

**1873.**

Stockport Vocal Union formed.

Sunday funerals discontinued at Stockport Cemetery.

Edgeley Wesleyan Chapel opened—March 5. It replaced a Chapel opened November 1, 1854, which had been built on site of old Chapel, opened March 22, 1818.

The Institute for the Blind, Deaf and Dumb, St. Petersgate, opened. The foundation stone was laid September 14, 1872, by Miss Louisa Walthew, the blind daughter of Mr. John Walthew, the then Mayor of Stockport.

**1874.**

Chestergate Primitive Methodist Chapel opened.

Voting by ballot became law. Nominations for Parliamentary candidates had to be made by writing instead of publicly on the "hustings" in the Market Place.

**1875.**

Stockport [Free Library (over the Market Hall), Market Place opened—September 20.

Ecclesiastical Parish of Stockport divided into two parts—the Parish of St. Mary and the Parish of St. Thomas, a district being assigned to St. Peter's. (Since then further divisions have taken place.)

**1876.**

Heaton Norris Recreation Ground (purchased from Lord Egerton of Tatton) opened—June 5. It covers 16 acres.

**1877.**

The "Maner Place," the Stockport residence of the Lord of the Manor, Newbridge Lane, known as "The Old Farm," a fine half timbered house, taken down in consequence of improvements to the highway.

St. Paul's Church, Heaton Moor, consecrated—January 25.

St. John's Church, Offerton, opened—April 22.

Willow Grove Cemetery, first interment—November 19.

L. & N.-W. Railway Company's Heaton Norris Goods Warehouse destroyed by fire—November 22. Damage £250,000.

Decision to erect a Hospital for Infectious Diseases at Dialstone Lane.

Footbridge between Newbridge Lane and Portwood re-erected.

**1878.**

Portwood Cattle Ground and Cleansing Department opened.

Exhibition of pictures by past and present Stockport artists in the Mechanics' Institution—September 4.

Portwood Gasworks opened—November 14. The first gasworks were established by a private company in Millgate in August, 1821, when only the Market Place and its surroundings were supplied by a four-inch pipe. Public street lighting only came into force in 1825, when four gas lamps were put in the Underbank and one in Bridge Street, which was then the principal road in the town. In 1835 a private company purchased the Heaton Lane Gasworks, which was started as an opposition venture. Both the Millgate and Heaton Lane Gasworks were purchased by the Corporation on January 4, 1839.