

Earby Chronicles



Edition 70
www.earbyhistory.co.uk

AUTUMN 2013

SOCIETY AIMS:
to raise awareness,
foster an interest
and facilitate
research into the
heritage of Earby &
district including
Thornton in
Craven, Sough,
Kelbrook, Harden,
Hague and
Salterforth.

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MEADOW BUTTERCUPS

A nostalgic look back at the wild flower meadows of my childhood
Stephanie Carter

I have long lamented the disappearance of the magical hay meadows, with their kaleidoscope of colour, so commonplace in my childhood. In June, prior to hay-time, the wild flowers used to blossom in profusion, yellow rattle, purple vetch, knapweed, self-heal, birds-foot-trefoil, shepherd's-purse, rock rose, daisies, meadow buttercups and red and white clover, to name but a few. As a child I made necklace chains from the daisies and used to suck the sweetness from the clover petals.



**One of David Wood's Buttercup
Meadows off Gaylands Lane Earby 2013**

From North Holme, the walks with my sisters always seemed to be dominated by the flowers, which we used to gather and either bring home for mother to put in little jars or take to adorn the classroom altars of our convent school. In the spring by the beck there were celandines with their petals of burnished gold, mayflowers, primroses on grassy banks, and in a little stream above a small waterfall there were kingcups or marsh marigolds as we called them. Off we went down the old lane towards the Rec. and up Stanley's lane to the high pasture. These

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lanes and their hedges were overflowing with flowers, red campion, stitchwort, speedwell, sweet violets, cow parsley and wild roses in profusion. Sometimes we daringly went over the wall on to the railway embankment, where we hid from the passing steam trains amongst the riotous willow herb, the wild geraniums and meadow sweet. The traditional ways of making hay allowed the flowers to seed and I recall sitting on the grassy banks amidst the harebells watching the sweet scented hay being gathered in.

Now the lanes are overgrown and many of the flowers have disappeared. With the changing patterns of farming and hay-making, and the early cutting for silage, most of the traditional hay meadows vanished. In a bid to aid their restoration, the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust has initiated the "Hay -Time Project" and the "Flowers in the Dales" Festival, so one can still see again, in special places in the Dales, the wondrous sights of wild flower meadows, which were commonplace in my childhood.

This year however we have all been able to feast our eyes on the blazing yellow fields of buttercups. Buttercups favour wet soils and we have had plenty of rain; they reduce the grass yields and are not beloved by farmers. But to me they have given a thrill and brought back memories of the summers of long ago.

THE RANCH HERITAGE EXHIBITION

Sunday 28th July 2013 with Ken Ranson

Early in 2012 the seed was sown to hold an exhibition telling of the history of North Holme estate, know locally as The Ranch. Nothing transpired for a long while until during the course of a committee meeting the subject was broached again and the decision was made to hold the event in Spring 2013.

The basis of the exhibition was to try and instil in the residents of today a sense of pride in the history and heritage of the estate. We had quite a bit of information derived from The Ranch web site and from member Peter Dawson who left school to go and work on building the prefabs (as the original houses were called). They were prefabricated buildings made from asbestos-cement sheeting. A long-time resident of the estate and one time member of the residents association, Steven Marshall, was co-opted to help with the planning of the exhibition.

The research got off to a good start by Stephanie Carter finding copies of the minutes of Earby UDC in Barnoldswick library, which told of the original planning of the estate. A visit to the record office at Preston by a group of committee members unearthed much more information.

The exhibition was based around a series of "boards" showing various stages of the evolvment of the estate, Steve Marshall had had experience with these before and so was able to guide us through their composition and finally their manufacture which made for a very professional looking exhibition. But the highlight of the exhibition was a model of a prefab made by Peter Dawson which had so much incredible detail.



The event was advertised in the local newspapers and flyers were posted throughout the estate. Any apprehension as to how well attended the event would be was soon dispelled as a constant stream of people arrived throughout the day and not only called in but most “stayed”.

Special guests included the Deputy Mayor of Pendle and his Mayoress and Mr John O’Toole who had been the chairman of the Earby housing committee when the new houses were built on the estate and a photo re-enactment of him digging “the first sod” was made.



**Mr J O’Toole cutting the first sod in 1951
for the new houses which would replace
the prefabricated bungalows**



**Left to right:
Bob Abel, Steve Marshall, Ken Ranson, John
O’Toole, Peter Dawson, Deputy Mayoress Joanna
Sagar, Deputy Mayor Graham Roach**

It was a wonderful day with lots of reminiscing and swapping of photographs, but the one thing that stuck in my mind was the laughter.

At some point in time all the information discovered will be put on The Ranch section of the web site.

HAPPENINGS IN EARBY 100 YEARS AGO JULY-SEPTEMBER 1913

Culled from the Craven Heralds

July

On 4th July, 900 Sunday School children processed through the town, whilst on the 9th all the schools were closed for His Majesty’s visit to Colne.

August

“Accident or malice? On Monday 8th August the operatives in Earby were at play, owing to a shortage of water. Either accidentally or maliciously the sluice had been opened and the water allowed to escape. In consequence of this a large number of residents had the opportunity of visiting the Royal Show at Burnley”.

“The Picture Palace

Even Earby has not lost the “picture craze”, as was evidenced by the crowds of people who attended the performance on Monday night at the new Empire Theatre, under the management of Mr Howe, late of Keighley. The company is styled Earby Empire Co. Ltd. and quite a number of the townspeople have an interest in it financially. It is a very imposing building and a nightly performance is to be held, increased to two on Saturdays. It is most tastefully decorated and luxuriously furnished.”

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“Motor char-a-banc tours are now becoming very prevalent and Earby is not behind the times. On Monday Mr A Gentle of Earby conducted large numbers to Burnley, on Sunday to Ripon and Fountains Abbey and on the preceding Sunday he conducted a party to Buxton. This is now a very pleasant mode of travelling, and no doubt Earby people will take advantage of the facilities afforded them”.

A piece of ground was identified on which to form a proposed tennis club.

Death of oldest resident – Mr James Dodgson, aged 94, of 28 Water Street. Born in West Marton, he came to Earby at the age of 20 as a blacksmith at premises at Lane Ends, Skipton Road.

September

Death of well known manufacturer Charles Shuttleworth in a nursing home in Leeds following an operation.

A party of strolling players gave a dramatic entertainment of the play “The Trilby” in the Coronation Hall. This was the first occasion that Earby had been visited by a travelling theatrical company, as previously there had been no accommodation. The performance was very well attended.

500 people attended the opening of the new billiard hall, erected by Messrs. Holt of Burnley, in New Road. The proposed Band Club in New Road is to cost £1000.

EARBY 50 YEARS AGO JULY-SEPTEMBER 1963

Again from the Craven Herald

July

“Earby goes on Holiday”- Thundery weather marked the start of Earby holidays. Railway staff spoke of the usual lure of Blackpool whilst the Isle of Man was more popular this year. Other places included Butlins at Filey and Pwllheli in North Wales, Morecambe, Scarborough and Paignton. There were also day coach excursions to the East and West coast resorts.

It was reported that the Roman Catholic priest, Father Roche, was to leave Earby for Heckmondwike after a popular 10 year Ministry.

August

A proposal was put forward to erect flats for elderly people on the Valley Road site.
Miss Turner opened the Field Day at All Saints church.
New tennis courts were open for play on the Holme Playing Fields.
Norman Goodwin and his wife were killed on a fishing trip to the Lake District.

September

Kelbrook Young Farmers held their Annual Show. 13 year old John Bowker of Raike Bank Farm went home laden with trophies after his most successful show ever.

OUR NORTHERN MILLS

By Nigel Grizzard, Chief Executive. Our Northern Mills



The Background:

The North of England has thousands of textile mills. Where-ever you go in West Yorkshire, Greater Manchester and Lancashire, you're not far from a textile mill. Up until 2008, the re-development of mills was going forward at a great pace. Mills were being turned into business centres, workspaces, flats and a whole

range of uses. Then the crash came and everything stopped, projects were abandoned, developments forgotten and these buildings which reflected Britain's great industrial past stood there on the horizon, not used and not ready for demolition.

Two years ago a group of us came together at Salts Mill in Saltaire, at the Cafe Opera, three floors above the 1853 Gallery, to form **Our Northern Mills**. Round the table a group debated the merits of saving these fantastic buildings. We realised there was a task ahead that we needed to seize and it was a multi-faceted approach.

In the past I had run Mill Regeneration Conferences for nearly twenty years in mill towns and cities as diverse as Leek in Staffordshire, Bolton in Lancashire, Gainsborough in Lincolnshire and Bradford in West Yorkshire. I had also run mill conferences in both Northern Ireland and the Irish Republic.

At these events we discussed regeneration, refurbishment and rebuilding, what had gone on in these buildings wasn't our concern; textiles was the past, we were interested in the new future.

But now we had to move forward and to do that we had to start remembering and understanding that past. A past of great industries, not just in terms of textile manufacturing in all its forms, but the engineering and other allied firms that went with the textile industry.

So **Our Northern Mills** has started its journey.

Achievements so Far:

In November 2012 we heard from the Heritage Lottery Fund that we had been awarded a grant for our project Threads and Tales through the All Our Stories grant programme. It gave us the kick-start we needed to get ONM moving.

Our grant was to support us documenting and sharing the stories of local mills and textile workers in Greater Manchester, where we are visiting five different mill communities.

Future Plans

On Wednesday September 11th, 2013 at the University of Huddersfield, we are holding our first Our Northern Mills Conference. The day will look at regeneration schemes that are currently happening and how we can kick-start mill regeneration. We also will be looking at the important links between mill regeneration and textile heritage. The brochure for the conference is on our website.

On our journey we have been contacted by mill researchers, mill regenerators and heritage groups who are involved in textile mills. There is a great deal of interest in this field

and our task now is to acquire the funding to drive forward our work.

We intend to run a number of Our Northern Mills events in venues across the North of England and in Scotland and we are keen to meet and discuss opportunities with groups and organisations who want to join us as partners.

Longer term we have an aim to acquire a Mill as fitting premises for Our Northern Mills, so if there are any Mill properties out there that we could acquire, refurbish and reuse as a headquarters we'd like to hear about them.

To achieve this aim, we have to grow Our Northern Mills and we believe there is the goodwill and the funding available to allow us to achieve our goals.

The key way we see driving Our Northern Mills forward is through talking to people, so if you want to get involved, contact us!

Nigel Grizzard
Chief Executive

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EARBY MAY DAYS 1960-1974

Stephanie Carter

These Earby May Day festivities all followed the traditional pattern, with a procession through the town and the crowning of the May Queen and events taking place on the Recreation Ground (The Rec) off Sipton Road.

By 1960 the Committee had lost many active workers and were appealing for helpers to stage the annual spring pageant. Dorothy Teasdale was the May Queen and events on the Rec. included a tug of war, balloon race, an exhibition by the West Riding Constabulary on Road Safety and a display by pipers and dancers. In the evening the admission to the May Day Ball with the Regal Band in attendance was 2/6d. 1961 and 1962 followed similar patterns with May Queens Carole Smith and Ann Whitehead respectively.



In 1963 Jack Cross highlighted in the programme concerns about local unemployment, and also lamented the changes to the May Day, such as the loss of the big maypole and the Sherwood Foresters. Patricia Shipley was the May Queen and a barbecue was held on the field. The Modernaires Band provided the music at the Grand Dance. A notable person was asked to write the preface to the annual programme, and in 1964 Mr A T Youdan wrote about the spirit of service. May Queen Dorothy Bowker presided over a pony gymkha-

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na and a barbecue on Rec. The following year, 1965, Dr Gordon Dick highlighted the friendly nature and sense of community prevalent in Earby and thanked officials Counc. R Lancaster, J Watson, R Shaw and A P Greening for their input. Margaret Jonkajtys watched the maypole dancing, the cycling proficiency and a display by the Boys Brigade. In 1966 a best shop window competition was inaugurated. Jacqueline Waddington was crowned May Queen and there were displays on the Rec. by Waldos performing dogs, Punch & Judy, and Saltaire ladies gym club.

1967 saw Earby May Day Coming of Age and Hettie Duxbury reflected on 21 years of colourful processions. As May Queen, Glenys Dawes took part in the dancing on the Rec. in the evening until dusk. The committee always strived to provide a varied programme. The 1968 May Queen was Elizabeth Dean and there were the McCory Irish dancers and a 5-Aside football tournament. Likewise in 1969 Jacqueline Heald presided over the Kelbrook Morris Dancers and Ladies Football Match. In 1970 the new vicar, Rev. Barry Simmons recalled the Caribbean festivals he had seen in his last ministry and again the White Rose Morris dancers and Clitheroe Pipe Band entertained Christine Smith.



Left to right Dorothy Teasdale (1960) Carole Smith (1961) Ann Whitehead (1962) Patricia Shipley (1963) Dorothy Bowker (1964) Margaret Jonkajtys (1965) Jacqueline Waddington (1966)



Left to right Glenys Dawes (1967) Elizabeth Dean (1968) Jacqueline Heald (1969) Christine Smith (1970) Susan Waddington (1971) Barbara Black (1972) Judith Hannam (1973) Susan Kynaston (1974)

1971 was the year of the event's Silver Jubilee and special thanks went to the Earby & District Social & Festival Committee, especially R S Shaw and A P Greening who had worked for 25 years to provide entertainment for the people of Earby. It was also the year of Conservation and a souvenir programme was produced. May Queen was Susan Waddington and the Nelson Civic Morris Dancers and Accrington pipe band performed on the field. Barbara Black was the May Queen in 1972, but for the first time the programme had a plain front and the quality of print was not up to the usual standard. Again in 1973 Jack Heald reported that the committee had been in danger of folding but had had a "life saving injection of new blood" with chairman R Lancaster, secretary Miss C Wilkinson and treasurer Mrs R Jones. Judith Hannam was selected as May Queen and the new committee introduced a pram race and baby feeding and baby contest. In 1974, the vicar, Donald Carpenter, asked the community to come together. Susan Kynaston was the last May Queen to celebrate May Day on Earby Rec.

OLD EARBY FILMS ON DVD

by Michael Crewdson

Michael Crewdson was born in Earby in 1946 at 32, Grove Street, and attended Springfield, New Road and Alder Hill Schools until 1961. He has lived and worked most of his life in the town. Michael, now a retired family man living in Clitheroe, continues his interests and hobbies in Local History, and is currently compiling his "Family Tree" dating back to 1717 in the Ulverston & Burnley areas of Lancashire.

Michael writes: In 1992 I bought my first Video Camera and quickly moved into Hi Resolution S-VHS filming with a new camera and editing equipment, mainly documentary, historical and railways. I had some cine film which I had shot in the early 1960s and began experimenting transferring to VHS. This was reasonably successful and it wasn't long before I was asked to transfer cine film for friends and family.

I then began to acquire cine reels from the 1950s – 1960s from local people. I soon realised the composition and historic value was such that these films must be seen by others, to capture the sights and sounds from the era of the cine camera, in order to re-kindle lots of happy innocent memories and surprises from days gone by.

The first film I produced for others to view was back in 1992. I acquired a small suitcase containing approximately 100 mixed size reels of film, some in small boxes, and others just loosely wound. It took many hours of loading film into the projector to view and catalogue all the contents which were mainly holidays, excursions and family activities. However there were 42 reels with various scenes and shots of the Earby railway between Skipton and Colne, prior to closure of the line in 1970.



Two views of Earby Station

The reels were sorted into chronological sequence and transferred to VHS. The quality of the film had deteriorated so much that the reproduction was extremely poor; however the "content" was historic, nostalgic, very rare and irreplaceable and had to be rescued for future generations.

The Film is available to purchase called – "Earby Railway – Steam to Destruction – 1965 – 1970"

Among the DVDs/Cine Films available for purchase are the following on Earby May Days :

EARBY MAY DAYS..

From 1947 – 1992 ©
MAY QUEEN'S THROUGH THE YEARS.

This film is a journey through 46 Years of Earby May Queen's from the very first in 1947 Miss Margaret Halstead to the very last in 1992 Miss Jayne Green

The film features all the May Queens
with Photographs - Slides - Cine Film

Together with the Captions
of 44 Official May Day Souvenir Programmes

All purchasers will receive a Copy of all the
names of the May Queens and complete Retinues
By Year and Name.

Running time 75 mins. £9.99



EARBY MAY DAYS..

From 1947 – 1992 ©
THE CINE COLLECTION.

Features a rare and nostalgic look at several May Day Processions and field events seen through the camera lenses of local amateur Cine Film enthusiasts through the years..

May Days Featured in this edition are:-

**1959 / 1961 / 1962 / 1979 / 1971 / 1972 / 1974
1975 / 1976 / 1977 / 1978 / 1992**

The Cameramen were Arthur Lee, Albert Beaty, Edward Jonkajtys, Donald Lee, Jack Wormwell Lloyd Clough, Frank Yates, Jack Jeffers, Roy Spragg and Michael Crewdson ©
The film is complemented by Introduction Titles and Music.

All purchasers will receive a Copy of all the
names of the May Queens and complete Retinues
By Year and Name.

Running Time 82 Mins. £ 9.99



FOR MORE INFORMATION & HOW TO ORDER A DVD..

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Please email in the first instance to: m-crewdson@supanet.com

BENJAMIN GREEN – The Weaver Artist (1871 -1947)

Bob Abel

Ben Green was well known locally as an artist of some repute; in 1910 he had three paintings exhibited at Towneley Hall and Lady O' Hagan (the last descendant of the Towneleys) bought two of them, a scene near Grassington entitled "The End of the Shower" and "The Scar near Bolton Abbey".

Ben Green was born in Leeds on 16th December 1871. His father John was a blacksmith and his mother was Mary Jane and they were living at Viscount Place. They were still living in Viscount Place in 1881 when John was described as a shoeing and jobbing blacksmith. Their neighbours were the Bensons and Charles Benson was described as a painter and factory worker suggesting that his main job was in a factory but who was also an amateur artist. I wonder if this is where Ben got his inspiration to be a painter. (Charles' father Robert was probably a painter and gilder in the 1861 census for Leeds).

By 1891 the Green family had moved to Habergham Eaves, Burnley, when the 19 year old Ben is described as a boilermaker. He married Ellen McCaul in 1896, Ellen's mother Martha (nee Pickles) was originally from Earby. Consequently Ben and Ellen moved to live in Earby where a son Gilbert was born in 1899. By 1901 they had moved to Turner Street in Barnoldswick but by the 1911 census they had returned to Earby and were living on Colne Road. Ben had come to the area to get a job as a cotton weaver.

It would not have been easy for a working class boy to study art but the Craven Herald records that he was taught by William Manners and E T Jones in Leeds, the latter described as a policeman artist. William Manners (1860-1930) was born in Bradford and was a well known painter of rural scenes in both oils and water colours. I have not been able to trace Jones.

The exhibition at Towneley Hall was a milestone for Green and the following appreciation was published at the time in the Burnley Gazette:

The local artists are this time accommodated in the long gallery with benefit to themselves for their works are better hung there than in one of the smaller rooms. The premier position is without doubt held by Mr B Green of Earby with a picture which would be generally voted as the best so far. This is number 10 "The End of The Shower" and into it has been infused a strong individuality, which is not to be found in any other picture in the gallery. His tumbling, dashing water has a strong savour of Leader whilst the unstinted sky work is a real treat. Mr Green has certainly gone beyond the amateur stage.

Two pupils of Mr Green have also been successful. Mr A Bird of Colne had three pictures hung and secured second prize in the class open to all at the Nelson Industrial Exhibition with his picture "On the Conway River". Mr E Kay of Nelson obtained 2nd and 3rd prize in the same class.

(Green also taught other local artists including Robert Exley of Kelbrook and Elsie Petty)

Although the article deems his work to be of professional standard there is no doubt that he was an artist in the limited spare time of a working weaver as we are reminded in his obituary in the Barnoldswick and Earby Times;

During a life time of 75 years, Mr Ben Green, who died at Earby recently, transposed the beauties he saw around him in Craven into countless paintings which have been admired by many of his friends and acquaintances in the district. Although for the greater part of his

life he worked in the weaving shed between 6-00am and 5-30 pm as well as Saturday mornings, he utilised his leisure time to find subjects for his art. Even when his health began to fail he maintained his interest in painting which was the one thing he refused to give up. Specimens of his work have been seen at Towneley Hall, Burnley, and one of his paintings "Golden Gorse" was hung at the Scottish Academy.

In 1963 an exhibition in Ben Green's honour was organised by Howard Greenwood who himself owned a collection of 35 of Green's paintings. One particularly renowned painting in the possession of Howard Greenwood was a landscape of Thornton and Pinhaw which had at one time been exhibited at Towneley Hall and was said to have been known nationally and internationally. "There is no doubt that he was a very fine artist and it is a pity he has not earned greater recognition" Howard told the Craven Herald reporter. Another local artist, Victor Greenwood, was of the opinion that Green "was one of the finest landscape artists round here".



In his quest for more of Green's paintings, Greenwood realised there was a wealth of local artistic talent in the area and extended the scope of the proposed exhibition and soon had over 250 exhibits submitted. Other local artists represented included Mr J R Exley of Kelbrook, J M Jones of Salterforth Lane (a student at Bradford College of Art), Albert Holt, Mr P Webster, Mr C Hutchinson, Mr H Syers and Victor Greenwood. The ladies were represented by Mrs C Chapman and Mrs V Langwade.



The three day exhibition was opened on June 12th by the Chairman of Earby UDC, Millicent Turner. Some of Green's descendants were invited to the opening including son Gilbert, then living in Doncaster, his grandson John and nieces Mrs L Kenyon and Miss E Ormerod.

References

Census Returns, Craven Herald 2nd October 1910, Craven Herald June 3rd 1910, Barnoldswick and Earby Times 24/10/1947, Burnley Gazette 1910

ARMED FORCES MEMORIAL

In Chronicles edition 67 (Winter 2012) we reported on the addition of a memorial kerb stone to the Earby Armed Forces Memorial for Pilot Officer Fred Cook, who was killed in 1952 when the Meteor jet fighter he was piloting crashed. At the time his surviving sisters, Diane and Sandra, were not able to attend the dedication at the Remembrance Sunday service. However they visited Earby in August where they met up with Vera Cocker and Bob Abel to remember their brother with a private wreath laying at the memorial.



Sandra (Left) and Diana



Sandra and Di with Vera Cocker

Their father moved from the area to the Wirral where he had an electrical business and where Fred was born. The family moved back to this area to live in Kelbrook when they were bombed out during an air raid on Liverpool.

Diane and Sandra have fond memories of their elder brother Fred and they were grateful for the commemoration.

Both sisters had careers in the armed forces serving in the Women's Royal Naval Service (the WRENS) and Vera was pleased to present to them badges which the town council are giving to people from our locality who have served in the armed forces.

HIGHER BURNT HILL FARM

The Society has had the following picture in the photograph archive for many years, but we had no information about the scene, where it was taken or who the people were. However, by chance, Wendy Faulkner was shown the photo by her neighbour who live at Higher Burnt Hill. When a copy it was donated to the Society, it was catalogued as an unknown farm shot. Wendy thinks the people are Mr Hargreaves Procter and his wife Susan; they are on the 1901 census as living at the farm. The photo was possibly taken after a christening, as the babies in the picture are all dressed up. This information has now been added to the catalogue. It's so nice to tie up a loose end.

Keep the information and photos coming into the archives, and don't forget the archive room is open most Friday mornings and is there for your use.



If you have photos that you think would be of use but don't want to donate them, arrangements can be made to copy them at your home. Contact Margaret Brown, the secretary, for details.

CHRONICLES BY EMAIL?

Would you be happy to receive your copy of the Earby Chronicles via email? Sending out copies by post is becoming increasingly expensive, and subscriptions are barely covering the costs of printing and postage. We are already making a loss posting copies to our members outside Europe.

If we can email your copy as a PDF file your subscription will be reduced to the same as a local member from next year onwards.

We will be sending out an email to all members whose addresses we already know, or you can contact us at info@earbyhistory.co.uk if you would like to get your copy this way.

FROM THE EDITOR:

In a recent issue of the Craven Herald (8th August 2013), W R Mitchell reflected on “Haymaking in t’owd days” as “a more colourful time” when “at the edge of human memory, hay-time in the district was largely performed by hand”. The EDLHS publication “Farming in Earby” proved to be popular with our members and friends; so when I came across the following article in the Craven Herald of almost 100 years ago (3rd July 1914), I thought it was worth re-producing:

HAY-TIME IN CRAVEN
Impressions of Skipton Hiring Fair

Skipton continues to occupy the premier place in Craven as the centre of agriculture, and on Monday, as in years gone by, the peculiarities of “hay-hiring” were experienced, though in somewhat altered circumstances compared with twenty years ago. Enquiries amongst the many farmers who congregated to engage their men tend to show that, taken all round, a good hay crop, though by no means a record one, is anticipated. There was a good gathering of men who offered themselves for hire, and the terms of engagement, which vary greatly according to individual circumstances, range from £4.10s to £6, and in some few cases £7 or more per month. Some farmers hire their men by the season, but the majority of the men seemed inclined to prefer the monthly engagement.

A student of human nature, and especially one who possesses a keen sense of humour, may spend a profitable hour in High Street, Skipton, during hiring time. In spite of the hirings at Bentham and Settle or other places up the Dales, many of the farmers prefer to engage hay-timers at Skipton, where year after year labourers congregate to sell their services in the most profitable mart. The majority of the hirings are “old hands” – men who have spent season after season in the hay-fields, the pleasant though strenuous, and to the actively minded individual, somewhat monotonous toil being regarded as a holiday from the labouring work many of them follow during other periods of the year.

Strong men with rugged, weather-beaten faces, whose individuality is essentially the outcome of a rough-and-tumble existence, mingled with a lesser proportion of out-of-works from city and town. The latter, a class of men lacking the stature, or even one might say the “character”, of the regular hay-timers, waited in the streets with an anxious expression until they were happily engaged.

A source of considerable enjoyment is to be found in the shrewd dealing of these West Yorkshire farmers of Craven, whose expert bargaining is as keen, and often quite so forcible and picturesquely expressed as that of the Irish labourers, whom they mostly employ. Farmers like best to get their men away to the homesteads as soon and as quickly as possible; but the labourer- who is ever worthy of his hire –still demands his “Godsend”, as the small sum usually in advance for a “parting drink” is termed, and there is hardly a farmer in Craven who has not at one time or another been “had by a defaulting hay-timer, who has drunk his “Godsend” at the nearest pub.

At the Red Lion or the Old George hay-men hob-nobbed together, and characterised the respective farmers as an adjectival “skin-flint”, or another adjectival “good-sort”, quite unconscious of the fact that the farmers themselves were probably in the same room, chatting with one another about the “points” of the prospective hay-makers, just as is regularly done about the Craven cow.

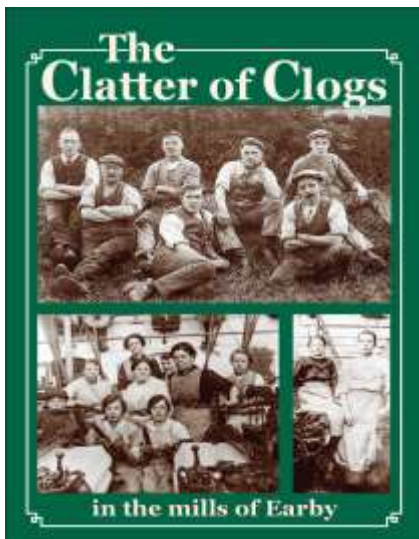
It is not many years ago that a free fight in which some eight to a dozen men, most

of them under the influence of liquor, were concerned, took place nearly opposite the Town Hall, and considerable personal injury was inflicted, blood flowing with a freedom reminiscent of quarrels in more remote days. Now the police keep a quiet but watchful eye upon the gatherings, and at the daily sittings of the court some or other of these immigrants have appeared to explain the cause of their overjoyfulness with the old, old tale that they "met a pal and drank 'is 'ealth".

On Monday afternoon a heated argument was maintained between a "son of the soil" and an Irish labourer, both a little "fresh", and their respective utterances, steeped in vituperation, provided keen enjoyment to the onlookers, whose appreciation of the rough badinage of words was exemplified in uproarious laughter. To the question "Think yer'self Wellington?", the son of Erin solemnly replied "No, 'eim Col. Lynch", and this apparently put the finishing touch upon his controversialist, who turned away with a snort of disgust.

Later in the day farmers were to be seen herding stray hirlings from the various hostelries, but as night approached masters and men departed to country farms, where life for some days to come will be one continuous hurry and anxiety to reap the hay harvest in good time.

NEW PUBLICATION NOW AVAILABLE



The Society launched its new publication on 14th September. Researched and written by Stephanie Carter, it contains 100 pages and is well illustrated. It charts the building of Earby's mills and looks at the entrepreneurs such as Christopher Bracewell and A J Birley. Mill fires and floods, the strikes and Weavers Union also feature, but it is the memories of mill workers which form the largest part of the book. There are profiles of Percy Lowe and Hedley Bradshaw and the recollections of many Johnsonians. The sad demise of the cotton industry led to mills being demolished and to a diversification of industry.

A copy of the book, priced at a reasonable £9-50, can be obtained at EDLHS meetings, at the Roaring 20s Day (5th October) at New Road Community Centre, or from Barnoldswick Library. Copies may also be obtained by post from EDLHS, Lower Burnt Hill Farm, Skipton Old Road, Colne, Lancs. BB8 7ER. **Please add £1.60 UK, £4.95 Eu-**

rope, £7.50 Australasia or £7.20 USA and Canada for postage and packing.

DONATIONS TO THE ARCHIVES

Margaret Greenwood

Over the last two or three months donations to our archives have been gratefully received from the following:

- the estate of the late Alan Wiseman
- Brenda Holmes (née Watson)
- Betty Stansfield (née Heap)

The collection of items handed over by Judith Hill on behalf of Alan Wiseman's estate included various documents relating to his army service during the Second World War, together with a copy of "Earby's War Book—contributions from its own fighting men" (published by the Earby Local Savings Committee); and two booklets about the Battle of Britain. Among other items are a souvenir handkerchief commemorating the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth in 1953, together with a Coronation Year Blotter produced when George VI came to the throne; "Nelson's Home Comforts" a recipe book (1892?) which could be obtained "gratis on receipt of Penny Postage Stamp" and "The Conquest of Disease without Operation or Drug" by F C Carr possibly published around the same time.

On behalf of his wife, Brenda, John Holmes has sent us some of her papers, including copies of the Earby Register of Electors for 1948 and 1961. These arrived just in time to be included in the recent exhibition the Society created about the North Holme Estate (the Ranch) and were a source of much interest to former residents. Along with copies of various publications and newspaper cuttings, there is a collection of programmes for Choir Festivals held at Mount Zion Baptist Chapel, Earby, during the period 1946-61, several of which have been autographed by the professional soloists who gave a concert on the Saturday evening and performed in the oratorio held the following day.

Betty Stansfield's donation is her grandfather's treasured copy of "Craven's Part in the Great War".

CAN YOU HELP?

Below is a photograph from the EDLHS Archives of Earby Youth Group taken in February 1967 in the Coffee Bar at the New Road Community Centre. We have only 4 names—Mary Ormerod, Louie Heeley, Geoff Hoyle and Dr Dick. Can you name any more? If so, please contact Margaret Brown via email margaretbrown2869@hotmail.co.uk or phone 01282 843932.



The Leeds and Liverpool Canal

Andrea Smith was our guest speaker at the May meeting when we had the largest audience for some time.

Andrea retired from teaching through ill health in 1993 and later took up lecturing on local history topics. Her theme was Leeds and Liverpool Canal history with particular emphasis on our local stretch from Skipton to Burnley.

A canal was first proposed by Bradford wool merchants in 1768 to bring coal to the mills and take away finished goods. The first sod was cut in 1770 and it was to become the longest and arguably the most profitable canal in the country. Construction started from both ends and, being piecemeal in its building, it took 46 years to complete the connection between the two cities. The original plan was to carry on the canal from Skipton to reach the sea at Preston and Lancaster but as the latter two didn't seem too keen the final destination became Liverpool.

The canal is a wide canal compared with the narrow versions of the midlands. By the late 1800s the canal was becoming so busy that water supply was an ever increasing problem and reservoirs had to be constructed to supply the extra water needed.

The first section to be completed was Bingley to Skipton and there was much celebration and rejoicing when this was completed in 1773. Because of the efficiency in carrying coal compared with that brought by pack horse or cart to Skipton the cost of coal to industry and households was slashed by a half overnight.

That day in 1773 was a great occasion. Bells were rung, bands played and thousands of people turned out to greet the first two coal boats to arrive in Skipton.

Coal was brought to Skipton and the return cargo more often than not was limestone which was quarried above Skipton. When the limestone was burnt to form lime this was used in agriculture, building (for lime mortar) and for lime washing houses etc.

A branch canal was built at Skipton to link up with a tramway from the quarry so that limestone could be tipped directly into the barges.

Andrea took us on a virtual walk along the canal through Gargrave with its newly refurbished locks to Bank Newton where during the second world war the canal companies archives and records were stored away from the bombing of Liverpool.

We saw the double arched bridge at East Marton where the second level and arch had to be constructed, ironically, to accommodate increasing road traffic. At Greenberfield Locks Andrea explained a deviation in the canal to save water by replacing staircase locks with individual locks separated by pounds. The highest level of the canal is between Greenberfield and Barrowford and Andrea showed where water from Winterburn Reservoir, brought through a nine mile pipe, was fed into the canal. She also pointed out that the summit level was 2 ft deeper than the rest of the canal to act as a reservoir.

At Salterforth we saw the Anchor Inn which was built upwards when the road level was raised to pass over the canal bridge. The ground floor became the cellar and an extra floor was built on top. The cellar is now famous for its stalactites and stalagmites.

Foulridge tunnel was problematic for construction. At first solid rock had to be blasted until the navvies came to a section of softer material which was not amenable to blasting and they had to resort to a "cut and cover" technique. A deep cutting was excavated which was then lined and covered with earth. There was no tow path in the tunnel and barges had to be legged through. Men were specifically employed for this job; they laid on their backs on planks laid across the barge and "walked" along the side of the tunnel to propel the barge along.

We passed what was the "Grinning Rat", a pub specifically provided for the rowdy

navvies and on to Nelson and The Yarn Spinners Warf, through Brierfield with its mills built almost into the canal.

On entering Burnley the canal takes a sharp deviation, after The Townleys of Townley Hall objected to the line of the canal encroaching on their land, and onto the straight mile section above Burnley. Here are a group of well preserved lime kilns. Limestone from the Yorkshire Dales would have been tipped straight from the barges into the kilns where it was burned with coal to produce lime.

Passing the site of the largest canal workshops on the system we enter what is now called the "Weavers Triangle" with its warehouses, mills and Slaters Terrace, a unique row of workers cottages built above canal-side warehouses.

Our journey ended at Gannow Tunnel.

Roaring 20s Autumn Fair

New Road Community Centre October 5th 10.00am to 4.00pm

A fun day of entertainment with a chance to win a brand new car or a holiday break for two.

Plenty of stalls, Earby Brass Band plus other entertainment in the afternoon

Refreshments and hot lunches served



PROGRAMME

Tuesday 15th October 2013

The North West in the 1950s and 1960s — Part 2, Joe Midgley

Tuesday 19th November

Lives of the Navvies who Built Ribbleshead Viaduct in the 1870s, Dennis Brickles

Tuesday 17th December

Scenes of old Earby — images from the archives

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DATA PROTECTION ACT

Members details are held on computer for mailing and compilation of a membership list. The details will not be used for any other purpose without the express permission of the member. If you do not wish your details to be held on computer please inform the Treasurer immediately.

THE SOCIETY

Meets at the Community Centre, New Road, EARBY on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7.30 p.m. (except for outside visits).

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION

£7.00

UK £9.00

Overseas £13.00

Contents:

Whilst every effort is made to ensure accuracy of information in this edition, this cannot be guaranteed.

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Don't forget this is your newsletter. Send in articles, photos and any other anecdotes, so that we get as wide a flavour of Earby & District, yes that means Thornton in Craven, Kelbrook, Sough, Harden and Salterforth as well.

EDITOR

Stephanie Carter
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