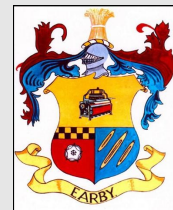


Earby Chronicles

Edition 56

SPRING 2010



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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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2009/10

As we enter our 16th year as a History Society it is gratifying to know that our reputation stands high in the local community and that we are valued as an integral part of the Earby scene.

Another busy year has seen us participate in numerous events including, in July, Thornton Sitooteries, where Bev Parker did an exhibition on the Reverend Morris, Earby Fire Station Community Day and All Saints Church centenary celebrations both in September, New Road Autumn Fair, All Saints Christmas Tree Festival and Winter Fair in January, and this month we were invited to take part in Skipton Library's centenary celebrations.

To coincide with the All Saints Centenary, Stephanie Carter researched and wrote a centenary book which has sold well with a £1 from each sale being donated to the church funds.

The fire station event initiated research into the fire services in Earby, which is an ongoing project likely to culminate in another publication.

We were also asked to carry out the research for the proposed extension to the War Memorial. It appears that some names had been missed off the original memorial.

Finance

The accounts show that we have again made a loss on the year, not as much as last year but we still have a healthy balance in the bank.

In 2009 we had 132 members, 71 local and 61 away. There has been slight drop in subscriptions but towards the end of the year a number of new people joined through the new website and we hope numbers will stay resilient for 2010.

In accordance with the decision at last year's AGM, the increase in membership fee of £1 came into effect in January to offset some of the increased printing and postage costs. Nearly half our members have e-mail addresses so it would be a cost saving to send Chronicles electronically to those who were in agreement. The cost of printing supplies has increased tremendously and postage is due to increase again in April.

Book sales have gone well this year with £937 taken and the New Year started with a surge in sales generated by the web site.

It was decided to purchase copies of the latest Microsoft software, Win-

recent talks & features

Page 2 "The History of Pantomime" by Michael Cullingworth

Page 10 "White Feather" by John Hartley

Page 13 "The Restoration of Gayle Mill." by John Cumberland

£2.50

Members of
Society free

dows 7, so that those involved with the committee will have a standardised system saving time and hassle.

Web Site

Over the past year the Society has modernised its presence on the World Wide Web with the launch of a new website "eurebi.org". Progress in developing the full potential has been dramatically slowed following a series of concerted cyber attacks from illicit internet marketing activities. Before we can incorporate the Shop, Archive and Forum pages we require major changes to the website architecture and the incorporation of user verification procedures, password access and tighter general security.

Worldwide interest in the website is considerably higher than expected and despite the problems experienced during the launch phase, success in attracting new members and promoting the sale of publications has been evident.

In common with other activities undertaken by Committee Members help with development, routine maintenance of the website and provision of an alternative "Webmaster" to cover for Holidays and Sickness etc. is needed urgently. Can You Help?

Chronicles

Bev Parker has done a first rate job editing the Chronicles for many years and feels she needs a breathing space. We are looking for someone to take on this roll for the time being with the help of other members. Any one interested?

We are also looking for more material for the news letter. It's time to start working towards the June edition now.

Programme

I hope we have been able to present a varied and absorbing syllabus this last 12 months and Pat Pickard, who joined the committee last year, has produced a stimulating programme for 2010.

I would like to finish with sincere thanks to all those who have contributed to the running of the society for another successful year and to appeal for more volunteers to assist. Squire Firth, Sue Janion and Lucille Mitchell are all standing down from the committee this year and special thanks go to them for their long service on the committee.

Could you spare a few hours to help take the load off other committee members? Do you have any special skills you could offer to the Society? Please come and have an informal chat with the committee members and see what you can contribute to the running of **your** society.

PANTOMIME HISTORY

At the Christmas meeting our guest speaker was Michael Cullingworth whose topic was pantomime history. Michael has been involved in amateur theatre for many years and for thirty years has played pantomime dame. This synopsis of his fascinating talk gives a flavour of the origins and traditions of this ever popular form of theatre.

The origins of pantomime can be traced back to the 6th century BC in Greece (the word pantomime is derived from the Greek pan meaning all and mimos meaning imitator). When the Romans conquered the Greeks, they introduced pantomime to their theatres, often including gruesome decapitations of criminals in the entertainment.

In 16th century Italy Comedia dell'Arte was a popular form of comedy pantomime. It was characterized by improvisation from a standard plot outline and the use of stock characters, often in

traditional masks and costumes, and is the prototype of our modern pantomime.



Norman Evans

Some of the characters include Braggart the villain, Zanni the servant, Pantelone a foolish old man, Scaramouche a roguish clown character who wears a black mask and black trousers, shirt and hat and Pierrot the sad clown.

The Italian pantomime tradition transferred to France when Louis XIV dedicated a theatre in Paris for the performances, but before long they were expelled in preference for French performers and the Italians migrated to England. The first Pantomimes at the Drury Lane Theatre were performed during the intervals of the main performance and the first pantomimes in their own right were staged at the Lincoln's Inn Theatre by John Gay and John Rich. The latter was to play, for many years, the role of the Harlequin in the well known costume decorated with coloured diamond shapes. Joseph Grimaldi's Joey the Clown character eventually replaced the harlequin.

The "Dame" has become a traditional character in British pantomime and is played by a man dressed, usually outlandishly, as a woman, it being obvious to all that it is a man in the costume.

Some of the great names of music hall played the dame during the panto season, Dan Leno, Norman Evans, Arthur Askey to name a few. The tradition was continued by the likes of Les Dawson and John Inman.

Many of the stories for pantomimes eg "Sleeping Beauty", "Little Red Riding-hood", "Puss in Boots", "Cinderella" originate from "Tales of Mother Goose" by Charles Perrault and published in 1695, or from the fairy tales of the brothers Grimm.

Michael gave an excellent background to the pantomime tradition (Oh yes he did!) so next time you go to a performance remember how it all started.

BAWMC AKERS

Following my article on Bawm Cakes in the last issue of Chronicle, two members, Bernard Clewes and Irene Stacey, have commented on the confusing term for a small bread product. To some a barmcake is a small circular plain bread cake or roll which in these parts would probably be called a teacake or a bap, while in some parts of the north a teacake contains dried fruit eg currants.

Balm is a shortening of the word balsam, a fragrant and medicinal exudation from certain trees or an ointment made from these extracts (Concise Oxford Dictionary).

Barmy or Barm Pot, meaning eccentric or mad, is said to be derived from barm, the frothy, yeasty scum produced during beer fermentation. The foamy texture of barm is compared to the perceived emptiness of such a person's head.

In early days this barm was used as a leavening agent for bread which has given rise to the name barmcake.

However I still think that there is something more to Earby's so called bawm cakes than a plain bread roll.

Any comments?

Bob Abel

END OF AN ERA



Demolition of the Brook Shed

Over 100 years of history has come to an end with the demolition of Brook Shed on New Road, Earby. The early years of the 20th century were a boom time for the textile industry in Earby and in 1906 the Earby Shed Company drew up plans for a new weaving mill. The new mill, completed in 1907, had space for 1600 looms and was let on the room and power principal. The Mill company rented out space in the mill and provided the power for all the looms from their steam engine.

The mill was divided and four companies each with approximately 400 looms occupied the site. The last textile business to occupy the site was Johnson and Johnson Medical who wove medical gauze fabrics there. (see Earby Chronicles Volume 47 Autumn 2007)

The site was latterly bought by Coachwork Antiques to use as a warehouse but they relocated all their sites to Altham leaving the mill empty. Several years ago there was an unsuccessful planning application to use the site for house building.

Since then the building had deteriorated due to vandalism and lack of maintenance . First the roof was removed probably to avoid business rates being incurred on the empty building and demolition proper commenced at the end of 2009.

. Reflections of Earby

New Member, Syd Woodhead of Portsmouth,
remembers his early life in Earby

I was born in 1928 at 20 Cross Street; my father was Herbert Woodhead who came from Habergham Eaves, Burnley, and my mother was Alice nee Taylor who came from Brooksbottom near Ramsbottom. I had a sister Elsie who was born at 141 Colne Road Earby and brothers Richard born at 12 Grove Street and Bryon also born at Cross Street. I am the sole survivor.

Richard was six years older than me and was called up in 1942 for the Second World War (I was too young). He was seriously wounded in the arm in Normandy following the D-Day invasion and brought back to hospital in Uttoxeter. I was watching a news reel at the Empire Cinema one day and I was amazed to see on the screen Richard being carried off a ship.

He was patched up and sent to Holland in Operation Market Garden, the failed attempt by the allies to push through into Germany. He died in January 1945 near Arnhem and is buried at Jonkerbos War Cemetery near Nijmegen.

My earliest recollection is living behind what was then a tripe shop on the corner of Colne Road and New Road, at some time we moved to 15 Rushton Avenue, where I lived until 1945. Across the field from Rushton Avenue was Spring Mill (this was before Wentcliffe Drive was built) where my father worked and which was a bonded warehouse during the war.

15 Rushton Avenue was a three-bedroom house with hot and cold water on tap thanks to a fire- back boiler. We couldn't afford a chimney sweep so my father used to stuff newspapers up the chimney and then set fire to them. It cleared the chimney but wasn't popular with neighbours with washing hanging out! In the back yard was the toilet, coal place and the ash midden.

Alf Sculthorpe at number 13 was the first one in the street to have a flush toilet. Number 19 had to cut the grass from the skirting board and a ball placed at the back of the sitting room rolled down to the fire place.

I attended Alder Hill school. One day before school I had go to the sewage farm to take our dog, an Airedale Terrier, to be put to sleep; we couldn't afford the 7/6 (37½ p) dog licence. I went to school with an empty dog lead.

My grand-parents (their surname was Lord) lived in a cottage in Salterforth by the side of the road, close to the church. Once a week I would walk the two miles there to collect their laundry which was packed in a brown paper parcel secured by two leather straps with a carrying handle. The following week I would take the same journey with the clean laundry. It was "shank's pony" both ways because the bus fare was 1d!

As the result of an accident going to bed, their gas fire became disconnected and they died in their sleep. I mention this because it was the same week that my brother, Richard, was killed. Imagine what my Mother went through!

I remember the old Grammar School when it was used as a clinic because we had to go there for our eyes testing. A small tablet was dropped into your eye; it didn't half make your eyes sting.

Our local doctor was Dr. Niven, a Scotsman known affectionately as Dr. Sawbones.

My best mate was Kenneth Crawshaw who lived with his parents Walter and Ethel, two sisters Marjorie and Joan, and brother Eric. Walter had been a Sick Berth Attendant in the Royal Navy in the Great War and was discharged suffering from shell shock which had made him deaf. On Sundays, Ken and I used to borrow a tandem and thought nothing of cycling to Leeds to visit his granny. We had to try and avoid the tram lines.

Another mate, Clifford Lang, lived on Aspen Lane. On Saturday night we used to catch the train to Burnley to the dance. We caught the last train home but unfortunately it only went as far as

Colne so we had to walk the rest of the way. With our copy of War Cry, we walked so far down the railway track and then got our heads down. We usually got home about 5-00am.

Ken Crawshaw was the projectionist at the Empire Cinema and on Sunday we got a private viewing of the following week's films.

After the cinema performances ended, people headed for Jack Moon's fish and chip shop at the bottom of Aspen Lane. Next to Jack Moon's chip shop was a cobbler's shop which was owned by my uncle, John Smith and his wife Ethel. On the counter sat a monkey which was not very friendly. Further along was a cycle shop where, thanks to Littlewoods football coupons, I bought my first bike, straight handle bars, three speed gears and hub dynamo lighting. In later years I sold the bike which paid for my engagement ring.

At the railway crossing opposite the Station Hotel was a chip shop next to a tobacconist / newsagent and confectioners. Outside this shop was a slot machine which gave out two Woodbines cigarettes and two matches for the princely sum of 1d.

I have a post card of the railway crossing at the end of School Lane. The crossing keeper I remember was a man known as "Joe Box"; he had a club foot and reminded me of Popeye the cartoon character.

In Victoria Road was a newsagent, Sketches, and I used to borrow their car trailer to dispose of their waste cardboard and got paid for it. Opposite New Road on the corner, was a fruiterer and greengrocer run by a lady from Burnley, I think. I used the same trailer to get rid of her rubbish; one had to earn some spending money by some means or other. Across New Road from Brook Shed boiler house was the gas works and in the winter we used to scabble for bits of coke or coal.

My first job after leaving school at 14 was as an office boy at Rolls Royce in Barnoldswick, still wearing short trousers and clogs- couldn't afford shoes. My next job was at the Rover factory at Sough Bridge Mill, what was to become Bristol Tractors. Leaving there I went to Johnson and Johnson at Gargrave where a lot of the workforce were Italian prisoners of war. And for a short time I worked at Ellison's weaving mill in Barnoldswick, where my mother ran 6 looms.

In 1945 at the age of seventeen I left Earby to join the navy and now live in Portsmouth.

SUMMER VISIT TO SALTAIRE

As a follow up to the May 2010 talk on the "History of Saltaire" a trip to Saltaire World Heritage Site and Salts Mill has been arranged.



Date Saturday 5th June 2010

Depart from New Road Community Centre 10-30 am

Refreshments available at Salts Mill

Guided tour of Saltaire Village at 2-00pm

Arrive back at Earby approx 5-30pm

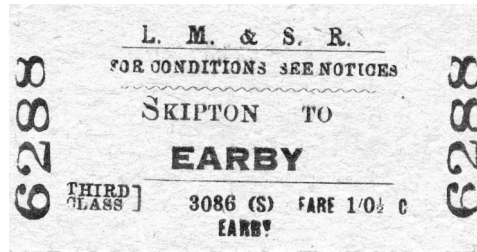
COST £7-00 PER PERSON (Includes transport and Guided Tour)

For bookings please contact Wendy Faulkner on 01282 863160.

40 YEARS SINCE EARBY STATION CLOSED

In January 1970 the railway era came to an end in Earby after 123 years.

By Bob Abel



Third Class Rail Ticket—Skipton to Earby dated February 1947

The line from Skipton to Earby was the final extension of the Leeds and Bradford Railway and was to complete a trans-Pennine route linking with the Burnley to Colne section of the East Lancashire Railway. The line through Earby opened for business on 2nd October 1848.

Hopes were high that Earby would be on the main trans-Pennine line. However, events in this era of rapid railway development had a way of overtaking many a good scheme and as other trans-Pennine routes were developed, in particular the Leeds and Manchester Railway via Huddersfield and The Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway's line from Burnley via Copy Pit to Todmorden, the line was deprived of a great deal of its potential business.

The coming of the railway had a significant influence on Earby's development as a flourishing textile manufacturing town. It meant that building materials and raw materials and finished goods could be transported so much more easily.

Earby station's hey day was arguably the first decade of the 20th century. Records from the archives at the National Railway Museum in York show some remarkable passenger figures for the turn of the century. In 1907 some 138,500 tickets were booked at Earby station; that averages at 380 passengers every day of the year. There were also 91 season ticket holders.



Earby Station c. 1910

The branch line to Barnoldswick was opened in 1871 and the famous Barlick Spud Roaster operated on this line until its closure in 1965.

Following the run down of the railways generally in the early 1960s under the new chairman of British Railways, Dr. Richard Beeching, the line lingered on. Some say the service was deliberately run down to make the line look unviable. In 1968, the then Minister of Transport, Barbara Castle, signed its death warrant. The closure was due to take place in May of 1969 but this had to be postponed because objections to the closure necessitated a public hearing. This took place at Skipton Town Hall in June 1969 in front of the Yorkshire Area Transport Users Consultative Committee. They heard the objections and also Mr J.B. Downes, Divisional Manager of London Midland Region, Preston, representing British Railways and A.E. Caine, Traffic Manager of Ribble Motor Services, representing the road transport lobby.

A petition against the closure, organised by Marjorie Richardson of Earby, was presented to the enquiry. Passengers had also been handed leaflets advising them where to lodge their objections.

One of the main arguments put forward against closure was that the area had already suffered the decline of the textile industry and coal mining in the Burnley district and it would be more difficult to attract other industries to the area if there were no adequate transport infrastructure.

Representatives from Burnley Council, and Lancashire County Council spoke for at least a stay of execution and David Waddington, MP for Colne and Nelson hoped that the committee would "report to the Transport Minister that there was widespread anxiety that the closure of the Colne to Skipton line might only be a prelude to the closure of the line from Colne to Burnley".

Mr. Caine put forward the argument that it was possible to travel by bus from Skipton or Earby to Manchester without changing and that it was proposed to introduce a stop at Colne station to connect with the train. (It is ironic to note that the direct service has been lost and the Manchester bus now has to be caught in Nelson)

British Rail's argument was simple, there was a considerable difference between revenue and cost on the line and there was no subsidy grant to cover the shortfall. Mr. Downes acknowledged that regular users would be inconvenienced but there would be alternative bus services available.

Despite some cogent arguments the case was lost. The then Minister of Transport, Fred Mulley, acknowledged that the alternative bus service would cause increased journey times and inconvenience to regular users but there was not sufficient hardship to justify the cost of retention of the train service. By December public notices of the impending closure, on February 2nd 1970, were posted.



The Last Service Train

The last service passenger train ran on January 31st 1970. The line and stations were rapidly removed, so quickly in fact that it was suspected that this was to pre-empt any campaign for re-instatement of the train service.

In October 1978 an attempt was made by the Support the East Lancashire Line Association (STELLA) to get the line restored. This was at the time when plans

were being discussed for a new multi million pound road scheme linking East Lancashire with Airedale via Colne and across the Moss to Kildwick. The reinstatement of the Skipton - Colne section of railway was a possible alternative. In fact neither scheme came to fruition. The rail proposal was for the laying of a single track which in 1974 had an estimated cost of £500,000. In 1980 STELLA published a paper "The Missing Link - A Case for the Re-opening of the Colne to Skipton Railway" but by 1981 the impetus was waning and the endeavour faded away.

With the coming of the new millennium a new group took up the crusade for the re-opening of the "Missing Link" when, in the Summer of 2001, the Skipton and East Lancashire Rail Action Partnership (SELRAP) was formed. One of its first aims was to ensure that the track bed was not irrevocably destroyed or left to decay.

The first public meeting was held at Colne Municipal Hall in February 2002 when a packed audience took part in a lively debate. This was followed by a similar meeting in May the same year at Skipton and SELRAP was under way.

SELRAP is principally a pressure group with the aim of influencing the people, be they politicians or railway moguls, who have the power and influence to make things happen.

An authoritative case is gradually being developed with evidence being gathered from many sources not least with a major feasibility study commissioned by SELRAP and carried out by JMP Consulting. This looked at all aspects of the proposed re-opening, engineering and train operations, market assessment and cost benefit analysis as well as the Wider Economic, Environmental and Social Case.

Estimates were produced for the cost of the re-instatement. For a single track £42.5m (a far cry but probably more realistic than the 1974 estimate of £ 0.5m) and £80.5m for a double track option were suggested.

Only time will tell, but who knows, one day Earby may be put back on the UK railway map as part of the modern railway network.

ENTERTAINMENT IN EARBY

Stephanie Carter is currently researching a history of entertainment in Earby for a book to be produced by the Society later this year. If you have any stories, photographs or general information on how Earbyers entertained themselves Stephanie would be pleased to hear from you.

Information is particularly short on The Weavers Institute, Albion Hall and the Cosy Cinema as places of entertainment. Please contact Bob Abel – Tel. 01282 843850

DONATION TO THE ARCHIVES

The Society stock of old newspaper articles has been increased by the generous donation from Marjorie Richardson of her collection. This will compliment a set previously given by Marjorie.

Newspaper articles can be a useful source for local historians and the archive contains a wide variety of items of local interest. The articles are currently being catalogued.

Mary Bowford has also donated to the archives copies of newspaper articles from the Burnley Collection of 19th century newspapers. They consist of news of impending property and land sales, court cases and local marriages relating to Thornton, Earby and Kelbrook.

WHITE FEATHER

The guest speaker at the January meeting was John Hartley whose talk was entitled “White Feather”.

A white feather was used as a symbol of cowardice, particularly during the First World War. There are many suggestions for the origin of this symbol, one being that it originates from the cock-fighting world and the belief that a cockerel sporting a white feather in its tail is likely to be a poor fighter. Pure-breed gamecocks don't show white feathers, so its presence indicates that the cockerel is an inferior cross-breed.

Although its origins go back into history, in 1914, less than a month after the declaration of war, retired Admiral, Penrose Fitzgerald began to promote the idea of women presenting a single white feather to some one they thought should be volunteering to go and fight in the Great War.

This was only one part of a general pressure campaign. As the war dragged on and before conscription was imposed in 1916, more men were needed. To encourage volunteers to join up a sometimes unsubtle psychological poster campaign was begun to shame men in to “doing the right thing”.

It eventually dawned on the Government that many essential war workers who were doing valuable work on the home front were being unjustifiably targeted by the “White Feather Brigade”. In order to counteract this it was decided to issue badges to denote that these workers were doing their bit for the war effort. The first of many badges to be produced was the Admiralty badge for the naval dockyard workers, but there was soon a plethora of badges both official and unofficial.

Wounded soldiers were awarded solid silver badges to denote that they had done their bit. Reservists, engineering workers and even some textile workers (if they were employed making army uniforms) all had badges.

John has been collecting examples of these badges for some ten years and brought a huge variety for us to see.

From 1935 the government

was anticipating the coming war



and learning from the Great War, they started producing badges, the most well known examples being for Civil Defence, the Home Guard or the Auxiliary and National Fire Services. Companies working on government war contracts produced their own badges for their workers. As an example, Montague Burtons Tailors of Leeds had switched production to uniforms and their workers

were given company badges.

Again John showed many examples of the types of badge issued together with some of the medals awarded to those in the armed services.

As usual John's talk was both informative and entertaining and as he said we have all no doubt found examples of these badges at the backs of drawers or in the button box and wondered what they were for. Now we have a better idea.

SALTERFORTH SCHOOL, 100 NOT OUT

10th April 2010 is the centenary of the opening of Salterforth School.

There has been a form of schooling in Salterforth since 1743. The first school was built in 1844 in Salterforth Lane. The present school was built in 1910, and must have been a great improvement after the cramped conditions in the original school building.(*)

* www.salterforthschool.com/history

As part of the celebration it is proposed that an exhibition of photographs be put on show in the village. Muriel Pollard is collating material and would be grateful to hear from any one who can loan photographs or other memorabilia to copy and use in the exhibition. Please contact the Society on 01282 843850 if you can help.

SKIPTON LIBRARY CENTENARY

Skipton library celebrated its 100th birthday in February, it opened on 17th February 1910 and one of the highlights of the celebration was a local and family history fair which was held on Tuesday 2nd February. There were talks and demonstrations on family and local history and the Society was one of a number invited to have a stall at the event. The other groups included the Skipton and Craven and the Malham History Societies, Skipton Civic Society, Craven Museum, the Keighley and District and the Wharfedale Family History Societies, North Craven Historical Research Group and last but not least North Yorkshire County Record Office.



Bob Abel with the EDLHS exhibition at the Skipton Library Centenary

Our Society put up a display depicting the history of the Earby Fire Brigade (1906-1941) and we had our publications on sale. It was a very successful day with some 500 people attending the event and it is hoped to be able to be present at any future events that the library hosts.

At the turn of the twentieth century there was an expansion in library building due in part to the generosity of the philanthropist Andrew Carnegie. Carnegie was a successful industrialist who donated much of his fortune to the establishment of libraries.

In 1903 Skipton Urban District Council and the trustees of the School of Arts and Science (now Craven College) successfully applied for money to create the library. The Carnegie Trust awarded them £3000 of the total requirement of £6000. The balance had to be raised from the rate payers.

Originally the lending and reference libraries were both on the first floor with a reading room, well stocked with newspapers and magazines, occupying the ground floor.

In 1914 the Petyt Collection, 5000 volumes of recusant (religious dissent) literature, was moved into the library and in 1928 the then new Craven Museum occupied part of the building. It wasn't until 1982 that the lending library was moved down to the ground floor.

With the local government changes in 1974, the library came under the wing of North Yorkshire County Council.

The Skipton library continues to be an indispensable resource for local and family historians researching in our part of the former West Riding of Yorkshire.

The library will be producing a commemorative booklet on the Library's history which will be available later in the year.

NEW MEMBERS AND THEIR INTERESTS

David Rogerson from Doncaster is researching Wilkinsons. He has traced his great grand parents, Thomas and Ellen Wilkinson, to Vargues Farm in 1851. Are you connected?

John Tolson from London has the following family connections Slaters, Riddihoughs, Crowthers. Lowcocks and Dickinsons.

Patricia Paton of British Columbia, Canada , has connections with Walter Bracewell, Nathan Wilson, Margaret Shaw, Watson Bracewell and seeks information on Hague House and Peels Mill.

Arthur Waddington of Welwyn Garden City lived at Fiddling Clough from 1946 to 1959. He worked for Thomas Procter at Marlfield and played in Earby Brass Band.

Rita White from Wetherby lived in Earby until getting married in 1968

Vanessa McMillan from Canada used to attend Alder Hill School

Ted Welsh of Chipping Norton has rejoined after losing touch after a house move.

These new members would be only too pleased to hear from you if you recognise any of the research names. Contact through Wendy Faulkner or Ken Hartley.

THE RESTORATION OF GAYLE MILL

Following the AGM in February, the guest speaker was John Cumberland who spoke about the restoration of Gayle Mill, near Hawes.

Throughout his working life John has in some way been involved with the countryside, either in forestry management or tourism and during his retirement he has been associated with the Gayle Mill project.

Documentary evidence of the building of Gayle Mill is sparse but indications are that it was built in the mid 1780s by the Rouths, a long established Gayle family. Evidence from the study of the growth rings in the original wooden beams corroborates the mid 1780s date. It also shows that the timber originated in what is now Poland. At that time there was a flourishing timber trade between the Baltic ports and those of the east coast of England.

The building was based on Richard Arkwright's Cromford Mill design and was powered by a 22ft diameter water wheel driven by water from Gayle Beck. Its original purpose was as a spinning mill for successively cotton, flax and wool.

The industrial revolution, with its increasing use of steam power, gradually undermined the rural textile industry and by the 1860s the mill was disused. However by the 1870s a new lease of life had dawned as the mill was converted to the manufacture of wooden products, and all manner of agricultural implements and carts were made. A water turbine was installed which is still in situ to day.

The mill ceased commercial operation for the last time in 1988, but the owner, Brian Alderson, was determined that the mill should be preserved and resisted the temptation to sell it to developers.

In 2003 the mill was bought by the North of England Civic Trust who set about securing legal authority and funding to conserve and restore this nationally important building.

In 2004 the mill was entered in the BBC's "Restoration" programme where different projects competed for funding to assist conservation. Although Gayle Mill reached the finals, a third place gave their fund raising a boost.

Gayle was a "Marie Celeste" of a mill. When manufacturing ceased everything was left just as it was, machinery and tools were all there. The first job was a serious cleaning before any restoration work could be started.

Much structural work had to be carried out to stabilise the building. The leet had to be cleaned out and the wooden launder and stone header tank which fed water to the turbines had to be completely rebuilt.

All the woodworking machinery was restored to working order; one circular saw having a brand new axle made by an engineering company in the midlands whose main customer is Ferrari Sports Cars.

In the early days the mill generated its own electricity and in the 1940s formed the basis of the

Hawes Electric Lighting Company. In 2006 a new turbine was installed to generate electricity to supply the national grid.

The mill has now been restored to working order and demonstration tours are offered to visitors. It is now in the caring hands of The Gayle Mill Trust who, together with the Friends of Gayle Mill, are keeping alive another tradition of the Yorkshire Dales.

YOUTH HOSTEL MOVEMENT CENTENARY

Autumn 2009 marked the 100th anniversary of the Youth Hostel movement and there are on-going celebrations around the world to mark the birth of the Hostelling ideal. In the UK we have an event underway called "100 Years - 100 Trees" an attempt to get 100 different Hostels all to plant a commemorative tree. Plantings and events are taking place over the autumn and winter throughout the three associations of YHA (England & Wales), SYHA (Scotland) and HINI (Northern Ireland).

How it all started :

The founder of the Youth Hostel movement was a German teacher, Richard Schirrmann. He was a believer in learning by direct observation and often took his classes on excursions and hiking trips. The hiking trips could last several days, and Schirrmann and his pupils would find accommodation in farm buildings. On one of these excursions, on 26 August 1909, the group was caught in a thunderstorm. They found shelter in a school building where the headmaster let them use a classroom and a farmer gave them straw to sleep on and some milk for their evening meal. As the storm raged outside he had an idea...

"The schools in Germany could very well be used to provide accommodation during the holidays. Villages could have a friendly Youth Hostel, situated a day's walk from each other, to welcome young hikers."

That stormy night was when the worldwide Youth Hostel movement was founded.

In England & Wales the Youth Hostels Association (YHA) was formed in 1930 essentially from a coalition of walking, cycling and outdoor groups who wanted a chain of places to stay in the countryside which would be within the budget of everyone and which would provide a means of escape from the ever growing industrial cities. The Merseyside Ramblers were perhaps the driving force behind the eventual setting up of the YHA - they envisaged a chain of Hostels, each a day's walk apart, radiating from Liverpool into North Wales and the Peak District. To a certain extent this became a reality until the 1960's (before mass car useage) with a dense network of Hostels covering much of England & Wales spaced sometimes a day's cycle ride apart or in the case of popular areas such as the Lake District, North Wales, Yorkshire Dales and Peak District within walking distance from each other. As an aside, the Lake District today has the highest concentration of Youth Hostels anywhere in the world, numbering some 21 locations, and this ignores things like YHA Camping Barns and Bunkhouses !!

2010 also has therefore the added significance of being the 80th Birthday of YHA. It is also 55 years since the Earby Hostel opened its doors to welcome young hikers and cyclists.

Simon Neal
Manager Earby and Slaidburn Hostels

To mark the centenary Simon Neal has initiated a scheme for 100 hostels throughout the country each to plant a commemorative tree. Earby had its tree planting event on February 22nd this year when Professor David Bellamy OBE, the well known botanist and broadcaster, together with the Mayor of Pendle Councillor Marjorie Adams and children from Springfield School, Earby, planted an oak tree in the grounds of the hostel.



**“Earby Youth Hostel manager, Simon Neal, inviting David Bellamy to plant the oak tree”
photo Bob Abel**



**“David Bellamy reads from one of his books
to Earby’s Springfield School pupils”
Photo: John Watts**

David Bellamy has long associations with the Youth Hostel Movement firstly as a young youth hosteller when he says his interest in botany flourished and in later life he was President of the Youth Hostel Association for **20 years until 2004**

David also signed several of his books which he presented to the school on the behalf of the Friends of Earby Hostel and cut a 100th birthday cake. The school children released 100 multi coloured balloons to mark the centenary celebration.

The festivities were rounded off with a delicious buffet provided by the Friends of Earby Hostel member Kath Philippon.

AGM

The following officers were re-elected at the AGM for the year 2010/11

Chairman	Robert Abel
Vice Chairman	Bev Parker
Secretary	Margaret Brown
Treasurer	Wendy Faulkner
Archivist	Margaret Greenwood
Web Site and IT	Ken Hartley
Programme Secretary	Pat Pickard
Community Centre Representative	Wendy Venables
Committee Member	Trevor Tattersall
Editor	VACANT

If any one would like to give a few hours to editing the Society newsletter, "The Chronicles", please contact Bob Abel to find out more about what it entails. Tel 01282 843850

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Do you have access to e-mail ?

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FORTHCOMING PROGRAMME

No meetings will be held in July or August this year

Tues 20th April Harrold Hoggarth - "Snuff, Spinning and Spiritual Houses."

Tues 18th May Maria Glott - "The History of Saltaire."

Saturday 5th June - "Society Visit to Salts Mill, Saltaire, including a Guided Walk."

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
£6.00
UK £8.00
Overseas £12.00

Contents:

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

Next Issue:
Earby Chronicles
Summer 2010.

Articles, photographs, comments or news items, which members would like to submit, for inclusion in the next issue of Earby Chronicles are always welcomed.

Please forward all such items to Bob Abel.

The deadline for inclusion in the Summer 2010 Edition will be Friday 21 May 2010

www.eurebi.org

Is the society website. Comments and suggestions for the future development of this resource should be emailed to

webmaster@eurebi.org

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