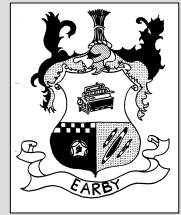


# Earby Chronicles

Edition 41

SUMMER 2006



## SOCIETY AIMS:

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

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## A BRIEF HISTORY OF CROQUET AND THE PENDLE AND CRAVEN CROQUET CLUB

by Geoff Whitaker

*In the summer of 2005 the Pendle and Craven Croquet Club opened its new ground in Earby, in this article Geoff Whitaker gives a brief history of the game and the club.*

The game of Croquet is thought to have evolved from Paille - Maille (meaning ball-mallet), which is recorded as being played in France in the 13th century. It was popular with the French aristocracy in the 17th century and is reputed to have been played in London by Charles II after the restoration of the monarchy. It was then known as Pell-Mel or Pall Mall and was often played in St. James' Park which led to the name of the famous London street, Pall Mall.

It is thought that the rules were changed in France and the game of Croquet came into being. By the early 1800s the game of "crookey" was popular in Ireland and the game migrated to England in the 1850s becoming one of the most popular outdoor sports. So much so that by 1870 the All England Croquet Club was formed with the annual championships being held at the club grounds at Wimbledon in that year.

The newly popular game of lawn tennis started to be played at the All England Club which eventually changed its name to The All England Croquet and Lawn Tennis Club which is well known today.

However, croquet continued to be played and the United All England Croquet Association (now more simply known as the Croquet Association) was formed in 1896.

Croquet became popular throughout the British Commonwealth with

### Recent talks & features

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£2.00

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affiliated associations in Australia, New Zealand, Tasmania and South Africa as well as being played in Europe, Asia and America in several different forms.

There are two types of croquet played in this country. Association croquet is the traditional game played by either two or four players but in recent years a more simple form known as Golf Croquet has become popular with All England, European and World Championships being held annually.

The Pendle and Craven Croquet Club was formed in 1985 in Pendle with the use of two lawns at the front of Nelson and Colne College. An old caravan served as a clubhouse until 1994 when it was burned by vandals. The club built a pavilion to replace it and created two further lawns on the college hockey field. In 1998 the club was moved from the hockey field to land adjacent to the river. The pavilion was moved and three new lawns made.

In 2001 a major new building programme was proposed by the college. The club was given notice to quit and a search was started for a new venue. Sites at Marsden Park, Nelson and Victoria Park, Barnoldswick, were considered and rejected and a site at Barrowford was discarded after opposition by mis-informed local residents.

Finally in 2003 a site on Cemetery Road, Earby was found and leased from Pendle Council for 25 years. Work on the grounds started in 2004 after numerous sponsors had been found, to add to the donations by members, to raise the £85,000 cost of the development. The club was renamed the Pendle and Craven Croquet Club and the new premises officially opened in July 2005.

There is a pavilion with kitchen and toilet facilities and five lawns. The club hosts several national tournaments in addition to competing in North West and in trans-pennine club matches.

Croquet is a game which is suitable for anyone to play. It does not require strength, size or agility but only skill. Golf croquet (the simple form of the game) can be learnt in 30 minutes and is played by most new players before progressing onto the more complex Association game. Both types of croquet are played at Earby and the club has a full range of equipment, including mallets, which can be borrowed by players.

Anyone may join and existing members are happy to show visitors around the club house and demonstrate the game. You can "have a go" at hitting a ball through the hoops and have a simple game.

New members may expect to be given advice by experienced coaches who are club members, including former All England Champions.

If you would like to try it, phone Geoff Whitaker (01282 865565), Peter Dowdall (01729 830540) or Barbara Dutton (01282 863800).

**EARBY HIGHWAY SURVEYORS BOOK**

by Bev Parker

The book donated by Keith Spragg details how the rates for the highway maintenance in

1845		£	s	d
November	Mill Brig			
12	Paid to James Lowgill for Mill Brig for 83 yards of walling at 10 per yard	3	9	2
	Do to 26 1/2 yards of arch at 12 per yard	1	6	6
	Paid to Stephen Smith for measuring	1	0	
Oct 27	Paid for sentas wedges	2	3	
Feb 27	Paid for 11 lb. of lead at 2 per lb.	1	10	
April 3	Paid to J Brown for cramps and sharpening	4	5	
	Paid to Thomas Shaw for work at Mill Brig	1	1	9
	to Jo <sup>s</sup> Whitaker for work at Mill Brig	2	5	6
	to W <sup>m</sup> Whitaker for work at Mill Brig	2	5	0
	to Tho <sup>s</sup> Waddington for work at Mill Brig	1	6	3
	to Jo <sup>s</sup> Wilkinson for work at Mill Brig	9	9	
	to Ricard Edmondson for work at Mill Brig	8	0	
	to Hartley Wilkinson for work at Mill	4	6	
	to J Crowther for 5000 of dry wallen			

Earby were levied, by whom they were paid and the method of accounting which changed with the 1835 Highways Act. Later references begin to name certain roads and bridges under repair.

Before the days of town and county councils each parish was responsible for the upkeep of the roads and highways within its boundary and Highway Surveyors were appointed to supervise this work.

In 1748 a book, 'Of the Surveyors of the Highways' by Shaw(1), describes how the surveyors were to be chosen from lists presented to the Justices of the Peace and how they had to make public notice and to swear on oath that their accounts were a true record,

A page for 1845 referring to repairs to Mill Brig, Earby

or face a fine. The Justices of the Peace held special sessions annually on the 3<sup>rd</sup> January and also locally to approve the accounts.

By 1806 the surveyor's work had been revised but the appointment system had changed little. What was new was the Justices of the Peace's authority to prioritise repair work, "Justices may determine what roads shall be first repaired". A book was to be kept "to fairly enter a true account of such money as shall come into his hands...and enter all tools, materials, implements and other things provided..." (2)

The 1835 Highways Act required surveyors to "make a return in writing of all the roads and common highways..." as well as "the extent of the different highways which the said Parish is liable to repair."

By 1864 the surveyor was still required, for example, "to repair and keep in repair the parish highways, to erect direction posts or boundary stones, to remove impediments arising from fall of snow or from slips of the banks at the side of the highway". They had also "to levy rates and duly keep accounts of receipts and expenditure and present them to the vestry meeting within 14 days of the appointment of the surveyor for the following year." (3).

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Some of the information to be found in the Earby ledger is exemplified by the following.

From 1822 Earby's surveyors recorded the statute labour undertaken by named individuals living at named properties, but does not indicate whether the repair is payable by the property owner although in 1833 three owners paid for repairs of their "own road".

From 1823 at least two magistrates certified the accounts, the surveyor travelling to Gargrave to J.P.s Matthew Wilson of Eshton Hall and J.Coulthurst of Gargrave House.

In 1841 the surveyor is paid for taking road measurements to the magistrates and answering questions.

1837 saw the first mention of payment for measuring roads "and making return to the Magistrates precepts", but no list of roads measured is included. By this time the accounts become more informative, separating the income from expenditure, which is briefly explained but they still lack details of roads maintained.

1842 is the first time repair to Coolham Lane is mentioned. Now the C685, a metalled by-road, it is a long steep hill leading down into Earby and would wash out easily during wet weather. Lower down both Seal Bridge and School Bridge are shown to have been repaired in 1845.

A note in the back of the book dated 1857 refers to a meeting at the White Lion Inn where the salary for the surveyor was set at 20 shillings (£1-00) a year.

In 1861 payments were received for pasturage in Coolham and Standridge Lanes. Standridge Lane was repaired in 1863 suggesting that it had more importance then than today's bridleway.

The only real record of roads lies towards the end of the book. It is a statement of the four high roads in Earby. The first is what is the Colne - Skipton turnpike road (the current A56), the second and third are today cul-de-sacs petering out into countryside footpaths and the fourth now a tarmac town street thus showing how the relative importance of highways has changed over the years.

### References

- 1) "Parish Law; a guide to Justices of the Peace, Church Wardens, Overseers of the Poor, Constables, Surveyors of the Highways, Vestry Clerks etc" – J.Shaw (1748) Reprint 1991 H.Linot
- 2) "The Parish Officer's Complete Guide comprising the Laws Relative to Local Government respective Duties of the Church Wardens, Constables, Overseers, Surveyor of Highways etc." (1806).
- 3) "The Handy Book of Parish Law" W.A.Holdsworth (1872) Reprinted 1995 by Wiltshire Family History Society.

LETTER TO AMERICA

*William Hartley moved to Thornton in Craven just after the road from Colne to Broughton was turnpiked. He was employed as the toll bar keeper at Thornton.*

*One of his descendants in America has sent this letter written by William Hartley to his son. The letter is difficult to read in places and this transcript reproduces the spelling and grammar of the original.*

Feb 1850

Dear Son

Your letter received on the 15 of Jany and was glad to learn you are in the land of the living and doing well your long silence has caused me many uneasy hours of thought and anxiety for I could not think what had become of you whether dead or alive if living were you getting on well or struggling with only a bare putting on but your letter has set my mind at rest on that head and I now wish you to write to me at regular intervals and give me all particulars.

You say your farm as we call them in this country is 300 acres of land I want you to tell me in your next letter the sort of crops you grow upon that part in cultivation the time you sow the grain and the time of year you reap the crops and whether you get one crop or two you must also say if the other part is encumbered with wood or clear for grazing and all other particulars also tell me what sort of neighbors the Indians are quarrelsome or peaceable from the sketch of your letter can form some idea of their way of living but whether they are friendly or not you do not say. Neither do you inform me what you sold your houses and land for in the states nor what you gave for your present farm or Ranch say how much you paid an acre. The climate is mild you say and healthy and you have no snow and little frost you will perhaps have a rainy season but not as much as some countries.

The coin and gold dust were safe in the letter I thank you for them and hope you will be happy in the married state and your children grow up to be both a blessing and a pleasure to you.

I am glad to say that in health I am tolerable I am living at Thornton bar six miles from Skipton and the same distance from Colne the winter so far in this country has been open and mild for we have had little frost or snow and it is now February farming here has been good for some time cattle are high in price good calving cows from £15 to £20 lean and fat stock in the same ration (?) tho manufacturing part not so good but we hope to see it improve in the spring there has been a great many out of employment but flour is cheaper than in the last year which has been a great help to those who were not in regular employ.

I wish you to bear in mind what I said to you when we parted that was to be upright in all your dealings speak the truth so that in whatever part of the world you may be in your neighbours friends, and those who you deal with may respect you.

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You are not aware perhaps the age I have now attained but I am now in my seventy seventh year and considering all things have cause to be thankful that my health is so good. Your age as I think you may not remember exactly but I give it to you from my account of all the children you were born April the first at 9 o'clock ere the morning in the year 1816.

I now begin to give you an account of your Brothers and Sisters John the oldest is still living at Rainhill near Prescott in Lancashire where he was when you left and I wish you to establish a regular correspondence with him he will be glad to hear from you I wrote to him since I got your letter and they ere all well and glad to hear you were doing so well he has seven daughters and only one married. Your sister Margaret and family have a (unreadable) at Marsden and are now living at Burnly they have five children one married. Ann and family are living at Colne they have only two children. Sister Elizabeth is living at Howthorne near Howcumbrook near Bury and not married. Ellen is living at Thornton (?) near me they have 3 children living they buried two fine boys (unreadable) in one week she married one George Wilkinson son to Mery (?) Wilkinson these (unreadable) are all in health at present you will be aware that your sister Mary died ten years ago your nephew John Matril? (unreadable) turns up a fine young man and is doing well near Burnley as a shoemaker and farmer as he has taken a little land have now given you all particulars and they all join me in (?) (unreadable) kind love to you both and I trust you will not be long by (?) you answer this send you my directions and also your brother John wishing you health and prosperity

I remain your affectionate father

(signed) William Hartley

### NORTH HOLME FARM

By Stephanie Carter

*In this issue we begin a new series of articles by Stephanie Carter in which she recalls life at North Holme Farm, Earby.*

I remember yesterday with happiness, when the old ways of life still lingered and the sun always seemed to shine. My childhood days were based and rooted in the countryside, where the wind of change, with its breakdown of traditional practices pursued for centuries, was coming to the farm. I treasure the glimpses I had of the old life of the farm and often pause to reflect on the happenings of other days departed.

I was born at 5.20, Wednesday morning 15<sup>th</sup> April 1942 at Halstead's private nursing home in Settle, and weighed 7lbs 10ozs. " Her name's Stephanie Rosa, and its not to be shortened" was how my birth was announced by my Father at North Holme. In those days Mother spent 14 days in the care of Nurse Pettit SRN, 10 of these in bed, and she was charged a fee of 10 guineas. I had blond hair, almost white, looked just like a porcelain doll, and was a good baby, except that I took a long time to feed, much preferring to sleep. Grandad Shuttleworth would grunt " it's a lass, should have been a lad; takes all day to feed it" . I was christened Stephanie Rosa at All Saints Church Broughton.

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Our farm house, North Holme, is a long house, with the house and cow shed adjoining under one roof. The "house" had the traditional iron range, which was constantly black-leaded, with a mantelpiece, side oven and boiler for heating the water, and cats in the fender – how they would move when a red hot cinder was dislodged. Above this was a rack packed to capacity with airing clothes. All the floors were stone flags covered with matting, and fine oak beams supported the ceiling. All paintwork was brown, and the grandfather clock and a square table covered with oilcloth were other essential features of the living room. A wooden dresser filled the back wall and in the corner was a large brown chest of drawers. The windows had small panes of glass, and a vestibule with patterned glass windows was inside the front door. To the right of this was the "room", which was used as a sitting room, but only infrequently. It was a very old house, and there didn't seem to be much space.

A door in the house led down stone steps into the cellar, where the salted meat was stored on huge stone slabs. This was a cold and eerie place, a little daylight filtering in by means of an iron grill. We used to think there were toads and rats in there. A narrow passage led to the kitchen, with its whitewashed walls, stone sink, stone floor and a stone slab on which baking was done and the eggs were stored. There was originally a water pump on the sink to pump water from a spring outside. Clothes were scrubbed by hand here, although there used to be a coal-fired set pot, which was a fixed cauldron used for boiling clothes. Outside the kitchen was the "tin house", and there was the mangle for wringing clothes. Across the yard was the coal place and a 2 seater lavatory, which was emptied by hand, and the contents spread on the fields. Well do I remember the journeys across the dark yard at night. We used newspaper for toilet paper and it was hung on string behind the door.

Grandad (Emanuel) Shuttleworth owned the farm and held the purse strings. Father had to ask for petrol money and Mother never did have any money to spend. Grandad and Grandma had, what seemed to us, a huge bedroom above the house, with my parents next door above the room. There was no permanent man at this time, for although Grandad was becoming increasingly crippled with arthritis, my Father ran the farm, and Willie and Annie Barritt lived up at Kayfield. Connie Boydell lived at North Holme, helping both in the house and outside on the farm; and here began a friendship which has lasted down the years. She slept in the back bedroom, which was to become ours. This was blue-washed and I remember as children we used to decipher patterns on the ceiling and listen to the mice scampering about in the under-drawing. There was no bathroom, and the tin bath on the hearth and chamber under every bed were necessities. Later we went for baths to Ethel and Sally Shuttleworths (Father's cousins) on Sandholme Terrace.

At the time of my birth electricity had not come to the farm. There used to be oil lamps and storm lamps outside, and candles upstairs. Electric lights were installed about 1945.

### IDEAS WANTED

One of the major fund raising events of the year is the annual New Road Autumn Fair, held on the first Saturday in October. The society will be represented at the fair and we are looking for suggestions for fund raising activities. If you have any ideas please contact one of the committee members

THE GOLDEN AGE OF COMEDY

The "Golden Age of Comedy" was the subject of Brian Halliwell's talk at the March meeting. Brian is an established speaker on the North West Circuit and this was his second visit to Earby. This report can only be the briefest of outlines of his fascinating and entertaining lecture.

Brian's talk covered the 60 year period from the first world war to the 1970s and included some well known and not so well known comedians. Most had familiar catch phrases and styles which were immediately recognisable to contemporary audiences

Jimmy Leermouth was his first example who was born in 1891 and wore a large fur coat on stage, a prop that Bud Flanagan was to adopt later.

Arthur Askey (big hearted Arthur) was remembered who went from stage and films to radio and starred in 10 Royal Variety Performances.

There was Max Miller, the "Cheeky Chappie", with his gaudy costumes and patter full of innuendo. He was earning a remarkable £1000 a week in his heyday.

Charlie Carroli was a stalwart of the Blackpool Tower Circus for 39 years where the straight faced Jimmy Buchanan was his stooge.

Jimmy Clitheroe was another Lancashire comedian. He started in show business at the age of 11 and was well known for his radio show "The Clitheroe Kid", favourite listening at Sunday lunch time. Danny Ross played the slow witted Alfie Hall which led to the catch phrase "Don't some mothers av'em".



**Old Mother Riley  
alias Arthur Lucan**

Old Mother Riley alias Arthur Lucan teamed up with his wife Kitty McShane who played daughter to Old Mother Riley. Theirs was a successful if turbulent partnership brought to a sudden end in 1954 when Lucan collapsed and died in the wings of a theatre in Hull just as he was due to go on stage.

The list of comedy stars seemed endless.

Albert Modley a well known ad libber had a comedy routine where he played a tram driver interacting with unseen passengers. He was made a freeman of Morecambe.

Frank Randle was a Blackpool comedy legend, another temperamental character. He started his career as an



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acrobat in 1918 becoming a comedy character actor writing his own film scripts.

Rob Wilton was famous for his monologues, particularly one entitled "The Day War Broke Out". His career spanned 60 years and he too wrote his own material.

George Formby with his catch phrase "Turned Out Right Again" was popular for his songs and his Ukulele and his numerous film roles, the latter earned him £100,000.

Norman Evans created the character Fanny Fairbottom for his "Over the Garden Wall" sketches.

Will Hay developed his head master character and other somewhat incompetent characters, he also starred in many films.

Ted Ray, christened Charlie Oldham, learned to play the violin as a youngster and joined the merchant navy, playing in a ships orchestra, before branching out into comedy. His forte was as an ad libber.

Jimmy James from the North East was a singer before the first world war but was gassed in the trenches. This ruined his singing voice so he took to comedy and was well known for playing the drunk even though he was actually a tee totaler.

A local comedian from Skipton had the stage name Joe King, he was a local bus driver in an earlier career. He always timed his act by the length of time it took to smoke a cigarette on the stage.

Laurel and Hardy the likeable buffoons had a career spanning nearly 70 years and had many cinema audiences rolling in the aisles with their film antics. Oliver Hardy played "heavy guys" in gangster movies before the inspired idea to team him up with Stan Laurel.

To round off the talk Brian spoke about two female comedy actors, Gracie Fields and Hilda Baker.

Gracie Fields, the poor girl made good, famous for her singing voice and her stage and film appearances. She never forgot her Lancashire roots even though she lived on the Isle of Capri in later life.

Hilda Baker started on the stage at an early age and when she was only 13 she was earning £25 a night. We all remembered her stooge Cynthia and the catch phrase "She Knows You Know" and latterly her television show with Jimmy Jewel "Nearest and Dearest"

Brian's talk, which was illustrated by his own drawings of the subjects, brought many memories flooding back for the audience.

THE KATHERINE BRUCE GLASIER MEMORIAL YOUTH HOSTEL



Katherine Bruce Glasier Memorial Youth Hostel in Earby

In 2005 the Youth Hostel Association (YHA) announced that as part of its new strategy some thirty hostels would have to close, one of these being the Earby site on Birch Hall Lane.

After some debate locally an open meeting was called to which representatives of the YHA were invited. This took place on the afternoon of Friday 28th April. Local MP Gordon Prentice and Mark Farmer, YHA Operations Director for England and Wales, and Ian Baker, Deputy Regional Manager (north

west) of the YHA, attended. The meeting was chaired by Chris Tennant and Maurice Horsfield, local parish and Borough councillors.

A battery of reporters from the local press and Radio Lancashire were also present together with some 30 local residents and members and former employees of the YHA .

Gordon Prentice started the ball rolling by recalling that only in 1997 he had the pleasure of re-opening the Hostel after an £71,000 refurbishment programme, the money coming through the "Earby Go" project from several funding bodies. Now the rug was going to be pulled from under it.

Mr Prentice has tabled a early day motion in the House of Commons against the closure and has received support form at least 25 MPs around the country.

He stressed the fact that the hostel had been gifted to the YHA "In Perpetuity" for use as a hostel.

Mark Farmer was then invited to put the YHA case which he did most eloquently but failed to convince the audience.

He stressed the educational and environmental aims of the YHA and the changes which had taken place in peoples expectations (which the audience understood) and explained that the YHA had stagnated somewhat since the 1980s and needed to refocus.

The business plan was focused on young people and they had to re-connect with the youth of this country and great success was being seen with individual lottery funded projects.

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Following their review they had decided to concentrate on the more popular areas in national parks, beauty spots and in towns and cities and were abandoning the so called marginal sites. New hostels were being provided which were fit for their purpose, viable and relevant and those where the demand was not so high, even if they were making an operating profit, would have to be sacrificed.

The money raised from the sale of the named hostels was to be used to invest in the new hostels.

Earby was deemed to be a low priority area and as far as the refurbishment at Earby was concerned he said it had only given the hostel a few extra years and that the closure had been under review for some time.

It was considered that the location near the Pennine Way was no longer sufficient for viability, most people travelled by car and visited an area for a short stay and the days of hostellers walking from hostel to hostel were more or less gone.

As to the legal position of the conveyance of the property from the Katherine Bruce Glasier Memorial Fund Committee he was adamant that it was a straight forward gift and there was no record of any preconditions being laid down.

Ian Barker thanked Simon Coates, warden at Earby, for the work he had been doing and stated that the closure was no reflection on his management.

The audience was far from convinced by the argument for the closure and there was the constant feeling that the closure plans was merely to fund the £34m debt the YHA had run up, although this was denied.

The sentiment of the audience was that the YHA had lost its way and was moving too far away from its original ideals of providing relatively cheap social accommodation for all ages and providing access to the country side.

Jannene Stubbs reported that West Craven was at the start of a tourism initiative and in an area where accommodation was at a premium it was unfortunate that the YHA wanted to pull out. Thousands of pounds of funding was coming on stream to boost tourism in our area. The more popular parts of the country were becoming overwhelmed by visitors whereas West Craven and environs was relatively unknown and needed championing as a tourist destination; it has much to offer.

The point was also made that the increasing cost of travel, both economically and environmentally, would cause an increase in people taking holidays at home.

One disadvantage about the Earby site put forward was that it was a self catering establishment and most people, particularly school parties, much preferred to have the catering done for them.

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It was stated by Mr Farmer that 15% of turnover at a hostel went towards central office overheads.

Gordon Prentice concluded his contribution by referring to a framed document which is on display at the hostel and which highlighted the fact that the hostel was to be maintained as a hostel "in perpetuity". The Local History Society re-emphasised this by quoting from the minutes of the Memorial Committee of 1955.

Mr Prentice also recalled that a lot of people both individuals and organisations had put both money and voluntary time into the hostel and that it should not be "flogged off to pay off debts". Earby was not unique in the YHA scheme and the YHA should be pressured to take a fresh look at its strategy. Earby was in a hidden part of the country and should be promoted more. Mr Prentice vowed to continue his support to reverse the closure decision.

An option offered by the YHA was for either an individual or an organisation to buy the hostel at the market price and, through the YHA Enterprise Scheme, continue to run it as a hostel under the YHA banner. An initial value of £165,000 was indicated by Mr. Farmer but this would not necessarily be the final asking price as local estate agents had yet to be consulted.



*Katherine Bruce Glasier was a founder member of the Independent Labour Party and campaigner for many good causes including Nursery School Education and for the installation of Pit Head Baths. She lived at Glen Cottage for nearly 30 years and the memorial fund purchased the cottage and two adjacent cottages and converted them into the youth hostel which was given to the YHA in 1958.*

The Society is backing the campaign to save the Youth Hostel

## ALL'S WELL AT ST MARY'S

Phase 2 of the well restoration project has got under way. A further grant of £13,290 has been awarded to the society to complete the project which will consist of completing the flagged viewing area at the well, the construction of a low wall round the flagged area and application of a final surface on the newly constructed path to the well.

The wall will be at such a height that it can be used to sit on and will be capped with stone coping on which will be an inscription to match that on the well itself. Canon Nicholas Turner and historian, Derrek Clabburn have been working hard to find the most suitable wording in Latin. Local carver Anna Bowen has been commissioned to carve the lettering.

A book about the well and its benefactor Rev. Henry Richardson, in the context of 18th century Thornton, will be published in phase 2. Any help with the research for this book will be most welcome, contact Bob Abel or Bev Parker.

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The programme for the project this year will probably be as follows

May - June	Completion of building work
17-18th June	Thornton Sitooteries (open Gardens) a chance to visit the well and find out more about it.
14th July	Opening event with Thornton School.
Spring 2007	Publication of the book.

May we take this opportunity to thank all those volunteers who have helped so far with project.



### GRAVE SLABS AND MEMORIALS IN ST MARY'S, THORNTON IN CRAVEN

As part of the project to restore the well at St Mary's and research its history, Earby and District Camera Club were invited to carry out a photographic recording of the Richardson memorials inside the church itself. This took place on Saturday 6th May when members of the Well Committee and the Camera Club met at the church. Armed with high powered studio lights, tripods and an array of cameras the memorials were duly photographed.



**Walter, Jack and Brian setting up the cameras**

There are also within the church, usually covered with carpets, a number of hidden gems including three medieval cross slabs probably dating from the 12th century. These slabs are decorated with a simple cross but are more interesting and rare because they also have a sword carved at the side of the cross which, it is thought, indicates that these grave slabs were connected with people of some status within the community. Unfortunately we know not who.



Also in the nave and chancel are several 17th century grave stones of a former Rector , Thomas Hanson and his family and William Drake of Coates Hall, Barnoldswick all of which were photographed and the carpet replaced. Member Nick Livsey also did rubbings of the carvings.

Thanks to Brian Jaques, Geoff Newsome, Walter Nuttall, Jack Parsons from the Camera Club.

FAMILY SEARCH



Jenifer Rigby from Canada is trying to find if there is a family connection between her grandmother Annie Rigby (nee Briden) and the Earby Bellman, Matthew Briden. Annie was 16 years old in 1901 and living with her father William at 49 Water Street where William worked as a tailor.

Annie married Harry Rigby in 1909.

The picture on the left is the Earby Bellman, Matthew Briden.

If you have any knowledge of the Briden family please contact Bob Abel 01282 843850.

LEGENDS OF THE BRASS BAND WORLD

The visiting speaker at the April meeting was Chris Helme from Hebden Bridge. Chris is a retired policeman and still playing in a police band. He is also a speaker on local history and brass band themes.

He recalled how as a youngster of nine years old he proudly inherited the band uniform from an older band member. Handing down uniforms was one way of keeping the band smart.

Chris's talk was a fascinating mix of narrative, visual images of yesteryear and extracts of music from bands and cornet players of a former era.

Chris began by recalling Derek Garside of the Co-operative Society (CWS) Manchester Brass Band, who as a cornet player, went on to become its leader. Music was a way of life for the Garside family.

In the late sixties the CWS band was having great success in band competitions and Derek was playing with them in 1967 when the band won three groups in the same day. That was at the Albert Hall in London and we heard extracts from the band playing on that auspicious day.

By 1996 he had become an international player as guest soloist for many brass bands in Great Britain and Europe.

Eventually as the popularity of brass bands waned, the Co-operative Society sponsorship was withdrawn. Derek and some colleagues set up independently as the "Kings of Brass" which continued until 2001.

Of course many brass bands still continue today and our own Earby Brass Band is a wonderful example.



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## Earby Chronicles

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Chris went on to recall the famous Arthur Laycock who was born the second son of a tackler in Todmorden in 1887. His parents were by no means musically inclined and at the age of 14 Arthur was employed as a slipper maker. However at the age of 9 his parents did buy him a cornet and arranged for him to have lessons at Cornholm Band.



Arthur Laycock

By the age of 17 he was recommended to the Hebburn Colliery Band in the north east where he joined as assistant solo cornet player and went on a world tour with them in 1905.

It appears that he returned to Todmorden rejoining the band there before joining the Earby Band under the baton of W. Rushton where he would have played alongside the legendary Edwin Firth.

He was made an offer to join the Dalton in Furness Band which he accepted and continued his musical education there for three years. He was in great demand as a soloist and played as guest cornet player and in soloist competitions.

On 1909 he joined St Hilda's Colliery Band as principal cornet player where he had an illustrious career even playing before royalty.

In 1914 he returned to Earby to marry Maggie Cowgill.

World War I altered his band career but on demobilisation he returned to St Hilda's from

where he went to play with the Eastbourne Municipal Orchestra and eventually to the Whitby Orchestra.

We heard Arthur Laycock playing "the Amateur" which was just wonderful

While at an engagement at St Austell in 1929 he was taken ill and his career was cut short by his death there at the early age of 42.

He was buried in Earby's Wheatlands Cemetery. Although St Hilda's Band could not attend the funeral they had an impromptu service at the graveside when the band was visiting the area in 1935.

Chris rounded off his talk with James Shepherd, a famous trumpet player and a most moving rendition of "Bless This House" closed the evening.

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THE LANCASHIRE AND YORKSHIRE RAILWAY

Noel Coates, treasurer of the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway Society, was the guest speaker at the May meeting when he recalled the heyday of the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway (L & YR). The L & YR was formed in 1847 when the Manchester and Leeds Railway absorbed eight other smaller railway companies. Its area stretched from Liverpool, Southport and Blackpool in the west through the industrial heartland of Lancashire and Yorkshire via Manchester, Leeds, Bradford and Wakefield to the Humber port of Goole in the east. They carried some 12 million tons of coal a year from the coal fields of South Yorkshire, Wigan and Burnley to the factories and households of the north and for export through the port of Goole. It had 600 route miles of track and was the 5th largest railway company but never had a route to London. In its heyday it employed 37,000 staff and owned 28 steam ships as well as the port and docks at Fleetwood. In 1890, Fleetwood was a tiny harbour until the coming of L& Y. They extended the harbour and built and ran the docks, supplying the trawlers with coal and ice (they built an ice making plant) and transported the fish to markets.

One of the leading personalities of the company was J.A.F. Aspinall, a mechanical engineer by profession, who, after a period as chief mechanical engineer was elevated in 1899 to General Manager.

As an engineer he made innovations in locomotive design and during his time as General Manager the L & Y introduced electric trains on the Manchester to Bury and Liverpool to Southport lines and this over a century ago.

They were an innovative company embracing new technology in electric overhead cranes to handle the goods. They built their own power stations to provide the necessary electrical power for both trains and ancillary equipment and were leaders in the development of modern train control methods.

Most of all the company was very business minded.

In his presentation Noel showed many fine pictures of magnificent locomotives, carriages, wagons, stations and all manner of things associated with the railway. He showed one picture of the Royal Train carrying the new King George V from Rainford near St Helens to Colne. The company left nothing to chance and during a dummy run for the journey they discovered that the engine designated to pull the train, an Atlantic class 4-4-2, was only just capable of coping with the gradients. The picture showed two engines at the head of the actual royal train!

Railway history is a fascinating subject not least because it encompasses many themes, not only engineering industry but also architecture, industrial archaeology, social history and industrial development.



FAMILY HISTORY QUERIES

The society gets many enquires, mainly through the web site ([www.earby.org](http://www.earby.org)), from people all over the world who have traced their ancestors to the Thornton / Earby area. The society can give help and advice and look up references in available local archives for example in the Thornton Parish Register Transcript or in local census returns.

The purpose of this section is to pass on the enquiries to Chronicles readers who may be able to help with the enquiries. Where no specific contact is given please get in touch with Bob Abel.

Here are some of the latest enquiries :-

Croasdale (and spelling variations).

The Croasdales were a family of hat makers who may have only been transient residents in the area. There are a few Croasdale baptisms and marriages at the Thornton during the second half of the 18th century. They then appear to have migrated through Lancashire eventually settling in Oldham where there was a strong hat making fraternity.

Smith

Joseph Smith was baptised at Thornton in 1826 and he married Jane Wilkinson Sephton in 1845. Joseph's parents were John and Betty from Kelbrook, John was a cordwainer by profession. Jane's father was William Sephton a tailor. Do you recognise either of these families?

Hartley

Perhaps having read the letter from William Hartley to his son in America on page 5 of this edition you might recognise some of the family mentioned. Our correspondent from America would be pleased to hear form anyone who can help her family quest.

Woollard

We have had an enquiry about Eric Woollard at Earby, does anyone know of a Woollard family living in Earby?

Threlfall Sisters

Maud Threlfall married Eric Fred Green at Thornton in 1920, a sister, Clara Threlfall married James Edward Smith in 1925 also at Thornton but we can't find the marriage of the third, sister Sarah Elizabeth Thelfall.

Mitchell

Frederick Mitchell lived at 2, Shuttleworth Street in Earby. Does anyone know of any Mitchells living at that address?

**A HISTORY WALK ROUND EARBY**

In the Summer of 2005 the Skipton and Craven History Society arranged a walk round Skipton as one of the Earby Society's out visits and an enjoyable evening was had.

The Earby Society was glad to be able to return the favour when the Skipton Society asked if we could give them a walk round Earby.

The afternoon of the 20th May was decided upon and arrangements were duly made. From the notes made for a previous walk and other sources, our secretary Margaret Brown

drafted a walk itinerary from which a small booklet was produced to be given to each person on the walk.



Saturday 20th dawned inauspiciously with heavy rain from before 7-00am which didn't look like abating.

However, about an hour before the start of the walk, the rain began to reduce and had stopped by the time the walk was due to start and thankfully the weather was dry for the rest of the afternoon.

The Group at the newly refurbished Mines Museum

The walk started at the New Road Community Centre, the former Victorian Board School, and progressed up New Road, along Green End Avenue to the White Lion, down Riley Street to Stoney Bank Road and to Cemetery Road and via Water Street and School Lane to the old Grammar School, the Yorkshire Dales Lead Mining Museum. The route included some of the oldest surviving buildings in Earby and members of the Earby Society explained the history and development of the town.

The walk ended at the Mines Museum where tea and cakes were served in the new tea room.

It is hoped that the walk will be repeated later on this year for members and local residents to join.

**EARBY MINES MUSEUM  
NOW OPEN**

The Earby Mines Research Group (EMRG) developed from the Earby Pot Holing Club when some of the members started exploring old mine workings as well as pot holes. They soon realised that there were many relics of the lead mining industry still underground and they began to retrieve what they could. These artefacts formed the basis of the museum which is housed in Earby's historic Grammar School building.



Earby's Yorkshire Dales Lead Mining Museum

In 1997 it was decided that the best way to secure the future of the museum was to set up the Earby Mines Research Group Museum Trust and to apply for membership of the Museum Association. However they were only granted provisional membership. To gain full membership they had to either move to another venue or improve the old grammar school where they were.

English Heritage were approached for funding and after much writing of reports and form filling a grant was

secured for a proportion of the money required for the building restoration. Other funding came from Pendle Council, West Craven Committee and other charitable bodies. The building was re-roofed, repointed and a new floor was put in. Volunteers from the group did much of the preparatory work themselves.

The inside of the building then had to be addressed, space had always been limited and the reinstatement of the first floor could help. A firm of Manchester Architects drew up the plans and the cost was 90% funded from lottery money but the group had to top up the amount themselves. Trash and treasure sales were held on many weekends with many local people volunteering their help and they raised some £15,000.



The first floor exhibition hall

Thanks to a lot of hard work by EMRG members and many other volunteers, this excellent museum is now open to visitors and is well worth a visit.

The museum is open on Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays in the summer

## Earby Chronicles

The museum is open on Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays in the summer season from 11-00am until 5-00pm. Entrance is £2-50 for adults, £2 for concessions, £1 for children and £6 for a family ticket and worth every penny.

Everyone involved with the restoration project is to be congratulated for their endeavours and perseverance. Now watch out for news of the Friends of the Museum which is soon to be restarted.

### J.R.G.EXLEY



Mr. J. R. G. Exley with the 1911 etching press at his home in Grassington.

J.R.G.Exley with his 1911 printing press

Following on from Celia Austin's article in Spring 2006 Chronicles on the etcher and artist JRG Exley, Celia has subsequently found this photograph of Mr Exley, taken at his retirement home in Grassington. The photo appeared in the Yorkshire Post but Celia's enquiries about the possibility of a surviving negative or print have proved to be fruitless.

### PROGRAMME

Saturday 22 July	Trip to Gawthorp Hall
Tuesday 15th August	"Derbyshire Well Dressing" Margaret Curry
Tuesday 19th September	"Archaeology is a Load of Rubbish" John Buglass
Tuesday 17th October	"North Country Folklore" Peter Watson

**PRODUCED  
& printed  
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Earby & District  
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### DATA PROTECTION ACT

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

### THE SOCIETY

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

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### Contents:

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

### NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

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

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