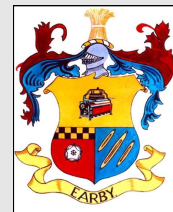


# Earby Chronicles

Edition 59

WINTER 2010



## 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, Hague and Salterforth.

## OFFICIALS

Chairman :  
Bob Abel  
phone 01282 843850

Vice Chairman :  
Vacant

Secretary :  
Margaret Brown  
phone 01282 843932

Treasurer :  
Wendy Faulkner  
phone 01282 863160

Programme Secretary  
Vacant

Liaison Officer:  
Trevor Tattersall  
phone 01282 842819

Archivist:  
Margaret Greenwood  
phone 01282 843394

NRCC & Parish Rep:  
Wendy Venables

IT & Website:  
Ken Hartley  
phone 01282 817535

Editor:  
Vacant  
Temporary contact  
Bob Abel  
Phone 01282 843850

## BRISTOL TRACTORS

The Bristol Tractor Company occupied Sough Bridge Mill for some 25 years. They designed and manufactured crawler tractors in numerous variations to suit particular jobs. Their products were exported all over the world with 245 Bristol 20 models being sold in New Zealand in one year. The history of the company has been well documented by the late Victor Laycock in his book "Bristol Tractors 1932 -1970".

As the name suggests the first tractors were built in Bristol by the Douglas Motor Company. The Douglas Company had graduated from blacksmiths to the successful



**Former Bristol Tractor Employees at the reunion (left to right) – Brian Phillip, John West, Peter Ormerod, Francis Clarke and Colin Holt**

manufacture of motor cycles and it was hoped that the diversification into light weight tractors would improve their prospects. However the company's fortunes dipped fur-

### recent talks & features

Page 6 Thornton-in-Craven church tower—an enigma— celebrating 500 years by Derek Claburn

Page 8 Frederick Edmund Brown (1877-1951) - Part I by Bob Abel

Page 13 History of Earby's Libraries—Part II by Bob Abel

£2.50

Members of  
Society free



ther; they went bankrupt and the business was split up. The Bristol Tractor Company Ltd was rescued from the remnants and manufacturing moved to London.

After problems with the engine used to power the tractors, an engine being used in the Jowett van was found to be more suitable and this is where the local connection begins.

William Jowett ran an engineering company started in Bradford in the 1800s and in 1901 his children Ruth, William and Benjamin, left the family business to set up the Jowett Motor Manufacturing Company, producing small commercial vehicles and cars. One of the most iconic of their models is the Jowett Jupiter, a classic of the 1950s, shown below



**Jowett Jupiters on display at Bancroft Mill**

In 1934 the new Bristol Tractor Company was struggling and was not able to pay for a batch of engines they had ordered from Jowetts. As a result Jowett took over the company and transferred production to Bradford.

After the Second World War Clarence, the son of William Jowett, took charge of the Bristol Tractor manufacturing and in 1945 he moved production to Sough Bridge Mill, which had recently been released by the Ministry of Supply after being used by the Rover Company for war work. Clarence Jowett also set up two other companies on the site; Kelbrook Metal Products (KMP) which supplied tin work and petrol tanks and body panels for their own use, and metal building components for the construction industry; and Forecast Foundries to supply castings. By 1947 production had increased to 30 tractors a week, plus implements, with a workforce of 120. Most models were made to order with a choice of size and implements to suit a particular job be it in vineyards and orchards, or dragging electricity pole across remote Yorkshire moors when the electricity supply was being extended to isolated villages and hamlets

Throughout the following 20 years new models and technology were introduced and the Bristol tractor became a popular choice for both agricultural and civil engineering work, with many being exported all over the world. The work force at its peak numbered 300 and rivalled Rolls Royce as a major engineering company in the area.

In 1964 the company was taken over by their UK sales agents, H A Saunders, and the headquarters moved to Worcester. Crawler tractors continued to be manufactured at the Sough factory but by 1970 sales



were falling as the JCB wheeled options were becoming more popular. Eventually manufacture of their latest model, the Taurus crawler tractor, was sold to the Marshall Fowler Group who moved production to their Lincolnshire factory in Gainsborough. The Sough Bridge factory was kept open into 1971, supplying spare parts.



The Bristol Tractors Logo

On Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> August 2010 a reunion of former employees of Bristol Tractors took place at Bancroft Mill in Barnoldswick to mark 40 years since production ceased at Kelbrook. It was planned to coincide with a gathering of Jowett Car owners and two Bristol Tractors were also on display. Many friendships were renewed and anecdotes swapped, and a DVD of Bristol Tractors, originally filmed by Francis Clarke, was shown. A further reunion was being mooted for later in the year.

If you have any memories or memorabilia of Bristol Tractors to help shed more light on the history of this well known local company, please contact the secretary Margaret Brown.



## NEW BOOK .....

## NOWT! A MINISTRY OF NOTHING?

Trevor Vaughan has been a Church of England vicar for 40 years, spending about 10 of these in the parish of Broughton, Marton and Thornton. In that time he has seen enormous changes, not all for the best, in the Church which nurtured him from boyhood. As a priest he has played his part in the plights and pleasures and pantomime of parish life.

A fascinating read at just £10, this can be obtained direct from YPD-Books 64 Hallfield Road, Layerthorpe, York, YO31 7ZQ or [www.ypdbooks.com](http://www.ypdbooks.com)

PLEASE NOTE this is not a History Society publication.



## EARLY MOTOR TRANSPORT IN EARBY

Staying for a moment with the transport theme, photographs illustrating transport from a former era have been lent to the Society for copying by Rosemary Lord and Pat Hustwick.



The earlier one from Pat Hustwick shows Walter Dawson proudly demonstrating his truck outside Riley Street Wesleyan chapel probably in the 1920's. The printing on the side says W. Dawson light carrier Earby. Walter's nephew, Peter Dawson, points out that it is a left hand drive vehicle probably of American manufacture.



The next photograph illustrated features Fred Dolphin and Jack Edmondson at Blacko Bar with milk collection lorry c 1936.





Lane End Garage 1946 left to right—  
David Jeffreys, Jack Edmondson, Frederick Dolphin

This garage, run by the local Wilkinson family, is now in the hands of another local family, the Lancasters and now called Earby Auto's.

age, then

## THE DUKES (the Duke of Wellington's Regiment)

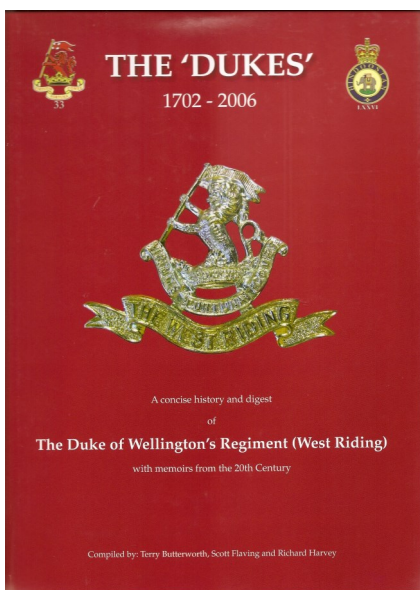
The September 21<sup>st</sup> meeting was a most informative event when Scott Flaving, Secretary to the Trustees of the Duke of Wellington's Museum, and a colleague came along to talk about the Duke of Wellington's Regiment in the West Riding.

Scott outlined the history from the raising of the regiment as 33<sup>rd</sup> Regiment of Foot in 1702. In 1793 the future Duke of Wellington joined the regiment and they fought under his command at Waterloo. After Wellington's death the regiment was renamed the Duke of Wellington's Regiment (DWR). In 1881 they were amalgamated with the 76<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Foot to become the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalions of the DWR which in turn were merged in 1948 to form the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion the DWR (West Riding). Finally on 16th June 2006 the DWR was incorporated together with The Prince of Wales Own Regiment of Yorkshire and the The Green Howards in to a new regiment, The Yorkshire Regiment and "The Dukes" became the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion The Yorkshire Regiment (Duke of Wellington's).

This most interesting talk was made even more relevant with information on several local men who served with the regiment. Scott used a number of sources including the regimental roll of gallantry awards, medal rolls, the Soldiers Died in the Great War publication and the Commonwealth War Graves Commission web site all of which are useful for researching military ancestors. He has collated his notes and donated them to the Society.

In 2009 The Friends of the Regiment published a book "The Dukes' 1702-2006 - a concise history and digest of The Duke of Wellington's Regiment (West Riding), with memoirs from the 20<sup>th</sup> century", compiled by Terry Butterworth, Scott Flaving and Richard Harvey. This well illustrated book is a must read for anyone researching campaigns and/or their

own relatives who served in the regiment, and the Society is most appreciative in receiving its own copy for members use.



## FAMILY HISTORY SEARCH

The Secretary has had a phone call from a lady called Patricia Thomason who is related by marriage to the Judd family. She was wanting information on John and Mary Judd who had a greengrocers shop either on Water Street or Victoria Road, Earby. Her mother's brother married their daughter Edna Judd, who died without children leaving Patricia as sole benefactor. Patricia says she has some photographs which she will allow the Society to take copies from. If you can help please contact Margaret Brown.

### THORNTON-IN-CRAVEN CHURCH TOWER AN ENIGMA – CELEBRATING 500 YEARS

By Derek D Claburn

Thornton-in-Craven church, situated some ¾ mile away from the village centre, is dominated by what appears to be a late medieval buttress tower. It towers above the stone slate roof of the nave, aisles and chancel and is built up using carefully chosen large blocks of local stone.

At first glance, one can be forgiven for accepting at face value the worn inscription on its south face. T D Whitaker in his 'History of the Craven Deanery' c1808 was able to read and record the gothic inscription as:-

*"Jams Car Baly of // Thorntn wre fownd' an'0 D'm MCCCCCX // wark wr' p'achn"*

Ignoring West Yorkshire dialect, it is reasonable to assume that Whitaker's translation reflects the meaning of the inscription as: "James Carr, bailiff was founder and the parishioners gave their labour".

Thus it is not unreasonable to assume that Carr masterminded or oversaw the construction of the tower in 1510 and the parishioners gave their labour as part of the 'boon service' owed by land holders and labourers to the 'Lord of the Manor' - in other words, services rendered, possibly in lieu of other 'demense duties' or perhaps a substitute for tithe remissions. Externally, the south wall and the SE buttress were once adorned with coats of arms - possibly Carr's own insignia and that of his patron - Listers or Manners - Lord Roos. Below the south belfry window is a small niche that may well have accommodated an effigy of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The cusp head of this structure is remarkably similar to those surviving where the Tempest family had connections before the English Reformation i.e. 1530s at Bracewell, Broughton and Kirkby Malhamdale.

The tower is crowned by a low, stone slate, pyramidal roof, supported on ancient reused timbers, and was possibly enhanced by four pinnacles at each corner. These may have been removed in the 19<sup>th</sup> century due to deterioration or looseness.

From the interior of the church, the 1510 completion date poses a number of enigmas or queries. Did the pre 1510 church possess a tower of any significance? The exposed stonework at the ringing floor level neither confirms nor denies such speculation. The two Early English double chamfered low arches in the south and north walls implies that part of an earlier structure was incorporated in the 1510 rebuild. The marrying of these arches into the surrounding stonework suggests a pre 1510 date. However, the door surround to the tower spiral staircase is in a typical late Perpendicular style - sometimes known as a 'Tudor arch'. The staircase exhibits the usual dressed stone features including a newel stone ending to each step. There is no evidence of any doorways leading off the staircase until the former ringing chamber is reached. (Today, this area now houses the bell frame and the ring of six bells, installed in 1999).

Beyond and above the former ringing chamber lies an earlier belfry - with a massive oak bell frame. It bears inscriptions of repairs from the 17<sup>th</sup> century, including a 'Harrison' from Barton on Humber - possibly 'longitude' John Harrison - distinguished clockmaker's grandfather. Today the area is encased in netting to deter the entry of jackdaws and pigeons.

Within the upper interior of the tower can be seen rectangular holes cut into the wall surface at fairly regular intervals. These are likely to be 'put holes' wherein internal scaffolding was erected whilst the tower was being raised. As such, hefty oak beams could be wedged in place to provide safe footings for temporary flooring whilst the walls were raised.



We must return to Carr's original inscription to visualise some of the difficulties encountered by late medieval builders where their labour force was 'parishioners'. These workers were part time, largely engaged in agricultural or cottage craft pursuits and their work scheme had to comply with local 'boon day' patterns. Furthermore, the actual building period in any year was limited to perhaps as little as 4 or 5 months in spring and summer time. With onset of winter, building operations would cease. Walls were often thatched to protect newly laid stonework and mortar, and the whole internal area of the tower may well have had a temporary thatched roof. This thatch would be removed as building started up again each spring. The assembling of the dressed stone to face the exterior of the tower could be carried on throughout the year. Likewise, the preparation of massive baulks of oak for flooring joists and roofing could be worked up during the winter months.

The nave arch is a very good example of a middle period Perpendicular double chamfered arch. What is noticeable at the ground level is that there is a lack of a buttress form or foot to the arch. Were these cut away in the 18<sup>th</sup> century when a gallery was installed or are they below the existing ground level – since the rear of the tower, the westward floor, was some 2 feet lower than is seen today?

The original bell frame was built to accommodate four bells. A ring of four bells is recorded in the mid 18<sup>th</sup> century. The present 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> bell, dated as 1510, are from a casting taking place supervised by an itinerant Nottingham bell founder – John Selliok.

The 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> bells bear the Gothic script dedications –

5<sup>th</sup> – 'Campana Sanctus Antonius' – the bell of St. Anthony

6<sup>th</sup> – 'Ave Maria Gra' Plena dns' tuum.' – possibly 'Hail Mary, fill us with thy grace'.

Itinerant bell founders were able to supervise the casting of bells from local material sources in the vicinity of the churchyard. The depression SW of the tower may well have served as a foundry zone – with local population contributing labour and scrap brass/laten as raw material. Given the sloping ground to the west of the tower, the builders must have been confident of the firmness of the tower's foundations.

During the recent conversion of the northern tower bay at ground level, to create a toilet and kitchen, a blocked up doorway was discovered leading from the north aisle. Was this the entry point for a staircase to gain access to a western gallery under the tower in the middle decades of the 18<sup>th</sup> century? The Revd. Henry Richardson (1710-1778) – rector from 1735-1778, embarked upon installing a 'singing gallery' after his marriage to Mary Dawson (1717-1800) of Oldham in 1747. Choral singing was much in vogue and the singers of St Mary's Church, Oldham were held in high esteem and called upon to perform in Manchester. Evidence for a frontal beam of the gallery exists in the blocked up holes in the tower arch.

Before the installation of an organ in the 1870s, Thornton probably had a 'church band' which provided musical accompaniment to the metrical psalms. Such bands were made up of violins, oboes, bassoons, flutes, and serpents – see 'The Village Choir' Thomas Webster's painting of the choir at Bow Brickhill, Buckinghamshire.

Perhaps another enigma rests outside on the eastern wall of the tower. Above the present roof-line, there exists a stone watershed intended for a higher pitched roof. Did the church at one time have a nave and chancel with clerestory windows? If so, when was the nave roof lowered? The existing nave/chancel roof has all the indications of Victorian construction. Were the rear pillars of the two aisles also rebuilt to incorporate unusual carvings – a long boned head - and the support for a roof structure?

Perhaps, the final enigma was that the tower was never invested with a clock mechanism – neither in the 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. However, given the church's location, a clock bell would not be heard either in the adjoining village or in the rapidly growing fringes at Earby or Kelbrook or Thornton Moor. Sometime during the 18<sup>th</sup> century, a sandstone sundial was erected on the south face of the tower. From his attraction to sundials, it is probable that Revd. Henry Richardson had a dial cut in the mid 1750s. Currently the dial rests inside the tower awaiting a decision to re-rest it on its former supports.

Sources:

T D Whitaker, History and Antiquities of the Deanery of Craven 1808/1878

Nicholaus Pevsner, Buildings of England: Yorkshire –West Riding, Penguin 1967

Arthur Mee, Yorkshire – West Riding, 1952

Derek D Clabburn et alia, Henry Richardson 1710 –1778 Life and legacy of a Thornton rector, EDLHS, 2007

Christopher Weir, Village and Town Bands, Shire Publication No 61.

Shaw Giles, Annals of Oldham and District, Oldham, 1904

Clegg A H., Thornton in Craven – Bygone Days in an ancient Parish, EDLHS, 2006

## FREDERICK EDMUND BROWN (1877-1951) PART I

By Bob Abel

The Rev, Frederick E. Brown died in Gibraltar in 1951 aged 74 years. He was born in Earby in 1877, the second son of Henry Brown and his wife Elizabeth (nee Varley). At the time of the 1881 census the family were living on Stoops Hill. Henry was the founder of the well known local engineering firm of Henry Brown, Son and Pickles.

Frederick (or Fred as he was more commonly known) got his elementary education at the Earby Grammar School and, according to the 1891 census, when he was thirteen years old, he had followed his father into the engineering trade as a mechanic. After a short spell as a pupil teacher he attended training college in Scotland from where he entered the Methodist Ministry and joined the China Inland Mission.

In the late 19<sup>th</sup> century China was beginning to emerge from its feudal isolation and was fertile ground for Christian missionaries to spread the gospel. I have not found the exact year when Fred Brown first set off for China but estimate it would have been about 1897.

China was also teeming with engineers, building railways, installing telegraph cables, sinking mines and building cotton mills as the Emperor of China tried to throw off the old ways and embrace the coming, modern 20<sup>th</sup> century.

However he did not bargain for the redoubtable Dowager Empress who over threw him in an attempt to take the country back to the old feudal ways. She encouraged the so called Boxer Rebellion against western influences. The literal translation from the Chinese of the term for the ancient sect known as the Boxers is "Harmony of Fists". The Boxer sect was anti-dynastic, anti-progressive, anti-modern, anti-Christian, and anti-foreign.

Early in 1900 news started to emerge of atrocities being committed by the Boxers as western and northern provinces of China were swept clear of western missionaries, teachers and engineers.

Fred Brown found himself caught up in this maelstrom. Brown was attending a Missionary Conference in Peking in early June 1900. Trouble here was already brewing and the Marine Guard had been called up to protect the foreign legations' area of Peking. On the 4<sup>th</sup> of June Brown with three others were leaving the city when they saw Chinese soldiers menacingly congregating around the foreign legations. On arriving at the railway station things looked bleak for them as the Boxers had attacked the railway and set fire to a bridge. Eventually an train approached the station with a Chinese crew who wanted to get to Tientsin. They could not guarantee to get through but offered to take Brown and party, who promptly took up positions at the carriage windows with rifles and revolvers, and the train sped off towards Tientsin\* (Brown's adopted home) not knowing how the journey might end. After nine miles they approached the bridge which had been burnt but not so badly to prevent the train from crossing. The whole journey unfolded evidence of the Boxer actions with stations burned and telegraph lines destroyed. Brown and his party had escaped with their lives and were probably the last to flee Peking before the foreigners there were completely besieged by the hostile Chi-



Fred Brown in Chinese Robes



nese.

Admiral Seymour, determined to reopen communication with Peking and within twenty four hours, set out from Tientsin with 2,000 men on a fruitless mission.

From Tientsin Brown went to the coast where he and other foreigners awaited their fate. Any route inland was cut off and they were eventually rescued by HMS Humber and Brown reached the port of Chefoo. Soon after arriving there he received a cable appointing him as war correspondent for the New York Journal and he sent numerous reports on the unfolding situation to New York and London. Meanwhile his wife had left on a troop ship bound for the relative safety of Hong Kong.

From Chefoo Brown managed to get back to Tientsin only to find his home destroyed and the city under siege by the Boxers. Tientsin would have been overrun by the Chinese but for the bravery of a young English man named Watts, who slipped through the Chinese lines taking news of the impending calamity to the allies who quickly sent relieving troops. Shortly after the relief of Tientsin a similar message was received from Peking "the situation is desperate, make haste"!

Admiral Seymour's earlier attempt at reaching Peking had failed and now a bigger force of 20,000 men was assembled consisting of Americans, British (mainly Indian troops), French, Russians and Japanese. From 15th July, when the native city of Tientsin fell, until 4th August, when the march to Peking began, not a day was wasted. All was hurry and bustle in preparation for the coming ninety-miles march through an enemy's country.

Brown was seconded into the intelligence section because of his long residence in and knowledge of the area and the language. Brown describes his task:

*"The Intelligence Department was responsible for the preparation of a map of each day's march on the scale of one inch to a mile. This gave every village and road with as much further information as the scouts had been able to secure; the number of guns and their positions, the trenches of the enemy; in fact the map became as important to the officer as a chart is to a captain at sea. Besides the map, a written description of the morrow's march, the probable number of the enemy and their positions, with roads and their condition, was prepared. Each staff officer was provided with both map and description. "*

He was reluctant to go at first and:

*"to overcome my scruples, I was offered liberal pay; but, after thought and prayer, I informed General Gaselee that "If I go to Peking, it will be for humanity's sake, and not for the money." In the end I agreed to take the post. A pension in case of accident, and provision for my family in case of need, were arranged satisfactorily; so that, at the appointed time, I was ready to march with the column."*

It was a gruelling march. Even though the rainy season was imminent the road was hot and dusty, interspersed with drenching thunderstorms. Skirmishes and battles with Chinese soldiers and the Boxer Rebels were constantly being engaged as they progressed; the Chinese gave and expected no mercy.

Meanwhile the plight of the besieged foreign legations in Peking was becoming more desperate as food and water became scarce.

The allied force started to make good progress with the Chinese retreating in the direction of Peking and by the 12<sup>th</sup> August reached and took Tung Chow the port for Peking.

On the night of the 13<sup>th</sup> August, during a thunderstorm the advance guard began their march to Peking itself. Brown was to ride with the British commanding general at the head of the infantry brigade when the main force marched at 2-00am on the 14<sup>th</sup>.

The Russians and the Japanese approached the formidable Manchu Wall of Peking (60 feet high and 40 feet wide with massive gates). The Americans attacked the smaller southern wall and came under a hail of bullets. The British contingent pushed onto the Sha-Wo gate which seemed to be undefended, the other attacks had drawn the Chinese defenders away. Twelve rounds of artillery fire blew the gate apart.

As they approached the area of the city where the foreign legations were located they got a signal to enter through the water gate. Brown describes the moment,

*“The General, with his staff and soldiers, rushed across the canal, and, with help from the inside, the bars of the sewer-gate were soon broken down. As they crossed a hail of bullets poured on them from the Ha-ta Gate, but not a man was touched, and in marched General Gaselee and his staff, with the 1st Sikh regiment. I was detained outside, with Captain Low, who was in charge of the baggage caravan. The delight of being one of the first inside the Legations was denied me; but I was well employed for an hour, for the respectable business men were flitting from house to house. Our men could hardly resist the temptation of shooting at every passing Chinaman, not being able to distinguish between decent civilians and Boxers. I was able to save some lives, by keeping the officers informed as to who were peaceable inhabitants.”*

After the jubilation of the rescue the true horror of the siege began to dawn as Brown describes

*“As the flush of excitement left the faces of the besieged, it was seen that they were haggard and worn. They looked like a company of invalids. Every part of the enclosure testified to their tragic experiences. There was a plot of land in the corner filled with graves. Several children, for whom no proper food could be procured, had died of starvation. Fifty-four of the defenders had been killed, while one hundred and twelve had been wounded.”*

*“Then half a dozen of my friends invited me to share the evening meal with them. Naturally I was only too glad. But before the meal was through I had changed my mind. The first course was "pony soup and brown bread." The second and last was "mule steak and musty rice." I did more talking than eating, and, as soon as politeness would allow me, excused myself and went back to the Legation veranda, where the staff had taken up their quarters, and had a little "bully beef" and biscuit, which was more to my taste.”*

Rev Fred Brown was persuaded to recall his experiences in the rescue mission and “From Tientsin to Peking with the Allied Forces” was published in 1902 from which much of the above information has been drawn.

To be continued...

\*The modern name for Tientsin is Tianjin

Notes : the 1963 film “55 Days at Peking” starring David Niven, Charlton Heston and Ava Gardner is a dramatization of the siege of the Foreign Legations in Peking (now Beijing), the 55 days being the length of the blockade.

A full copy of “From Tientsin to Peking with the Allied Forces”, F.E. Brown’s own account of the march to and relief of Peking has been lodged in the Society archives. See next page for the title page.

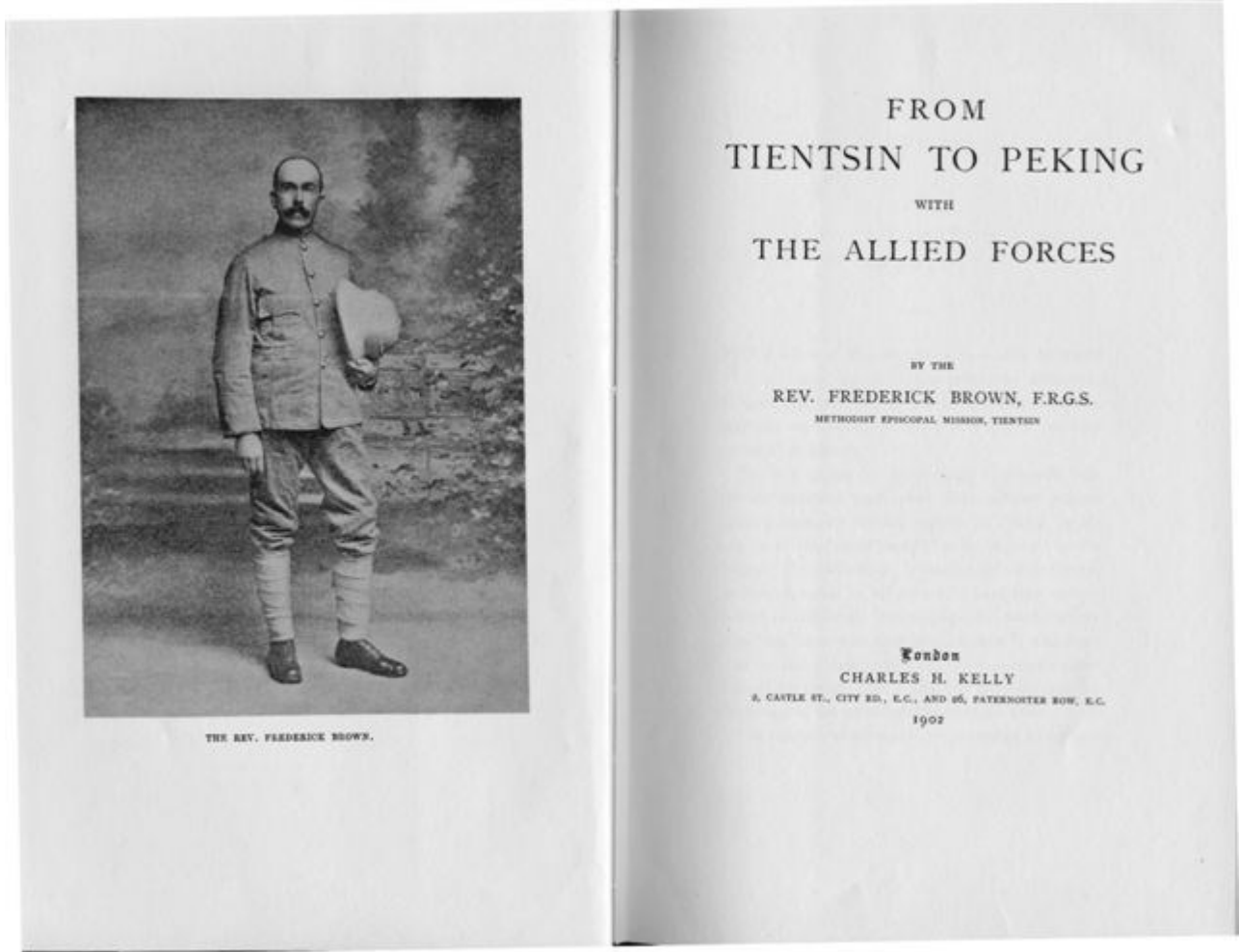
## EARBY & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

This coming year the Society celebrates its 16th anniversary .....

### ANNUAL DINNER

The annual dinner will be held on Saturday 26th February 2011, 7-00 for 7-30, at the White Lion Inn, Earby. Places are limited so do return your booking form as soon as possible (form attached) and by 31st January at the latest.





## THE EARBY DOLLS HOUSE

My mother-in-law recently celebrated her ninetieth birthday. An Earby lass, she was born Doreen Broughton in 1920 and when a girl she was bought a dolls house by her parents. The house was not new but was purchased from the local doctor, Doctor Falconer, having been made for his daughter, another Doreen, who had grown too old for it.

The house was in the form of a three-room bungalow, with bay windows to the front and sash type windows at the side, all of which have real glass. Two of the rooms have fireplaces with tiny grilles at the front, while the middle room has a panelled front door, complete with doorknob. Two younger sisters joined Doreen and all three girls spent many happy hours playing with the house.

There was only one girl in the next generation (the other five children being boys) and in the 1950s the house was passed on to her to play with. However this generation produced eight girls, including my own three daughters, and passed between cousins and second cousins from the 1970s to the 1990s, undergoing repair and refurbishment in successive homes. Doreen's grandfather installed a battery lighting system in the 1920s, but this had disappeared by the 1970s and was reinstalled in the 1980s by another grandfather while the external paintwork, originally grey walls and white windows, was changed to white walls and black windows at this time.

The house has recently returned to our family and I have refurbished it once more for my granddaughter, Doreen's great granddaughter, to play with. She will be the fourth generation of Doreen's family, and the fifth generation of children, to do so. As I understand that Doreen Falconer was born in 1905, it



seems likely that the house and still going strong.

is now over 100 years old

I feel that it is very impressive that a house made by an Earby craftsman so long ago is still a favourite plaything of a twenty first century child and am now trying to write a more detailed history for my grandchildren. Therefore if anyone has any further information regarding early Earby history, either about the Falconer family or local joiners or cabinet makers who may have made it, I would love to hear from you.

Rosemary Heyworth

## SEX, WIGS AND DRINK IN THE TIME OF QUEEN ANNE

The ever-popular Dr. Alan Crosby returned to the Society on 19th of October to speak, this time, on the intriguing subjects of sex, wigs and drink. Perhaps unsurprisingly this attracted a large audience to hear a most entertaining and informative lecture. Alan is a Professor of History and a much published author with a vast knowledge of local as well as national history.

This telling story was based on a diary of one person, Edmund Harold, and of the times and places were he had lived during the reign of Queen Anne. It is believed to be one of a several volumes but appears to be the sole survivor, now held in Cheetham's Library, Manchester.

Edmund kept a diary despite a fairly chaotic lifestyle, he is described as a bit of an inadequate man with a weakness, namely drink and, despite some fairly breathtaking drinking sessions, he still seemed able to put down his exploits in writing. These he used, on occasions, for himself to check back on his sojourns into drinking.

Edmund died in June 1721 at the age of 41 years, and his story remained lost until the 1850s when the diary was discovered on a book barrow in Manchester and bought for a couple of pence by one John Harland of the Manchester Guardian who was described as a 'good local historian'. Impressed by the detail The Guardian newspaper began to publish the diary, in parts, but – and it's a big but - as Victorian culture demanded, they left out all references to sex. There was a lot on religion however, as Edmund considered himself highly religious, and the Victorians would be interested in that.

The published diary extracts continued to be studied as a useful insight into social history until, in the 1960s, latter day social historians decided to go back to the original – and found all that was left out by the Guardian!

Edmund, it appears, left no will and the parish registers for the area and his period are missing. What is known though is that he married three times, buried two wives and had seven children, only two surviving infancy. His profession was wig making, human or horses hair was used, the former being preferred, understandably. This provided its own avenue to further his interest in young women, who he followed to induce them to sell him their locks, preferably dark ones (the fashion for men was dark coloured wigs).

## HISTORY OF EARBY'S LIBRARIES PART II

By Bob Abel

(Continued from the previous edition)

The library continued at the old grammar school until after the Second World War.

On the dissolution of the Victoria Institute in 1911 the library books and funds were transferred to Earby Urban District Council. In 1934 the amenities at the library were enhanced when the interest accrued by the money was used to establish a reference library. An ante-room was provided at the old grammar school and text books, dictionaries, and a set of encyclopaedias were purchased.

In 1937, James Lindley (the renowned former Earby teacher who had retired to the Doncaster area) offered his book collection to the library. A member of the Library central staff was sent to inspect the collection and 128 volumes were accepted as suitable for the Earby library.

Also in 1937 the WRCC requested that Earby UDC establish outpost junior libraries at New Road and Kelbrook schools.

The 1938/39 County Library annual report records:

Centre	Population	Open hours / wk	Members	Issues
Earby	)	6	1873	11770
Earby - Kelbrook	) 5148	2	134	1469
Kelbrook Jnr. School	)	½	26	395
Earby New Road Jnr.	)	1	100	1122

During the war the WRCC Libraries headquarters in Wakefield had to be vacated and relocated to smaller premises. This precipitated a move to decentralisation and led to the establishment of Barnoldswick as regional HQ for the Western Division, in temporary accommodation.

As early as 1940, Earby Urban District Council made representation to the West Riding Library services for a new more central library, but it soon became apparent that there was going to be a protracted war with other priorities to focus on.

Immediately after the war discussion began as to whether Earby would need more commodious council offices and the Coronation Hall was offered to the UDC at an "exceedingly reasonable price for that purpose". Enquiries were made to the Ministry of Health about the availability of a grant for structural alterations to the building, which it had been estimated, would cost some £10,000. Due to the after effects of the war causing materials and man power shortages, the UDC would have to convince the government that the work was absolutely essential before a grant could be considered.

Councillor Archie Clegg argued that a new town hall was not a priority and would be an added burden on the rates and that building new houses should take precedence. Although Mr Clegg's motion was defeated the scheme came to nothing as the loan application was refused.

It wasn't until 1949 that the WRCC Library Department purchased the Coronation Hall in Earby for £3500 to replace two woefully inadequate sites, the Western Regional HQ in Barnoldswick and the Earby library which had been located in the old grammar school since 1931. Negotiations also took place with Jack and Walter Greenwood with a view to purchasing a strip of land from them at the side of the Coronation Hall. This would have enabled extra windows to have been put in and provided space to erect garages for two travelling library vans, but the sale fell through.

By 1952 all the necessary repairs, renovations and alterations had been made to the building which now housed the Western Regional HQ with Earby library on the first floor. The mobile library service for the Western Region was also run from the ground floor. Mr W B Richardson was the District Librarian.



The opening ceremony took place in February 1952 as reported by the Barnoldswick and Earby Times newspaper as follows:-

*The removal of the County Branch Library from the old grammar school to the light and airy premises in the Coronation Hall is to most of Earby people a welcome development. A flight of stairs is the only drawback and that only affects the older ones and the infirm ... County Councillor P Carradice officially opened the new library... last Thursday. He was introduced by the county librarian, Oliph Smith, who called upon him to select the first book from the new shelves. His choice was J B Priestley's "Three Plays" which was duly stamped and issued by Mr J Cunliffe, library assistant. County Councillor Carradice said he had great pleasure in opening the new library and he was sure it would be appreciated by everyone in Earby. He had been interested in the library services for a long time, but he was not a member of the library or education sub-committees of the County Council... Earby people should be reasonably proud of their new library, which was one of the best in the West Riding. It was not only a library for the people of Ear-*



**Earby's Brand New Library of 1952**

*by; it was the regional head quarters as well and books would go out from there over a vast region extending as far as Sedbergh. It was doing good work which was essential in modern education.*

The Earby library provided the travelling library for the Western Area of the West Riding. The area covered stretched from west of Keighley to Sedbergh and was one of the largest in the country at 2000 square miles. The WRCC inaugurated the travelling library in 1946 but the idea was first tried during the war when the YMCA took books out to servicemen stationed at remote anti aircraft gun positions.

The smaller villages, hamlets and even individual farmsteads were served by the travelling library and one van was operated from Earby and another from Benthams at the opposite side of the region. They carried about 1000 books and were refilled regularly. At the time about 5000 books a month were being issued from the travelling library, 40% being non fiction indicating the educational value of the service.

A new mobile library service was introduced to the region in 1954 to provide better provision for the larger villages. These larger villages had no library as such having only a centre with part time staff, often a volunteer, and housed in premises such as community centres, schools, welfare institutes and village halls and often only open for brief periods. They were too small scale to justify large stocks of books. These centres were supplied with books from the Earby headquarters and were changed every four months.

A new vehicle had been ordered which had a capacity of nearly 2000 books which was to replace 35 plus of these rural library centres. Unlike the travelling library, which still continued, the mobile library had a larger stock of books and parked up in the villages for longer periods.

Books were also sent from Earby to schools, where a teacher was the librarian.

The Earby headquarters also provided a postal request service processing some 60 applications a day and held the bulk of the West Riding's stock of non fiction books.

The administrative county boundary reorganisation in 1974 brought about big changes for Earby library which now came under Lancashire County Council (LCC). The divisional function was transferred to Nelson and the mobile library unit relocated to Brierfield. Mr Richardson was appointed as District Librarian for Pendle and was now employed by Lancashire County Council.

In 1975, at a cost of £3500 (the same amount paid for the building in 1949), work began to re-site the library on the ground floor, thereby improving access for wheel chairs, the elderly and the infirm and at the



**A Typical Mobile Library**

same time providing 75% more space.

Thus on the afternoon of 16<sup>th</sup> June 1976 a new era began for Earby Library with an official opening in the presence of Vice Chairman of the County Library and Leisure Committee, Councillor H. Eastwood, together with County Librarian Alan Longworth.

The vacated first floor then became a much used function room for public meetings, wedding receptions and the like. However, in recent years, this first floor space has become run down and neglected and fallen out of public use.

In 1999 rumours regarding the future of Earby Library began to emerge and Lancashire County Council officials vehemently denied any such talk. Nevertheless fears still remained that, in order to save costs, the library might be downsized into vacant shop premises or even closed altogether.

What ever the future holds for Earby's current library, many generations have been well served with reading matter of all descriptions over the last 125 years and long may it continue.

## **EARBY'S BOYS AND GIRLS AT SCHOOL AND PLAY**

Here are a few recently acquired photographs from the 1950s. Can you tell us who they are?



**Esperanto Class of 1950**





**Note the real life baby, and its comfortable tin bath!**



**The 'manager' is Mr. Jackson a master at Aireville Secondary School, Skipton in the 1960s**

## **FLOODING IN EARBY 1946**



Lancashire Record office holds records of the former Earby Urban District Council and from these this interesting item has appeared. We hope this article doesn't become a profit of doom for flooding in this key area of Earby for 2011!

The flood had occurred on 31st August 1946 and G F Adamson , surveyor and water engineer to the Highways Committee, described the devastation. Firstly the wall over the culvert from Hodge Syke at Birley Playing Fields (locally known now as the "Waterfalls") was breached by a gap 7 yards wide and 5 ½ feet high, it was to be made good by a storm aperture with iron bars at a cost of £6.10s.

The recently constructed [*providing us today with a date*] children's paddling pool suffered no damage whatever, but contained a considerable quantity of shale, and this together with a further deposit of shale in the beck course under the Roman bridge required clearing at a cost of £5. [*Why this bridge is termed Roman remains a mystery since there is no road to or from it*].

At the waterfalls, the root of a felled tree some 9 feet by 9 feet by 3 feet had become loosened from the side of the falls and lay in the in the bed of the stream along with some pieces of sandstone about ½ ton each dislodged at the same time; lifting equipment was required at a cost of £20.

A stone culvert at the Brigstones area became blocked with debris, estimated at 12 wagonloads, to be removed and deposited on Standridge Clough lane at a cost of £30. The culvert itself had collapsed midway along and repair required opening the road, a more substantial culvert was therefore to be installed at an estimated 100guineas. This blockage caused further damage to a wall and railings at a culvert at Three Acre Clough repairs costing £12.10s. On top of this trees felled in the Clough by A J Carter & Son were causing problems.

A crack had appeared in Birch Hall Lane near the junction with Standridge Clough Lane to be filled with ballast. In case similar subsidence should occur to that which happened some years previously, material was to be held in readiness.

Standridge Clough Lane was washed out completely and impassable in parts. The engineer reported that some years ago he had experimented with cement grouting the stone in this road to replace continual repair with stone that becomes washed away at every occurrence of heavy rainfall. Overflow from becks at Lower Verjuice and Windle Field had exacerbated problems at Brigstones and beyond.

Wentcliffe Beck adjacent to Mill Brow bakehouse was blocked almost flooding the road. Further downstream the stepping-stones were engulfed with debris that had to be barrowed up Croft Street to be removed at a cost to the frontagers as well as the Council. A length of beck wall near to 25 Duxbury Street had collapsed and Skipton Building Society was required to rebuild. On Water Street the wall in front of 51 & 53 collapsed, a tree lodged under the concrete bridge at No. 49 and an automatic clough at Grove Mill should be removed. To resolve such problems in future it was recommended that Thornton Beck from Booth Bridge to Pickhill (Tempest Arms) should be straightened and short cuts made where possible [*not possible it would seem as not done by 2010!*]

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2011

The Society AGM will be held on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2011 at 7-30 pm. Nominations for Society Officials and proposals for discussion at the AGM need to be forwarded in writing to the Secretary, Margaret Brown, 69 Red Lion Street, Earby, BB18 6RJ, by January 31<sup>st</sup> 2011.

Nominations for

Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Programme Secretary, Editor, Web Site & IT officer, Archivist, NRCC Representative plus two other committee members are required.

The AGM will be followed by part 2 of Maria Glot's talk on Sir Titus Salt of Saltaire, rounding off the excellent talk and excursion earlier this year.



**A winter scene at the Earby Waterfalls  
From the Society's Laycock Collection of old post cards**

As we round off this 16th year of the society the Chairman and committee would like to extend their wishes for a Happy Christmas and Prosperous New Year to all readers of Chronicles, both near and far. We would especially like to thank those who have given their time to the society over the years. This may be to present talks, contribute articles, donate photographs and memorabilia, make refreshments, man or woman stalls etc. We urge all our readers and supporters to think of new ways in which the Society might develop and how they can assist in the future. Running an organisation such as this takes time and dedication, especially when left to a small nucleus of people, so please do consider the outstanding vacancies on the committee and see if you can help to fill essential posts.

A great programme of speakers is planned for 2011, so do send off your subscriptions without delay to be sure you don't miss any.

### **FORTHCOMING PROGRAMME FOR 2011**

- |                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| Tues 18 January:  | Arthur English—My Life in Textiles                     |
| Tues 15 February: | AGM followed by Maria Glot—History of Saltaire Part II |
| Tues 15 March:    | Sue Wrathmell—100 Years of History in Skipton          |

### **THE SOCIETY**

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

**ANNUAL  
SUBSCRIPTION  
£6.00  
UK £8.00  
Overseas £12.00**

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

### **Next Issue: Earby Chronicles Spring 2011**

Articles, photographs, comments or news items, which members would like to submit, for inclusion on the next issue of Earby Chronicles are always welcomed. Please forward to Bob Abel.

The deadline for inclusion in the Spring 2011 Edition will be 18 February 2011

**[www.earby.org](http://www.earby.org)**

Is the society website. Comments and suggestions for future development of this resource should be emailed to

**[webmaster@eurebi.org](mailto:webmaster@eurebi.org)**

**PRODUCED  
& printed**

**by  
Earby & District  
Local History  
Society.**

### **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.