

# Earby Chronicles



Edition 53

SUMMER 2009

## SOCIETY AIMS:

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

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## A UNIQUE COLLECTION Second only to that held in the Imperial War Museum

Welbury Wilkinson Holgate (1901-1969) is still fondly remembered by many local residents of Earby as an old-school polymath who delighted in showing friends, neighbours and visitors the museum he built up in rooms above his bakery on Water Street. Along with his three sisters, he was always active within the local community, and during the Second World War was a member of the Earby Fire Guard.



Welbury Holgate with local boys possibly in Thornton Woods—circa 1922

Welbury continued to collect anything and everything which might be of interest to future generations, including a large collection of booklets, leaflets and papers relating to air raid precautions and the Fire Guard.

Welbury's sister, Grace, who helped run the café in the bakery, represented local food retailers and suppliers and was a member of the local committee which acted as a channel for communication with the Ministry of Information.

### recent talks & features

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One of the committee's tasks was to organise displays in shop windows under instructions from the Ministry. Martha was thus able to pass over to her brother a huge collection of propaganda posters. These were displayed in the bakery and café window throughout the War, and on Welbury's death were bequeathed to the Craven Museum and Art Gallery in Skipton.

This very important and unique collection, second only to that held in the Imperial War Museum, provides a fascinating insight into the Home Front. From calls for volunteers to help bring in the harvest, to recruitment for military and civilian work, to child vaccination programmes and the Dig for Victory campaign, this is an extraordinary collection full of social history. Many contain contemporary photographs of civilian life – such as children playing in the streets (as part of the Road Safety campaign), or women at work, and at home, while others gave people on the Home Front a glimpse of military scenes such as the training of RAF pilots. Advice was given on everything from growing vegetables, to saving energy within the home, pest control, child health, where to get help after an air raid, how to prevent and fight fires, how to send Red Cross parcels to prisoners of war, and the care of clothes to make them last longer. There is even a poster which urges parents to stop children climbing trees – not for safety reasons, but to prevent them tearing their clothes, which would have meant their parents having to waste clothing coupons to buy new clothes. Morale building is also an important theme, as in the examples praising the Russian and American Allies.

Many of the messages in the posters have become relevant again in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century – if you think recycling and saving energy resources is a new imperative, you only need to look at the posters of the Second World War urging everyone to save, recycle, and cut down on consumption. There are even posters telling people to collect bones for recycling.

The collection has recently been catalogued in detail. Thus making it much more accessible for researchers, and has helped to highlight the significance of these posters on both a local and national scale, thanks to the foresight of Welbury Holgate of Earby.

Jane Lunnon  
Craven Museum & Art Gallery  
Volunteer Cataloguer

## **DR. WHITAKER AND HIS CIRCLE**

At the 17<sup>th</sup> March meeting we were delighted to welcome back our own member Pamela Maryfield, who gave a fascinating insight into Dr. Thomas Dunham Whitaker's circle of friends and colleagues. Pamela was an adviser to the Towneley Museum and Gallery on the occasion of its exhibition about Dr. Whitaker and the artist J.M.W Turner and has written articles on this subject for the Yorkshire Archaeological Society.

Seeking to flatter and thus enrol as many subscribers as possible for his publications Dr. Whitaker (1759-1821) drew upon a wide and varied circle of gentry and intellectuals.

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What, however, he failed to do it seems was to update and correct his works between their editions, one commentator recalling “he never went back to the original, unless in Latin”. While he had planned to publish the history of Yorkshire in nine volumes, his health eventually prevented fulfilment; however he did produce some of the more authoritative histories that have been drawn upon by local historians to date – this despite the odd inaccuracy!

There is documentary evidence (1431) to place the Whitaker family in Cliviger in the 15<sup>th</sup> century, firstly with a Robert Whitaker. The house called The Holme in the parish of Cliviger lies on the outskirts of Holme Chapel between Burnley and Todmorden and according to Pevsner was built in 1603. Originally a wooden frame house it was rebuilt and extended but this time built in stone.



The Holme with its fire damaged roof and derelict main entrance in 2009

Good marriages were made, for example into the Nowell and Bancroft families, and by the 16<sup>th</sup> Century a William Whitaker of Holme had become Master of St John’s College, Cambridge.

Born in Norfolk Thomas Dunham Whitaker moved as a baby with his family when his father inherited the house at Holme. His schooling was firstly at Rochdale Grammar School, but due to not having settled there he was moved to Netherside School at Threshfield under the care, as a private pupil, of Mr. Sheepshanks where, apparently, he must have become so fond of the glorious landscape of Wharfedale. From Sheepshank’s excellent teaching he was able to enter Cambridge and it was there that he met his future wife Lucy Thursby (Thoresby) of Leeds. Instead of Law as had been planned, and because of his father’s reluctance to his marrying Lucy, he moved into the ministry and nevertheless married her in 1783. They had six children Thomas (died 1817); Lucy; Mary; Charlotte (Died 1816); William and John.

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Moving on to his 'connexions' the scene was set by explaining that at the beginning of the 18<sup>th</sup> century antiquarian writing became most important in re-claiming land after the destruction of the Civil War, for example old terriers and other legal documents were of use not only to restoring land ownership but also to historians and usually only those who were classically trained and able to translate from the Latin. One such historian was Richard Gough the antiquarian, collector, Director of the Society of Antiquaries and reviewer of "The Gentleman Magazine" who became a regular correspondent with Whitaker.

T D Whitaker's most important writings, for us locally, were firstly "An history of the original parish of Whalley and Honor of Clitheroe which ran into four editions ... to 1876; "The history and antiquities of the Deanery of Craven in the County of York" which ran into three editions ... to 1878; Loidis and Elmete (companion volumes to Ralph Thoresby's Ducatus Leodiensis 1716) and in 1891 his History of Richmondshire in two volumes. These last two were intended as part of a nine-volume history of Yorkshire.

Connexions included Charles Towneley of Towneley Hall, Burnley who was known in London as "the Collector" of Roman sculptures, and another Towneley, Christopher an avid collector of documents, thus their library at Burnley became a great source for material.

To provide illustrations for his History of Whalley he called upon a "good young draftsman" named Turner with whom he had become acquainted. This was Joseph Mallard William Turner who became the famous artist. It is said that as his fame spread others sought his fine work including the owner of Gawthorpe Hall. However, they could not agree on the style in which the grounds of the hall were to be illustrated as they had recently been altered. Turner apparently stood his ground against what the owner wished, so refused the commission "with all the obstinacy of youthful genius!"

Whitaker's great interest in landscape, probably formed during his days with Mr. Sheepshanks in Wharfedale, was further developed through his connections with other local gentry who themselves spent large amounts of money planting trees around their estates. These included the Reverend William Carr of Bolton Abbey, who designed the magnificent woodlands and walkways we still enjoy today, Thomas Lister the 1<sup>st</sup> Baron Ribblesdale of Gisburn Park, and Richard Heber the bibliophile of Hodnet and Marton gave assistance. He held a large library of some 146,827 books and collected more abroad, for example he obtained a library of a further 30,000 books in France keeping them in Paris. He is said to have advised that "one should have no less than three copies of any book: one for show, one to use, and one for borrowers".

John and Dorothy Richardson were also in his circle. The Richardsons of Bierley had been collectors of manuscripts and Richard Richardson, Dorothy's father, had planned to write his own history of the area of Craven, but died before it came about. Documents such as Dugdale's Examinations and Hopkinson's manuscripts were in their collection and ultimately became good sources for Whitaker. The Richardson, Wilson, Currer heiress, Frances May Currer a great socialite, became a close friend; Whitaker's wife Lucy often staying with her at Eshton Hall.

The Holme philosophical circle consisted of Thomas Wilson, the Schoolmaster of Clitheroe; Thomas Starkie, Vicar of Blackburn; John Dawson, Doctor of Garsdale; Henry Coulthurst, Vicar of Halifax and Thomas Lister Parker of Browsholme.

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We also heard of his connection, through his family to William Wordsworth, Dorothy Wordsworth his sister having become a close friend.

Today the Holme lies in tatters as can be seen in the photograph on page 3, it was last use as a residential nursing home. Fire has gutted the building and stone thieves appear to have decimated the once splendid features. Whether the stained glass window with its Whitaker family crest survives is not known - a sad end to such a fine and historically important site.

## **EDGAR WATSON - HEN FANCIER** **by Susan Watson**

Here is what I know about Edgar Watson, my grandfather. He died (13/10/1960) when I was thirteen, and my memories are hazy, but I do remember being taken to see his hens. At the time he kept them in an area across the road from Lane Ends. It could not have involved crossing the railway and so was not the same land he had when he lived at the Gatehouse. I have a photo of Edgar with his hens in the field behind the Gatehouse.

In 1881, at the age of one, the census shows him living at 186 Water Street, with his parents, Charles (joiner) and Martha. His grandparents, Nathan and Jane were next door. By 1901, he was living at 20 Skipton Road (Lane Ends), so in the intervening period, his father Charles must have done well enough in the joinery business to acquire the house and workshop there. I have no idea when Charles included an undertakers business along with the joinery, but that all went on at Lane Ends. I do remember the big sign on the gable end at No. 20: *Charles Watson and Son Joiner and Undertaker*.

Also living at 20 Skipton Road, in 1901, were Edgar's older brother Arthur, and younger siblings, Charles, Jane (later known as Jinny), Clara, Grace, Lilian and James. When Edgar married, he moved to the Gatehouse Farm by the railway crossing. He married Susanna Wilkinson, (born in Barnoldswick in 1887) in 1910, and they had four children at the Gatehouse, Leslie, Alec, Betty and Jean.

Although Edgar inherited the joinery and undertaking business from his father, when Charles died, he did not move his family into Lane Ends as my great-aunts, Jinny and Grace continued to live there. I think Great Aunt Clara and Great Uncle Charles moved further along Skipton Road when they married. When Jinny and Grace died or moved elsewhere, then Leslie moved in as he was now the joiner and undertaker. Leslie died about 1980.

Edgar moved to 32 Skipton Road, which was a much bigger house for his family than the Gatehouse. It may have become vacant when some members of his wife's Wilkinson family died, but I am not sure. (Great-Grandfather Wilkinson was a builder and Master Mason). I think Edgar's wife may have lived there before they married with her family. I do not know when they moved but Jean, Edgar's youngest daughter, born in 1921, remembers being a child at the Gatehouse, so it may not have been until the 1930s.

Anyway, poultry-keeping was a life-long passion and the latest medals I have seen were from 1955, when Edgar was 75, or so. The trophies the Society has on loan were not the complete set by any means as I think my Auntie Betty had some, which she sold. And there were innumerable medals.

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Some of Edgar Watson's Trophies on permanent loan to the Society

The field behind the Gatehouse provided him with the space to keep hens and he had to make do with a much smaller area of land on Skipton Road at the time when I knew him.

There are other snatches of memory regarding Edgar. He had a rocking chair, which he always used to sit in. I think that Susanna died earlier in the same year, 1960, and Edgar was found dead in his rocking-chair, some months later, not knowing to have suffered from any illness.

I have no recollection of hearing about Edgar's War service - he would have been 34 in 1914, possibly, his occupation may have ruled him out for conscription?

I seem to remember my mother saying that an electrician in Nelson, Graham Trudgill, who has a business on Chapelhouse Road, used to be an apprentice of Les, at one time. He might know something about the business.

## **GOLDEN WEDDING**

### **Mr. & Mrs. R. S. Shaw of Earby**

This article has been transcribed from the Craven Herald 19 January 1968.

Few men have devoted more time to public life than Mr Richard Slater Shaw, aged 73 of 14 Albion Street Earby who today with his wife Bertha (75) celebrate their Golden Wedding anniversary.

The Urban Council, Church, Conservatism, Education, Skipton Bench of Magistrates and diverse charitable organisations have had, and indeed still have, the benefit of Mr Shaw's zealous and conscientious work.

It is a sincere tribute to him that even though years go rolling by he still fills so many parts with an enthusiasm of which youth would be proud.

Born in Ripley near Derby the youngest of four children, Mr Shaw was orphaned at the age of eight, and adopted by a business friend of the family, and that was how he came to live in Barnoldswick. At the age of 12 he started to work as a telegraph lad and after 18 months went to work in the mill. Then came the First World War and Mr Shaw joined up



and spent 3½ years in the Royal Navy serving on destroyers in home waters, in the North Sea and the Mediterranean.

Mr & Mrs Shaw had married during the war, and after he was demobbed they settled in Earby. Mr Shaw went back to the mill and worked there until joining the Rover Company and subsequently Rolls Royce and has remained there until his retirement in 1959.

It is difficult to know where to begin with Mr Shaw's public life. So diverse have been his interests and since many sprang from his involvement with Earby Urban Council perhaps that would be as good a starting point as any. He was elected to the Council and served as chairman for 2 periods and was chairman of most of the major committees.

He was one of the first Air Raid Wardens appointed in 1938 and served throughout the war. He qualified as an instructor at a Home Office training school in 1940 and after was responsible for training volunteers. Throughout the war he was chairman of the local Services Fund responsible for sending gifts to the troops and served on the Stranded Servicemen's Transport Fund Committee.

It was during the war years also that Mr Shaw was first elected to the Skipton Bench. He is deputy chairman a position he has held for about eight years, and takes his place on the bench regularly.

A conservative all his life Mr Shaw was a member of the club at Barnoldswick before the First War and then when he moved to Earby he joined the club there. He was first elected to the club committee in 1927 and was for several years the secretary of the Conservative Association. He holds the long service medal and bar of the organisation.

Equally illustrious has been his service to the church during a lifelong association spanning all tasks, from blowing the organ and bell ringing, to the position of vicar's warden which he now holds at All Saints Parish Church and which he has held since 1932. His numerous other offices included that of church treasurer.

Limited though his own education was Mr Shaw did much to teach himself through reading and part time study. He has always had an interest in attempting to see that the education for the present generation is improved. He has served on the Managers of Earby Primary School since education was reorganised in 1946. He has been chairman for some years. He has also served on the Craven Divisional Executive since it was established and still serves as Council representative on that body. Mr Shaw is also a governor of Ermysteds Grammar School, Skipton.

He has been associated with Earby Festival and Social Committee since its inception. He is clerk to the trustees of the Old Grammar School and chairman of the trustees of Earby cricket ground. He is a Serving Brother of the Order of St John of Jerusalem, awarded for his long support of that movement. His hobby is gardening and like anything else he turns his hand to he is successful. He is a consistent winner at local shows and is also president of Earby Allotment Holders Association. In all this work he has all the unqualified support of his wife, a native of Padiham who spent a few years of her early life in Foulridge before coming to Earby where she was a weaver for A J Birleys. She has shared her husband's great love of the countryside and, in their younger days, both were very fond of dancing. She has been an active worker for the church and Women Unionists

When asked why Mr Shaw had devoted so much of his time to helping his fellow

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men he said " I have gained a great deal of satisfaction from doing it. I have tried to put in more than I have taken out and if more would try to do that we would be better off".

## **SOME THINGS NEVER CHANGE**

### **Earby Vicar's Candour**

As a pre-cursor to our forthcoming publication on the History of All Saints Parish Church, celebrating its centenary this year in 2009, we reproduce here an article from the May 10<sup>th</sup> 1940 edition of the Craven Herald, with the vicar Rev J B Atkinson giving out a strong and relevant message:

#### **A Civic Sunday Message**

The stand which the Urban District Council have taken against vandalism was praised by the Vicar of Earby (the Rev J B Atkinson) in his sermon at the Civic Sunday service in the Parish Church on Sunday morning. Members of the Council, the Earby St John's Ambulance and Nursing Division, ARP Units, Girl Guides and members of the Earby section of the West Riding Constabulary were amongst those present.

Mr Atkinson, preaching on the subject of obedience declared that disobedience to authority, which had its seeds in home life, was widely prevalent throughout the country. Earby was no exception. Members of the Earby Council had recently, after displaying much patience, been compelled to take legal proceedings against a young offender, and on this action he would like to compliment them. The Skipton Magistrates were also deserving of appreciation for laying damages on the parents of the boy responsible for the destruction. In his opinion if all parents were compelled to pay out of their own pockets for damages done by their children there would soon be very little trouble in that direction. It was in the home where the fault lay, and he was certain that if offenders were to be handled in a "namby-pamby" way the position was hopeless.

Proceeding Mr Atkinson thought that a child's good was in the sense of respect which it possessed for Authority. If he was to give orders he would insist on their being obeyed, no matter how long it took him to see that they were obeyed. In their own Sunday School they had to insist on certain discipline, and on occasions when this had been done some parents had withdrawn their children. One could only feel very sorry for these children, he added.

Authority not only demanded obedience, he continued, but also respect. Disparaging things were too often said about those who gave their time and went to some expense to administer public affairs. There ought to be a sense of responsibility for service in every intelligent person, Mr Atkinson declared. If our education had justified itself there would be a great deal of difference in the numbers of people anxious to serve the community in the administrative sphere. The tragic time through which we are passing will reveal a great deal to us. Evacuation showed frightful conditions and the need for greater responsibility.

Referring to authority from a Christian point of view, the vicar went on to say that by introducing God into daily life, and by serving him to the utmost, individuals would be serving their fellow men to the utmost too. By bringing themselves into closer relationship

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with God they would find themselves less inclined to be intimidated by these people who seemed to delight in intimidation when others were trying to do their duty properly.

The present conditions were very depressing, he concluded, but there was one thing which prevented him from feeling hopeless about the situation. That was his determination to stand on God's side however great the sacrifices might be. I don't want any of that kind of foolishness which talks of peace at any price with those who despise God," he said." We must be prepared to die in the struggle if need be. Our ranks must be closed not only to the enemy but to the assaults of the devil. The powers of evil let loose in the world are only a push of the devil's great army"

## EARBY CO-OP

This photograph came to light after the publication of the Society's most recent book, on The Earby Co-op, or it would have been included. The picture is of the official opening of the Co-op chemist shop in Victoria Road in 1935, next door is the Co-op butchers and next along is the Co-op tailoring dept. The Craven Herald reported on the opening as follows:-

### ***Co-operative Society's New Department***

*A notable occasion in the history of the Earby section of the Colne and District Co-operative Society was the opening of a chemists shop in Victoria Road on Saturday. The opening was watched by a large crowd and the ceremony was performed by Mr T. Riley of Colne, a member of the board.*

*Mr David Barrit, president of the Society, presided over the gathering and made a short speech. The company, which included delegates from the various Societies in East Lancashire Division, afterwards adjourned to the Weavers' Institute for tea. This was followed by several speeches and a presentation to Mr Riley in the form of a wireless set.*



Copies of the book "Earby Co-op – the Peoples Shop 1875-2008" can still be obtained at £7-50 or £9-00 by UK post from Bob Abel 01282 843850

## MEMORIES OF THE OLD GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Last year a pen and ink drawing of the Old Grammar School, done by Victor Greenwood, was offered to the Society's collection during a lunchtime meeting of Earby "girls" who formed part of a group involved in the annual revues once produced at Mount Zion Baptist Church. Naturally memories of the Old Grammar School and its part in their lives were recounted and a member of the group, also a member of this Society, has written her recollections of the building and events, which took place there.

"One of my earliest memories is playing on my grandfather's allotment in front of the building. The land now forming part of the Mines Museum's garden was divided into two allotments, one rented to Jesse Turner and the other to Earnest Slater of Albion Street. Mr. Slater and his wife were the Old Grammar School caretakers.

At this time the building served the dual purpose of a clinic, run by Nurse Benstead, and in the evenings a library, shutters being put up to secure the library shelves during clinic hours. Mr Tattersall of Earby and Mr Astin of Kelbrook were at one time librarians, but in 1945 Brenda Watson, who had recently left Skipton Girls High School was appointed librarian. In 1948 Brenda left to attend college and obtain professional qualifications and was replaced by John Cunliffe of Colne. Whilst based at the Earby Library he attended a weekend training course during which a tutor commented on the shortage of authors writing stories for children. Challenged by this John Cunliffe was inspired to write a story for young children, which would subsequently become famous as "Postman Pat"!

In 1964 Dr. and Mrs. Morrison took over the practice of Dr. Falconer and Mrs Morrison became the clinic's doctor, assisted by health visitor Nurse Crabtree. Antenatal clinics were held on Tuesday afternoons, whilst mothers and babies visited a clinic on Wednesday mornings. All prams were left under a special shelter, which no longer exists, whilst babies were weighed and the fortnightly distribution of free concentrated orange juice and national dried milk took place. Dr. Morrison carried out vaccinations against measles and whooping cough, etc.

One memorable event occurred when it was necessary for mass vaccination against smallpox to be carried out. At that time work was underway at North Holme to replace the wartime, single storey prefabs with two-storey houses. One of the workforce involved had been in contact with a smallpox victim and it was decided that mass vaccination be recommended for the people of Earby."

If these few notes have triggered other memories, the Society would welcome more details for future editions of Chronicles.

## NOTABLE EARBY CITIZENS

Transcribed from the Barnoldswick & Earby Times, December 19th 1941, by Hilary Huschner, this is the first of a number of brief sketches of some Earby men and women whose past labours have contributed to the civil, social or religious life of the township.

The inclusion of Miss Millicent Turner in these brief sketches of notable citizens, will have the warm approval of all who know and value her many personal gifts and accomplishments, and better still, the manner in which she has expended them over many years of unselfish public service in Earby. To herself, the inclusion will probably seem an impertinence! Earby is – and has always been – particularly fortunate in the ability and the fine sense of public duty displayed by those who follow Miss Turner's profession, but the combination of personal attainments and public zeal (who has not listened with rapture to her inspired playing on the violin, or, for that matter, to her rich contralto singing), possessed by the subject of this sketch, is, we think, but rarely encountered.



Millie Turner

Miss Turner began her teaching career at New Road school in 1915 after attending for some years at the Teachers Training College, at Leeds. She has been a teacher in Earby ever since. At this time the head of the school, Mr. Samuel Varley Heap, was absent on war service, and Miss Turner was put in charge of the junior section. She was an efficient teacher from the commencement, as school reports of that day will testify, and it was not long before she was actively engaged in preparing the children for performances in plays and operettas that became an annual and eagerly looked for feature in their school life. In this she was helped – and probably inspired – by an older colleague, Mrs Lillian Watson, who herself built up a splendid record of service in Earby schools before she left the staff in 1930 to take up supply work under the West Riding Education Authority.

Miss Turner came up to Alder Hill with the present head, Mr. Laurence Holt, and Mr. T.C. Woolridge, when the re-organisation of the schools in the district took place in 1930, but she had meantime continued to equip herself by attending classes at the art school in Skipton, and by private studies, for the more advanced teaching work required in the senior girls' department, which she assumed at Alder Hill. She became a specialised teacher of needlework and music, and at varying periods taught English, arithmetic, history and drawing. Her personal qualifications in the musical and dramatic arts made her work as a teacher of English, in conjunction with the dramatic work done at the school, especially valuable, as did her artistic ideas in respect to needlework and embroidery.

At Alder Hill, under the headship of Mr. Holt, she was given charge of the needlework classes in the evening institute, and thus was to continue and co-relate the instruction given to the day school, and to extend it to the older students. Those who have inspected the needlework articles shown at the exhibitions of students' work which take place after each winter session at Alder Hill, will not need to be informed that the standard of work done in these classes is of an exceptionally high order. In colour, original designing and general artistic execution it could hardly be improved.

The early work of training the children for simple dramatisation work and singing was continued at Alder Hill, where Mr. Holt had arranged for a school concert to take place each spring, in addition to special effort concerts between times, which are entirely sustained by the children. Miss Turner superintended this kind of work also in connection with the Sunday school at the Baptist Chapel, Earby, to which she attached herself in her early girlhood, for in her view, no less than in that of the great educationalist, Herbert Spencer, education should be a "preparation for life," and life consists of moral and spiritual factors. It is, doubtless, this conviction – the innate love for childhood with the realists' concern for their moral and spiritual welfare, imbibed from deeply religious parents and Christian home surroundings that has accounted for the unswerving and devoted service she has rendered to the Baptist Church, and the work of the Sunday school carried on there. In this connection she has, in truth, never spared herself. She has served as deaconess, and been in charge of the senior girls' class for many years, sang in the choir under her father's ( Mr. Levi Turner) very able direction, taken leading parts in oratorios – or equally willingly, secondary parts, trained the children for cantatas, operettas, sketches and concerts in connection with the church's social or religious activities on innumerable occasions, and played that divine fiddle with the tender skill and sensitiveness that has the power to profoundly move the emotions of an audience. Some of her skill with the violin she owes to Arthur Catterall, once a teacher of music in Leeds, from whom she took lessons, and now a Director of Music at the BBC. Also she received four years' training for voice production under the celebrated teacher, Sir Edward Bairstow.

Next to her religious work, it might be said that the peace movement has made the most insistent appeal to Miss Turner's sympathies, with politics occupying a very active and healthy third place. Since the formation of the local branch of the League of Nations Union, there has been no more consistent or faithful adherent to this cause. It may be taken for granted, however, that to one of her essentially practical and idealistic nature and outlook, these different aspects of man's social and religious aspirations are indivisible and not merely separate departments of human thought and endeavour. Peace teaching, has, therefore, had a definite place both in her day school and Sunday school work. Needless to say, her activities nowadays, like those of her colleagues, and the women of Earby generally, are largely given to one or other forms of voluntary service made necessary by the greatest menace that has ever threatened the welfare of the civilised world.

The lives of women like Miss Turner, who quietly and without consciousness of any special virtue or excellence in the matter – the thought would be wholly repugnant to them – yet dedicate themselves to social, religious and educational work of an absorbing and exacting character, are one of the things that convince us that in the end, however long and painful the journey may be, the cause of democracy and freedom in these green and pleasant isles must prevail.

## MORE ON CYCLING

By Stephanie Carter

My aunt Clara Holden (nee Grimshaw) was a founder member of the Craven Wheelers Cycling Club and retained membership lists, minutes of meetings from early years and details of their group outings including mileage covered and weather conditions. She was to become a faithful committee member and secretary of the Club.

Many will remember Clara, a truly memorable character, feisty, strong willed and determined with a life long love of cycling and the countryside. She ran the Wood Hut, a sweet shop in Water Street once owned by her aunt Louie Whitehead. At the age of 42 she married my uncle Ralph (Holden) and together they were a remarkable and legendary double act as Mine Hosts at the Hare & Hounds in Lothersdale.



Two cycling enthusiasts Francis Forest and Clara Holden (nee Grimshaw)



Clara Grimshaw

The Craven Wheelers were formed in 1931 and the following four extracts are from Craven Heralds of that year:

### 21 August 1931

Members of the recently formed Craven Wheelers had a full programme last weekend. On Saturday the cyclists visited the Nick of Pendle by way of Downham and Worston. Tea was served at the Wells Spring and the return journey to Earby was made via Sabden and Higham.

Doubtful weather did not deter nine members from climbing Ingleborough on Sunday. They achieved their purpose, but torrential rain was encountered on the descent,

Gaping Ghyll being seen in the distance. Both lunch and tea were taken at Clapham Caves and Earby was reached at 6.30 after an exciting but enjoyable outing. Mr A Speak was in charge of Sunday's excursion.

### **28 August 1931**

Looking across the plain from high ground near Ripon a heavy white fog, about three feet thick, lay everywhere, giving the appearance of a sea and the trees and hedges peeping above this white blanket made a wonderful effect.

This was a scene described by one of the party of ten belonging to the Craven Wheelers on the occasion of a midnight run.

Earby was left on Saturday at midnight, the destination being the historic market town of Richmond in Swaledale. The outward journey was by way of Ilkley, Harrogate and Ripon, while the return route lay via Leyburn, Bishopdale and Wharfedale, Earby being reached at 8 p.m. on Sunday. Another party set off at 9.30 a.m. on Sunday and joined the other cyclists at Kettlewell. Meals were provided at Ripon, Richmond and Kidstone Bank, and the leader was Mr J Thwaite.

### **18 September 1931**

A tour of the lesser known byroads was made by members of the Craven Wheelers on Saturday, Otterburn and Winterburn being visited en route. Tea was taken at Airton.

A party of 18 left Earby on Sunday to attend the wayfarer's rally at Ripon Cathedral. Most interesting particulars of the history of the Cathedral were given by the organist and afterwards a service was conducted by the Bishop of Ripon. According to one of the party the success of the meeting must have exceeded all expectations as Ripon appeared to be one mass of cycles. A person who was seen counting the cycles appeared to have a hopeless task.

The outward journey was via Blubberhouses and the return route by way of Pateley Bridge and Hebden. Lunch was served at Ripley while tea was taken at Fell Beck. Earby was reached about 9 pm. The leader was Mr J Thwaite.

### **4 December 1931**

The annual meeting of the Craven Wheelers Cycling Club Earby was held on Thursday evening of last week. It was reported that since the formation of the club at the beginning of last season 34 runs had been held despite the wet summer. On the whole Sundays had been favourable for cycling and many interesting resorts had been visited. Financially the club was in a good position and it was anticipated that there would be an increased membership next year, as the Wheelers were gaining in popularity.

The following officials were elected to serve one year: Mr A Turner (president), Mr C Hartley (secretary), Mr J Thwaite (captain), Messrs H Astley, A Bell, W Broughton, M Inman, G Starkie and H Butler (committee)

Runs on Saturdays and Sundays and leaders were usually agreed at committee meetings, whilst in winter these were replaced by impromptu runs with a leader elected on the day. Favourite destinations included Malham, Ingleton, Shipley Glen and Kendal.

Meetings were held at Lane Ends, the Weaver's Institute, the Co-op Assembly Rooms, or Smith's Station Café. Purchases authorised by the committee included first aid kits, iodine, Bartholomew's maps of Wharfedale, Lancashire and North Wales, Craven Wheelers badges, programme cards, rule books and handbooks, and black and gold rosettes for leader's use.

Members were recruited from Earby, Kelbrook, Silsden, Laneshawbridge, Barnoldswick, Colne, Nelson, Embsay, Foulridge, Sough and Skipton and in the 1930s varied between 20 and 50, their social events included:

Date of (committee meeting)	Event	Venue	Comments
30/1/34	Annual supper	Elis's tea rooms, Gisburn	"we engage a pianist"
19/11/35	Potato pie run		
2/37	Annual Dinner & Dance	Trawden	Tickets no more than 2/-. A beetle drive to be held and an invitation extended to Crescent Wheelers of Keighley.
1/6 /37	Map reading contest		
11/1/38	Club Dinner	Ambulance Hall, Earby	
2/3/38	Treasure Hunt 1st May		
30/1/39	Annual Dinner 5th March	Airedale Hotel, Malham	

### Can You Help?

#### **Earby Fire Station to Celebrate Silver Jubilee**

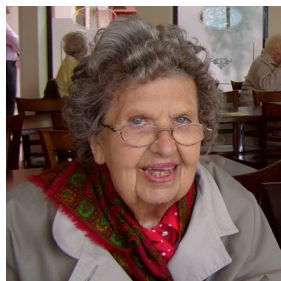
On Saturday the 5th September an event will be held at Earby Fire Station to celebrate its opening twentyfive years ago. The Society has been invited to take part and it would be appropriate if we could mount a display on the History of the Fire Brigade in Earby.

If any one has any photographs or artefacts relating to the Fire Brigade in Earby which could be copied for a display, or any stories or anecdotes, please contact Bob Abel on 01282 843850.



## OBITUARIES

### Rita Abel 1927-2009



Rita was born and brought up in the village of Glass Houghton near Castleford in the West Riding of Yorkshire. She was the only daughter of William Henry (Harry) and Margaret May (Maggie) Couldwell and sister of Charlie.

She started her working life as a "Woolworths Girl" being employed at their Castleford branch during World War II and she was saddened to hear of the demise of the Woolworth empire this year. She later worked at the main post office telephone exchange in the centre of Leeds in the days when operators had to connect calls.

She married Leslie Abel, a mining surveyor, at Easter 1947, at the end of the "big freeze".

She and her late husband, Leslie, moved from Pontefract to live in Earby in 1986 to be nearer to their son Robert. They had four sons and seven grand children who are dispersed all over the country.

Rita and Leslie were regular attendees at the Pontefract History Society and it was only natural that Rita should join the Earby Society when it was formed in 1995.

Rita had suffered from poor health for some years following a serious stroke although she still continued to take her winter holidays in Spain for a good number of years following. She also looked forward to and enjoyed the Society outings in the summer time.

Deteriorating in health, Rita had to move to Cravenside Care Home in Barnoldswick and following a serious fall she died in Airedale hospital on 15th February.

### William (Bill) Hall 1936-2009



Another Long term Society Member, Bill Hall, died suddenly in Blackburn Royal Hospital in March, aged 72.

Bill was born in 1936 at Christiana Hartley Hospital in Colne a son to William and Minnie Hall and a Brother to Margaret. They lived on Gladstone Terrace, Earby . At an early age Bill became interested in keeping birds and converted the old ash pit at home into an aviary. His interest in birde was to last him a lifetime and not so long ago he was breeding birds in his little house on Colne Road.

Bill attended Springfield and Alder Hill Schools in Earby and at the age of 13 got a place at Keighley Art School, which fostered in him a life long love of painting.

Continued...

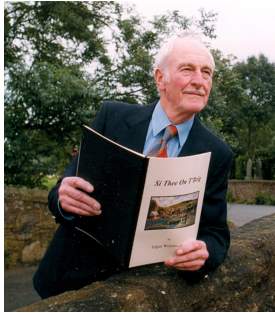
Bill Hall—Continued .

At the age 15 he left Keighley to become an apprentice painter and decorator with Speaks of Victoria Road and as an apprentice he was exempted temporarily from being called up for National Service. Eventually called to his National Service Bill enjoyed his time in the army, as revealed in his willingness to tell of his experiences.

Bill then set up on his own as a painter and decorator on Victoria Road. He even travelled as far afield as Manchester on painting and decorating contracts.

Although in later life he had his health problems, all who knew him for his affability and warm heartedness will always remember Bill.

### Edgar Wormwell



We were saddened in March to hear about the death of Edgar Wormwell, who grew up in Kelbrook and then lived in Earby all his married life. Edgar was a member of the Earby and District Local History Society, and his own life history is well documented in his book "Si Thee on T'Brig". In it he told the story of his life in Kelbrook - from his birth up to his marriage to Eunice Dodd in 1947.

In his youth Edgar soon recognised that he had a talent for running and he entered many competitions and collected several prizes - both in the local area and further afield.

In 1942 he got his call up papers and joined the army in the Reconnaissance Regiment. He did his basic training in Dumfries - where again he proved fit and athletic in the gymnasium and cross country races - of which he won several. This led to him being selected for an Army PT Trainers Course and he was eventually promoted to Corporal before he was demobbed in 1946.

Although Edgar wanted to join his father working in the building industry, the work wasn't there and so he found employment as a loomer and twister and he worked for several local companies. He had a great love of the outdoor life and exercising his dogs on the moors. His hobbies included drawing and painting - and he was responsible for all the illustrations in his book. He also enjoyed working with wood and made several fine pieces of furniture. He was a long time member of the Royal British Legion and served on the local branch committee for several years, helping to organise sports days for children in the parish field and raising funds to assist ex-service men and women. He poured a great deal of time and energy into various groups in the area and proved on many occasions to be a good friend and neighbour.

Above all these things, of course, he was a devoted husband to Eunice and a real family man - taking great delight in his five children, nine grandchildren and one great grandchild.

(Michael Cowgill)

## OPEN DAY AT EARBY'S HISTORIC YOUTH HOSTEL

The Earby Hostel, will be hosting an open day, In conjunction with the Earby Development Group's Open Gardens event and the Friends of Earby Hostel, on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> July. Not only will the gardens be open to view but there will be the opportunity to have a look round the hostel itself and partake of light refreshments.

The hostel was opened in the 1950s as a memorial to Katherine Bruce Glasier who lived, from 1922 -1950, in one of the cottages which is incorporated into the hostel. Her neighbours were the Holt family and Albert Holt and his wife were appointed the first wardens of the hostel.

Albert was a talented artist producing many paintings, a few of which adorn the walls of the hostel. Mrs Muriel Holt (the wife of Albert's nephew), is donating another of Albert's works to the hostel and a presentation of the painting will be made at the open day.

There will be an exhibition of Albert's works at the hostel that day and his son Colin will be lending Albert's last painting and other memorabilia.

If you have one of Albert's paintings adorning your living room wall, perhaps you too may want to lend it for showing at the exhibition that weekend.

If so please contact Bob Abel on 01282 843850.

### FORTHCOMING PROGRAMME

**No meetings will be held in June, July or August this year**

Tues 15 Sept: Maureen Stopforth - "Living with the Pendle Witches"

Tues 17 Nov: Alan McEwen - "Powering the Pennines"

PRODUCED  
& printed

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Earby & District  
Local History  
Society.

#### DATA PROTECTION ACT

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

#### THE SOCIETY

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

**ANNUAL  
SUBSCRIPTION  
£5.00  
UK £7.00  
Overseas £11.00**

#### Contents:

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

#### NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

**Don't forget** this is your newsletter. We're always keen to hear from members, if only to put them in touch with relatives and friends from the past. Do send in articles, photos and any other anecdotes, so that we get as wide a flavour of Earby & District, yes that means Thornton in Craven, Kelbrook, Sough, Harden and Salterforth as well.

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