



Fact Sheet Number 14.

The Piece Hall

The following information should start you on your journey into the past

If you walk out of The Piece Hall up towards the Westgate Public House look up at the bell tower topped by a weathervane and decorated with a fleece. This is in part because of the original purpose of the Piece Hall, to sell pieces of woollen cloth it also reflects the importance of wool in Halifax's history.

Turn to your left and look at the wall of the Piece Hall.

Here can be seen what is said to be the handprints of a murderer!

The story says that sometime in the nineteenth century a murderer was fleeing from pursuit. He ran down Westgate and placed his hands on the then very grimy walls of the Piece Hall, leaving stark white prints which, for some reason, never got black again. The 1976 restoration of the Piece Hall saw the removal of the grime that was embedded in the stone. However, one handprint can still be seen fairly clearly.

Go out with a portable recorder and interview people going into the Piece Hall and ask if they know about the handprint and what they think it is.

Then tell the above story

Refer to worksheets on using Zoom Recorder / Adobe Audition / studio equipment