

Earby Chronicles

Edition 97

Summer 2020

www.earbyhistory.co.uk



We have not been able to celebrate the 75th anniversary of VE Day as we would have liked, but here is a reminder of the weekend we remembered the event on the 60th anniversary. This Red Cross volunteers put on this display.

SOCIETY AIMS:

To raise awareness, foster an interest and facilitate research into the heritage of Earby and district including Thornton-in-Craven, Sough, Kelbrook, Harden and Salterforth

CONTENTS

- 1 Society's 25th Anniversary Part 2
- 3 Additions to Archives
- 4 The Editor Writes on the Holgate Collection
- 7 George Street Methodist Sunday School, Squire Firth
- 9 Kelbrook Mill (Dotcliffe) 19th Century, Stephanie Carter
- 13 Opening of a New Sunday School in Earby—Baptist Extension
- 14 Earby Pensioners' Rest Centre Part 2, Stephanie Carter
- 17 Kathleen Bannister (nee Astin) Obituary
- 18 VJ Celebrations Earby August 1945
- 20 Francis William Armitage, Bob Abel
- 22 Earby Invincibles, Bob Abel
- 24 Thornton Market and Fair, Bob Abel
- 25 St. Mary's Church Kelbrook, Laying the Foundation Stone
- 27 Round Robin, Julia Holt

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

01756 794099



SOCIETY'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY

continued from Edition 96 Spring 2020

By the end of 1996 our Society was well and truly established and gaining a healthy reputation.

Margaret Greenwood had now joined the committee and volunteered to act as librarian for our growing archive collection. A little later Stephanie Carter and Wendy Faulkner came on board.

Other committee members we have had over the years include Jim Walker, Doreen Turner, Betty Smith, Pat Pickard, Squire Firth, Ken Hartley, Wendy Venables, Sue Janion, Ken Ranson, Colin Dalby.

The current committee includes Bob Abel, Stephanie Carter, Margaret Brown, Wendy Faulkner, Mick Jackson, Trevor Tattersall Margaret Greenwood and Steve Marshall..

From the early days we decided to produce a society newsletter and Bev Parker took on this task at first. Currently Stephanie Carter is the editor and we are fast approaching our 100th edition.

One of the aims of the Society is to encourage research into our local history and heritage and it is pleasing to see the number of books and articles based on original research. In particular mention should be made of the work done by Stephanie Carter in researching and writing books which the Society has been only too pleased to publish and which have been well received by readers.

Stephanie's current project is on Methodism in our area and Steve Marshall has written a book called "Our Finest Crop" telling the stories behind the names on the WWI war memorial in Sough Park and including his own war poetry.

The annual book launch has become a major event of the Society's year, a chance not only to promote the new book but also to publicise the society.

Over the years we have organised many social events including

Christmas socials, outings and annual dinners.

Usually for the trips we used the community minibus and visited places of interest such as a Browsholme Hall, Ripley Castle, Nostell Priory etc. Our biggest trip was a coach and train excursion. We travelled by coach to Appleby stopping off at sites of interest on route then travelling back to Settle on the Settle-Carlisle Railway.

Annual dinners were normally held at Auntie Emily's Tea Rooms on Stoney Bank until Janine Bowker, the proprietor retired and then we used the facilities at Rolls Royce, Ghyll Golf Club and the White Lion in Earby. Further collaborative ventures were initiated in the early 2000s.

A collaboration with the Workers Education Association resulted in the Society running a course on House History and this was followed up with further events including a visit to Prospect Farm in Barnoldswick accompanied by an expert from the Yorkshire Vernacular Buildings Study Group to look at House History through the architecture.

In similar vein, we invited Sue Wrathmell, a historic buildings specialist, to give us some insight into house history and architecture which she followed up by taking a guided walk around Earby looking at some of the older buildings.



Annual Dinner 2005

In 2004 and 2005 the Society collaborated with the Barnoldswick History Society under the title of The West Craven History Association to arrange two one day history conferences which were held at the

Rolls Royce social club. The 2004 event included a visit and demonstration from the Sealed Knot English Civil War Re-enactment Society.- To Be Continued



ADDITIONS TO ARCHIVES

Over the last few months the Society has acquired new material for the archive collection.

Mike Crewdson has donated a collection of colour slides relating to the Wardle Storey factory.

Another large collection of colour slides has come via Colin Dalby. The pictures were taken by Robert Horn whose family were farmers in Kelbrook and many of the images are of farming life or of Kelbrook.

A late 19th century photo album has been donated through Ken Ranson. The album was found in the loft of a house being renovated but the address of the house is unknown. There are some superb family photographs but unfortunately no names to the images. The only clue to the pictures is that there is a photograph of a memorial grave stone relating to a Christopher Waite and James Edward Waite son of Christopher and Grace.

Susan Hyde's (nee Spencer) great great great grand father was John Spencer who with his brother Peter were tailors in Kelbrook in the middle of the 19th century. Susan has given a copy of John's work book. The book contains details of orders from families in Kelbrook and Earby. Susan also says that John seems to have done some money lending and also cow keeping.

THE EDITOR WRITES ON THE HOLGATE COLLECTION

In July 2007 a collection of artefacts from the Holgate Collection were shown to the public at the Craven Museum and Gallery for the first time for 40 years, since the death of Welbury Holgate of Earby in



1969. In his lifetime Welbury had amassed a large collection of archaeological and geological items, posters relating to wartime Britain and other artefacts from around the world, which had been on display in his private museum in Earby. On his death the collection had been bequeathed to the Craven Museum.

In the Summer 2009 edition of the Chronicles one of the Museum staff wrote an article giving details of the war-time collection. Keith Boughhey has also written a book on the excavation of the Bronze Age ring cairn on Thornton Moor which had been excavated by Welbury Holgate and his sisters in the 1930s. Its title is "Life and Death in Prehistoric Craven – Welbury Wilkinson Holgate and the Excavation of the Hare Hill Ring Centre".

To my surprise I recently came across the following article from the 13th June 1941 edition of the Barnoldswick and Earby Times, which gives a further insight into this fascinating collection. At the time of writing the Craven Museum and Gallery is awaiting re-location into a re-developed section of Skipton Town Hall.

The photograph from the EDLHS archive shows Welbury Holgate with a group of boys in Thornton Woods.

Earby's Links with the Past – A Fascination Collection

Not everybody is aware that Earby possesses a rare collection of rare links with past days, and a collector of rare genius is Mr Welbury Holgate, who has taken infinite trouble for many years past in bringing together a large number of specimens and articles that date back in some cases to the 11th, 14th and 16th centuries, and which are all, in one way or another, linked with the earlier life and times of Earby and its surrounding districts. To look through these specimens is to feel oneself taken back in fancy over centuries of changing times, customs, habits, pastimes and superstitions of these earlier folk who walked the same paths that we now walk, but whose ways of life and habits of thought are no longer comparable.

This collection, a private one, but accessible to lovers of antiquity who venerate the past because they see in it the roots and beginnings of our present day life, contains reprints of two rare pages from an old Domesday Survey book, dated 1086, which refers to Earby and district as being in two portions, higher and lower (shades of an old amalgamation problem!). This old document contains also some interesting references to land measurement by means of the plough. A link with early industries is found in a collection of the actual hand loom shuttles, pegs and bobbins used in home weaving before the mechanical devices of Kay, John Wyatt, Crompton and Hargreaves led to the creation of an industry which helped to make England the workshop of the world and Lancashire the centre of a thriving and lucrative craft.

Another glimpse into native home life is afforded by a stone "Dummy" (about 1700) used for smoothing mud floors before the flag

stones, still to be seen in some of our older Earby residences, superseded them.. This implement is fashioned from a piece of native rock, flat at the base and moulded to shape, with the handle leaded in. It was passed over the dampened floor when it became uneven from use. Imagine the Earby housewife's pride in her job and her stern injunctions to the male and restive offspring to keep off this soggy mess until it had set.

A "Plague Stone" (1340) takes us back to the dread period when the Black Death ravaged London and swept over other parts of the country, taking its toll on thousands of helpless victims, spreading fear and consternation in its wake. People were compelled to wash their money before entering a village to transact business, to avoid contagion. The stone is hollowed out to hold sufficient water for the purpose and is slightly shaped to facilitate the process. How efficacious the washing process was in those early days is still open to doubt.

Games have a definite place in man's history. Interesting and well preserved specimens are included showing the apparatus used in these old pastimes. Stick and billet, popular in 1820, which resembled tipcat, from which it probably originated; Knur and spell dating from 1600 and still in vogue; "bandin the wood", 1880, which includes a base with an upward slope, an ingenious device made from polished hard wood and used with a striker resembling a modern golf stick – the game is said to be the forerunner of golf. "Iron Cobbers", another simple pastime which lured the male population on to their native moors, and which simply consisted of knocking a small iron ball off a piece of rock, the competition being whetted, it is said, by much acclamation due to the laying of odds! An old quoits ring is included which was found under the Wesleyan Chapel in Earby 1851.

"Fairy Pipes" with well-shaped but miniature clay bowls found in Earby, take us back to the 17th century when tobacco was scarce costing about 3 shillings a pound. – it now costs 18 shillings! Spectacles with small lenses and ingenious expanding wings in silver One pair is said to have been worn by the late Joseph Wilkinson (Doad) at the popular Penny Readings round about 1870. He was considered one of the best readers in Yorkshire and would hold a candle in one hand and

his book in the other and charm his audience with his fine voice and perfect delivery.

Lead spoons made from lead mined in the district, were used when the cost of steel was prohibitive, and dress lifters, silver slips suspended from ladies' wrists by thin silken cords- when dresses were decorously long and roads in an unspeakable condition.

Delicately adjusted scale balances, 1750, for weighing sovereigns at money transactions because certain malicious persons had adopted the ingenious device of scraping the edges to obtain the gold. Milling was afterwards adopted. And sheaths, hand-moulded and held under the arm, whose purpose was to protect the busts from the points of knitting needles from which it appears that this homely art was plied as diligently in those far off days as in our own, this showing that not all things change in the unfolding of time and the years.

These are a few of the articles included in this remarkable collection. To allow the mind to wander over the varied specimens and the story they tell is to realise the truth of the saying "No man can faithfully pursue his art, his science or his profession, without living it".

GEORGE STREET METHODIST SUNDAY SCHOOL

Squire Firth

Just prior to the Second World War (1938) I started to attend the Sunday school. The church (which no longer exists) was situated in the middle of rows of stone built terraced houses and surrounded by a high wall and iron railings with the main entrance via large gates from the cobbled George Street. There was also a side entrance from James Street.

The Sunday school was held on the ground floor with the Chapel situated above with a wonderful organ and tiered pews, accessed via the vestibule with a staircase on either side. There was also a back staircase to the vestry and organ.

The ground floor consisted of the main hall with a stage and two smaller rooms, one used as a kitchen.

Most of the children attending Sunday school came from the area around the Church although some came from as far away as Thornton-in-Craven, it was very well attended. School started at 2.00pm and lasted about one hour. There were three classes, infants, primary, and big school to which children moved as they got older. The infant class was held in the kitchen which had a large gas boiler and table with high sides and removable top used as a sand pit. Songs such as "All things bright and beautiful", "Down came the raindrops " and "Jesus wants me for a sunbeam" were regularly sung with storytelling, activities, and a prayer to close the class. It was a lovely place to go for children to receive Christian fellowship. Some of the teachers I remember were Esther and Irene Cook, Lizzie Sagar, Richard Lancaster and Herbert Lumb. Elaine Nuttall played the piano when required.

There were many events connected with the Sunday school, one was the annual prize giving when books were given for attendance. Everyone gathered in the main hall where a table full of books awaited distribution. The books, mainly hard backed children's-stories, had a printed inscription inside the front cover with the child's name, and signed by the Sunday school superintendent. Older children sometimes received a bible.

The Annual Sunday school anniversary was held in the Chapel when everyone wore their Sunday best and parents were invited. A summer trip was held every year to various places such as local parks, walks and picnics, even one year going to Ilkley Moor by train. At Christmas there was always a party and despite wartime rationing there was always plenty to eat!

The highlight of the year was the pantomime, Aladdin, Cinderella, etc. produced by such people as Lloyd Clough, Tommy Townson and Brian Pearson. Most of the children took part with adults taking some of the principle parts. It took months of rehearsals but always produced a good show and it gave children an opportunity to sing and dance on the stage. The show ran for a week from Saturday and there was always a full house with people queuing around the Church waiting for the doors to open.

Children do not attend Sunday school as often as previous generations but fortunately the opportunity still exists. Perhaps in the future children will hopefully once again enjoy the experience and fellowship it provides.



Large group outside George Street on VJ Day

KELBROOK MILL (DOTCLIFFE) – 19TH CENTURY

Stephanie Carter

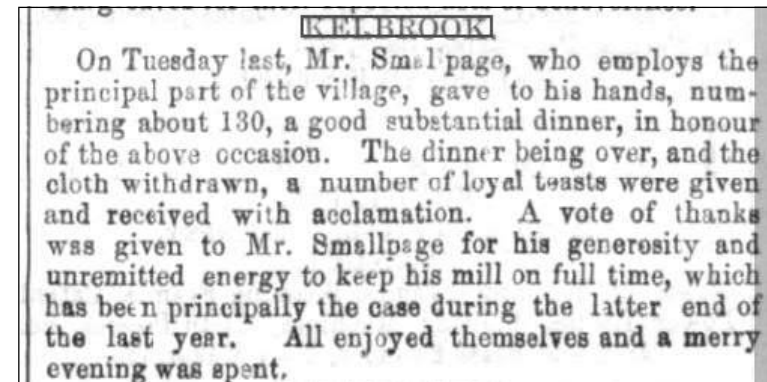
There was a small cotton spinning mill, run by a water wheel, in Kelbrook in the very early years of the 19th century. In May 1819 “the creditors and legatees of John Wormwell, late of Kelbrook, in the parish of Thornton and County of York, farmer and cotton spinner, deceased” were summoned to appear at the Inner Temple London “to prove their debts and claim their legacies”.

In August 1821 a sale was held at the Red Lion Inn, Colne, of a “freehold messuage, outbuildings, garden, 43 acres of land in the occupation of the Widow Wormwell”, “several freehold cottages and a rented close of land” and “a cotton mill or factory in Kelbrooke, Yorkshire”. The mill was let to Henry Jackson and continued to be used for

spinning cotton. In November 1835 the partnership between H Jackson, W Edmondson, H Wilkinson and J Spencer, cotton spinners of Kelbrook Mill was dissolved.

In 1836 the mill was taken over by the Smallpage family. Nathan Smallpage & Sons of Burnley were a firm of the highest standing in the trade and were pioneers in the coloured section of the industry. Nathan was the brother of Samuel who had married Christopher Bracewell’s sister. Nathan’s sons Nathan, James and Richard managed the business at Sough Bridge and Dotcliffe. The family lived at Park House, Langroyd Road, Colne. Richard married Clara Barritt of White House Earby. James never married, living at Park House and retiring to Preesall, a small town on the Lancashire coast near Knot-End-On-Sea. He and his sisters Ann and Jane were benefactors of the Methodist Chapel in Kelbrook, laying foundation stones and opening bazaars. James left a legacy to the chapel on his death.

In June 1852 Messrs. James and Nathan Smallpage of Kelbrook were in trouble with the factory inspector and appeared at the Petty Sessions in Colne for breeches of the factory laws. There were 21 cases alleging that young persons had been employed after 6 o’clock in the evening of 20th May. This being their first offence, convictions were taken on five of the accusations with the lowest penalty of £1, the rest being withdrawn on payment of costs, which altogether amounted to £9.17s 6d.



Dinner given by Mr Smallpage in March 1863 to celebrate the Marriage of the Prince of Wales (Burnley Advertiser 14/3/1863)

There was a fire at the mill in 1857 but it was re-built in 1867 with provision made for dying. An advert inviting tenders from masons, carpenters, slaters and others to erect a new weaving shed, warehouse, engine house, engine bed, chimney etc. in Kelbrook was placed by the Kelbrook Mill Building Co. Ltd.

In 1869 various items were auctioned off by the Kelbrook Mill Building Company. (see over)

In August 1887 the partnership between John Smallpage, James Smallpage and Nathan Smallpage as cotton manufacturers and dyers under the style of Nathan Smallpage & Sons at Kelbrook Mills and Bridge Mill Earby was dissolved due to the retirement of John. James and Nathan were to continue running the business.

TO IRONFOUNDERS, BUILDERS, CONTRACTORS, BROKERS, &c.

KELBROOK MILL BUILDING COMPANY,
Limited, midway between Skipton and Colne;
near Earby Station.

TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION, by GEORGE CHAMBERS, on the above Premises, on Tuesday, the 20th day of July, 1869,

ONE large new CISTERN, about 20 tons weight; a large quantity of Gutter and Falling Spouts and Sockets; a large quantity of Stones, Flags, and Lime; a large quantity of Timber, in Balk, Plank, and Scantlings; also a quantity of round Timber; 1 Weighing Machine, to weigh 25cwt.; a quantity of Windows, glazed and unglazed; a quantity of new Doors; a quantity of Plasterers' Laths; 2 Ladders; Jemmy; 2 Wheelbarrows; Snatch Block; Ropes; Cast Iron Wheels and Axles; Bar and Cast Iron; and various other articles.

Sale to commence at 12 o'clock prompt.
The whole to be sold for ready money.
For further information, apply at the Auctioneer's Office, 17, Well-street, Bradford.

In January 1890 at Skipton Petty Sessions before His Honour Judge Ingham, William Berry, designer, lately employed by Messrs. Smallpage of Kelbrook, was charged with felony under the Worsted Act 1777 and common larceny. On December 21st the defendant gave in his notice, his intention being to join a firm at Grove Shed Earby. However he had in his possession at home numerous designs which

it was alleged he had taken from Messrs. Smallpage's works without their knowledge and with the intention of using them in another business. For the defence it was contended that the materials had been collected to assist the defendant in his trade and were in his possession at home with his masters' consent. A fine of £10 and costs was imposed.

In January 1891 184 looms were working at Messrs. Smallpage, Dotcliffe Mill. A case of river pollution was brought against Messrs. James and R Smallpage, manufacturers of Kelbrook by the Skipton Rural Sanitary Authority in October 1893. In cleaning out their mill dam the defendants emptied the rubbish into the adjoining stream, known as Harden Beck, and polluted it for half a mile. The defendants admitted the offence and said they would do everything in their power to keep the stream pure. The maximum fine of 40 shillings and costs was imposed.

In June 1894 Messrs. E H Berry and Pope installed 80 electric lights for Messrs. N Smallpage & Sons, Kelbrook. They also installed a telephone between their two mills which were three quarters of a mile apart.

In June 1901 the following advertisement for the freehold sale of the mill was in the local press.

KELBROOK MILL and SHED, freehold, situate in the midst of the coloured weaving trade, with plant for dyeing warps and bundles, indigo and all fancy colours, and bleaching warps, bundles, and cops, under a new patent and most successful system, with the necessary drying and sizing; there are first and valuable water rights, with extensive storage; it is lighted throughout by modern electric plant, driven by new turbine water-wheel; there are buildings and space to increase the present plant to any extent; can be seen any day. Address N. Smallpage & Sons, Colne.

OPENING OF A NEW SUNDAY SCHOOL IN EARBY BAPTIST EXTENSIONS

(From Burnley News 31 January 1923)

On Saturday afternoon at Earby the opening took place of the new Sunday School extension scheme in connection with the Mount Zion Baptist Church. Originated in 1911, the fund for Sunday School extension was augmented until sufficient money was in hand, and Saturday saw the completion of the first part of the project, which provides for a primary department. The Rev. C W Townsend of Bury, a former pastor at the church, presided at a meeting in the school after Mrs J H Barker had opened the doors and made suitable reference to the occasion. There was a large assembly of past and present scholars and Sunday School workers.

The chairman recalled that it was after a very packed meeting in the old school in 1911 that he was approached by a member of the congregation who offered to give £100 towards a new school if the church raised £500 before the anniversary services in June 1912. He told how the money was raised, and how just before the expiration of the time, they were still short of the total, but the balance was obtained by one of those present at the meeting before they dispersed.

Mr J H Barker, secretary of the new school fund since its inception, gave the financial details showing the progress made since the start. In 1922 there was a balance in the bank of £1,042, £600 in Treasury bills and £600 in war stock. The bank balance today was £358 but they had an outlay of £700 to meet yet, which would leave them with a balance on the wrong side of about £400. He mentioned that it was in 1915 that a reorganisation of the school was decided upon, and with their adoption of the grading system and the introduction of the primary department the grading system in schools in the neighbourhood was begun. He also mentioned that he had buried in the foundations of the school a sealed bottle containing documents and a statement connected with the scheme and how they accomplished their object.

Then followed congratulatory speeches from several old scholars: Miss Wilkinson, Mrs H Slater, Misses M Bailey, E Pickles, E Jackson and Mr J Smith. The pastor the Rev. J E Townsend also spoke and appealed for more helpers in the Sunday School.

Afterwards at a public tea the pastor handed over a gift of books to Miss Wilkinson in recognition of her services in the Sunday School.

In the evening there was a concert, and amongst the speakers was the Rev. W Livingstone of London, another former pastor. On Sunday at special services held in the church, Mr Livingstone was the preacher.

The new school adjoins the present school and is a commodious building and well equipped, and forms the first part of the extension scheme. The next stage will be the addition to the new building of a department for juniors, and the completion of the scheme will be the reconstruction on a different frontage of the old school.

EARBY PENSIONERS' REST CENTRE – PART 2

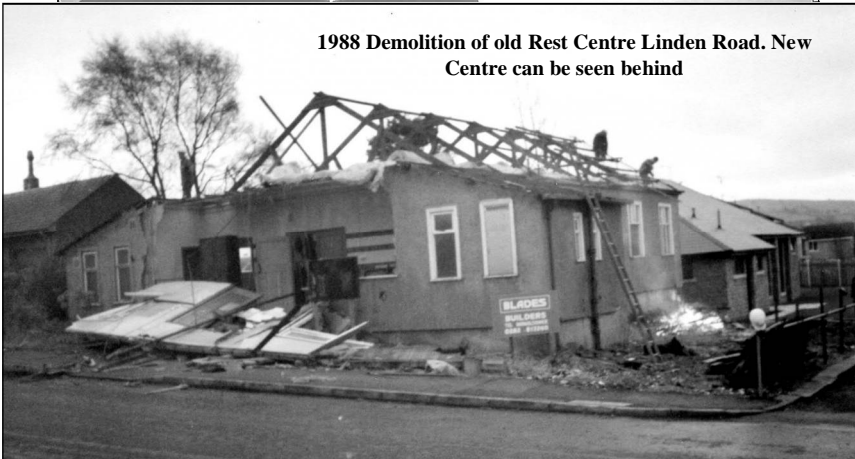
A New Centre

The foundation stone for a new building was laid by George and Annie Preston on 5th November 1987 (see p15). George Preston was the then president of the Association and the building was immediately behind the old Centre in Linden Road. Following his death, George was replaced as president by Margaret Pepper. The new premises were built in 1988 and opened by Lord Willie Whitelaw. (see mid p15) Serious fund raising made it possible to build the new and to demolish the old 1951 building in 1988 and construct a car park in front of the new centre in Linden Road. A coffee morning was the last official function held in the old centre, marking the end of an era. Opener was Martin Foster who had made a substantial contribution to the fund. Association President was Margaret Pepper. (see p15 bottom right)

£8,000 had been given towards the new community building from the Community Council of Lancashire under the Development Grant initiative. The cheque was presented to Margaret Pepper and the money



1988 Demolition of old Rest Centre Linden Road. New Centre can be seen behind



was to go towards paying the builder and the architect. Association chairman James Dickson said that the Community Council of Lancashire had effectively paid for the roof.

Events in the Centre have been numerous. These have included bingo sessions, run for many years by Clifford Reid. These still take place in 2020 on Thursday afternoons. Whist drives run by Ken and Sheila Tennant for many years were very popular. Other events have included Christmas and Autumn Fairs, Jumble Sales and Fashion Shows. As the centre is self-funding, the rooms can be hired out for functions.

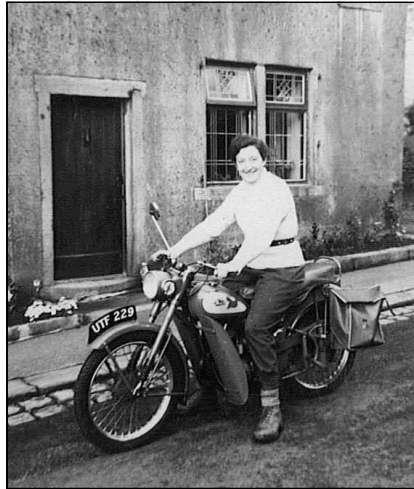
In July 2009 the Earby & Kelbrook Senior Citizens Welfare Association received a £12,000 grant from the Lancashire Enterprise Fund to improve the outdated heating system in the Centre and provide a thicker layer of insulation. This was part of an extensive refurbishment project. Work had already been carried out which included re-decorating the main hall and installing a new kitchen, costing £7,000 paid for out of their own funds. At this time the president was James Dickson and secretary Pat Stott.

In 2010 the Earby and Kelbrook Senior Citizens' Welfare Association received a £10,000 grant from the Fresh Hope Trust. It was awarded after Andrew Stephenson contacted the Trust about the groups work in providing activities and support for elderly residents. The money was to be used for day trips, repairing the dance floor, the purchase of new curtains, repair to roof tiles and help to cover the costs of a new kitchen.

In 2020 Earby and Kelbrook Senior Citizens Centre in Linden Road is still fully accessible and open to all ages. The centre is a voluntary organisation run by a committee and is also a registered charity. In more recent times it has been difficult to attract committee members. Various activities in the fantastic building, which has a stage and fully equipped kitchen, are run throughout the week, including bingo and whist. The building may also be booked for party's and group events.

KATHLEEN BANNISTER (née ASTIN)

Kathleen Beryl Bannister of Waterloo Road, Kelbrook died on 28th March. Born Kathleen Beryl Astin in the Waterloo Road cottage in 1927, she was 93 years of age and described as “a wonderful and generous woman to all”. Her memories of what she called “Kelbrook, our lovely village” were phenomenal. These she recalled in a talk to celebrate her 90th birthday, parts of which will be reproduced in future Chronicles.



Kathleen was the eldest of Harold and Gwladys's (née Firth) children. Her siblings Dorothy, Elizabeth and Terence were all involved with village life and the former Bethel Methodist Chapel. Kathleen went to college in London and taught for seven years in Holloway before returning to Kelbrook. Her next job was teaching PE at Brougham Street in Skipton before she got the post at Barnoldswick, where she stayed for twelve years, teaching general subjects before being given the music teacher's job. From Barnoldswick Kathleen moved to Walverden for five years before moving to Walton High where she was the much loved and inspirational music teacher for eight years. Music was one of Kathleen's passions in life.

In December 1969 Kathleen married Frank Walker Bannister whom she had met whilst teaching at Barnoldswick, and the couple moved to Red Lane in Colne. She and her husband were enthusiastic members of Colne Orchestra and the Golf Club and shared many interests in common. Kelbrook was an abiding love in Kathleen's long life. She was generous with the time she gave to the church and village life and shared her memories with myself and Earby & District Local History Society. She will be missed by many of us.

VJ DAY CELEBRATION IN EARBY IN AUGUST 1945

The official Victory Over Japan Day was 15th August and on or around that date the Victory Spirit prevailed in Earby. The Council Offices and Memorial Grounds were floodlit during the VJ holidays. The front of the Council Offices was illuminated with a VJ sign and streamers were hung across the road, and there was community singing round a bonfire on the Memorial Grounds.

The clubs put on special events. At the Band Club during the VJ holiday a large number of artists entertained a crowded audience. Community singing was enjoyed and martial music was played. At the Central Working Men's Club capacity crowds were attracted by singers and comedians on VJ Day. Also the Clarence Club, filled to capacity provided entertainment from singers and comedians.



A GREAT DAY HAS DAWNED. With our hearts filled with thankfulness for victory, let us make this great resolve! Let us continue in our striving for a land free from anxiety and want—that the sacrifices of war may not have been in vain.

GIVE THANKS BY SAVING

A number of specific areas in the town organised their own entertainment. These included George Street where over 60 children were treated to a party in George Street Sunday School to celebrate victory. It was organised by Mr B Cross JP. A Jacobs Join tea was served and games and competitions were enjoyed. Afterwards the children set off fireworks around a bonfire on the Rec. The street was illuminated with electric lamps

and there was dancing until midnight.

Linden Road celebrated with a potato-pie tea for 28 children and adults. The menu included ice cream. Afterwards dancing and games were enjoyed with music provided by Mr H Hackenley on his accordion.

On the Northolme Estate there was a children's party and carnival. The children in fancy dress assembled outside the Community Hall and paraded round the estate. About 140 children sat down to tea and games and a concert followed where ices were served. In the evening there was a large bonfire. Organisers Messrs. Sunderland, Nash, Blair and Dutton thanked all tenants and Mrs Brookes and her helpers who catered for the large family.

On Shuttleworth Street there was singing, dancing and games which were enjoyed by 30 children and 15 adults at a Victory Party in the Ambulance Hall. It was arranged by Mrs Dickinson and Pickover and at the Riley Street Youth Group there was a whist drive and dance in the school-room. Music for dancing was provided by a radiogram; Mr N H Benjamin and Mr H Lumb were MCs. Refreshments were served.

FRANCIS WILLIAM ARMITAGE

Bob Abel

Francis Armitage was head master at Alder Hill School in Earby from 1948 until 1961.

A Photograph album has been donated to the Society by the Family of Francis William Armitage who was Headmaster of Alder Hill School. It is thought the Album has all the Staff & Pupils that attended the school during that last year in them, but someone out there may know better.

Francis was born into a Quaker family in 1906. His father was Thomas Watson Armitage a cabinet maker and house furnisher in Wakefield. Francis is recorded as being born in Crofton a few miles to the South East of Wakefield.

He graduated from Cambridge University where he attained an MA. In 1930 while in Cambridge, he took up flying and gained a Royal Aero Club Aviators' Certificate at Marshall's Flying School of Cambridge.

ARMITAGE, Francis William		9608
New Wells, Wakefield		
Born	12th June, 1906	at Crofton, Yorkshire
Nationality	British	
Rank, Regiment, Profession	Assistant School Master	
Certificate taken on	D.H.Moth 100 hp. Gipsy	
At	Marshall's Flying School	
Date	11th November, 1930.	



His first job was a maths teaching post at Bryanston School, Blandford Forum, Dorset, but he returned to Cambridge to marry Irene L Wallis in 1936. By 1939 he was employed at Sidcot Quaker School in Winscombe, Somerset. Again he is recorded as being a mathematics teacher.

After WWII Earby's Alder Hill School had no head teacher for two and a half years after Mr L E Holt had retired. The senior assistant master, Mr T C Woolridge, had been acting headmaster during this period.

In 1948 Francis Armitage was appointed as the headmaster a post he held until 1961. (See below staff of Alder Hill)



While in Earby Mr Armitage was involved in the local community and in 1950 he was unanimously elected to be chairman of the Barnoldswick, Earby and Skipton Youth Hostels Group (this was before Earby Youth Hostel was established).

Mr Armitage, frequently took parties of boys and girls on cycling visits to various Youth Hostels in the North of England during the summer months.

Just after his appointment plans were being mooted about the conversion of Alder Hill School from a secondary modern to a junior school to take children from seven to eleven years old but this was a low priority scheme.

In 1952 Mr Armitage was appointed as vice chairman of the Earby Youth Council. Earby's Youth Council was formed in 1943 as part of the National Youth Council Movement. Its aims were "to train young people to enjoy a richer, fuller and more valuable leisure" and the local councils were formed from the great and the good from local or-

ganisations be they educational, church, industrial or local government as well as youth representatives.

The Armitage family lived at the Manse / Rough on Pleasant View off Stoney Bank and Francis walked to the school each day over the stepping stones across the beck and up Duxbury Street to Red Lion Street.

In 1961 Alder Hill was eventually changed from a secondary to a primary school and Mr Armitage was offered the job as assistant head at the larger Barnoldswick Modern where all the pupils had been transferred. He declined the job and returned to his main love, teaching mathematics, and moved to Great Ayton near Middlesborough where he taught at the Quaker School where he remained until retirement.

He died in 1985.

Francis Armitage's son, Roger, delivered the album to the society archives during one Friday morning in January this year and our thanks go to him and the Armitage family for asking the Society to be custodians of this piece of Earby's history.

EARBY INVINCIBLES

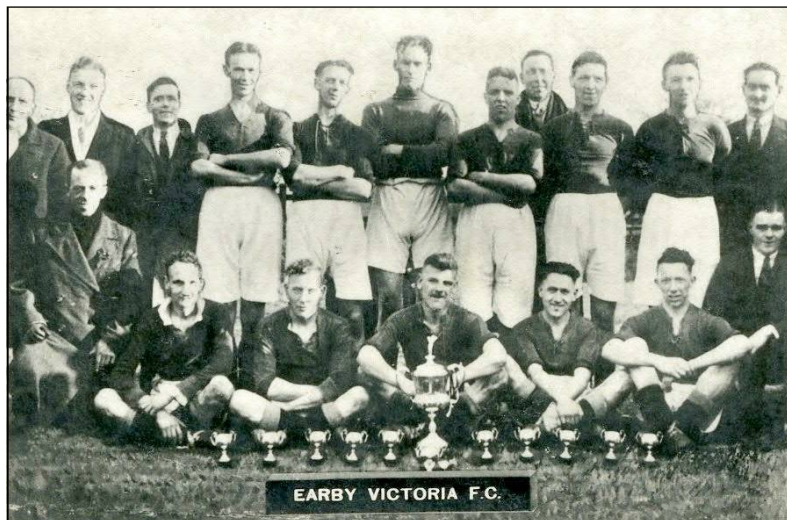
Bob Abel

After the 1938/39 soccer season, Earby Victoria Football Club took on the soubriquet "The Invincibles". They had completed the magnificent feat of winning the Nelson, Colne and District Amateur League without losing a match. They scored 129 goals and only conceded 13 in a season when they didn't drop a league point. They scored an average of six goals a match.

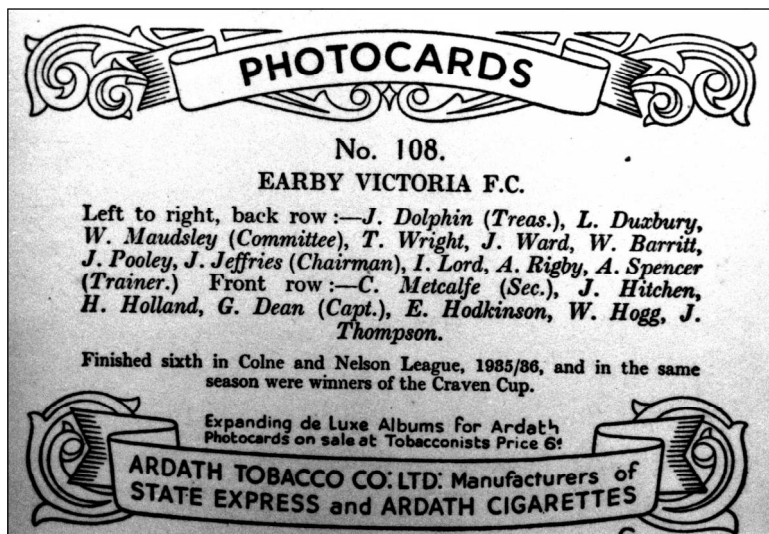
The team was really a district team as players from Brierfield, Colne and Nelson were signed as well as those from Earby. They played in red shirts with a white V and often drew crowds of 1000 spectators.

The team members were - Goal Keeper Tom Whalley, Full Backs Bob Slater and Jim Shuttleworth, Half Backs Gus Atkinson, Jonny Pooley

and Warren Hartley, Forwards Right Wing Fred Woling, Inside right Ernie Dyer, Centre Forward Jack Pollard, Inside Left Walter Hogg and Left Wing Alan Corbridge. Fred Dolphin was also a member of the team. Centre half Johnny Pooley was the captain and Centre forward Jack Pollard was a prolific goal getter scoring 72 during that famous season.



The 1935-36 Team



The coming of WWII caused the break up of the team as one by one they were called up for the services.

Fifty years later, 1989, the team had a reunion celebration at the Great Marsden Hotel when, surprisingly, all the original team members were present.

This article is based on cuttings collected by Fred Dolphin and contained in his scrap book.

THORNTON MARKET AND FAIR

Bob Abel

The Calendar of charted rolls (1226-1300) records that in 1300 the Manor of Thornton was granted a market charter and a charter to hold an annual fair. The charters were granted by King Edward I to Walter de Muncey.

Whitaker in his History of Craven tells us that Muncey had bought the manor of Thornton that same year from Philip de Kyme for £600. Whitaker also relates that, at the same time, Muncey obtained a charter of Free Warren in Thornton, Earby and Kelbrook. Free Warren allowed the grantee the right to hunt certain game animals in a specified area (all game in the country was considered to be the property of the Sovereign.)

The market charter allowed a market to be held each Thursday at the manor.

The Fair Charter was for an annual event on the Feast of St. Thomas the Martyr and would last for five days, the vigil, feast and morrow plus two days i.e. the eve of the feast day, the feast day itself the day after plus two additional days. The Feast of St Thomas is 7th July.

St. Thomas the Martyr was Thomas Becket, Archbishop of Canterbury. Thomas was appointed as Henry II's Lord Chancellor and in 1162 he was consecrated as Archbishop of Canterbury. Becket resigned from his job as Lord Chancellor and began to assert amongst other things certain rights that the church had lost to the crown and antagonism grew between the King and Becket.

To cut a long story short, the King became so annoyed with Becket that he is supposed to have uttered the immortal words "who will rid me of this turbulent priest?". According to historian Simon Schama this is incorrect: he accepts the account of the contemporary biographer Edward Grim, writing in Latin, who gives us "What miserable drones and traitors have I nourished and brought up in my household, who let their lord be treated with such shameful contempt by a low-born cleric?"

Whatever might have been said, it was interpreted by a group of knights that Henry wanted Becket killed and they duly set out for Canterbury Cathedral to do the deed. The monks of Canterbury buried Beckett in the cathedral crypt and placed a large stone over to prevent the body being stolen.

Two years after the murder in the cathedral, Thomas Becket was canonised.

On July 7th 1220, the fiftieth anniversary of Becket's death, his remains were moved to a specially built shrine in Trinity Chapel. This act of translation was "one of the great symbolic events in the life of the medieval English Church" and a major new feast day was instituted to be observed throughout the country.

Eighty years later this feast day was chosen as the date for Thornton's Charter Fair.

It is interesting to note that Earby Feast continued to be held at the beginning of July up to the beginning of the twentieth century before it was superseded by wakes week.

This year is the 850th anniversary of Becket's murder in Canterbury Cathedral.

ST.MARY'S CHURCH KELBROOK

LAYING THE FOUNDATION STONE

Leeds Intelligencer 7th April 1838

On Wednesday March 28th was laid the foundation stone of St.

Mary's Church, Kelbrook in the parish of Thornton-in-Craven. The interest which a ceremony of this nature is always so calculated to produce, was on the present occasion increased in a more than ordinary degree.. The beauty of the day, the situation of the intended building, the regularity with which the proceedings were conducted, the extreme order and attention that pervaded the dense body of spectators, the solemnity with which every part of the ceremony was invested, all conspired to give impressiveness to the occasion.

On arriving at the site of the intended church, the procession was received by the Sunday School children, and after an appropriate prayer had been offered up by the Rev. L S Morris, Rector of the parish, the 100th Psalm was sung. The Rector in a suitable address called upon Matthew Wilson Jun. Esq. of Eshton Hall, to perform the honourable office of laying the foundation stone of a building dedicated to the service of Almighty God, which he accordingly did with the usual ceremonies.

Afterwards the Rev. J A Busfield addressed the assemblage in an excellent and energetic speech, which was listened to with the greatest attention. The Rector then read a few Collects from the Liturgy, which with the benediction and the national anthem, concluded the ceremony.

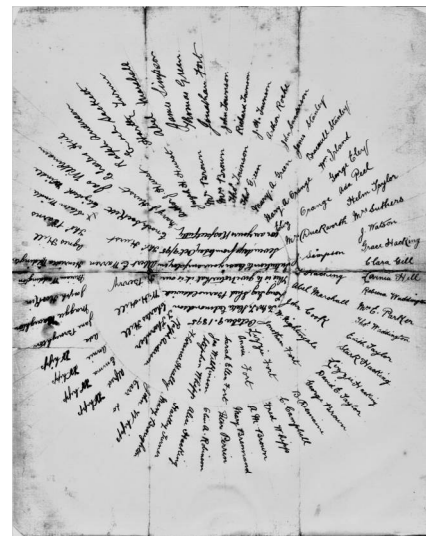
It cannot fail to be a source of the greatest satisfaction to the subscribers to this work of piety (among whom we have the pleasure of finding the names of Miss Currer of Eshton Hall, and the Rev. W A Wasney, Vicar of Bracewell, Sir J L L Kaye Bart. giving the site) to reflect that the inhabitants of this district, chiefly poor hand-loom weavers, hitherto living in almost heathen ignorance, spending the Sabbath Day in idleness, and in neglect of all religious duties, will, by a Minister being stationed there, most effectually be induced to reform their moral character; and the stability and prosperity of the Established Church will, at the same time, be promoted by the instruction of the rising generation, in this edifice, wholly constructed by the pious beneficence of private individuals for the public worship of Almighty God.



ROUND ROBIN

The document has been donated by Julia Holt of Barnoldswick.

What do you understand by the term "Round Robin"? Is it a letter sent round to a number of recipients or does it refer to a tournament in which every participant has the opportunity to play every other participant in the competition.



Both definitions are currently accepted but in the latter part of the nineteenth century in the textile towns of East Lancashire and probably other areas it had quite a different connotation.

There were many disputes in the mills of our area in the late nineteenth hundreds be they about wages paid or working conditions. In 1895 there were disputes that local weavers were on lower rates of pay than those say in Burnley and parity was being called for

Very often if a group of textile workers were in dispute with their bosses, strike action would be called for. A notice of intent to withdraw their labour, if certain conditions were not agreed by a deadline, was drawn up to be signed by all the group of intending strikers. To avoid any one person being singled out as the instigator for victimisation, the signatures were set out in circular form with no end or beginning.

The example shown here relates to an intended strike at Slater Edmundson's company at Long Ing Shed in Barnoldswick.

The Burnley Express (12th October 1895) reported:

"... John Eastwood who represented Messers Eastwood and Maudsley and the Butts Mill Co Ltd reached an amicable settlement... the Weavers' Association had determined to tackle Butts Mill and Long Ing Shed first and at Messrs Bradley's (Butts Mill) ... the firms affected at Long Ing are Messrs. T S Edmondson, Jas Edmondson, Robinson and Brooks and Edmondson Ormerod and the number of looms is 1,600..."

This round robin, dated 9th October 1895, is addressed to Slater Edmundson, Long Ing Shed, Barnoldswick. "This is to give notice that it is our intention to leave your employ in seven days from Oct 9/95. We are yours respectfully..."

THE SOCIETY

Meets at the Community Centre, New Road, EARBY on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7.30 p.m.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION

£10.00

UK £12.00

Overseas £15.00

If you receive Chronicles by e-mail £10 fee applicable worldwide

OFFICIALS

Chairman: Bob Abel Phone 01282 812599 Email: bobabel2224@gmail.com

Secretary: Margaret Brown Phone 01282 843932

Email: margaret.brown2869@hotmail.co.uk

Editor, Stephanie Carter Phone 01756 794099

Email: steph.carter123@gmail.com

Vice Chairman: Stephanie Carter

Treasurer: Wendy Faulkner Phone 01282 863160

Email: wendy@lbhfarm.co.uk

Archivist : Wendy Faulkner

Programme Secretary : Bob Abel

NRCC Representative: Bob Abel

PROGRAMME FOR NEXT QUARTER

DEPENDING ON CORVID 19 RESTRICTIONS

Tuesday 12th September Other Peoples Rubbish by Chris Helme

Tuesday 20th October Romans, Quakers and Textiles: the story of Old Road, Thornton in Craven by Vera Breary

Tuesday 17th November Earby's Corn Mill Margaret Brown and Wendy Faulkner

Tuesday 15th December The Story of Christmas and its customs
by Linda Sawley

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.

PRODUCED & PRINTED

by EARBY AND DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

£2-50

Free to members of the Society