time Park Hill was renamed by its residents – they preferred to call it San Quentin.

Work on the 500-home Coverdale Crescent development began in the late 1960s. As with similar architectural masterpieces of this type, Coverdale Crescent soon acquired a nickname – in this case Fort Ardwick. As a housing project, it was a disaster. Only thirteen years after its completion, a structural survey revealed there had been a considerable amount of water penetration from the flat roofs and access decks and steel fixings were corroding at an alarming rate, causing concrete to crumble.