

The Manchester Guardian celebrates its 100th birthday

It was a double celebration for the Manchester Guardian newspaper on 5th May 1921. Not only was it celebrating one hundred years since the first copy was printed, but also fifty years since the editor C. P. Scott came from Oxford to its office.

Have a look at the Guardian's website for photographs of the [Manchester Guardian staff](#) taken specially for the centenary in 1921

The newspaper was founded in 1821 by John Edward Taylor, a cotton merchant, whose intention it was to establish '*...a liberal reformist voice in the aftermath of the Peterloo Massacre*'

The 100th anniversary edition, which was widely publicised in the weeks beforehand, was published on 5th May 1921 and cost 2d. to buy. The special edition contained:

- The normal daily paper.
- An additional 92 pages covering the history of the paper and a copy of its first edition from 1821.
- [A coloured cover](#) depicting the old Manchester Exchange and the Manchester Guardian buildings in 1821.
- A portrait of CP Scott.
- A reproduction of a print of the Battle of Peterloo which was the main political event which gave birth to the Manchester Guardian.
- "A Hundred Years" written by the editor, C. P. Scott, to celebrate the occasion, which is still used as the foundation for the Guardian today, and is recognised around the world as '*...the blueprint for independent journalism.*'

The newspaper was renamed in 1959 to 'The Guardian' which is the name we all recognise today.

'...we think the "Manchester Guardian" is, on the whole, the most remarkable and enviable achievement yet seen in any country since journalism was. It was born on the day of Napoleon's death. Its centenary was celebrated last week with honours quite unexampled...'

The Observer, Sunday 8th May 1921, Page 12.

Sources

- <https://www.theguardian.com/gnmeducationcentre/2015/may/01/manchester-guardian-centenary-celebrations-gnm-archive-teaching-resource-may-2015>
- <https://www.newspapers.com/image/257714987/>

Cover of the 1921 Centenary Edition

Source: <https://static.quim.co.uk/ni/1430300448066/Cover-of-the-1921-centenary.pdf>

The Manchester Guardian Centenary Number



1821
1921

"... It will zealously enforce the principles of civil and religious Liberty, in the most comprehensive sense of those terms; it will warmly advocate the cause of Reform; it will endeavour to assist in the diffusion of just principles of Political Economy; and support, without reference to the party from which they emanate, whatever measures may, according to the matured and unbiased judgment of its Conductors, tend to promote the moral advantage, or the political welfare, of the Community. . . ." [Prospectus announcing the first number of *The Manchester Guardian* on the 5th of May 1821.]