

# Earby Chronicles

Edition 52

SPRING 2009



## 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.

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£2.00

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## Craven Wheelers Cycling Club

a snapshot by Stephanie Carter

Prior to the age of the motor car, cycling was a popular way of getting about and enjoying the byways of Craven and beyond. Cycling clubs were formed and had their favourite calling places at tea shops and pubs such as, in 1931, Ellis's Tea Room Gisburn, Central Café Ingletton, the Airedale Hotel Malham and Wells Springs in the Nick of Pendle.

The first bicycle proper dates from 1867 but it was around 1895 that the world at large took to bicycling and began seriously to demand the adaptation of road surfaces to the new traffic. According to Sidney & Beatrice Webb in their story of the Kings Highway [1913] "the bicycle was a comparatively cheap vehicle; its users were mostly young people, and to a great extent the poorer sections of the community. Those who sat in the places of authority despised these people who rode ironmongery instead of horses". At the end of this article we take a brief look at the history of the Cyclists' Touring Club that began in 1878 and may well have had links with the Craven Wheelers.

However our readers may be interested in columns culled from the August 31<sup>st</sup> 1900 edition of the Craven Herald, advertising local hostelries catering specifically for cyclists and picnic parties (see page 2).

The 1930s were the heyday for Earby's local club, the Craven Wheelers Cycling Club. This was formed on 1<sup>st</sup> August 1931 at a meeting attended by 12 enthusiasts at Malham Cove where provisional officers and committee were elected:

Chairman	J Thwaite
President	H Turner
Hon Sec	C A Hartley
Captain	J Thwaite
Committee	M Inman, Mrs M Inman, H Astley, R Astley, W Butler, J Hopkins, C Wellock, A Speak, G Starkie

### recent talks & features

Page 5	Craven Wheelers Cycling Club by Stephanie Carter
Page 7	19th Century Flood Prevention Foulridge to Earby by Bev Parker
Page 13	Annual General Meeting and Chairman's Report

FRIDAY, AUGUST 31, 1900.

**For Tourists, Cyclists, &c.**

**HELLIFIELD. — VICTORIA DINING ROOMS and CONFECTIONERY BUSINESS.** Cyclists, Picnic and Pleasure Parties catered for. Charges Reasonable.—The MISSES CLARK, Proprietors.

**HAWES, WENSLEYDALE.—QUEEN'S TEMPERANCE HOTEL and BOARDING HOUSE;** 800 feet above sea; public and private apartments; hot and cold bath; every accommodation for visitors and cyclists; piano; carriages, posting; good fishing, &c.—Proprietress, MRS MASON.

**HELLIFIELD.—"CRAVEN HOUSE" TEMPERANCE HOTEL,** under new management. Tourists and Cyclists well catered for. A home away from home. Covered place for bicycles. W. WIGHTMAN, Proprietor.

**UNICORN HOTEL, SKIPTON.** Every accommodation for Cyclists, Tourists and Pleasure Parties. Large Dining Room and excellent Refreshment. Catering and Posting of every description done on the shortest notice. Telephone No. 49.—W. Moss, proprietor.

**CHARLIE ALDRIDGE, } "Ye houses  
WHEAT SHEAF HOTEL, Skipton. } of ye  
 } olden tyme"**  
Good Stabling and Yard Accommodation for Cyclists. Parties catered for. Wines, Spirits and Cigars of the best quality. Old and new friends welcomed.

**SHIP HOTEL, SKIPTON.**—Good accommodation for Picnic and Tourist Parties. Headquarters for Cook's Tourist Trips to Craven District. Large Dining Room. Stabling, Posting, Billiards, &c. Excellent Refreshments.

**CARR'S TEMPERANCE HOTEL,** 53, HIGH-STREET, SKIPTON. Commodious Dining and Tea Rooms. Commercial men and visitors will find good accommodation on reasonable terms. Headquarters of the Bradford Wanderers' Cycling Club.

**THE COFFEE TAVERN, BOLTON-BY-BOLLAND.**—To Cyclists, Tourists, Picnic Parties and Visitors. The above place has been entirely re-decorated, and is under fresh management. Satisfaction guaranteed.—W. SCHMIDT, Proprietor.

**THE "GLOBE" COFFEE TAVERN,** SHEEP-STREET; "CAVENDISH" TAVERN, near RAILWAY STATION; and "SACKVILLE-ST." TAVERN, SKIPTON. Cyclists, Tourists, Picnic Parties, &c.; catered for on reasonable terms. Commodious and comfortable dining and smoke rooms at each tavern.

**J. BISHOP, OLD GEORGE HOTEL,** SKIPTON (Headquarters of the Airedale and Wharfedale Cyclists' Union). Dinners, Teas, &c., provided on the Shortest Notice. Waggonettes for Pleasure Parties. Gigs, &c.

**MANOR HOUSE, BURNSALL.**—Excellent accommodation at this popular Boarding Establishment for Visitors, Tourists, Cyclists, &c. Week-end and weekly terms strictly moderate. Large Public Dining and Tea-rooms, Pleasure Gardens, Croquet, Tennis, Boating on the Wharfe, Fishing, Stabling, Cycle and Coach-house. Public Dinners and Teas provided.—J. A. BLAND, Proprietor.

**THE OLD WHITE BEAR INN,** CROSSHILLS, near KRIGHLEY. Good accommodation for Cyclists and Picnic Parties. Large Room for Dinners, Teas, &c., apart from the House; can accommodate any number up to one hundred at once. Ordinary, Tuesdays and Fridays at one o'clock. Post Horses and Conveyances on moderate terms. Good Stabling.—RICHARD BOTTOMLEY, Proprietor.

**HOLE-IN-THE-WALL HOTEL, SKIPTON.**—Parties, Cyclists, &c., will find every accommodation at this Hotel. Large Yard and good Stabling. Dinners and other Refreshments provided by arrangement. Fine variety of Ales, Wines, Spirits and Cigars of the best quality.—Proprietor, KENDALL, CHKW.

**FLEECER HOTEL,** Keighley Road, SKIPTON. Good Old-fashioned Hostelry. Dinners, Teas and other Refreshments provided. Every accommodation for Tourists, Cyclists, and others. Good Stabling. Wines, Spirits, and Cigars of the best quality.—Proprietor, WILLIAM SEDGWICK.

**A. HAISTE, CONFECTIONER, 3,** Newmarket-street, SKIPTON. Teas, and all kinds of Refreshments provided on the shortest notice. Every accommodation for Cyclists and Tourists. Apartments.

**WILLIAM IVth,** the oldest Hotel in SKIPTON, Water-street, on the main road to Gargrave, Malham and Moresambe. Ind, Coope and Co.'s Pale and Mild Burton Ales and Stouts. Free and Easy nightly. Accommodation for 250 cycles under cover.—ISAAC MOORE, Proprietor.

**DEVONSHIRE HOTEL,** Grassington. For Cyclists, Tourists, and Visitors: Dinners, Teas, &c. Reasonable terms for week-end visitors. Every comfort. Conveyances leave Station and Black Horse Hotel, Skipton, 8-30 a.m., 3-0 p.m., and 5-0 p.m.; Sundays, 10-0 a.m.—M. H. HAZER, proprietor.

**T. VARLEY, RED LION HOTEL,** SKIPTON. Best yard accommodation for Cyclists, Picnic and Pleasure Parties provided with Dinners, Teas, &c. Open and close Conveyances for Hire. Wines, Spirits and Cigars. Fine Ales.

**RED LION HOTEL, BURNSALL.**—Anglers, Tourists, Cyclists, Picnic Parties, and Families visiting this lovely neighbourhood will receive every attention at this hostelry. Luncheon, Dinners and Teas. Conveyances for hire.—J. W. BINNS, Proprietor.

**ANGLER'S ARMS HOTEL, KILNSEY,** near Skipton. Visitors to Kilnsey Crag and Upper Wharfedale will find every accommodation at this comfortable Hostelry. Conveyances for hire, and excellent stabling. Special Dinner each Sunday at 1 p.m. Proprietress, MRS. HORNBY.

**TENNANT'S ARMS HOTEL, KILNSEY,** near Skipton.—Good accommodation for Tourists and Visitors. Good Stabling. Large Room for Pleasure Parties. Fishing, &c.—HENRY INMAN, Proprietor.

**GISBURN. — COMMERCIAL HOTEL.** Parties and Cyclists catered for. Tariff for week-end 12s. This being the only free house in Gisburn, patrons can rely on good Wines and Spirits.—JOHN P. CLARKSON, Proprietor.

**CYCLING AND TOURIST MAPS,** Centour Road Book of North of England, Guides to Bolton Abbey, Grassington, Wharfedale, &c., History of Skipton, Day Drives from Skipton, Views of Local Scenery, Sketching Blocks, &c., and articles useful to Cyclists and Tourists, may be had in abundance at the "Craven Herald" Shop, 38, High-street, Skipton. Telephone 37. Telegrams—"Herald," Skipton.

The business rules were adopted at a further meeting held at Dunsop Bridge on Sunday September 27<sup>th</sup> 1931:

1. That this club be called the Craven Wheelers Cycling Club and should be affiliated to the National Cyclists Union
2. That the annual subscription be 2/- plus 1/6 (NCU fee) and shall be due on January 1<sup>st</sup> each year. No one is considered a member until subscription is paid
3. The management of the club be in the hands of a committee consisting of the officers and six others, all to be elected annually
4. Applicants for membership shall be recommended by at least one member and the payment of 2/- paid which will be returned if not elected by the committee. No person be allowed to ride more than twice without applying for membership
5. That the elected leader be in full charge and have full control of all official club runs
6. The committee shall have the power to expel any member for ungentlemanly or disorderly conduct – or for defying the authority of the leader on club runs. No one may be expelled without being first summoned before the committee to explain his or her conduct
7. That the annual meeting be held in November. An extraordinary meeting may be called by the committee or by a member who must be supported by at least six others. No less than 7 days notice be given for above meeting
8. That no one be eligible for membership under 16 years of age unless another member acts as guardian
9. That no official of another club shall hold an official position in this club.
10. Should any situation arise not covered by these rules the same to be considered by the committee whose decision shall be generally accepted

Meeting place for all runs, Lane Ends, Earby.

## The Cyclists' Touring Club



The following comes from the web site of the club which was founded in 1878 as the Bicycle Touring Club, subsequently becoming the Cyclists' Touring Club and is the forerunners of the world wide network of cycling, motoring and tourism organisations, many of whom based their services on CTC's.

The organisation has its origins in the early days of cycling when the bicycle opened up new horizons for independent travel. CTC set out to identify suitable hostleries for its members and include them in members' guides and handbooks. Occasionally you will spot a round plaque, adopted from 1887, on the wall of older hotels showing the CTC emblem of a winged wheel, indicating a long history of welcoming cyclists.

Some dates that may be of further interest:-

**1878** Bicycle Touring Club founded at Harrogate on Aug. 5th by Stanley Cotterell and 80 members elected. Oct. 15. First *Monthly Circular* issued.

**1879** Hotel recommendations system introduced, *Handbook and Guide* first issued. Club uniform (green) adopted.

**1880** First lady member (Mrs W. D. Welford) is admitted. Magazine re-styled as

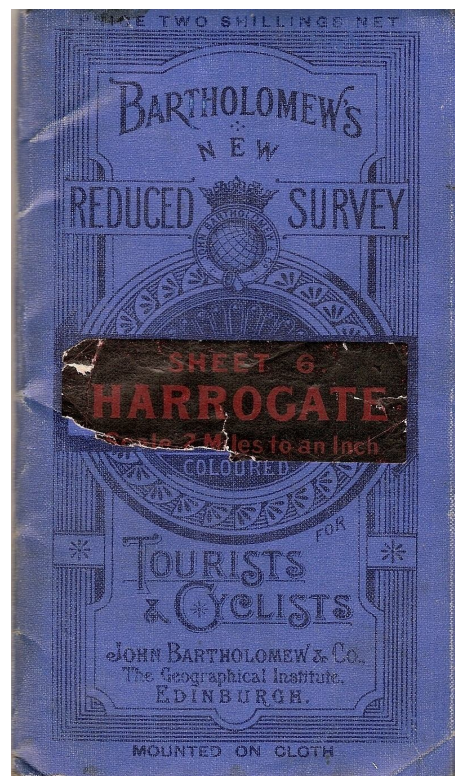
*Monthly Circular and Official Gazette*

**1884** 'Danger' road signs produced (at first jointly with National Cyclists' Union) mainly to warn of steep hills and down not up, due to the poor brakes of early bicycles.

**1900** CTC initiates joint venture with Messrs Bartholomew of Edinburgh to produce maps for cyclists of the whole of Great Britain, information on the condition of roads to be collated by CTC's network of Consuls.

**1901** First Bartholomew/CTC half-inch to the mile map (sheet 3, the Lake District) is printed.

**1923** 888 mile Relay Ride organized by CTC to convey a message from Lord Mayor of London round England during National Bicycle Week. CTC representatives cycled to Buckingham Palace to give birthday greetings to their Patron, HM the King.





**1931** District Association runs lists issued as supplements to the *Gazette*.

In the next issue of the Chronicles, with the help of Minute Books kept by my aunt Clara Holden (nee Grimshaw) and extracts from past Craven Heralds, I will look back at some of the trips, excursions and social gatherings enjoyed by members of the Craven Wheelers.

## WHO ARE WE ?

We have had a number of contacts from people interested in the photograph of the Grove Mill Staff sent in by Richard Hartley and published in the Summer 2008 Chronicles. We have come across a list of the names as remembered by Hedley Bradshaw. The company was R. Nutter and Co. Ltd. and the photo was taken in May 1932. We think the names are in the correct sequence but am not 100% sure. Richard says that Novello Hartley was on the front row extreme left which fits in with the list. If any one can confirm some of the faces in the positions indicated, we would be pleased to hear from them. List of names thought to be. All Left to right

**Back Row** : F. Plews, J. Wintersgill, J. Christopher, R. Drabble, G. Smith, H. Sprout, W. Crewdson,, B Christopher.

**1st row from Back** : T. Juniper, H. Bradshaw, B. Crowther, P. Heaton, W. Eastwood, B. Mellor, W. Hartley, W. Titterington, C. Turner, W. Hargreaves, C. Smith,

**2nd Row from Back** : J, Speight, W. Thornton, J. Tetlow, W. Heaton, W. Taylor, H. Carr, H. Harrison, R. Parker, W. Turner.

**Front Row** : N. Hartley, H. Lord, E. Crabtree, P. Lowe, M. Smith.

## AND MORE ...

In this case the photographer's name is torn off the bottom of the photograph, but the address is Cross St Studios, nr Station, Earby.

Does anyone know anything about the photographer or the event

### Is this your copy of Chronicles ?

If you would like to receive this quarterly newsletter with its unique and truly local interest stories why not join the society as an out of town member for just £7 per year—details on page 16



## AND ANOTHER



Can anyone identify the men in this photograph or perhaps the location?

## AND LASTLY

Following the photo of Alder Hill School teachers in the last (Winter 2008) issue of Chronicles .... several members have identified the unknown teacher as Eric Parkinson, adding a little more information our member Patricia Hustwick (nee Swindells) writes:-

In addition to teaching Eric Parkinson owned the only taxi in Earby. The family lived in a cottage below the Catholic Church on Salterforth Road, third down from the church and a garage was attached to the house. A few years back the garage was converted into part of the house. Eric came to teach at Alder Hill School at the beginning of the 1950s, I believe he studied at Edinburgh University.

### **FORTHCOMING PROGRAMME**

Details of the next three monthly meetings appear on page 16

**IN THE MEANTIME** Don't forget no meetings will be held in June, July or August

## 19<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY FLOOD PREVENTION FOULRIDGE TO EARBY

by Bev Parker

What seem to be almost a by product of 19<sup>th</sup> century enclosure process the drains and dykes in our valley bottoms locally at Salterforth, Kelbrook and Earby settled quietly into the landscape, but have been brought back into sharper focus over the past few years by the disastrous flooding at the Earby end of the valley.

This study seeks to chart the history, how this drainage fit into the national context of enclosures, the motives for enclosing the bottoms, those who benefited and who lost out.

Late 18th century agricultural commentators such as Arthur Young and the poet John Clare in his famous poem "The Mores" were sceptical about land-grabbing motives of enclosures, but alternative explanations suggest the classic open field system was essentially ecologically unstable leading to collapse as soil fertility became severely reduced. In more recent times a contemporary writer pointed to the damaging effects still visible in the chalk lands of Yorkshire as a consequence of the First World War ploughing up campaign (1).

Kain et al (2) have made detailed studies of enclosure records nationally and begin by explaining that enclosure involved two processes: a property reorganisation movement, involving field and meadows; and a reclamation movement dealing with commons and waste. Waste can be described generally as either largely unproductive land and in the north in particular could amount to huge areas, or could be small insignificant parcels of land. In most parts of the country the former preceded the latter.

Profitability in enclosing common and wastelands was the main motive but depended not only on the consequent income but also the physical characteristics. Commons could range in size from small areas of roadside waste to upward of 4000 hectares of open moorland, their management was equally diverse. Changing technology and improved transport networks (roads and railways) meant the perception of value of particular areas changed dramatically. Although not all such records survive and even then not all contain maps, studies based upon extant enclosure maps show that for Yorkshire as much as 36.8% of the developing industrial West Riding of Yorkshire was covered by enclosure maps, set against the North Riding at just 18.5%. Compare these figures with the flatter East Riding at 44.3% and the geographical quality of Yorkshire's agricultural landscape becomes evident as a factor. Although somewhat surprisingly neighbouring Lancashire had only 19.9% cover (3).

For enclosures there were other motives as well, these included the rise of grouse shooting as a popular sport, notably on the moors of northeast of Yorkshire.

In other places a desire to improve rural roads and to achieve effective land drainage were significant motives.

Studies of enclosure related drainage however seems to have been less easy as enclosure acts tend to merge almost imperceptibly into drainage acts. Notable examples of both Turner and the University of Portsmouth Enclosure Project omit many drainage acts as not primarily enacted for the purpose of enclosure (4).

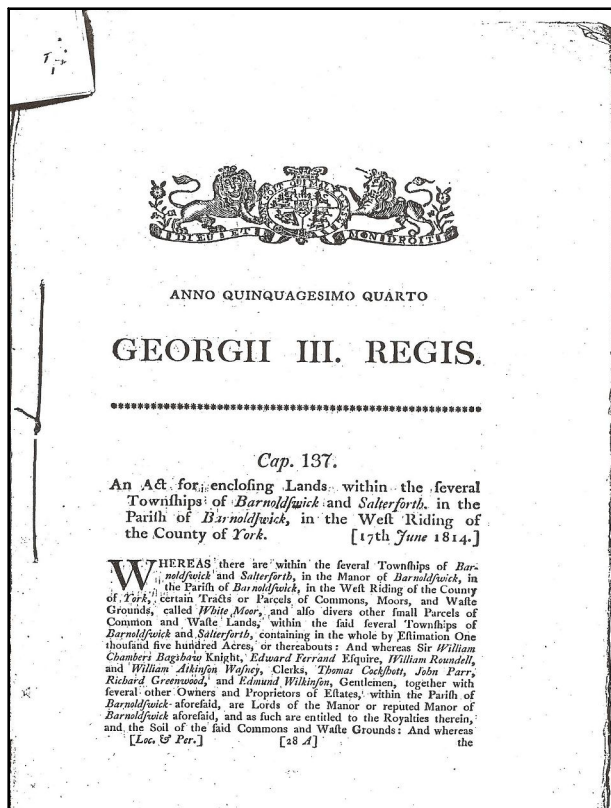
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At the turn of the 19<sup>th</sup> century Barnoldswick parish included Salterforth and was entirely separate from Thornton which was administratively a whole ancient parish, today separated into the four distinct administrative units of Earby, Kelbrook, Sough and Thornton-in-Craven. Much of the lowlands or 'bottoms' here were drained with Parliamentary consent, for enclosure in both Thornton and neighbouring Barnoldswick and Salterforth.

The major owners of some 1,500 acres of lands in Barnoldswick and Salterforth were Sir William Chambers Bagshaw Knight, Edward Ferrand Esq., William Roundell, and William Atkinson Wasney, Clerks; Thomas Cockshot, John Parr, Richard Greenwood and Edmund Wilkinson described as Gentlemen, together with several other owners and proprietors of estates. Together, as appears from the Act, to be Lords of the reputed Manor of Barnoldswick.

These were the first to obtain an Act, passed in 1814, to enclose the lands as "*in their present state, are of very little value to the land owners having the principal rights thereon, and it would be of the greatest advantage, not only to them, but to the public in general, if the commons, moors and waste grounds were divided*". Just exactly how the general public were to benefit is not clear! In fact it is highly likely that their views had been completely ignored, so long as the mandatory two thirds of the owners had confirmed their agreement to Thomas Buttle of Kirkby Lonsdale, the accomplished 'Commissioner' the Lords of the Manor had employed. A number of upper class individuals made a career of being enclosure commissioners. According to English (5), Buttle was commissioner overseeing eight awards overall within the West Riding (6) overseeing enclosures at Horton-in-Ribblesdale (1804), Settle (1804), Halton Gill (1808) and Austwick (1814) before starting at Barnoldswick.

Thornton's Enclosure Act of 1819 on the other hand appears to have had three purposes. Principally it was to divide up some 960 acres of moors and a number of smaller portions of common and wastelands. Another purpose was to commute the payment of one tenth of a person's produce to the Rector as tithes, turning that into a monetary figure, with the Rector receiving substantial tracts of land and a financial payment in lieu. Thirdly, it enclosed the bottom lands causing setting out the public drains called Kelbrook Bottoms, Earby Holmes, Stone Trough and Lancashire Gill drains.



Act for enclosing land Barnoldswick & Salterforth



The map shows that by 1819 much of the lands had already been carved up. The then Lord of the Manor of Thornton was Sir John Lister Kaye Baronet of Denby near Wakefield and he secured one William Pilkington of Thorne, formerly of Hensall as Commissioner, another highly accomplished man in this field. Both he and his surveyor Henry Teal, a Land Surveyor of Leeds, would be well known within the West Yorkshire gentry circles of the Lord of the manor of Thornton. In the end, according to research by Kain et al, "at Thornton-in-Craven the costs rose to proportionately so high that almost 80 percent of the land had eventually to be sold to recoup them" (7).

Although Barnoldswick's enclosure was the first to be enacted, it was not until 1829 that an Award was finalised. In the meantime Thornton had got on with it a little faster completing in 1826.

The lands these watercourses drain is largely peat based and without the drainage would not have been transformed into the meadow and arable production achieved since those times. Dent (8) explains that next to the question of sorting out title of land, perhaps the most contentious issue affecting agriculture had been a right to a supply of water. Where circumstances permitted watering places should be accessible to all. But for Buckden (1831) and Barnoldswick and Salterforth (1829) for example, it was decreed that access to all former public watering places was to continue. This is an interesting provision as the dimensions of banks of these drains tend to be far too steep to enable stock to get down to the water to drink!

At Horton-in-Ribblesdale proprietors without access to a natural watering place were empowered to cut the necessary 'soughs' across land of the other proprietors, right to use them continuing as long as they kept the channels scoured. May this be the origin of the place name Sough?

In addition to drinking places, some awards set out provision of washing places for sheep, for example at Arncliffe (1662) and Austwick (1814) were 'wash dubs' were established.

A further question lies in improvements for transportation in the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Could it be that development of the Colne to Broughton turnpike road was perhaps an additional reason for drainage of the bottoms?

In 1823 it was decided to form a Trust to explore the possibility of turnpiking the Colne to Broughton road including the section between Foulridge and Kelbrook, as a suitable alternative to the higher level route between Carleton and Colne, which was proving more and more difficult for horse drawn heavily laden wagons. To build the section of road from Foulridge to Kelbrook Mr. Swire was appointed surveyor, and a Mr. Ruppell of Kendal the road builder. The many trustees included John Lister Kaye of Thornton. So here we have 'connections' fitting nicely into the puzzle, a road builder from the same locality as enclosure Commissioner Buttle, a Trustee and landowner and lord on the manor of Thornton.

Since the 1930s these drains have been managed by the Earby and Salterforth Internal Drainage Board, paid for by a rate set annually each February, and topped up these days by Environment Agency and Pendle Borough Council's grants. A plaque shows that Yorkshire Ouse and Hull River Authority, further discussed below, formerly managed Wentcliffe Beck, which flows alongside Red Lion Street and Water Street in Earby.

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From 2006 the section from Sough Bridge to Booth Bridge has been under the care of the Environment Agency and Wentcliffe Beck (Red Lion Street and Water Street) the scene of flooding as recently as 2006, has been under separate responsibility, a cause of concern to locals and Earby Parish Council.

Kelbrook Bottoms drain ran, as it does today, between Seal Bridge to Long Royd Bridge in Earby, under the public road at Sough Bridge to Shooterpit Bridge that takes the footpath between Salterforth and Kelbrook. Salterforth Parish Council was instrumental in saving this particular historic bridge recently when it collapsed and was almost removed by Lancashire County Council in favour of a modern structure.



Shooterpit Bridge recently refurbished

The dimensions of each drain were precisely set, for example Kelbrook Bottoms to Earby Bottom was to be three feet wide increasing to four at a specified corner, and five feet wide between Shooterpit and Sough bridges, widening to six feet to Long Royd and seven feet to Seal Bridge and eight feet below - presumably as far as Booth Bridge on the Earby and Thornton boundary.

Throughout the length they were to leave two feet in horizontal width for every foot of perpendicular depth in addition to the width of the bottom; with "good and sufficient embankment shall be supported and forever kept in repair along each side of the drain to preserve the adjoining lands from injury by floods". It seems astonishing that it is only in the very recent past that flooding has become such a problem.

Earby Holmes ran on the north side of ancient enclosed lands (meaning enclosure sometime before 1826) of Agnes Wormwell called Kirk Bridge Ings under the public road from Thornton to Kelbrook the through lands and into Kelbrook Bottom drain at Longroyd Bridge. The name Kirk Ing is an interesting aside since neither Earby nor Kelbrook Churches had been built by 1826.

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Stone Trough drain, along with Lancashire Gill drain, passed over an ancient course to a tunnel or aqueduct over Kelbrook Bottom drain to an ancient drain separating the parishes of Thornton and Barnoldswick; these tunnels/aqueducts remain below ground level today. As 'ancient' drains, these too would predate the enclosures, suggesting the bottoms had already undergone some form of agricultural improvement before 1826.

Whilst, as mentioned above, Wentcliffe Beck seems not to have been managed much at all, a potted history of the line of responsibility to 1974 follows to help to piece together why it has been under separate management.

The Land Drainage Act of 1930 \* became the benchmark of twentieth-century agricultural drainage legislation. Its purpose was to simplify and update drainage legislation enacted since the sixteenth century and to reorganise the maintenance and improvement of arterial drainage on a catchment-wide basis (9). River Authorities controlled land drainage, fisheries and river pollution in rivers and streams and inland waterways in England & Wales between 1965 and 1973. So what happened in between?



The notice hangs on the beck wall just opposite the old Coop building on Water Street

The Yorkshire Ouse and Hull River Authority covered the Hull and East Yorkshire River Board area and the Yorkshire Ouse River Board area. This notice alongside the little private footbridge at cottages and the former smithy off Water Street, testifies to that body having had responsibility, for it would levy a £50 fine depositing litter in the beck.

New authorities were created by the Water Resources Act 1963 (C. 38), and took over the powers of the existing river boards and were given additional duties to monitor water quality and protect water resources. There were twenty-seven authorities nationally, the members partly nominated by local authorities and partly appointed by the government. The areas of the authorities were defined in reference to those of the river boards they replaced. River Boards were authorities who controlled land drainage, fisheries and river pollution and had other functions relating to rivers, streams and inland waters in England and Wales between 1950 and 1965.

The Boards were established by the River Boards Act 1948 (11 & 12 Geo. 6., C. 32), and replaced the Catchment Boards that had been created in 1931.

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They were given powers to regulate fisheries and took over the duties of flood prevention from local authorities. England and Wales was divided into River Board Areas, each with a board partly nominated by county councils and partly appointed by the government. The Act allowed that "*orders defining river board areas and establishing river boards may be made at different times for different areas*". It was not until 1955 that all the boards had been established.

From 1974 responsibility to have lain with the Environment Agency, but by which particular part of the Agency remains a little cloudy?

Overall responsibility for the maintenance of the main drains between Foulridge and Thornton has been paid for by the rate which rested, initially, on 'one or more fit and proper persons to be appointed by the major part of the owners'. Mr. Chester Kneller of Accornlee Hall had been Chairman for very many years. Today, the section from Foulridge to Sough is still managed by the Earby & Salterforth Internal Drainage Board, comprising owners of adjoining land and chaired by Mr. Ralph Guy of Moor Hall, Earby overseen by Clerk Graham Parker.

Note \* A paper by J Sheail gives a valuable insight into the legislative perspective of internal drainage during the inter War years.

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## ARTEFACTS DONATION

Harry Crabtree has donated to the Society archives two circular calculators, which were used in the textile trade locally. They belonged to his father and brother who both worked in the textile industry as did Harry.

One is a Lords Calculator, which was originally developed by Lawrence Lord of Burnley in the 1890's this Patent No 7081 pocket watch type was introduced in the early 1900's by two of his sons, Wilkinson and Ernest Lord.

The other is a Fowler's Textile Calculator.

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To quote the instructions, the Fowler's Textile Calculator is '*a special form of Fowler's Pocket Calculator designed to meet the wants of manufacturers, managers, and salesmen engaged in the weaving industry who frequently desire to calculate with rapidity the weight of warp, weight of weft, or weaving price for a given piece of cloth*'.

Fowler is a well known English name in circular slide rules / calculators. They made a variety of different models and sizes of calculators including many circular versions like this one. Some were designed for architects, or engineers, and others were made for the textile trades. Larger ones are referred to as Magnums, and this 2 3/4" model is referred to as the pocket size.



Thanks to Harry for his generous donation.

### **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2008/9**

2008 proved to be a busy year for the Society, particularly towards the end as will be reported later.

Financially the Society is still sound despite a deficit of income against expenditure of some £1700. The committee consciously decided to spend some of the capital which has accumulated over the last few years. Principal extraordinary expenditure includes:-

- 1 Purchase of Colour printer and necessary toners – Chronicles is now in colour
- 2 Extra shelving for the archive cupboard
- 3 Digitalisation of the photograph archive
- 4 Publication of the Earby Co-op book
- 5 Display board for the society to have permanent picture exhibition at the Mines Museum

This totals over £3000, the largest expenditure being the printing of the co-op book at £2000.

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Sales of the book and funding towards the printing from the Duchy of Lancaster, Earby Clarets and Country Holidays amounts to just short of £1000. Book sales in general have increased compared with 2007 at a healthy £1300. Despite the extra expenditure we still have a cash surplus of £2350.

Events in the latter part of 2008 proved very busy. Besides the NRCC Autumn Fair the society participated in the following :-

Katherine Bruce Glasier exhibition at the Youth Hostel Open Day in January 2008.

An open day in conjunction with Earby Library which proved very successful, so much so that it is proposed that it become an annual event.

Attendance at the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of Burnley Local History Society.

Participation in the Churches Together event held at NRCC where we exhibited the history of Earby Churches display.

Picture exhibition at Earby Library of the local textile industry.

We also now have a permanent exhibition board at the Mines Museum where we can display pictures and also publicise the Society.

The archive continues to grow with both documentary and photographic items and the project to computerise a detailed index of the items continues. To date over 1200 items have been catalogued on the computer data base. Extra shelving was purchased to increase useable storage space in the cupboards.

We have had donated by Dr John Laycock and an acquaintance of his Mr. Smith computer copies of a large collection of postcards of Earby, currently being indexed.

We also continue to scan the items in the photograph collection onto computer as a backup to the originals and also to make access to them easier for use in publications and on the web site. We have only scratched the surface of computerising the photo collection index.

Speaking of the web site, last year we were hoping to update and refresh the web site but until now this has not been carried out due to lack of the relevant computer skills. However now we have a volunteer, Ken Hartley, who can help us in that direction.

Publication sales have increased this year with the release of three new books, the most important being the history of Earby Co-op together with a reprint of The Providence Mine Ore Crusher by Peter and Ruth Dawson and Remember Them the book about our local World War II war dead. Work on a history of the Earby Grammar School continues.

The Chronicles news letter continues to be as popular as ever and I get the feeling that the circulation goes further than the members. As you will no doubt have notice colour was introduced this year.

There will be number of changes to the committee over the next year or so, as will be seen from the nominations for this year's committee and the decision by the Chairman,

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Bob Able to stand down at the 2010 AGM.

We as a Society are looking to spread the work load of the committee by recruiting more active helpers. This will start with the publication of the next Chronicles where a small team will work with the editor, to print, assemble and staple, and post out of town members' copies.

We always welcome more active members to offer help with all aspects of running the Society so do make this your year to Volunteer, for example we are looking for people to deal with :-

**Publicity:** produce meeting posters and ensure distribution, contact press and radio re meetings, send out press releases for e.g. special events, new publications and produce and distribute posters etc.

**Events Co-ordinator:** liaise with organisers of events e.g. Autumn Fair, Library events, lead the organisation of any independent open days etc run by the society or excursions.

**Fund Raising co-ordinator:** to assist with grant funding initiatives and applications to funding bodies. Any of these can be done, not necessarily by an individual but perhaps by a small team.

The Chairman then thanked all those committee members and non committee members for all the work they have put in to making 2008 another eventful and successful year for the Earby and District Local History Society.

## THANK YOU TREASURER

Our long standing Treasurer, Helen Horner, retired from the committee this year.



The Society was founded in 1995 and the first Treasurer was Brian Williams. However due to work commitments he stood down from that post towards the end of that year. Helen took over the reins and therefore has been treasurer for 14½ years and produced the accounts for the society's first AGM in 1996.

During this time Helen also took on the role of treasurer for the West Craven History Association (WCHA) when our Society and Barnoldswick History Society formed WCHA to host joint events.

Helen has also contributed to the Society running in ways not always seen, for example as proof reader for Chronicles and other publications, helping to collate and assemble the Chronicles four times a year, post it and/or deliver them locally and has always been willing to help with the book stalls and exhibitions we have had at various events.

Helen was thanked on everyone's behalf for all the diligent work she has done in helping to keep the Society on a sound financial footing for so long. It is vitally important that exact accounts are kept both for the members and as this is one of the first things any funding body wants to see when our applications for grants are being scrutinised.

**Thank You Helen**

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## HOW TO COOK A HUSBAND

First of all, catch him, and having done so, the mode of cooking him is as follows:

many good husbands are spoiled in the cooking; some women always keep them in hot water, whilst others freeze them; some keep them in pickle all their lives; these women always serve them up with tongue sauce. Now husbands cannot be expected to be tender and good when managed in this way; they are very delicious when managed as follows:-

Obtain a jar, called the jar of carefulness, which all good wives have in hand, place your husband in it, and set him near the fire of conjugal love; let the fire be very hot, and very clear, and the heat constant.

Cover him with affection and kindness, garnish with modest becoming familiarity, and if you add kisses and other confectioneries, let them be accompanied with sufficient secrecy mixed with prudence and moderation.

All wives ought to try this recipe, and realise how admirable a dish a Husband is, when properly cooked.

This little gem comes from "The Ideal Recipe Book ... of good and tried recipes given to Mount Zion Baptist Church, Earby". It was donated to the society recently by Mrs. P Wilkinson of Bawhead Road. It contains recipes from many local people giving not only their names but also where they lived, forming a rather unusual source for family historians too.

### PROGRAMME

**17 March 2009 Pamela Maryfield "Dr. Whitaker and his Circle"**

This is the Rev. Thomas Dunham Whitaker who in the 19th century published the history and antiquities of the Deanery Craven

**21 April 2009 Peter Watson "Green Men and Little People"**

**19 May 2009 David Aynesworth "Broughton Hall and Rural Regeneration"**

**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.

#### 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  
£5.00  
UK £7.00  
Overseas £11.00**

#### Contents:

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

#### NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

**Don't forget** this is your newsletter. We're always keen to hear from members, if only to put them in touch with relatives and friends from the past. Do 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

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