

Earby Chronicles



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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.

OFFICIALS

Chairman:
Bob Abel

Phone 01282 812599
Email:
bobabel2224@gmail.
com

Secretary:
Margaret Brown

Phone 01282 843932
Email:
margaret.brown2869
@hotmail.co.uk

Editor of Chronicles:
Stephanie Carter

Phone 01756 794099
Email:
steph.carter123
@gmail.com

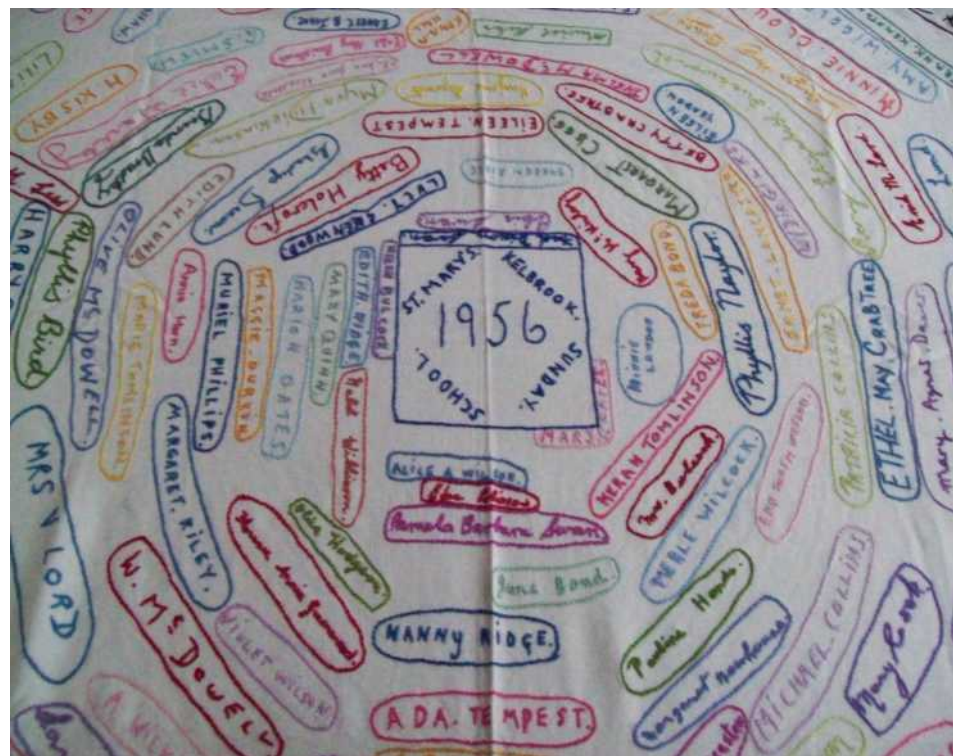
Treasurer/ Archivist :
Wendy Faulkner

Phone 01282 863160
Email:
Wendy
@lbhfarm.co.uk

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ST. MARY'S CHURCH SUNDAY SCHOOL KELBROOK 1956

The tablecloth shown below bears 141 signatures of Kelbrook people in 1956. Also included is the signature of MP Burnaby Drayson. It was embroidered by Elsie Swan, the aunt of Patricia Wilkinson (nee Dean). If anyone knows if this was made in celebration of some special occasion at the church or Sunday School, please let us know.



Recent features

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THOMAS COOKE CLOCK AT ST. MARY'S CHURCH KELBROOK

I am researching the clock at St Mary's Kelbrook, which was supplied in 1859 by Thomas Cooke, one of the world's foremost instrument makers of the 19th century. I am particularly interested in discovering who paid for the clock and who actually installed it.

The clock is of national importance and the frame in which it is housed is one of only two of its type; the other is in Myanmar (formerly Burma).

There is little information in the county archives or the Thomas Cooke archives to shed much light on the clock. I am therefore hoping that someone local to Kelbrook might be able to help.

I would be grateful for any information that might be offered.

Martin Lunn MBE
martinlunnmbe@gmail.com 07969 945413

75th ANNIVERSARY OF D-DAY (1944-2019)

Bob Abel



I have a particular interest in Operation Overlord, D-Day, as my dad, Leslie Abel, (left) was involved in this historic event.

He enlisted in 1941 in the Royal Engineers and had quite a chequered start to army life eventually being transferred to the Royal Mechanical and Electrical Engineers and was eventually re mustered as a search-light mechanic.

I can only assume that he was getting bored with life working on search lights and, like many young men in his situation, was wanting some action.

His opportunity arose in 1943 when the Glider Pilot Regiment was formed. Notices were posted up at army bases asking for volunteers for the airborne services and there would be opportunity to train as a glider pilot. He applied and was accepted and on 13 December 1943 he was transferred to the 2nd Glider Pilot Regiment being posted as acting corporal to RAF Tarrant Rushton.

The training for flying gliders was intensive and I remember Dad saying that many can-

didates dropped out along the way. The tiger moth biplane was the mainstay for gaining flying experience.

Through the spring and early summer of 1944 training became more intense, and although they didn't know it at the time, this was to be the preparation for Operation Overlord and D-Day.

During January to April 1944 the Glider Pilots were also put through rigorous training on the ground in preparation for battles which lay ahead. It was intended that each squadron would be able to fight independently when they had landed and regrouped or in cooperation with other forces. In fact they were trained to the standard of British Army infantry men.

Tarrant Rushton diaries relate that on April 22nd 1944 the top brass visited. General D. Eisenhower, Supreme Commander British and US Armies in Great Britain, arrived by air accompanied by Air Chief Marshall Sir Trafford Leigh-Mallory, KCB, DSO and Air Vice Marshall L.N. Hollinghurst CBE, OBE, DFC. The party visited the station operations room where a conference was held and later all crews were addressed in the briefing room.

During May there were several mass take off practises including one by moonlight. D-Day was fast approaching and on June 2nd 1944 there was a security clamp down.

Operation Deadstick, Code name for a D-Day Airborne operation took pace early on June 6th 1944. The objective was the capture, intact, by the 6th Airborne Division, of two road bridges, one over the Caen Canal, the other over the River Orne. Both bridges were strategically important as they created a route eastwards for the British forces landing at Sword Beach and were vital for the advancement from the beach heads. Conversely, if the Germans held onto the bridges they could be used for a German counter attack against the allies advancing from the beaches. The Germans were probably ready to destroy them if necessary.

The bridges were to be taken by airborne troops but the use of paratroops was not appropriate as they would have taken time to re-group after landing by which time the Germans would have been alerted.

It was decided to attack with a coup de main i.e. a swift attack relying on speed and surprise to accomplish the objectives in a single blow. This surprise attack was achieved by taking men of 'D' Company, 2nd (Airborne) Battalion, Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry right up to the bridges in six Airspeed Horsa Gliders and, with what was later described as the "most outstanding flying achievements of the war", the gliders delivered the company to their objective. After a brief fire fight, both bridges fell, intact, into British hands. Then began the task of defending the bridges against German counter attack until they were relieved.

The bridge over the Caen Canal, Benouville Bridge, between Caen and Ouistreham was later renamed Pegasus Bridge after the Airborne Forces Insignia.

In the evening of D-Day, more gliders were assembled with Dad and his co-pilot piloting one of 256 Hamilcar gliders. This was Operation Mallard which carried most of the 6th Airlanding Brigade as well as the balance of the Division's heavy equipment and supporting units. In all, two hundred and fifty aircraft from various RAF stations were involved, each towing a Horsa or a Hamilcar glider. With these came a massive escort of seventeen fighter squadrons, whose presence ensured that enemy fighters could not even see never mind fire upon the formation.

By 21-00 they were approaching the landing zones.

There were two landing zones designated, one LZ-W, one and a half miles to the north of Bénouville, on the western side of the Caen Canal and the other LZ-N, at Ranville. Dad flying the Hamilcar and carrying a Tetrarch light tank of the 6th Airborne Armoured Reconnaissance Regiment, (see over) touched down in LZ-N. Dad said landing with a tank in the back of the glider was a dangerous occupation. If the pilot put the glider down at too steep an angle or if the aircraft lurched forward and nose down on landing, there was a danger that the

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tank would break from its anchorage and fall onto of the pilots. History was made on this operation as it was the first time tanks had ever been flown into battle.

The General Aircraft Heavy Hamilcar glider was described as Britain's D-Day secret weapon by a Daily Sketch reporter.



Only fifteen of the gliders failed to reach the landing zone due principally to tow rope malfunctions. One of the greatest horrors for the crew of the Halifax tow aircraft was to look behind to see that the glider had disappeared.

All the glider pilots had signed orders from Field Marshal Montgomery to make their way back to the coast after landing their cargos and make their way back to England. Glider Pilots were a valuable commodity on whom much time

and effort had been expended to prepare them for this type of operation. Presumably there were thoughts the men would be needed again as was to be the case at Arnhem. Dad made his way back to England but not before he sustained a shrapnel wound to his leg on the 7th June as his mother and father were to learn from a letter of the 22nd.

Coincidentally, the late James Dickson of Earby, was also based at Tarrant Ruston at the same time as my dad. James was a pilot in the 298 Squadron based at Tarrant Rushton in Dorset. The base there was dubbed by some as the "Secret Airfield". The squadron together with 644 were used for Special Operations Europe (SOE) and besides acting as towing aircraft (tugs) for the glider operations at D-Day and Arnhem, they were also involved in sorties over occupied Europe from France to Norway.

Obviously the towing planes, Halifax Bomber crews, and the glider crews did many training exercises together.

James recalled that one of the main training exercises was christened "Circuits and Bumps" to give the glider pilots experience of casting off the towing line and landing. The glider would be attached to the Halifax by the tow rope, they would take off and bank left in a circle, when the glider was level with the start of the runway again the glider pilot would detach the rope and glide back to a landing on the runway. Meanwhile the Halifax would continue its circuit before jettisoning the rope at a designated place and circling back to the runway for the next training lift off and landing. The Horsa Gliders had one tow rope; the larger Hamilcar glider had ropes attached to both wings in a Y shape.

In the lead up to D-Day 1944 there was even more secrecy. Sixteen weeks before the event all leave was cancelled and all personnel confined to the aerodrome.

James was with the second wave of gliders towing a Hamilcar Glider which was loaded with a Valentine tank and crew. The light tanks were almost a secret weapon, never had tanks been flown directly into battle before. This second flight was in support of the first strike and the tanks not only boosted the morale of the troops on the ground but also gave cover as well as fire power.

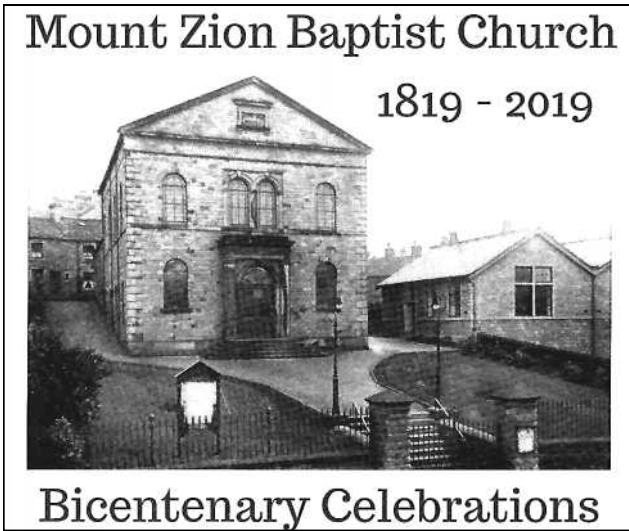
The Halifaxes returned to base for refuelling and any repairs and were soon taking out the next wave of gliders. James flew three towing flights in all lasting into the next day, 7th June. On the last run there was a tow rope malfunction and James was devastated at the loss of the glider. After the 7th they were assigned to bombing raids to harry the Germans.

Another Earby man at D-Day, this time on the ground, was the late Jim Tattersall. He served with Royal Dragoon Tank Battalion 152 during the Second World War, largely in Bel-

gium and Holland. Jim played his part in the famous D-Day landings in Normandy too, and drove his tank off a landing craft and on to the beach as battle raged around. A Kelbrook man who made the ultimate sacrifice was Driver Teddy Benson of the 257 Field Company of the Royal Engineers. He was seriously wounded in Normandy and repatriated to England where he died in hospital on 23rd August 1944 as a result of his wounds. There were probably other local men who took part in the D-Day landings. If you have any family memories of this historic event please let the editor know.

EARBY BAPTIST CHURCH 200 YEARS CELEBRATION

Below are a selection of photographs taken at the successful March weekend event.



Rev. Wilkinson's Original Grave Stone



Historical events illustrated by Springfield School Children



Nick Mitchell alias Rev W Wilkinson



Open Day Saturday 30th March 10 am - 4 pm Past, present and future exhibition Guided walks Musical entertainment Refreshments served throughout the day	Celebration Service Sunday 31st March 10.30 am Speaker: Roy Searle Water Street, Earby BB18 6QS Contact us: 07896 964371 earbymountzion@gmail.com Part of the West Craven Baptist Fellowship www.earbybaptists.org.uk
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Original baptismal steps near site of first chapel

JOHN BENTLEY

Research by Stephanie Carter

John Bentley was the headmaster of Earby Grammar School for 40 years. He was born in Northgate, Baildon and baptised on 5th February 1815. His parents were George Bentley, a woolcomber and Grace Wadsworth. At the age of 25, in July 1840 he married Hannah Brook in Otley. By 1861 they had 7 children: Ann (Annie), Grace, John, Brook, Margaret Hannah, Mary Martha Clara Matilda and James. Ann and Margaret became teachers and many of the other children died young. John's brother Joseph was a schoolmaster at Kelbrook.

My grandfather, Emanuel Shuttleworth of North Holme Farm was one of Mr Bentley's paying pupils. He spoke highly of the schoolmaster, who he said was a strict disciplinarian who kept order by throwing a coiled strap which invariably found its target. Grandfather recalled the evening classes opened by Mr Bentley in Stoneybank. These were short lived owing to the bad behaviour of the pupils which Mr Bentley could not tolerate. Although a strict disciplinarian my Grandfather, who was an excellent hand-writer, described Mr Bentley as a fine schoolmaster who gave him an excellent background in the essential subjects.

John Hartley wrote about Mr Bentley in one of his articles for the Craven Herald in 1935: "Mr Bentley was appointed as schoolmaster, and in the course of time he was assisted by his son John Thomas and his daughter Ann... Mr Bentley was a thorough, very conscientious type of a school dominie and he impressed his habits of mind and conduct upon the young people committed to his charge. The school was conducted purely as an elementary school, but the fundamental subjects were very carefully taught, and the moral influ-

ence of the school was very noticeable upon those who were brought within its pale. Mr Bentley was a devoted churchman, and he and his family were regular worshippers at Thornton Parish Church. He was one of the first actuaries appointed by the Yorkshire Penny Bank, and he served the bank with conspicuous fidelity, not only in the Earby area, but as far afield as Slaidburn. For his monthly journey to the outlying parts of Craven he used to be conveyed in George Andrews' trap, in charge of his coachman Joe Moore. There are many former depositors who will remember their visits to the old Grammar School to pay their small contributions, and who cannot forget the sight of Mr Bentley, his daughter Ann and William Hartley, who sat at the receipt of custom and made the entries in the books. Sitting at a school desk with a candle for each person, they performed their duties with perfect courtesy and painstaking accuracy.

In Mr Bentley's early career, before the days of compulsory education, he had an evening school for the benefit of those who had not received any daytime instruction, and he was assisted in this work by Mr John Singleton, one of the most respected men in the village...

Mr Bentley had a brother named Joseph, who was the schoolmaster at the National School Kelbrook at the time he came to reside in Earby. When Mr Bentley retired from the post at the Grammar School, the new rector Rev. L B Morris, had an extension scheme carried out, the master's house being attached to the school for educational purposes. A good commodious house was built for the master on the eastern side of the school grounds and the whole premises were modernised.

Mr Bentley lived to an advanced age and passed away in his 77th year on May 7th 1891, and his wife died the following year. They are both interred at Thornton Church."

The 1881 census describes John as a widower, aged 66, schoolmaster, living at the Grammar School with daughter Ann aged 37, a teacher and Margaret aged 25 also a teacher. Hannah had died in 1879 and John Bentley re-married in December 1883 at Horsforth. His wife was Margaret Harrison, aged 55, a spinster residing in Horsforth at the time of the marriage. The 1891 census for Earby Grammar School lists John Bentley 76, retired schoolmaster born Baildon, Margaret 62, wife born Thornton-in-Craven, Annie 47, daughter mistress of Grammar School born Baildon and Margaret Hannah 35 daughter teacher of drawing, born Earby.

As stated John Bentley died in May 1891 and his personal estate of £1,154.16s.5d was proved by his two daughters. Ann herself was to die the following year in December 1892.

The following letter was sent to the Craven Herald by James Bailey in May 1891:

The Late Mr J Bentley

I wish to tender a tribute of love and respect to the memory of the late Mr Bentley, master of the Grammar School, Earby. As an old scholar, there are associations in connection with the school, the teacher, and those who were taught, which are pleasant to look back upon – part of one's heritage of good – which will ever be fresh and green in the memory while life shall last. As a teacher, it was Mr Bentley's desire and aim to impart a sound and thorough knowledge of those subjects which he taught so that the instructions should be serviceable to the scholars in after life and that many profited and retained the instructions given can be made convincingly clear by the fact that many whom I could name are today occupying positions of trust and responsibility, while some are themselves teachers of others. Mr Bentley was at one time the only schoolmaster in the village, and for a man holding a position of influence and power – though he was a churchman and a Conservative – he could not be called a propagandist. He was remarkably tolerant and free to a great extent from party bias. He would discuss principles and tenets without rancour and ill-will, in a just and generous spirit. Living amidst a dissenting community, his life and deeds are a grand example to those of an opposite faith. He was for many years I believe chairman of most of

the meetings held in the Victoria Institute, and a subscriber to the funds to the last. Apart from the scholastic profession, Mr Bentley was in other ways a very useful man. He possessed considerable knowledge of legal matters, and rendered his services to the poor for a mere trifle as the matter of remuneration, in the transfer of land, in advancing loans of money without cumbrance and expensive mortgage deeds. He was a real help and friend to an aspirant anxious to better his position. One might say "Well, you know in doing so he helped himself". Yes, thank God it is an unalterable law that one cannot even help himself without helping others, but I give Mr Bentley credit for not being so sordid and selfish but for having a purer motive and character. Intelligence and patient toil in an applicant was an inducement to him to lend a helping hand and not percentage alone. As Actuary of the Penny Bank and the supervisor of other Penny Savings Banks in different parts of Craven, he was kept well employed, yet he was kind, courteous, considerate, a real confidante, as many can testify. In social life he was a thorough gentleman. One could spend an evening with him with pleasure and profit. He had a mind well stored with knowledge; he could give a joke and take one with real zest. Somewhat reserved, not many persons enjoyed a real intimate acquaintance with him. In his home life Mr Bentley had a true helpmate and some promising sons and daughters, but he suffered keenly from the loss of several of them by death. The loss of his first wife must have been a heavy blow to him. A kinder, sweeter tempered woman than she was, it would be hard to find. Her name to most of the old scholars is "like ointment poured forth". What a power there is in goodness, what a fragrance, what a rich legacy in having a good mother. Oh that mothers were wise that they understood this; there would then be some hope for the redemption of the race and the world! Mr Bentley's noble, upright form, we shall look upon no more; his presence and influence have been an inspiration and help. Let us so live that when the summons comes we may be ready, then, like him, being dead, we yet shall speak. May the daughters and wife who are left to mourn their irreparable loss, long occupy the old homestead around which so many hallowed associations cling, is the prayer of yours respectively, James Bailey.

Ann Bentley's death was also reported in the Craven Herald December 9th 1892:

It is with a feeling of deepest regret that we chronicle the death of the above well-known lady, which took place at her home on Sunday morning at the age of 48 years. The deceased lady had assisted her father in the management of the Grammar School at Earby, and at the death of her father she succeeded him and became head mistress, a position which she has held ever since. She also took her father's part in connection with the Yorkshire Penny Bank. Besides being a warden to the Roundell Habitation of the Primrose League, she has always taken an active part in church affairs. About 12 months after the formation of the Earby Church, the deceased, along with other local ladies, was mainly instrumental in forming the Sunday School. Besides being the Superintendent of the School, she has taught a class as well, and when her step-mother died a little over three months ago, she took up that lady's class and taught the double class herself. The deceased was respected and beloved by everyone who came in contact with her, and by her death the Church and the Primrose League has lost one of their most energetic workers. As a token of the high respect in which she was held, the first and second classes of young women in connection with the Sunday School and the Day School scholars, subscribed and bought a couple of beautiful wreaths, along with glass globes. On the ribbon attached to the wreaths of the young women's class was the word "Regret" woven in black beads, and enamelled on glass on the centre of the wreath were the words "In loving memory". On the day scholar's wreath was inscribed "Not lost, but gone before". The deceased has not enjoyed very good health of late, but until about a fortnight ago nothing very serious was apprehended, but becoming gradually worse, she died as stated above. She was interred on Wednesday in the quiet churchyard of Thornton, amid general signs of regret.

EARBY IN WARTIME

Squire Firth

80 years ago at the start of the 2nd World War I was a pupil at the recently opened Earby Springfield Infant school (below) which took pupils from three to seven years of age.



Gas masks had to be carried to school and precautions taken in case the school was subjected to an air raid. This entailed the whole school leaving the classrooms, going outside and down the steps into the large cellar and boiler house situated under the main hall. This procedure was frequently practised but only used once when an aeroplane spotted overhead turned out to be a false alarm! Another measure was a place of safety for children going to or from school, as it was not uncommon for children as young as three or four years of age to walk to school unaccompanied. People, mainly in the Stoney Bank Road area offered their houses as a place where children could go in case of any emergency. I, along with several others, had to go to the bottom house next to Spring Mill

When clothes rationing started, inspectors came to school and any child exceptionally large for their age or who had large feet was awarded extra clothing coupons. Food rationing came into force and almost everything was scarce. I particularly remember dried egg powder that came from the U.S.A. and which later turned out to be a health risk.

The nearest Earby came to the war was when two bombs were dropped on the Colne to Carleton Road below Pinhaw. I remember walking up by the Mount and over the moor to see the bomb craters by the road side which were very large and deep.

Many evacuees came to Earby (mainly from Hull and the Midlands.) When they arrived at the Railway Station they were taken to New Road School (now the Community Centre.) They assembled in the school yard and volunteers took them to houses in the area. Consequently a large number lived in the streets around the school and I can still remember some of their names.

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The road in front of New Road School was one of the roads in Earby that had a good made-up surface. There were very few motor cars at this time so the road became a playground where children gathered on light nights and weekends. Cycle riding, whip and top, hoops, conkers and marbles, were a few of the activities we enjoyed. We also enjoyed climbing the four horse chestnut trees which grew near the road. It was strictly forbidden for children to play in the school yard. There also seemed to be a lot of stray dogs around and sometimes they formed into packs which were very frightening to children.

Air raid shelters were built all over Earby; the area from the Railway Station to the Empire Cinema had practically one in every street. They were erected in the middle of the front streets which were mostly not made-up, that is just hard core mud and grass. The cobbled back streets were used by the coal wagon, dust cart and milk float. The air raid shelters built of red brick were mainly a standard size (12 feet by 16 feet and 8 feet high) with a thick reinforced concrete flat roof. Some streets had double sized shelters as they covered more houses. To my knowledge they were never used for the few air raid warnings we had. People were happy to stay in their homes rather than use the shelters, which were dark and damp. Later, over time, they became rubbish dumps. All the mills had air raid shelters and there was a very large one next to the Empire Cinema.

As part of the war effort the government ordered the collection of scrap metal to melt down and re-use. Lots of the terraced houses in Earby had small front gardens with ornate iron railings and gates which were all taken away. The holes where the railings were fitted can still be seen in the top stones of these walls. Many years after the war it was disclosed that the railings were not suitable for melting down and thousands of tons were dumped in the sea. Fortunately the gates and railings of the Baptist Chapel in Water Street were not removed and can still be seen today. People were asked to give aluminium pans for the war effort and I remember a large pile outside a shop on Colne Road.

A large military exercise took place. I think it was about finding German Airmen in the North Holme area. Lots of soldiers moved into Earby and I remember seeing several injured soldiers making their way back to their base at the Coronation Hall.

Apart from the Empire cinema, the main source of entertainment was provided by the churches and chapels. Sunday Schools were well attended and provided annual pantomimes and trips. Concert parties also performed regularly and there were very many talented people in Earby. The Albion Hall also held whist drives and dances.

The Air Raid siren sounded every Saturday morning at 10.00 am. It was situated at the fire station in Victoria Road and could be heard all over Earby. A back-up for this was a hand operated siren which was free standing on a large metal frame; I once had the opportunity to turn this.

It was illegal to show any lights at night and the blackout came into force. House windows had to have a thick black cloth fitted to keep the light from showing in the street. Motor car lights were covered to allow just a small strip of light to show through and bicycles were treated the same. One small benefit of the blackout was there was no light pollution and it was wonderful to see the night sky.

As young children we accepted things as they were and never realised what terrible events were happening in other parts of the country and the world. I hope future generations will not have to face the same experience.

EVACUEES IN EARBY DURING 2ND WORLD WAR

Information from local newspapers accessed via findmypast.com by the Editor

The first batch of evacuees came to West Craven from the Bradford area. At the beginning of September 500 evacuees arrived by special train in Barnoldswick. The children were given a meal and then taken to their temporary homes, a large contingent for Earby being conveyed in special buses. Many women who usually went out to work in the mills stayed at home to receive their guests. One of the buses with about 30 children was sent to Kelbrook and they were billeted in the village. Rev. W R Trevitt accepted four children at the vicarage. Later it was found that the children should have been billeted in Earby so they could keep in contact with their fellow school children, so they were removed. A false rumour spread round the village that the vicar had declined to accept Roman Catholic children. A further 500 evacuees soon followed to Earby.

In November 1939 only 82 of the 335 evacuees received in Earby remained in the town. The others had either returned home or moved on to other districts. In the first evacuation 329 were received (150 children of school age, 35 under school age, 29 mothers and 26 teachers). There were several crippled children and these along with adults numbering 89 were transferred. Of those who remained, 60 children were of school age, 5 under school age, 5 mothers and 4 teachers.

Under the Government's new evacuation scheme 26,000 Bradford children would be affected. Barnoldswick, Earby and the surrounding villages would have to play their parts as reception centres. Evacuation plans would not be enforced unless there were serious air raids and then would be entirely voluntary. Parents would have to sign an undertaking to leave their children in the reception areas. This was to prevent the drift back home which had undermined the success of the evacuation carried out in September 1939.

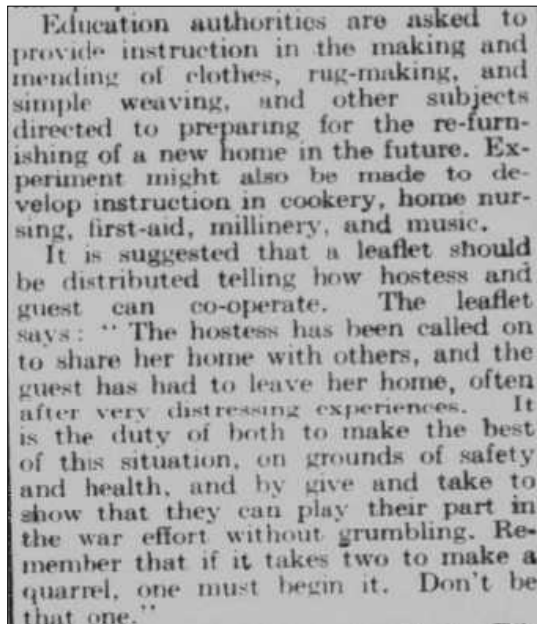
Monthly evacuation reports to members of the ARP committee (Earby Air Raid Precautions Committee) were published in the local press. In February 1940 27 of the original 337 remained. Bradford Education Committee had recommended that Barnoldswick UDC help with the billeting, but this request had been refused. In May 1940 only 10 evacuees remained in Earby and in August the number was 7. In March it was reported that Earby would be required to provide accommodation for 400 Bradford children. Mr R S Shaw appealed to Earby householders to volunteer to take evacuees from the Bradford area through the Government's evacuation scheme. He urged householders who had indicated that they did not wish to take evacuees to reconsider their decision and give their names to the Billeting Officer. In April 1,600 leaflets asking people if they would take evacuees were distributed in Earby. Replies numbered less than 30. The Billeting Officer reported on the new plans for the future evacuation of the civilian population. In October 1940 the following notice was published:



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The UDC recommended residents to "show their patriotism by providing billets and homes for some of these unfortunate people". It was stated that a large number would be arriving from London in a week's time and would need billets, homes, blankets, furniture, crockery and kitchen utensils. 49 evacuees arrived and all were accommodated. They were followed by a further contingent of 125 women and children and it was stated that "the Londoners seemed greatly impressed by the hospitality they had received throughout their journey".

A further contingent of 90 evacuees from London arrived in November 1940 and suitable accommodation was found for all. Earby was scheduled as a receiving area for 500 of the evacuees to be spread over a period of six weeks. The Minister of Health Malcolm McDonald had written to local authorities asking them to do everything possible to solve the problems. He proposed they should organise welfare activities, information bureaux, mother's clubs with nurseries attached and communal meals. The Government was to meet the cost of local schemes. The notification continued:



Education authorities are asked to provide instruction in the making and mending of clothes, rug-making, and simple weaving, and other subjects directed to preparing for the re-furnishing of a new home in the future. Experiment might also be made to develop instruction in cookery, home nursing, first-aid, millinery, and music.

It is suggested that a leaflet should be distributed telling how hostess and guest can co-operate. The leaflet says: "The hostess has been called on to share her home with others, and the guest has had to leave her home, often after very distressing experiences. It is the duty of both to make the best of this situation, on grounds of safety and health, and by give and take to show that they can play their part in the war effort without grumbling. Remember that if it takes two to make a quarrel, one must begin it. Don't be that one."

Alfred Smithson, Earby's Billeting Officer, hoped to make the evacuees as comfortable as possible and maybe to open a centre in the town where evacuated mothers and children would be able to spend their leisure hours. Another 40 evacuees arrived and were greeted by Mr Smithson, Mr P Clifford (Clerk to UDC) and officials of the Women's Voluntary Services.

In December 1940 a Social Centre was opened in the Parish Church school-room, and Mr Smithson praised the ladies of the various churches for caring for the many evacuees in the town under the direction of Mrs F W Trout, wife of the Baptist minister. After visiting the centre he said that the aim had been to make it possible for the Londoners to mix with each other and to ensure they would not be lonely when their hosts were at work. He appealed for a supply of books, magazines, film books and toys.

The Billeting Officer visited a number of empty houses in Earby which were being prepared for the evacuees and he reported that "At No. 5 Albion Street, one of the houses, I was greatly impressed. New oil-cloth had been laid and everything possible had been done to

make the house look homely. Every room had been thoroughly scrubbed and cleaned and beds had been made ready, and a certain amount of crockery had been placed neatly inside the cupboards. My escort explained to me that all the cleaning and furnishing of the house had been done voluntarily, and I can find no praise too high for those concerned." At the Earby Food Office he found a large number of articles which had been given for distribution amongst the most needy of the evacuees.

In January 1941 the Education Sub-Committee met and was told that the Earby UDC was asking for communal meals to be prepared in a council kitchen for 165 children including 18 evacuees. The Committee was also told that the County Energy Committee had decided to adapt one of the corridors at Springfield Infants School as an air raid shelter. The Sub-Committee asked that a shelter could also be made outside the school for about 50 children.

Mr Gunby, School Attendance Officer reported that 78 evacuees were attending Earby and District Schools in May 1941 and that attendance on the whole was satisfactory. There had been a delay in installing the necessary apparatus at New Road School for the provision of meals for Earby school children which had been approved by the County Authority. An evacuees "Mothers Day Out" to Blackpool was enjoyed in September 1941.

Evacuee Mothers' Day Out.
Wednesday of holiday week was a red letter day for Earby's evacuee mothers and their children who, accompanied by the organising secretary of the group, Mrs. F. W. Trott, took the motor 'bus from Earby at 9 a.m. and had an excellent run, in ideal weather, to Blackpool Sands, 15 adults and 22 children being included in the party. Most of the provisions required were taken by the travellers, and these were enjoyed on the sands. While the older mothers and Mrs. Trout shepherded the children, the majority of the party roamed round the town, and were able to enjoy themselves, in groups or singly, in their own special manner. It was a very happy occasion for everyone. The mothers had saved up for some considerable time to cover the cost of the outing.

By February 1942 structural alterations had still not been finished at New Road Centre but were due to open in March. 48 children were attending Earby schools.

In June 1945 the following snippet appeared in the local press:

EARBY
On Wednesday 13 evacuees — advance guard of the Londoners billeted in Earby — returned home. They were given a rousing send-off. In charge of the arrangements was Alderman A. Burrell (a former Mayor of Colne), and representatives of the Earby Urban Council were there to say goodbye. At one period Earby had about 140 evacuees from the South, and houses were requisitioned and furnished by the Council (acting for the Ministry of Health). The evacuees have expressed high appreciation of their treatment at Earby.

As a post script, one of the evacuees billeted in Kelbrook was to become a famous actor. He was Terence Stamp, born in Stepney, London in 1938. He lived with Granny Watson at the old pub, the Halfway House at the top of Dotcliffe Lane.

A "JOYOUS WEEK" IN THE "MECCA OF QUEENS" MORECAMBE SEPTEMBER 1931

Retrieved from the Nelson Leader by the Editor

When at Easter last year the Railway Queen first visited Morecambe, she set a fashion that other industrial queens have been anxious to emulate. Later in the year the Cotton Queen paid two visits and Morecambe went further and created a queen of its own for carnival.

This year the new Railway Queen has made two calls, and the new Cotton Queen is to pay an official visit and take part in the carnival procession next Wednesday. In addition, the recently crowned Silk Queen is coming on Saturday and will take part in the carnival celebrations on that day. At the same time twelve young ladies are feverishly awaiting Saturday, for they are the finalists in the Carnival Queen Competition, and one of them will be crowned next Saturday afternoon by the retiring Queen.

The interest in this competition has been enhanced by the knowledge that Lady Maureen Stanley is to be chairman of the Board of Judges. She will be assisted in what will be no easy task by Mr Alfred Muller Lambert, artist and portrait painter, and Captain I P Muller, one of Britain's most famous exponents of physical perfection. Mr H Ramsbotham, the MP for the Division, and the Mayoress of Morecambe and Heysham are also on the Board.

Following the crowning of the Queen, the same judges will officiate in a contest to decide the merits of more than thirty "shapely girls". Entrants have come in from a wide area, with Lancashire and Yorkshire leading the way with 18 and 10 respectively, and judging from a preliminary survey, the task of finding the most perfect is going to be no easy one. The girls range in age from 16 to 26 and from 4ft.11ins. to 5ft.9ins. in height. The "physical excellence" competition is certain to attract a large number of spectators.

Following this, the Carnival Queen's first duty will be to switch on the illuminations, which, this year will be different from anything put up before in Morecambe. A feature is the fact that tasteful decorative schemes are incorporated, which will add to the town's gaiety during the daytime.

Private illuminations have of course always been a feature of the Morecambe Carnival, and this year interest is sure to be intensified by the fact that the judging is to be by the public. A coupon in the Carnival programme filled in to coincide with the popular vote will entitle the signee to a five pound prize

There is always a large crowd for the annual sheep dog trials, which will take place on the Monday. This year interest will be keener because several of the dogs which will be running in the international matches in Wales later in the week are having a "try-out" at Morecambe first.

A bonny baby show is being held simultaneously at the Winter Gardens – it was felt that the two events would not clash!

On Tuesday there are the firm favourites, ox roasting in the morning (an annual custom in Morecambe for over 60 years), and horse-leaping contests, to which variety is added by human pole-leaping and wrestling.

Earby Chronicles

The big procession of Wednesday never fails to attract its tens of thousands, and the fire-work display on Thursday is one of the most brilliant in the North.

Another distinguished lady is visiting the Carnival this year in Lady Olive. Lady Olive is just a rabbit, but she is a champion and has changed hands at a hundred pounds. She is rightly regarded as the Queen of Rabbitdom. She will take her place at the rabbit show, which is to be a new Carnival feature on the Thursday. Cavies and mice are included.

A regatta on the bay, which will include speed boat and trawler races, surf-riding and push-ball, is featured for Friday, as well as a shrimp-picking contest. A treasure hunt for the kiddies on the sands, is a preliminary to a second procession on the final Saturday. This will specially feature a children's section in addition to dancing troupes and comic bands and usual adult classes. A tug-of-war championship is the last effort of the week, other than the dethronement of the Carnival Queen at midnight.

A fishing festival is being run concurrently with the Carnival, and valuable prizes are offered for big catches either for boat fishing or from the promenade or pier. A model yacht race and an errand boys' cycle derby are additional attractions.

Every evening in addition to band concerts and the illuminations, carnival balls at the dance halls and carnival nights at other places of entertainment, will help to ensure a joyous week.



Taylor Cowgill family take a ride on the Morecambe Prom in 1938

THE STATION HOTEL, EARBY

Taken by the Editor from an article "Thanks for the Memory" in the Barnoldswick and Earby Times February 1968 – preserved and kindly loaned by Shirley Marsh

What building could at one time boast accommodation for 10 horses and their owners, a donkey complete with leather shoes, one of the finest bowling greens in the North, catering facilities for 60 people and a temporary mortuary?

Earby Chronicles

The answer is the town's Station Hotel, which was built in 1898. In those days a pub had to be much more than a place where people went in to drink. One person who remembered those early days at the Station was Coun. Tom Fleetwood, whose father ran the pub from 1906 to 1922.

"I remember we were at the 'Dog' at Barnoldswick immediately before coming to Earby", said Mr Fleetwood "The bowling green was one of the finest in the North and we used to have the crack bowlers of the time playing there. They used to play for £50 a game – a lot of money in those days. We had some novel ways of making sure the grass on the green was cut properly. A donkey, complete with leather shoes, was used to pull both the roller and the mower. And, incidentally, the donkey was included in the valuation of the hotel.

The hotel also had two loose boxes, which among other things, were used as a temporary mortuary, when the need arose. In those days the railways were very busy, and consequently there was a greater risk of there being accidents. Every time someone was killed on the level crossings they used to come over to the hotel and put the bodies in the boxes."

A flourishing boxing club also found its way into the pub during Mr Fleetwood's period. One of its members was Mr Billy Wood who later ran the pub and still lives there to this day (1968). "We used to come over from Barnoldswick every Sunday morning with our boxing tackle", said Mr Wood. "We used to box in the front room. Mr Fleetwood had two sons, Tom and Ted, who used to box with us. I remember Ted always fancied himself as a boxer and we used to spar with him. Incidentally the club's motto was 'It is better to give than to receive'".

After 1922 there were quite a few landlords at the pub, but in 1931 a Mr Moore took over and stayed for 19 years. Mr Billy Wood followed him in 1950 and he handed over to his son-in-law Mr E Whittaker, but continued to live on the premises.

The picture shows Billy Wood with a group of Station Hotel regulars in 1968



EARBY UNEMPLOYED FELLOWSHIP

Opening of a “Fine and Comfortable Club” Formerly Lofts and Stables

January 1936

The new club for Earby's unemployed, at Lane Ends, was officially opened on Friday by Mr J Hartley. There was a good gathering of members and friends. The chairman, Mr F Glasier Foster explained that the building had been practically re-built by the unemployed themselves and the old building consisting of a series of small lofts and stables had been converted into a large hall and committee room, and a stairway and offices had been erected. He welcomed the new friends and visitors who had come to see the new place.

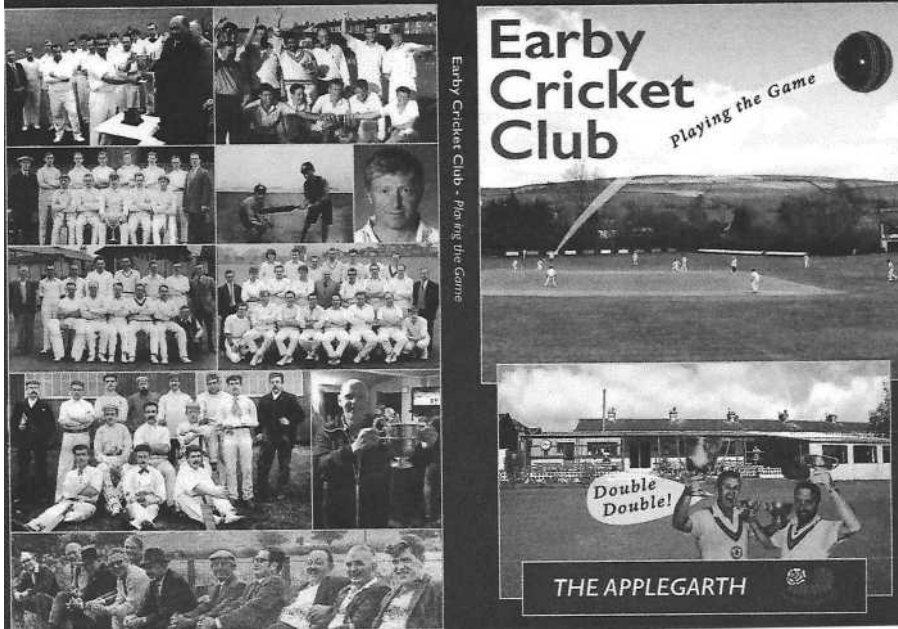
Mr J Hartley in declaring the new premises open, expressed his pleasure at seeing so fine and comfortable a building which did credit to those who had worked on it. He hoped the new club would provide a congenial place, where not only helpful conversation would result but many useful activities also. Fellowship should mean opportunity for improvement and he wished the new club and each of the members God-speed in all their endeavours. He expressed the hope that the more fortunate part of the community would give the club and the members all the support they possibly could.

Mr T Payne referred to the many political and religious opinions that a club brought together under one roof, and this should, and he believed it did lead to a spirit of toleration and fair-mindedness which were two of the best things in life. The voluntary work put into the building by members had justified the confidence of the local Welfare Committee in starting the Fellowship nearly a year ago. Criticism was often levelled against supporters of the unemployed man's organisation that sympathy was wasted on something not worthwhile. A look round that building would discount that. He hoped that members of the new club, by meeting together in friendship and studying the welfare of each other, would prove to the rest of the community that they were worthy of all the help that could be given them.

Mr S E Maltby, area organiser of the National Council of Social Services, dealt with the activities of the unemployed centres of which there are 40 in his own area. It was necessary, he said, for the unemployed man to keep alert in mind and body if he wished to escape the depression of spirit and loss of self-respect that came so easily to the man out of a job. The kind of crafts practised at the centres was woodwork, cobbling, metalwork, rug-making, basketwork, upholstery, toy-making and so on, and on the recreation side swimming, gymnastics and football. Many clubs went in for singing, music and dramatic work with wonderfully successful results. Finance of course had an important part to play in all this work. In many towns, the religious organisations and local council rendered valuable assistance in these schemes. They were always more ready to help when a definite project was submitted to them.

Questions and a useful discussion followed Mr Maltby's talk. The meeting concluded with an impromptu concert and hot supper.

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made to ensure
accuracy of
information in this
edition, this cannot be
guaranteed.

When cricket was first played in Earby it is difficult to say, but there is evidence that a cricket club was in existence in the 1850s, making it one of the oldest sporting organisations in Craven. It has a fascinating history and has produced many first class players including Glen Chapple ex-captain and head coach at Lancashire County Cricket Club. We hope you will support this latest publication.

PROGRAMME

September 17th Pirate of the Caribbean – George Clifford of Skipton Castle, Ian Lockwood

October 15th A History of Earby Fire Brigade, Bob Abel

November 19th Funny you should say that – origin of everyday sayings, Peter Watson

**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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& printed
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EDITOR
Stephanie Carter
01756 794099