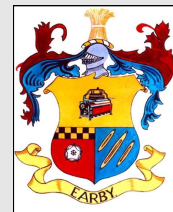


Earby Chronicles

Edition 54

Autumn 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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EARBY BOYS BRIGADE

After the summer break in monthly meetings we thought we might begin this edition with a couple of recently donated photographs of the Earby branch of the Boys Brigade. These may stir the memories of some members and friends and we would welcome stories, photographs and other memorabilia for the society archives. These two photographs come from member John Turner.



Earby Boys Brigade Camp at Penmaenmawr North Wales July 1961

Back row, standing, left to right: Alec Cowgill, John Morgan, John Barrett, Paul Moorhouse, Brian Tipler, Norman Heap, Derek Ashworth, Peter Wright, Ian Metcalfe and Howard Moorhouse.

Middle row, seated, left to right: John Bentley, David Wright, Barry Foxcroft, Ian Barker, Keith Anyon, John Parnell, Brian Morgan, John Turner, John Richardson and Ronnie Humphries.

Front row, on grass, left to right: John Irvine, Alan Foxcroft and Roger Wormwell.

recent talks & features

- Page 3 A Helping Hand from the Tax Office—by Bev Parker
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Page 16 All Saints Church 100 Years Old—by Stephanie Carter

During the 1960's Norman Heap, Brian Tipler and Derek Ashworth organised annual camps for members of the Boys Brigade in Earby, without their hard work and dedication a number of these lads would probably not have been able to enjoy a week's holiday away from home each year.



Summer Camp 1965

Back row, standing, left to right: unknown, unknown, Brian Craddock, Elizabeth Carr, Ian Barker, unknown, unknown, Joan Greening, Corinne Wilkinson and Billy Lee.

Middle row, standing, left to right: John Ellis, David Lord, Kenneth Parker, Michael Ashworth, Trevor Parker, Roger Wormwell, Hilary Turner, Linda Preston, Jean Parker and Martin Holland.

Middle row seated, left to right: Julia Kisby, Sheila Brown, Howard Smith, Derek Ashworth, Norman Heap, Mary Smith, Sheila Heap, Kathleen Ashworth, ?? Ashworth and bus driver "Lou"

Front row, on grass, left to right: Graham Parker, Kenny Humphries, Steven Heap, Janet Ashworth, Gillian Smith, Katherine Heap and Helen Smith.

During the 1960s many of the young boys joined as junior 'Life Boys', before moving up into the 'Boys Brigade'. Both the Boys brigade and the 'Girls Brigade' met at the Baptist Chapel on Water Street, Earby, where they participated in a wide range of activities. Members obtained badges for passing various tests, some of which are shown below. The test for Semaphore, however was taken up on Pinhaw Hill, see the badge below. If you have memories you would like to share, do get in contact with the Editor.

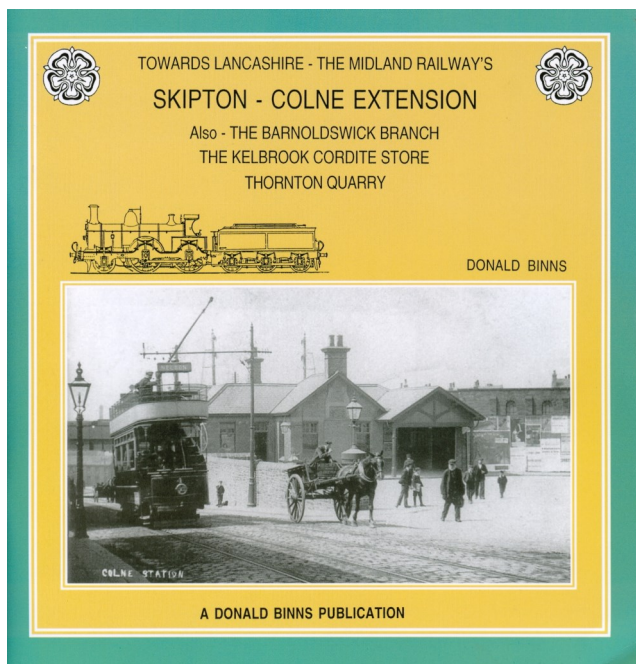


TOWARDS LANCASHIRE – THE MIDLAND RAILWAY'S SKIPTON TO COLNE BRANCH

This latest railway publication written and published by Donald Binns traces the origins of Skipton to Colne line. Opened in 1848 it was an extension of the former Leeds and Bradford Railway. The book puts the line in context with other lines both actual and proposed and, using contemporary time tables, details some of the workings of the line.

Packed with historic photographs from diverse collections and with maps of all the railway infrastructure on the route the book provides a fascinating insight into the railway which helped in the development of Earby into a thriving textile town.

The Barnoldswick branch and also Kelbrook's World War I explosives depot and Thornton Rock Quarry, both of which were served by the railway, are also included.



Copies of the book can be obtained for £9-95 (inclusive of post and packaging) from SELRAP at Mr. Brian Dickenson, 90, Rakehouse Road, NELSON. Lancashire. BB9 8LU

Cheques payable to SELRAP

SELRAP is the Skipton and East Lancashire Rail Action Partnership, the group which is campaigning to reopen the Skipton to Colne Line. Details of membership can be obtained by visiting the web site www.selrap.org.uk or from the membership secretary:- Derek Jennings, 3, Hamilton Road, Barrowford, Lancashire, BB9 6DE. Tel: 01282 690411

A HELPING HAND FROM THE TAX OFFICE

Under the provisions of the Finance (1909-1910) Act, 1910, the Commissioners of the Inland Revenue were instructed to 'cause a valuation to be made of all the land in the United Kingdom'. The valuation books for North Yorkshire, also known as 'Doomsday Books' after their only comparable precedent of 1086, are deposited at the North Yorkshire County Record Office. They include the names of the owners and occupiers of land, a description of the property and its situation, a reference to the series of valuation maps [these maps are not available at the North Yorkshire County Record Office but are held by The National Archives, Kew], the original gross value with deductions for buildings and other structures and the original full site value with deductions for public rights of way, rights of common, easements etc.

In setting up a land tax system circa 1910 Lloyd George inadvertently created a useful source of information for family and house historians, the value of which is not often fully appreciated today. This short item seeks to inform those researching within the former West Yorkshire area, in particular, how and where to access the records and what these might tell.

A useful little book published by the National Archives "*Maps for Family and Local History - The Records of the Tithe, Valuation Office and National Farm Surveys of England & Wales 1836-1943*" provides the background. Very briefly, the Valuation Office records were made for tax administration following the 1910 Budget. They show the use of lands and buildings in Edwardian England and Wales and provide infor-

mation about more places than either the Tithe or the National Farm surveys and contain a wealth of detail about people and places immediately before the First World War.

The records consist of maps, valuation books and field books. Various forms to be completed by land-owners can sometimes be found in individual estate collections but these tend to be difficult to find and not necessarily of much use. The most detailed information is entered in the field books.

Until the mid 1990s the records for our part of the former West Riding of Yorkshire were held separately at three different locations.

There are two sets of maps. The official ones are at the National Archives at Kew, London, and the district offices draft or working maps, although an incomplete collection, were at West Yorkshire Archives Headquarters in Wakefield and the Valuation Books held in North Yorkshire County Record Office, Northallerton. The Field Books remain in the National Archives in Kew.

Bearing in mind that we in Earby area were quietly settled in the West Riding of Yorkshire around the relevant period, researchers were greatly assisted in the 1990s by the maps being relocated to North Yorkshire County Record Office at Northallerton, so maps and valuation books can be viewed and cross referenced more easily. The books have been microfilmed and the maps can be observed on microfilm, or the originals can be ordered by special request - best to book ahead so that a large table can be reserved for these.

The following gives the national archives collection's sequence of records covering Thornton-in-Craven

IR Records of the Boards of Stamps, Taxes, Excise, Stamps and Taxes, and Inland Revenue
Division within IR Records of the Valuation Office
IR 134/4 Board of Inland Revenue: Valuation Office: Finance Act 1910, Record Sheet Plans: Yorkshire Region: Harrogate District

For Earby (including Kelbrook) and Thornton the various document references and location are as follows:-

So what can these documents tell us? Well quite a lot, especially if what you are studying is part of a

| Place | Map TNA | District Office Map NYCRO | NYCRO Valuation Book | Field Book TNA |
|---------------------|--------------------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| Earby | IR 133/2/508 IR 133/2/509 | Collection Ref: NG/V | NG/V Microfilm Ref: MIC 3555 | IR 58/43336 To IR 58/43353 |
| Thornton in Craven: | IR 134/4/1239 | As above | As above | As above |

farm. While we don't currently have a local example, one from Weedly Farm, South Cave, in the East Riding gives a flavour and is shown below.

The owner and occupier are both named, with the 'Interest of Owner' i.e. freehold along with the relative 'value' of the holding. The 623 acre farm is described as *"2 Rooms and Kitchens, 2 Dairys, first [floor] 6 Beds. Washhouse, Coals etc. Henhouse, Barn, Turniphouse & Grainery over, Loosebox & Grainery over, Loosebox Stable for 7, Loosebox Piggery, 4 Bay Hold Shed, Cowhouse for 4, Calfshed, Piggery, 2 Bay Fold. 4 Bay Cart Shed. All brick and stone built and tiled.*

Where several parcels of land are combined under a single reference number on the map they are marked for example as No. 222 pt (part). The Valuation Book will show who were the occupier and the owner and details of whether it is land or buildings i.e. house, barn or stable, and the combined acreage and the land value.

As described above the Field Books tend to give the most detail often listing the individual Ordnance Survey map field number and describing the buildings and location. Sometimes mini plans can be found which explain the layout of the buildings, but not for this example from South Cave.

Roads and paths can also be mentioned especially as public rights of way could affect the actual value to the benefit of the owner who was eligible for deduction in tax.

The Society is in touch with a researcher who will get copies of these documents from the National Archives for a fee – Contact the Editor for further details.

References:

Beech G. & Mitchell R. *Maps for Family and Local History - The Records of the Tithe, Valuation Office and national Farm Surveys of England & Wales 1836-1943.* The National Archives 2004.

Short B. *The Geography of England and Wales in 1910: Evaluation of Lloyd George's Domesday of Landownership.* Historical Research Series No. 22. April 1989.

<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/catalogue/search.asp>

EARBY AMATEUR OPERATIC AND DRAMATIC SOCIETY

by Margaret Greenwood

Following the recent donation of a number of programmes produced by the Earby Amateur Operatic & Dramatic Society in the 1930's when staging various musical comedies, this seems an appropriate moment to make use of the duplicate correspondence book kept by the then Hon. Secretary, Morville D. Smith, covering the period August 1927- October 1932, which was donated to the Society's archive some time ago by Peter Charlton and Morris Horsfield.

Correspondence begins in August 1927 with letters to the D'Oyly Carte Company, Savoy Hotel, requesting permission to perform "Iolanthe"; this must have been granted as four letters are later sent out to various companies asking for estimates for the hire of costumes for such a production, with a cast of approximately 45 people. Terms for the hire of scenery to be installed in the Empire Cinema were arranged with Dodsworth & Spencer, Undercliffe, Bradford and arrangements made to send a motor to collect it. Costumes were hired from W.A. Hume & Sons, Oxford Street, Manchester, and were to be collected on 3rd November.

At the end of August Mr. B.A. Simpson of 253 Calversyke Hill, Keighley, was offered the appointment of coach for the production, at a fee of 10 guineas and this letter was followed by one to Mr. W. Hazlett, 9 Skipton Road, Colne, explaining why he had not been offered this appointment. It seems his previous efforts had not been entirely appreciated as the explanation offered to him says: "Your appointment as coach caused dissatisfaction amongst a number of the Society and instead of being a united body we were completely divided, neither side being inclined to give way, which left us the only course of either appointing a coach apart from the two in question, or disbanding the Society. We took a vote at a Special General Meeting and it was unanimously carried that we appoint a new coach. The cancelling of your appointment was in no way casting reflection on your abilities as a coach." Mr. Simpson must have declined the offer and alternative producers must have been canvassed as on 13th September a letter was sent to Mr. E. Marsden, 25 Selbourne Grove, Keighley, confirming the Society was prepared to accept his terms and pay him £12, plus railway expenses. He was also informed that the first rehearsal was planned for Friday, 16th September, and would take place in the Wesleyan School, Earby, at 7.30 p.m.

On 27th September Mr. Smith writes to R. D'Oyly Carte, Esq. accepting the terms required for permission to perform "Iolanthe", enclosing a cheque for 21 guineas and asking if the band parts could be sent "this week if at all possible". The following three or four weeks are busy with final arrangements for the staging of this opera:

4th October: Dodsworth & Spencer are sent a letter thanking them for the stage plans and adding that the scenery would be required on 4th November, together with a man to fix it;

12th October: Messrs. Stafford, Netherfield, Nottingham, are requested to send a price list for posters for "Iolanthe";

18th October: W.A. Hume sent measurement forms for the costumes ordered, together with a note that they were to be collected on 4th November by the Reliable Haulage Co., of Earby; posters were ordered from Messrs. Stafford;

24th October: J. Hey, Music Dealer, Colne, contacted asking if the Society could borrow a piano from 7th-12th November.

26th October: W.A. Hume sent an order form for a costume for 'Page Boy to the Chancellor', "omitted when other forms were sent".

31st October: J. Hey sent a letter asking if the piano could be made available on Saturday morning, 5th November, as there was to be a dress rehearsal at the Empire Cinema starting at 1 p.m.



The Cast of Iolanthe

The last two letters sent regarding this production of "Iolanthe" concern the sending of a copy of the programme to R. D'Oyly Carte and one of thanks to Mr. W. Mosley, Albion Street, Earby, thanking him and the other members of his band for assisting during the production of this opera.

Mr. E. Marsden of Keighley must have proved a successful coach as in January 1928 Mr. Smith writes to him proposing that Messrs. Crowther, Watson and Cunliffe meet with him to discuss the Society's next production. Presumably as a result of this meeting, a letter was written to George Edward, Esq., Daly's Theatre, London, asking what royalties would be payable if the Society decided to perform the musical comedy "The Country Girl". This letter goes on to say that, "For the past five years we have been giving a Gilbert & Sullivan opera each year under the royalty of 10% nett taking. Our town has a population of about 6,000, and the hall in which we give our show has seating for about 400 (enclosed is a plan) and we should give six performances all in one week."

A reply to this letter appears to have been received from Mr. G. Dance of 48 Leicester Square, London, as in a letter to him of 15th February Mr. Smith refers to the charge of six guineas per performance and asks if, given the Society's nett takings for the past year, it would be possible to agree a reduction as "you will see by these figures we cannot afford your above charges as we have only previously paid a 10% basis". Nett takings were shown as: 1925 - £133; 1926 - £126; 1927 - £115, and copies of the audited accounts also seem to have been sent. Some arrangement must have been reached as on 28th February a letter is sent to Mr. Dance saying that it has been decided to produce "A Country Girl" and asking what the charges would be for the loan of acting parts, as well as the conductor's copy. On the same date a letter is written to the Trustees, Earby Wesleyan Church, applying for the use of the schoolroom on Friday nights during the year commencing 2nd March. Several letters then follow to George Dance, Esq. regarding dates the production is to take place; completion of the formal agreement; the sending of a cheque for five guineas as a deposit on acting parts and a prompt book; and an apology for the incorrect method of addressing previous letters to him, which should have been sent to Sir George Dance!

In the meantime Mr. Smith is once more negotiating for the provision of scenery and costumes for the various characters. In October a request was made for an estimate for the hire of "10 gents evening dress suits (dinner jackets) and one gent's morning dress". Hiring costumes for this production had its problems. Having reserved evening suits, on 1st November Mr. Smith writes sending measurement forms but saying "there are four more still to come, these I will let you have in the course of a day or so". He also adds a request for "A cloak for Marjory" and confirms that the hampers will be collected by The Reliable Haulage Co. of Earby on Friday, 9th November. On 5th November he writes again enclosing the last two (*sic*) measurement forms; requests the supply of "four smocks all medium height", and says that the hampers will be collected on Thursday, not Friday as originally stated. Meanwhile he has written to Dodsworth & Spencer asking what properties they are going to supply along with the scenery, such as "Rustic Chair, ladder, etc. so that I can make the necessary arrangements".

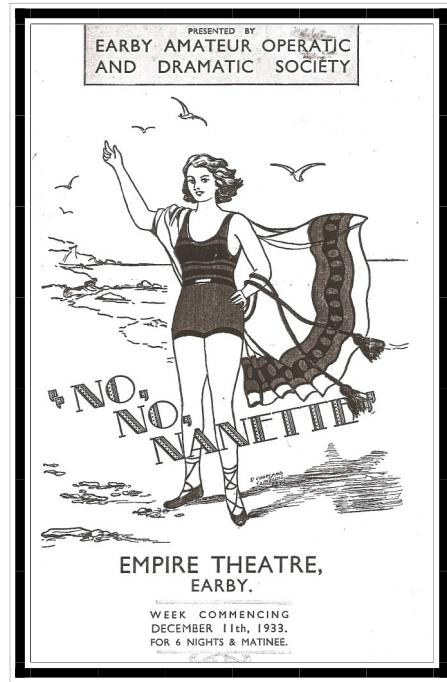
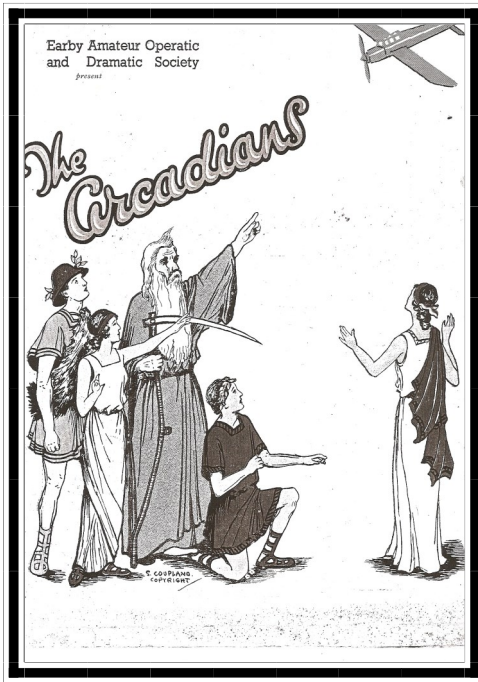
Final correspondence in 1928 includes a letter to Sir George Dance informing him that, "I have today forwarded per registered post train (*sic*) the band parts of "A Country Girl", enclosed please find key of box. The acting parts and prompt book will be returned as soon as possible after being checked." These were returned on 26th November together with a promise that a cheque for £16.16.0 for his fee would be sent "in a day or two".

Towards the end of January 1929 the cycle begins again with a letter to Mr. F. Preston of 13 Wordsworth Road, Colne, informing him that the Earby Society intends to give "Our Miss Gibbs" in November and asking if his Society has any good secondhand books to dispose of. Whether Colne were able to help is unknown, but in April negotiations begin again with Sir George Dance, permission being requested to perform "Our Miss Gibbs" in November and he is asked whether his fees are still the same. Later that month a cheque for five guineas is sent to him for acting parts and a prompt book, whilst in June the loan of a conductor's score is organised.

For this production scenery is hired from The Keighley Scenic Co., Hill Street, Keighley, at a cost of £13.10.0. Costumes needed were for "8 shop assistants, 3 Irish colleens, 16 perriots (*sic*) for moon number, morning dress for all gents except Timothy for whom a "usual comedy suit" was needed, and a check riding suit for Hughie". Additional requirements were 1 busby, 1 "extra large" Merry Widow hat, and a property Ascot Gold Cup. These were all ordered for the dress rehearsal on 16th November, with public performances taking place during the following week, with music provided by Earby Brass Band.

The Society's thanks are due to Mrs. Ethel Wormwell and Mrs. Mary Smith, who have donated to our archives the following programmes from productions of the Earby Amateur Operatic Society:

- 1933 No, No Nanette
- 1934 The Girl in the Taxi
- 1935 The Girl Friend
- 1936 The Arcadians
- 1937 The Marriage Market
- 1938 Florodora



To be continued in the Winter Edition of Chronicles ...

Note: If any reader of "Chronicles" has memories of the Earby Amateur Operatic and Dramatic Society, information relating to the history of it, for example photographs, programmes, or other memorabilia, the History Society would be delighted to hear from them - contact Archivist Margaret Greenwood.

MR A. J. BIRLEY OF THORNTON-IN-CRAVEN

This Obituary appeared in the Craven Herald September 1st 1944.

Mr Arthur John Birley JP, President of the Skipton Divisional Conservative Association and a leading figure in the industrial and public life of the district, died at his home Throstle Nest Thornton-in-Craven on Saturday afternoon in his 85th year. Widely known and greatly esteemed, Mr Birley had held many important offices during a long and active life, and his interests brought him in close touch with all sections of the community. Much of his public service was devoted to Earby, where he had been in business as a cotton manufacturer for half a century. Mr Birley was Earby Urban Council's first chairman. In 1938 he gave to Earby the delightful playing fields (4½ acres in extent) which bear his name and previously he made a generous gift of land towards the Skipton Road recreation ground project. It was he who inaugurated the fund out of which Earby's first motor ambulance was bought.

Appointed a county magistrate in 1912, after three years in an ex officio capacity, Mr Birley was chairman of the Skipton Bench from 1932 to 1939, relinquishing this position on account of deafness. For 15 years he was chairman of the West Riding Licensing Authority and his service to this body covered some 24 years.

Mr Birley was born in Burnley on January 31 1860, being the son of the late Thomas Birley, and was educated at Burnley Grammar School. In his young days he distinguished himself in the realm of sport, notably Association football. He played centre-half for the original Burnley team that figured in first class football at the time of The Invincibles (Preston North End), and met all the leading personalities in the game. Mr Birley was also a sound cricketer. He helped to form the Burnley St Andrew's Club and played in the first eleven often appearing in matches against Earby Cricket Club on the old cricket ground where Victoria Shed now stands.

Business Career

His father, a cotton spinner in business at Lodge Mill, Barden Lane, Burnley died when Mr Birley was 16. The son bravely shouldered a great deal of responsibility at this time, revealing a business acumen beyond his years. In 1894 Mr Birley decided to branch out into the manufacturing side of the industry, and took space at Victoria Mill Earby. The new concern prospered, thanks to his energy and resource. An extra block known as Victoria Shed was added to the mill and Mr Birley installed 800 looms in the new portion, subsequently obtaining space for 400 looms at Albion Mill Earby.

In 1906 the spinning mill at Burnley was destroyed by fire. Mr Birley acquired the site and remnants of the building from the executors and there erected a large weaving shed, which he sold as a going concern just after the last war. At one period Mr Birley controlled 2,200 looms - 1,200 at Earby and 1,000 at Burnley. About 14 years ago the machinery at Victoria Shed was moved to Albion Mill, where the business A J Birley Ltd is now centred.

For many years Mr Birley was president of the Earby Manufacturers Association. At the time of his death he had been connected with the Manchester Royal Exchange for approximately 65 years and in 1940 he was made a life member. A capable businessman and a fine organiser, he studied every aspect of the cotton industry, but his technical knowledge combined with long experience made him an acknowledged expert. He was known in the trade for his integrity as well as his shrewd judgment, and was held in high esteem by his workpeople.

The family connection with the British textile trade goes back 350 years. One of Mr Birley's ancestors made sail-cloth for ships that fought the Spanish Armada.

Service to Council

Before the formation of the Earby Urban Council Mr Birley was chairman of the Thornton in Craven Parish Council whose area included Earby. He played a great part in the campaign for urban powers, being the chief witness at the West Riding County Council's inquiry. The original application was for an amalgamation of Earby, Kelbrook and Thornton, but the County authorities decided that the latter township, being entirely residential and of small rateable value should be excluded from the urban scheme.

Mr Birley's administrative qualities made him a great asset to the Earby Urban Council in its early days. He threw himself wholeheartedly into the work of the Council during seven years as chairman and remained an active member for several years after resigning the chairmanship. Owing to pressure of other public duties he gave up his seat on the Council during the last war. For some time he was chairman of the Earby Tribunal. Later he became Military Representative for the district, in which capacity he was responsible for the textile cases which came before the Skipton Tribunal.

After the war Mr Birley threw himself energetically into the work of the pensions administration joining the Keighley War Pensions Sub-Committee and eventually becoming its chairman. He continued to serve on this committee up to a few years ago.

Staunch Conservative

A lifelong conservative, Mr Birley took a keen interest in political work in Earby and throughout the Skipton division. For many years he was the president of the Earby Conservative Association and of the Earby Conservative Club, being succeeded in the latter office by Mr J W Hartley who is still president. On attaining the age of 70 Mr Birley was the recipient of a birthday gift from the committee and members of the club, a social gathering being arranged in his honour. For a number of years Mr Birley had been president of the Divisional Conservative Association.

President and a generous supporter of Earby Cricket Club, Mr Birley followed the fortunes of the local team with keen interest and up to a few years ago often attended its home matches. He was also president of the Earby Victoria Football Club which has suspended activities for the duration of the war, and for many years he was president of the Earby St John's Ambulance Brigade and Nursing Division, whose work he greatly admired.

A special interest was St Mary's Church, Thornton in Craven, of which he was people's warden for 47

years, retiring only a few months ago.

On September 26 1888 Mr Birley married Miss Jane Nancy Barrett, a daughter of the late Mr & Mrs Christopher Barrett and a native of Thornton in Craven. The ceremony was performed by the Rev L B Morris at Thornton Parish Church. Mr & Mrs Birley's first home was at Burnley and later they moved to Springfield Earby, going to Thornton 39 years ago. On the occasion of their golden wedding 6 years ago Mr & Mrs Birley were presented with a silver salver suitably inscribed by the workpeople at Albion Mill Earby and they afterwards gave a party for their employees.

Mr Birley did a great amount of public work but apart from the official positions he held he will be remembered for his generosity, fairness and wide sympathies.

Mr Birley leaves a widow and two daughters Mrs B A Brooks and Miss Birley JP. His son in law was killed on active service in 1915 and his only grandchild died last year.

The Funeral

St Mary's Church Thornton in Craven was filled when the funeral took place on Wednesday afternoon. Flags were flown at half mast on the Earby Council Offices, Earby Conservative Club and on Albion Mill which was closed for the afternoon as a mark of respect.

The funeral was conducted by the Rev G Grimshaw Rector of Thornton assisted by Rev J B Atkinson vicar of Earby.

The organist Mr W A Green played Handel's Largo and the Dead March in Saul and during the service the hymns Jesu Lover of my Soul and Let Saints on Earth in Concert Sing were sung by the congregation. The church choir was in attendance.

In a moving address the vicar, Rev G Grimshaw, spoke of Mr Birley's many sterling qualities, emphasising his integrity and devotion to St Mary's Church over many years.

"We can say without any possible doubt that Mr Birley's life was crowned with great success but in that success he never for one moment forgot that there is a God" said Mr Grimshaw. "As warden of this church for 47 years he surely demonstrated that he had weighed up the right and wrong of life and he had seen that the right consisted of an allegiance to God. It would have been easy for him to go hither and thither on Sundays for pleasure but he never missed coming to church every Sunday morning. He was a man who loved his church and who most certainly believed in Christ and in His Resurrection.

I can say that in Mr Birley we had a man in whom we could implicitly entrust any public affairs. When making a decision he weighed the pros and cons of the right and wrong without considering himself, and having decided upon that which he believed to be the right course nothing would move him from it. He would stick to that course to the end. He was a man of integrity and faithfulness.

Mr Birley, he concluded, did a vast amount of public work in many fields and his life was an inspiration".

The interment took place in the churchyard. On the coffin was a beautiful cross of flowers bearing the inscription In loving and grateful memory of a good husband and father, from Jinney, Blanche and Betty...

OBSOLETE BRITISH COINS

WHERE ARE THEY NOW

Old records form the backbone of local history research and in this area we are severely hampered by the diverse locations of many of them. While researching for the exhibition the society recently mounted for the Earby Fire Station Celebrations, it became clear that some documents have either become lost, or perhaps discarded. Neither are we helped by the changes in the Yorkshire-Lancashire boundaries that came about as a result of the 1974 Local Government Act, when, it would appear, some records were destroyed. Or were they? On occasions we hear of people having taken home items that were of interest to themselves, or for safekeeping and there may still be more of these about. If you know of records from Earby Urban District Council or the various Parish Councils that might be of interest to local historians, do get in touch.

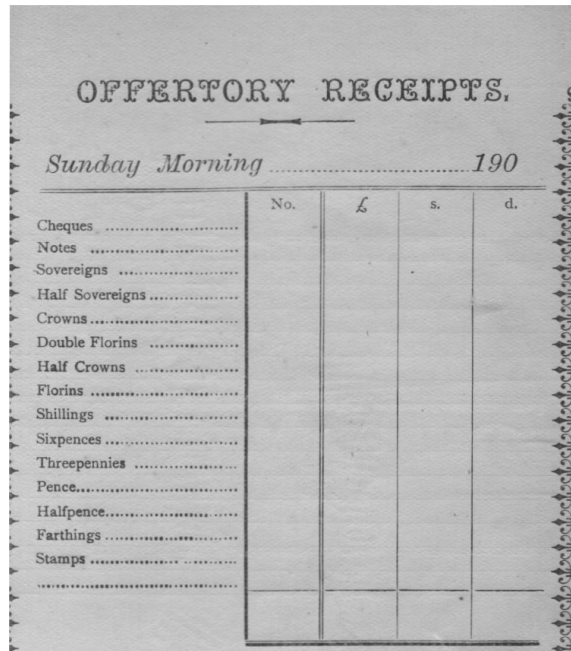
information taken from 1904 Offertory Book from Earby Church

Prior to the building of All Saints Parish Church in 1909, Earby's Anglicans worshipped at the Tin Tabernacle which was built on land now occupied by part of Wardle Storeys and the Becksides housing development.

Collections were recorded in the Offertory Book and on Easter Day 1904 the collection amounted to 13s 11d, broken down as follows:

- 2 shillings
- 1 sixpence
- 19 threepennies
- 64 pence
- 32 halfpence

On Easter Day 1905 receipts were 11s 5d and on Christmas Eve of the same year 8s 2½d. The Offertory Receipts Book for Earby Church in the early years of the 20th century lists the following coins:



It was on the 1st January 1970 that the UK adopted the decimal currency and the coins listed in the receipt book (above) are now obsolete.

- Sovereign - gold coin with nominal value of one pound or 20 shillings – the name coming from the size of the portrait of the king facing and seated on a throne.
- Half sovereign - gold coin valued at 10 shillings or 120 pre decimal pennies
- Crown - Silver coin with a value of 5 shillings.
- Double florin - Silver coin worth 4 shillings
- Half crown - worth two shillings and sixpence
- Florin - Two shilling coin worth one tenth of a pound or 24 old pence – replaced in 1968

- by the ten pence coin
- Shilling - Before decimilisation there were 20 shillings to the pound. Superceded by the decimal 5 pence piece
- Sixpence (tanner) - silver coin worth 6 pence (2½p) Obsolete in 1971 but legal tender to 1980
- Threepence - (thrupenny bit) nickel-brass 12 sided coin worth 3 old pence. Some were silver
- Halfpenny - (pronounced hay-penny) worth one half of an old penny
- Farthing - copper coin worth one quarter of an old penny - discontinued after 1960

The Register of Services book for Earby Church from 1916 records the date, hour of service, clergy officiating, day, number of communicants and the offertory received. On Easter Day 1916 the offertory at the 8am service was £1.2s.6d with 82 communicants and the offertory at the 6pm service was £1.9s.1d. Collections were usually for church expenses but other causes identified between 1916 and 1927 include : Sick and Poor, Burnley Victoria Hospital, Central Church Fund, St Dunstans, Foreign Missions, the purchase of 31 School Lane (vicarage) and Sunday School. On 27th March 1925 the Bishop confirmed 21 candidates and the offertory was £3.16s 0d.

Remarks in the Services Book include comments on the weather : wet morning, very hot day, snow, very fine weather, showery, thunderstorm, severe frost, wind and rain.

The Offertory and Register of Churches books are deposited in Barnoldswick Library. Thanks to Stephanie Carter for this item.

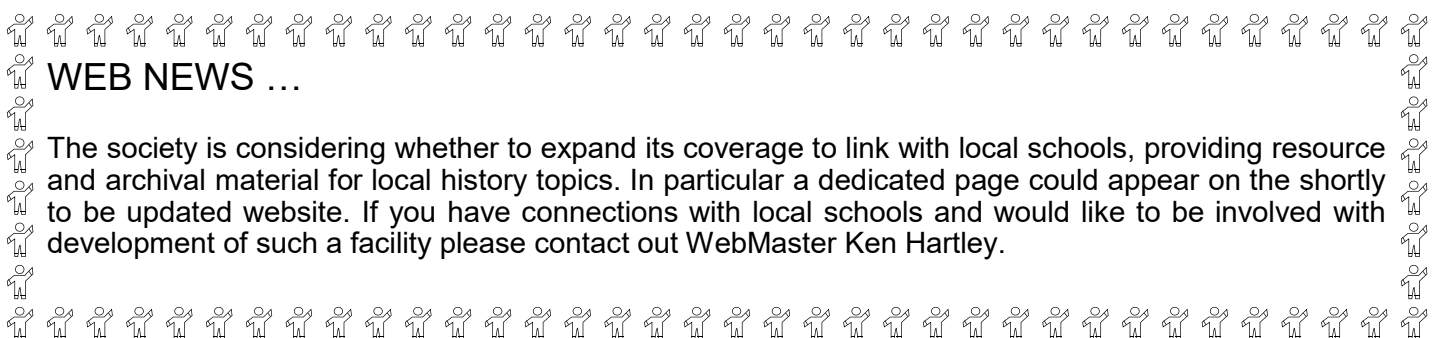
AND HOW'S THIS FOR INFLATION !

An item in Picture Postcard Monthly, May 2009 as seen by member Morris Horsfield. Referring to an auction of post cards:

“The best single topographical card was a real photograph card of a Skipton to Earby motor omnibus, bearing the message, It is just lately started running, this is full every time it sets off, old folks and young, it is coming back from Earby now as you will see, it is fare 5d (2p) there and 5d (2p) back... there is nothing like this in Cumberland”

Compare today’s cost of a return ticket from Earby to Skipton; £4 each way or £7-50 return!

ALDER HILL SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM


WEB NEWS ...
 The society is considering whether to expand its coverage to link with local schools, providing resource and archival material for local history topics. In particular a dedicated page could appear on the shortly to be updated website. If you have connections with local schools and would like to be involved with development of such a facility please contact out WebMaster Ken Hartley.

Another photograph of interest to Earby folk is this one from committee member Squire Firth. Taken in 1948/49 it shows from left to right:-



Back Row: Peter Nichol, Mike Harris, Squire Firth, Jim Eckersley, Eric Luty, Jack Varley, David Cartwright, Mr. Eric Parkinson.

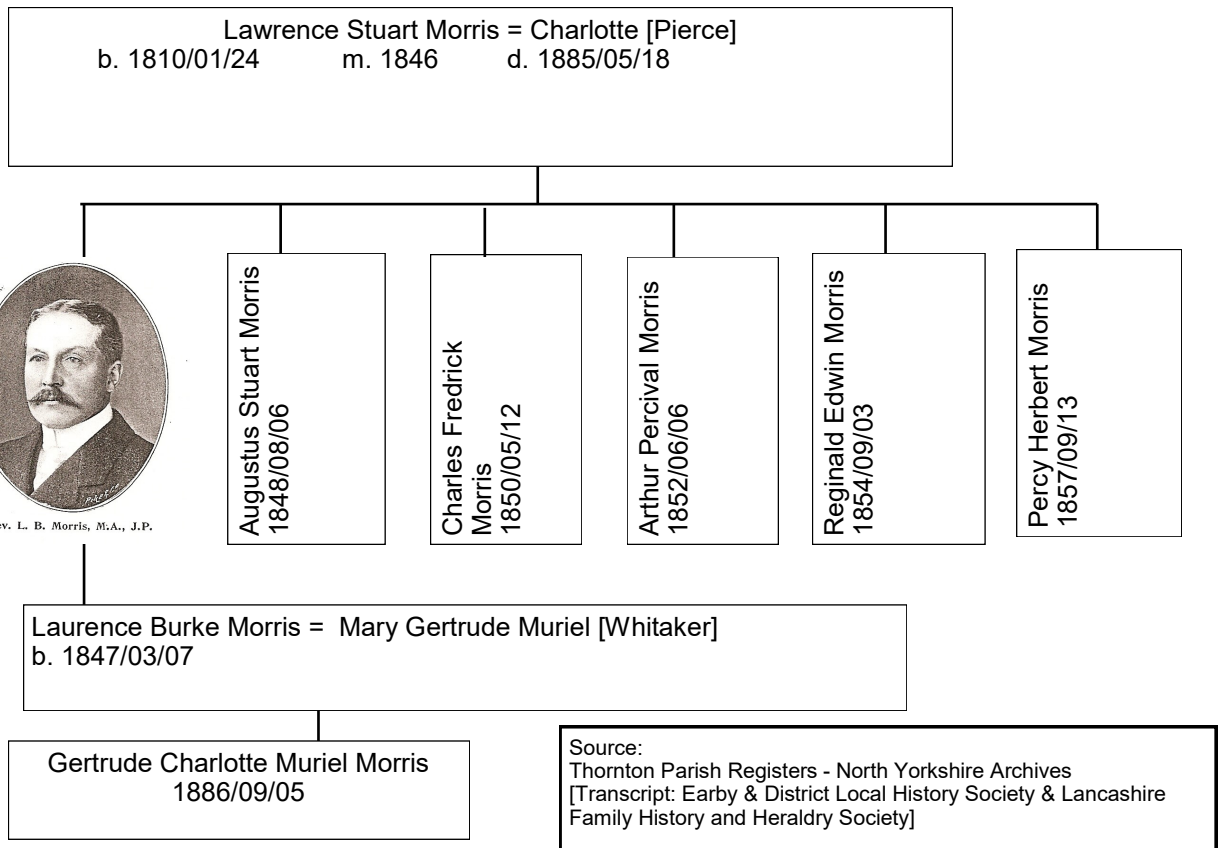
Front Row: Alan Bailey, Ben Smalley, John Hopkinson, Fred Jackson, Geoff Cockshot, Harry Clarkson.

The sports master, Mr. Eric Parkinson, took members of the football team to the cinema in Skipton to see a film of the 1948 Olympic Games, all at his own expense.

REVEREND CANON LAURENCE STUART MORRIS (1810-1885)

THORNTON-IN-CRAVEN

Having held office as Rector of Thornton for 50 years, Laurence Stuart Morris must have been an influential local figure as portrayed in his impressive obituary in the Craven Herald in 1885 transcribed below. Not only was he fondly remembered in his obituary, but the imposing East Window at Thornton church bears reference to his extraordinary presence. The society would like to find out more about the father and son who looked after both the pastoral life and it would appear political life of the locality. If you can help do get in touch. We begin , over the page, with a family tree.



Rev. L S Morris

“Amid general signs of sorrow and regret, the remains of the Reverend Canon Morris, for 50 years past the Rector of Thornton, were consigned to their last resting place in the burial ground attached to Thornton Church on Monday. The mourning cortege left his residence shortly after 12 o’clock. The coffin was of polished pitch pine with brass mountings, the plate being inscribed “Laurence Stuart Morris, born January 24th 1810, died May 14th 1885”. A great number of beautiful wreaths were placed upon the coffin before leaving the house and the remains were borne to the church shoulder height by six men. Mr. Morris’s four sons walked immediately behind as chief mourners, then came a number of Gentlemen on foot and behind them the carriages of the following:- Sir Charles Tempest, Broughton Hall; Mrs. Roundell, Gledstone; His Honour Judge Ingham of Marton; Mr. W Birtwistle, Skipton, Mr. Morris’s medical attendant; Mr. F. W. Slingsby, Ravenshaw, Carleton; Colonel Garnett Orme, Tarn House, Skipton; Captain Henderson, Scale House; Captain Robinson, Skipton and Mr. H. Bracewell, Gargrave. Among the mourners were the following clergymen:- Reverend J. A. Wilson, Bolton by Bowland, Rural Dean; Reverend G. Blair, Skipton; Reverend T. Evans, Broughton; Reverend W. H. Hamilton, Rector of Marton; Reverend C. W. Hamilton, Curate, Reverend Owen Kelbrook, and the Reverend J. G. Gaskell, Curate of Thornton. There was a large body of people from Earby, Kelbrook, Marton and other surrounding villages. The corpse was met at the church gate by the Rural Dean and Mr. Gaskell, both of whom took part in the readings of the burial service. As the coffin was borne into the church, the choir and school children commenced to sing the hymn “A Few More Years Shall Roll” and at the conclusion of the lessons they also sang “Thy Will Be Done”. As the procession left the church the organist Miss Lambert, played the “Death March” in Saul. The service at the graveside was commenced by the choir, singing the hymn “ Brief Life Is Here Our Portion” and at the end the hymn “Jesus Lives” was also sung. When the Benediction had been pronounced, Mrs. Lambert stepped up to the graveside and laid on the coffin a beautiful wreath of flowers on behalf of the Rural Dean, and each of the school-children then dropped into the grave a bunch of nice flowers. There were also numerous other wreaths offered by local friends of the deceased. The grave is situated at the east end of the churchyard and previous to

following clergymen:- Reverend J. A. Wilson, Bolton by Bowland, Rural Dean; Reverend G. Blair, Skipton; Reverend T. Evans, Broughton; Reverend W. H. Hamilton, Rector of Marton; Reverend C. W. Hamilton, Curate, Reverend Owen Kelbrook, and the Reverend J. G. Gaskell, Curate of Thornton. There was a large body of people from Earby, Kelbrook, Marton and other surrounding villages. The corpse was met at the church gate by the Rural Dean and Mr. Gaskell, both of whom took part in the readings of the burial service. As the coffin was borne into the church, the choir and school children commenced to sing the hymn “A Few More Years Shall Roll” and at the conclusion of the lessons they also sang “Thy Will Be Done”. As the procession left the church the organist Miss Lambert, played the “Death March” in Saul. The service at the graveside was commenced by the choir, singing the hymn “ Brief Life Is Here Our Portion” and at the end the hymn “Jesus Lives” was also sung. When the Benediction had been pronounced, Mrs. Lambert stepped up to the graveside and laid on the coffin a beautiful wreath of flowers on behalf of the Rural Dean, and each of the school-children then dropped into the grave a bunch of nice flowers. There were also numerous other wreaths offered by local friends of the deceased. The grave is situated at the east end of the churchyard and previous to

this internment only contained the remains of Mrs. Morris. Mr. John Cowgill, of Thornton, was the undertaker. A brief memoir of the late Rector may not here be out of place. Mr. Morris was born on January 24th 1810, on board ship, while his parents were on their way to India, his father being an officer in the British Army. His early years were spent in India, but eventually the family returned to England, where his education was continued. His parents intended him for the church. He became a student at Cambridge where he obtained the M.A. Degree and then Holy Orders. About 1833 he became Domestic Chaplain to Sir John Kaye, and in 1834 was installed Rector of Thornton succeeding the Reverend Mordaunt Barnard who had been Curate in Charge here. In the year 1846 he was married to Miss Pierce. The result of this marriage was the birth of six sons, one of whom died seven years ago and another accidentally killed by the falling of a tree in Australia where he had emigrated after he came to manhood. Four sons are still living, and the eldest of them being recently inducted into the living of Thornton parish. During the 51 years in which Mr Morris has been Rector of Thornton, he has enjoyed the esteem and respect of his brethren in the church and the Evangelical School, as is seen by his appointment as Honorary Canon of Ripon Cathedral and Rural Dean of the western division of the [?] Deanery, which offices he held for several years. His genial spirit and kind nature made him a welcome visitant to many of the homes of his parishioners, most of whom at one time he knew by their proper name. Although a large proportion of the people of his parish were Dissenters, he continued to live among them and win respect and esteem from most of them. Their regard for him was strikingly apparent about 12 years ago, shortly after the death of Mrs. Morris, by their publicly presenting him with pieces of very handsome silver plate to which persons of all denominations on the parish had subscribed. The following is a copy of the address. *“Reverend and Dear Sir, we the inhabitants of the parish of Thornton in presenting the accompanying testimonial, desire to record our expression of the heartfelt affectionate esteem and regard we have for you, in consideration of your works of Faith for upwards of 39 years. We deeply sympathise with you in the irreparable loss you have sustained in the death of Mrs. Morris, whose amiable qualities made her universally respected and beloved, we hope that you may long be spared to continue the labours which have gained for you the respect of your parishioners. With every wish for your happiness, here and hereafter, we are Sir, on behalf of the subscribers, yours very truly,* Thomas H. Swire, Secretary, R. Bond Treasurer.

In consequence of the death of the reverend gentleman the marriage of the present rector the Reverend Laurence Burke Morris to Miss Whitaker of Malton and Breckamore which was to be on June 9th will be postponed till a few weeks later”.

Source: Craven Herald May 23 1885 p. 2

CHARLES EAMER KEMPE

Many changes to the church of St Mary’s Thornton-in-Craven were made at the end of the 19th century, some due to a fire. During this period of restoration the impressive East Window was installed and bears dedications to the 60th year of the reign of Queen Victoria and also the 51 years as Rector of Laurence Stuart Morris. The window was designed and installed by Charles Eamer Kempe. Do go and see if you can spot his signature, a wheatsheaf.

Throughout Yorkshire, light floods into churches through magnificent windows created by Kempe. In the West, East and North Ridings of Yorkshire there are reputed to be 168 churches containing 539 windows, far more than any other part of the country.

Born in the same year that Queen Victoria came to the throne and being brought up as a devout Christian, he wanted to train for the Ministry, but because of his persistent stammer he decided against that vocation. Instead, he was inspired to work with stained glass, and eventually his skill and artistry as a painter and designer rivalled, and even excelled, that of contemporaries like William Morris and Sir Edward Burne-Jones.

Charles Eamer Kempe was in great demand and had more than 40 craftsmen working under his direction at

a London studio. He also undertook decorative work, exemplified by the frescoes and reredos in the chapel at Castle Howard. He also had a potent advocate in Yorkshire in the 2nd Viscount Halifax. Kempe is represented in Wakefield and Bradford Cathedrals, York Minster and 97 churches in the West Riding.

He died suddenly on April 29th 1907 at 28 Nottingham Place, London, but was buried in the family tomb in the churchyard of St Wulfran at Ovingdean, Sussex. He had helped to restore and decorate the tomb in 1869, in memory of his father, who had been a faithful servant to St. Wulfrans as a churchwarden.

By his own former wishes the studios continued as C.E. Kempe and Co. Ltd. with four of his principal colleagues as directors: John Lisle as designer and Alfred Tomblason in charge of the production. Walter Tower, an architect and Kempe's younger cousin and his legatee, entered the company as Chairman and a year or two later added the "tower" symbol to the head of the "wheatsheaf" to distinguish glass produced by the new firm, of C.E. Kempe & Co Ltd., from that of the former studios.



As the Gothic fashion faded and in the sad years of the "slump", the demand for expensive memorials ceased and after sixty years and the making of over 4,000 windows "Kempe's" closed down in 1934.

Kempe Society

A group of his admirers formed the Kempe Society in 1984. In an interview with Malcolm Barker, Kitty Grove-Stephensen said " *he used a quieter palette than earlier Victorian painters of stained glass, with more emphasis on detail. His angels are always a delight. He was fond of depicting them as musicians, and often gave them wings of peacock feathers*".

The great Dean of York, Eric Milner White, in 1998, contrasted Kempe favourably with those he termed " *the three disastrous Ws*" of Victorian stained glass, Wailes, Willement and Warrington.

Source: Barker, M. Yorkshire Post 21 March 1998 " *Raising a glass to a past master*" and www.churchmousewebsite.co.uk

NOW—WHAT'S ON SOON?

ALL SAINTS PARISH CHURCH EARBY

100 YEARS OLD

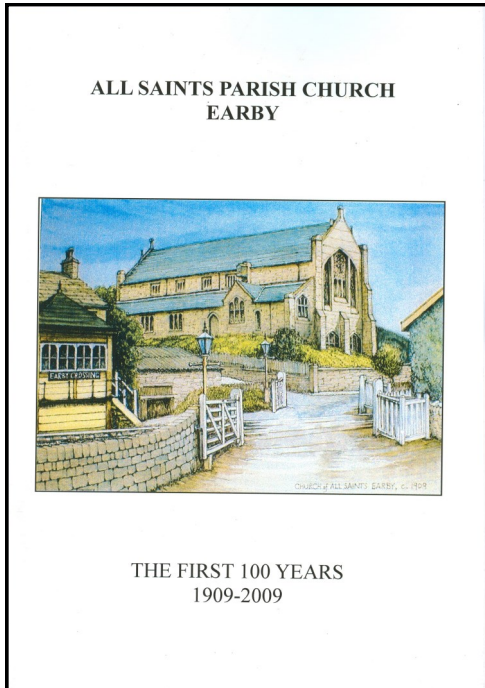
This year All Saints Parish Church will be celebrating its centenary and there will be celebrations at the church in September and December. The main celebration will start on Tuesday 8th September culminating on Sunday 13th September with a special service at the church with the Bishop of Bradford. The church will be open from the Tuesday to Saturday with special displays and exhibitions for visitors to look at.

On December 13th the Church will be decorated with Christmas trees arranged by various organisations in Earby and on Tuesday December 15th, the anniversary of the actual dedication of the church, there will be an evening service of carols and lessons with the Christian Singers followed by traditional Christmas refreshments.

To coincide with the event, the Society is launching a history of the church, " *All Saints Parish Church Earby - the First One Hundred Years - 1909-2009*" which has been researched and written by Stephanie Carter and is packed full with information, anecdotes and photographs.

The cost is £7 (£8.50 including UK postage and Packing), £1 of which will be donated to the church

funds. Copies of the book are available at the History Society's meetings, or can be ordered by post from EDLHS, Lower Burnt Hill, Skipton Old Road, Colne, BB8 7ER, cheques made payable to Earby and District Local History Society.



These will also be available for Earby Mines Museum and hopefully at the Council Shops in Earby and Barnoldswick and Barnoldswick Library.

The attractive front cover painting showing, also, the old railway crossing, is by the late David Hoyle. David kindly gave permission for its use for this purpose before died. He will be remembered by Society members who heard the talk a couple of years ago by Cowling historians 'Cowling Moonrakers' when he gave a wonderful recital in dialect.

NEW ROAD COMMUNITY CENTRE

AUTUMN FAIR

The Autumn Fair is not only a great event where the local community get together to have fun, but also an important fundraising event for the Centre itself and the groups that participate. For the society it is our local showcase for our latest publications and, in these fast changing times, gives us chance to spread the word about the importance of the heritage of Earby and its locality.

Saturday 3rd October is the date for this years Autumn Fair at New Road Community Centre when this years theme will be *'The Circus'*, do come along and see us, we shall be having a gift stall as well as the usual publications stall.

We are looking for donation of items for the gift stall and help with the stalls generally, so your assistance would be very much appreciated – contact Chairman Bob Abel



[No this is not his portrait! - Editors Note].

SOCIETY WEB SITE

You may have noticed that the Society web site has been off line for several months for technical reasons. We are indebted to members Steve and Jay Bourike who built and have managed the site for many years. It was decided to take the opportunity to construct a new improved web site and we are particularly fortunate in having Ken Hartley as a committee member, who is conversant with computers and web sites, although he himself will admit there has been quite a steep learning curve with this project.

Ken has been burning the midnight oil on our behalf to design the new web site with a number of extra features. The site is running in test mode at the moment as there is much behind the scenes fine tuning to do to make sure things work smoothly and efficiently.

Two exciting new components worth highlighting are:-

- The members section, which will be for the exclusive use of EDLHS members and which will give access to digitalised archives and photographs from the Society's collections.
- The on line shop, where, using the "Paypal" system, publications and CDs can be purchased and even membership subscriptions can be paid 'on-line'.

If you would like to view the current status of the web site the address for the moment is www.eurebi.org and any constructive comments will be welcome. Please send these via e-mail direct to Ken at kenknhrt@hotmail.co.uk

A sub committee has been set up to help Ken oversee the running of the web site, but meanwhile sincere thanks to Ken for his enthusiasm and commitment to this stimulating new project.

So it's really time to watch this space www.eurebi.org

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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 Gaylands Lane
 Earby
 BARNOLDSWICK
 BB18 6JR

01282 843226

www.eurebi.org

FORTHCOMING PROGRAMME

| | | |
|-------------------|----------------------|----------------------------------|
| 15 September 2009 | Maureen Stopforth | "Living with the Pendle Witches" |
| 20 October 2009 | Alan McEwen | "Powering the Pennines" |
| 17 November 2009 | Derek Clabburn | "Balkan History" |
| 15 December 2009 | Michael Cullingworth | "The History of Pantomime" |
| 19 January 2010 | John Hartley | "White Feather" |
| 16 February 2010 | | Annual General Meeting |

Note: Speakers subject to change without notice due to circumstances beyond our control

PRODUCED & printed

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

DATA PROTECTION ACT

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